

“[The Bereans] . . . searched the scriptures daily,

[to see] whether those things were so.” —Acts 17:11

Counseling in the Church: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly – Part Two

T. A. McMahon

THERE’S A SAYING that underscores what the Scriptures declare continually: The Bible is not a book that men could write if they would...or would write if they could. Regarding the first part of the saying, finite man obviously lacks the omniscience of our infinite God, so he cannot know the hearts and minds of his fellow man.

As to the latter part, fallen prideful man would hardly be inclined to expose his wickedness, as is presented in Matthew 15:18-20 and numerous other places: “[t]hose things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: these are the things which defile a man...”

Clearly the Bible is at odds with psychology’s view of the nature of man, which this pseudo-science proclaims is *inherently good*. Therefore, any issues adversely affecting our lives are said to be caused by external factors, i.e., parents, friends, enemies, our environment, the media, etc. Moreover, the issue of sin cannot even be addressed in psychotherapy (except for those therapists who will negatively point to belief in it as an obstruction to achieving a healthy mental condition).

Numerous other problems with psychological counseling have been presented in the many volumes authored by Dr. Martin and Deidre Bobgan and a host of others, including books by various researchers and academics. Even so, common sense is often a valued means for discerning what’s wrong with psychotherapy. For the believer in Jesus Christ and His Word, he or she is without excuse regarding turning from God’s Word to psychological counseling for help related to mental, emotional, and behavioral problems.

For all the claims of believing in the inerrancy and authority of Scripture, many, including biblical Christians and pastors, do not hold fast to the *sufficiency* of the Word of God, which the Bible claims. “...as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue” (2 Peter 1:3).

For a believer, what does *not* pertain to “life and godliness”? Isn’t the Bible wholly sufficient to meet the needs of our Christian walk? For example, Psalm 119:9 declares, “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto *according to thy word*.” Psalm 1:1 adds an instruction that certainly relates to psychological counseling: “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”

Even a cursory review of the lives of the founders of psychotherapy and their latter-day disciples reveal their blatant ungodliness, let alone their false teachings. Consider 2 Timothy 3:16-17: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

What could psychological counseling possibly supply regarding “instruction in righteousness” and the enablement of a counselee to manifest “good works”? Nothing...and worse. The entire field of psychotherapy is spiritually bankrupt, creates confusion and hopelessness, intimidates through its deception and promotions, and keeps people in mental and emotional bondage. Many years ago, secular psychologist Dr. O. Hobart Mowrer, definitely not a biblical Christian, asked this question: “Has evangelical religion sold its birthright for a mess of psychological pottage?”

Time has shown that the answer is “yes!” That’s the bad of “the good, the bad, and the ugly” that has influenced counseling in the church. There is much more that could be said to inform Christians about the unbiblical teachings and practices of psychotherapy. And most of those things can be readily discerned by simply being a Berean (Acts 17:10-11), those who compared what they were being taught with what the Word of God teaches. Furthermore, as has been noted, a biblical Christian has no grounds for turning to psychological counseling.

Yet many would agree and declare with great assurance that they have turned from psychology to one of the programs that are a part of the Biblical Counseling Movement. That would include the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC), the Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation (CCEF), and the Biblical Counseling Foundation (BCF). That may seem to be a good thing but sadly, it’s rarely the case.

What’s the problem?

Biblical counseling programs look to the Bible, for the most part, for its teachings about the curse of sin, the fallen nature of man, the ways and means of how we can be reconciled to God, and receiving the gift of eternal life by putting one’s faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sin. And they are acutely aware that such beliefs are rejected by the *psychological* approach to counseling. Nevertheless, they have drifted (maybe even rushed!) into some of the methods of clinical counseling that inevitably are counterproductive regarding the spiritual welfare of those involved, and that includes both the biblical counselor and the counselees.

There are a host of practices performed in Biblical Counseling that have no basis in the Scriptures. They include searching one’s past to discover the basis for one’s sin issues through personal data inventory (PDI), setting up a position of counselor within a fellowship, females counseling males and vice-versa, charging for counseling services, either within the church or external to the church, obtaining licenses from the state in order to counsel, earning degrees and certification in counseling, scheduled fifty-minute counseling sessions, and maintaining an air of professionalism.

None of those things can be found in the Bible as relating to ministering to brothers and sisters in Christ. They are in fact the *modus operandi* of psychological counseling that inevitably compromises biblical truth. As destructive as they are to ministering biblically—and they are really *bad*—they are not the *ugly* part, although they are related.

“Problem-centered counseling” is the chief cause of the ugliness.

The Bobgans underscore the unbiblical facets of problem-centered counseling in their books *Christ-centered Ministry versus Problem-centered Counseling* and *Stop Counseling! Start Ministering!* They begin by making an important point in their distinction between the terms “counseling” and “ministering.”

“Counseling” is a word that carries a lot of baggage, often bringing to mind psychological ways and means when that is never intended. They chose to distinguish the term *counseling* (because it is generic enough to cover both psychological and biblical counseling) and *ministering*, because it puts the emphasis on Christ and the teachings of His Word.

So, when does biblical counseling not become biblical ministering? In two very critical areas. First and foremost, when the counseling becomes *problem-centered*. Predictably, that leads away from a focus that is Jesus-centered and obedience-to-His-Word oriented. As the Bobgans point out, “We contend that as long as personal ministry remains problem-centered, and therefore person-focused, there will be less spiritual growth and more superficial fixing of the flesh.” Once a problem is “fixed,” it usually lingers on and comes up in future counseling sessions. Whether the counselor is secular or biblical he or she becomes the “fixer.” And the approach becomes a revolving door of dealing with new problem after problem.

On the other hand, the *ministering* approach focuses primarily on encouraging brothers and sisters in Christ to strengthen their walk with Him, thereby maturing the believer in the faith and attaining to godliness. Remember, godliness is one of the traits gained for believers in the verse telling us of the sufficiency of God’s Word (2 Peter 1:3). That will not only help reduce life’s troubles without the need for specifically addressing each one, but it will eliminate many future issues from developing and rearing their ugly heads. Besides that, it does away with dependence upon a fellow human being as the “fixer” and shifts one’s reliance to the Holy Spirit, where it should be.

The problem-centered method is common in the Biblical Counseling Movement, and that may seem reasonable to some. Counseling is in the business of resolving problems. Right? No, not according to Scripture. The problem-centered method is not biblical and has created situations that *foster sin* rather than bringing about repentance. And it often gets *really ugly*. For example, counseling, as we noted, is *talk therapy*. It is conversation. The counselor, in attempting to resolve the conflict between a husband and wife, has them air their problems (which is a problem in itself). That nearly always produces accusations, one against the other, which often results in consequences found and condemned in Ephesians 4:31: “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice.”

The problem-centered exchange between the counselees often exhibits sins such as slander, self-serving biases, backbiting, blame-shifting, etc. Rather than a biblical counselor halting the sinful speaking, he or she often fosters it by asking probing questions that supposedly give insights that reveal the heart of the problem. The methodology of exploring problems in depth in search of solutions related to sin is an act of vanity. It goes nowhere and, in the process, it exacerbates the conflict. Furthermore, and most important, it’s a diversion from what the Bible clearly says, which can be understood and obeyed without difficulty.

Problem-centered counseling rarely, if ever, directs the counselees past the problems to Christ himself and their walk with Him. Some of the Biblical Counseling organizations have produced videos utilizing their people role playing as counselees. What’s presented in their own productions shows clearly their approach to counseling as I’ve just described. The Bobgans “are not saying ‘Do not talk about problems.’ We do listen to problems; but the way we respond and the direction we take differ

from those in the biblical counseling movement.” The ministering approach does not *major* in addressing problems in contrast to the biblical counseling movement’s problem-centered approach. The goal of the ministering approach is to “turn the attention back to the Lord and His Word and the daily walk as soon as possible and as often as necessary. Of course there are exceptions, as when immediate action needs to be taken. For instance, if gross sin has been committed, such as a crime, physical or sexual abuse, or unfaithfulness in a marriage, there must be evidence and there must be action beyond the conversation of personal ministry.”

What of the good in regard to counseling in the church? I know of some, who, although they don’t make the distinctions between the terms “counseling” and “ministering,” nevertheless do not subscribe to either psychological counseling or the hybrid of that found in the Biblical Counseling Movement. They do not refer their people out to professional psychotherapists, do not set apart individuals as counselors, nor do they adhere to any methodology of counseling.

They believe that the full counsel of God, taught through verse-by-verse sermons, Bible studies with like-minded believers, individuals studying the Scripture, much time spent in prayer, and obedience to the Scriptures through the power of the Holy Spirit enables all biblical Christians to be fruitful and productive in their life in Christ. Those things are sufficient in dealing with life’s problems.

Hopefully, the Lord will use these two articles to speak to those who have been confused by, even deceived by, practices and experiences they have had either as counselors or counselees and be encouraged to “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

I believe the Bobgans have pointed the church back to the old paths, which the Holy Spirit inspired the prophet Jeremiah both to restore and to warn his people. “Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the *good way*, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls” (Jeremiah 6:16). My prayer is that the church will *not respond* as the Israelites did: “But they said, We will not walk therein.”

I can’t think of a better way to end this message than to quote the conclusion given in the Bobgans’ book *Stop Counseling! Start Ministering!*

“We urge all believers to grow in grace, in faith, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and to be ready to minister to one another as the Lord provides opportunities and wisdom. New believers can certainly testify of the Lord’s work in them, which can be a great encouragement to others. As believers talk with one another, they will find opportunities to give a word of comfort, encouragement, and exhortation.

“They may have opportunities to remind one another of essential truths of Scripture that need to be emphasized. And, they may find themselves sought out for personal ministry by those who are enduring trials and various problems of living. Those who are trusting the Lord and His Word, who are giving themselves as ready vessels for the Holy Spirit to work through them, and who have been walking daily with the Lord through both sunny and stormy days are equipped to minister in some of the most difficult situations that fellow believers may be experiencing.

“We thank God for those individuals who, without counseling certificates, degrees, manuals, books, or programs, are not intimidated by a lack of counseling education and training and who minister to others just as believers were doing prior to the rise of the psychological and biblical counseling movements. We say to all who have been prepared by the Lord and are dependent on Him rather than on the wisdom of men: Go forth and minister by grace through faith.”

TBC

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Submit your own questions to: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708

or e-mail: editorial@thebereanall.org

QUESTION: Recently I read that when Jesus died spiritually, He took both the first and second death—the grave and the Lake of Fire—upon Himself. I have also heard the claim that Jesus died spiritually. Was the Trinity separated? If the Spirit of God died, who was in charge of the universe while God was dead?

RESPONSE: Confusion arises because “Jesus Died Spiritually” is the label attached to the heresy taught by Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland, and other “word-faith teachers.” They claim that our redemption comes not from Christ’s death upon the cross but from His being tortured by Satan in hell for three days and nights. Copeland, for example, says:

“He allowed the devil to drag Him into the depths of hell as if He were the most wicked sinner who ever lived.... Every demon in hell came down on Him to annihilate Him...they tortured Him beyond anything that anybody has ever conceived.... In a thunder of spiritual force, the voice of God spoke to the death-whipped, broken, punished spirit of Jesus with resurrection power! Suddenly, His twisted, death-wracked spirit began to fill out and come back to life.... He was being reborn before the devil’s very eyes.... Jesus Christ dragged Satan up and down the halls of hell.... Jesus...was raised up a born-again man.... The day I realized that a born-again man had defeated Satan, hell, and death, I got so excited...!” (*Believer’s Voice of Victory*, September 1991)

It is both fanciful nonsense and heresy to teach that our redemption comes through Satan torturing Jesus in hell. That would make Satan our co-redeemer! If he didn’t torture Jesus enough, we wouldn’t be saved—and if he did, do we thank him? Blasphemy! Satan isn’t the proprietor of hell. Nor will Satan torture the damned but will himself be tortured with “everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41) when death and hell have been “cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:14).

Before He died, Jesus cried in triumph, “It is finished!” (John 19:30), indicating that our redemption had been accomplished *on the Cross*. Christ told the thief on the cross who believed in Him, “*Today* shalt thou be with me in *paradise*” (Luke 23:43), *not in hell*! He said, “Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit” (Luke 23:46). Yet Hagin, Copeland, et al., say He ended up, instead, in the hands of Satan in hell.

Did Jesus die “spiritually”? The Bible says that He “taste[d] death for every man” (Hebrews 2:9). All that we deserved He endured, which must have included death to His human body, soul, and spirit. God the Father and the Holy Spirit didn’t die; Christ did. Was the Trinity, then, separated? No, God is One.

Yet Jesus did cry in agony, “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Psalm 22:1; Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34). It is a mystery beyond our comprehension, as is the statement that “it pleased the Lord [*Yahweh*] to bruise him, he hath put him to grief...when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin” (Isaiah 53:10). We only know and believe that the full penalty demanded by God’s infinite justice was paid by Christ upon the cross, and that “He who knew no sin was made to be sin for us” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Christ was punished by God as though He were sin itself so that we could be forgiven and have eternal life as a free gift of His grace.

QUESTION: My church seems to believe that one must be a “scholar” or a “theologian” to be a pastor or Bible teacher. It even seems to be implied that those without such degrees are not competent to question what those holding theological and psychological degrees teach from the Bible. What is your opinion?

RESPONSE: No degree *spiritually* qualifies the one to whose name it is attached. Yet that is the mentality today. Some pastors, authors, and

conference speakers are going to diploma mills to purchase a “Dr.” to put in front of their names! Just those two letters seem to elevate the individual to a newly perceived level of biblical understanding and spiritual authority.

The Bereans certainly had no theological degrees. Yet they checked out the great Apostle Paul’s preaching against scripture and were commended for doing so (Acts 17:11). Every Christian is both *qualified* and *obligated* to do the same with every Bible teacher and preacher, no matter how highly regarded or academically certified. No one is immune from error or correction.

Nor were the disciples “theologians” or “scholars.” Among them were fishermen, a tax gatherer, etc. The idea that those who have academic degrees from theological seminaries have thereby a monopoly on interpreting the Bible is both illogical and unscriptural. Such elitism is simply the Protestant version of Roman Catholicism’s claim that its hierarchy of bishops, cardinals, and popes alone can interpret Scripture. Christian leaders *should* be respected and honored, but this regard should not be based on degrees they may have acquired, but on the extent to which they demonstrate godly lives, biblically qualified and consistent leadership skills, and the teaching of sound doctrine based on their study of the Word.

QUESTION: “Sleep” seems to be a key word in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17. What does “sleep” mean in that context?

RESPONSE: The term is actually “which sleep in Jesus” (v. 14). “Sleep” is often used to signify “death”: “the maid is not dead, but sleepeth” (Matthew 9:24); “Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him.” [They thought that he had meant “taking rest” in sleep.]

“Then said Jesus unto them plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead’” (John 11:11-14). Sleep is only necessary for bodies, which tire, but not for souls and spirits. Therefore, “sleep” can only refer to the body that is in the grave awaiting the resurrection. Although the body is dead, the thinking person who once lived in that body is still conscious but now freed from bodily limitations and constraints. The phrase “asleep in Jesus” refers to believers who have died trusting in Christ and are now secure in Him for all eternity.

The rich man’s body lay in the grave, but his “soul and spirit” (1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 4:12) were conscious in hell and in torment (Luke 16:19-31). The Christian’s soul and spirit, when separated from the body through death, go immediately into the presence of the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8); “...having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better” (Philippians 1:23-24).

Unquestionably, Paul is expressing the desire for his soul and spirit to depart the flesh of his body in order to be with Christ in heaven. And just as obviously, he expects to be conscious in the presence of his Lord. To be “with Christ” could hardly mean anything to someone who was unconscious!

Nor could Paul possibly consider an unconscious state of “soul sleep” to be “far better” than remaining alive to serve Christ and the church! The statement “them which also sleep in Jesus will God bring with him” (1 Thessalonians 4:14) refers to the souls and spirits of believers in Christ whose bodies have been “asleep” in the grave. These souls and spirits have been present with Him in heaven in that “far better” state of “absent from the body, present with the Lord.” Paul declares that the souls and spirits of those who died with faith in Christ are reunited with their resurrected bodies, which are raised to life at the Rapture—then caught up to heaven with those in Christ who have not died but are likewise transformed into Christ’s image at that glorious moment.

LETTERS

To connect with TBC, write: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708
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Sirs,

I'm finishing up my Th. D. program at Conservative Theological University in Jacksonville, Florida, and I want to express my sincere thanks to Dave Hunt for his most excellent work regarding Calvinism. It did not take me long to realize that I had never heard some of these things before, but I do recognize truth when I see it. Thank you for enlightening me as to the truth of God's Word. SS (email)

Dear TBC,

I have found a Christian home in The Berean Call! I have searched for a church home many times [only] to find that the church I might have wanted to attend was four or five hours away or across the country. I would ask for a prayer, as I am in need of employment, and am at the age where no one really wants to hire me, though I have a lifetime of experience and skills. Point being, I will be a supporter here as soon as I possibly can. Your messages are biblically on point. I have read the Scriptures cover to cover as a letter from God, Jehovah, and I am watching as He fulfills every word of the Scripture. I am anticipating His imminent return! You have most definitely lifted my spirit, and have confirmed that there are others who take the Scriptures literally, testing everything by them. TO (email)

Dear Brothers in Christ,

I want to thank you for the work you are doing. I am blessed by the newsletter. This is one of only a few ministries that I listen to and enjoy. It is obvious that we are in the last days. All these preachers who preach heresy—the Word-Faith movement is big. I can't believe all the people who embrace it! I think if the Lord raptured the Church today, many churches would still be filled. I could be wrong, but it sure seems like it. FF (FL, prisoner)

Dear TBC,

Just finished reading your last newsletter regarding Christian activism. After finishing it, I read 2 Corinthians 10. I have the

Henry Morris Study Bible. His commentary on verse 5 reads as follows: "Thus, we are not to use such carnal weapons as bullets—or even ballots—in our battle for the human mind, but the mighty spiritual weapons in the 'Whole Armor of God!'"

Thanks, Brother Tom! LT (email)

Dear TBC,

Thank you so much for this ministry, and thank you, Lord, for Brother Hunt, who has been—even in death—my disciple/teacher. I know the Holy Spirit caused me to happen upon him years ago on a discernment ministry on TV. My husband, who passed away on October 3, 2020, grew in God's Word thanks in part to this truthful ministry. I praise God for you all! I am watching and re-watching these podcasts, so please never remove them. TM (email)

Hello,

I wanted to say thank you for your 2021 conference. I am working my way through it and have appreciated the speakers, pastors, and the content provided. I listened to "Global Challenges to the Gospel" with Brother Elijah. I was concerned when I heard about his concern and Wycliffe Bible translators not providing accurate Bible translations to Muslim people. I had to look into it. I have not done a thorough investigation, but did find this article that I thought was worth sharing. I feel that, from the article, Wycliffe is trying (or already has done so, considering the article is from 2012) to make the correction on something that happened, which also does not sound like it was entirely their fault. Please read their response to the allegations, concerns, and questions they have fielded. CN (email)

Hello Friends,

Your ministry is such a true blessing to me. So many years have gone by since I first saw Dave on TV (mid-1980s). I thank God for leading my husband and I to the Berean Call. Your ministry has helped me so much and I continue to read Dave's books when I have questions or concerns.

Thank you, Tom, for continuing to stand firm regarding the Bible as the truth. Preach the true Gospel as you always do! You are not being too harsh or sharp with the tongue. YS (MN)

QUOTABLE.....

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. —2 Corinthians 7:1

Careless habits and unholy ways are inconsistent with the truth of the new creation. God has given us exceeding great and precious promises, and because of His goodness we owe it to Him to judge in ourselves every tendency to unholiness.... Once we walked according to the lust of the flesh and of the mind. Now we are called to walk in the Spirit that we may not fulfil these unclean desires. "Perfecting holiness" suggests growth, which should be continuous. As we are daily occupied with Christ and walk in the Spirit, reckoning ourselves dead indeed unto sin but alive to God through Jesus Christ, we shall be kept from sin's power, and as we go on in faith, we shall enjoy unclouded fellowship with God.

—H. A. IRONSIDE

TBC NOTES

Your Witness of Peace

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

—JOHN 16:33

What more needs to be said to a world that is majoring in anxiety, fear, and hopelessness? Even many in the church have succumbed to that circumstance. Believers who find themselves in such a condition are not taking the words of Jesus seriously: "...in Me ye might have peace." Furthermore, they are not of "good cheer."

Consider what their witness is among the lost. Then consider what it could be if they believed and acted upon what Jesus declared. He has indeed "overcome the world."

T. A. McMAHON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEWSWATCH

News stories are selected for reader awareness and as an exercise
in discerning the times from a biblical perspective.

ARRESTED IN INDIA FOR HANDING OUT BIBLES

ChristianPost.com, 10/4/2021, "Christians Arrested in India for Handing Out Bibles"

[Excerpts]: Police in India's northern state of Himachal Pradesh arrested a Pentecostal pastor and two other Christians who were handing out evangelistic booklets and Bibles in villages after radical Hindu nationalists accused them of "forcibly" converting people.... The Rev. Charlie John and two other Christians, Vishal and Keval Ram, were arrested after they distributed Christian literature and Bibles in Lalas village near Rampur city, Asia News reported. "I only offered the Bible, and I gave it to those who freely accept the Good News," Pastor John was quoted as saying. "If anyone refused, I didn't insist. We did not convert anyone; I'm willing to offer the Bible, which is God's Word, to the police."

He added, "What we do is share the Good News with people, tell them about Jesus, without forcing anyone to convert. The accusations made against me are totally false; I have never offered money for the conversion of people." Himachal Pradesh is one of the several Indian states that have "anti-conversion" laws.... The law...states that no one is allowed to use the "threat" of "divine displeasure," meaning Christians cannot talk about Heaven or Hell, as that would be seen as "forcing" someone to convert.... In 2019, Himachal Pradesh, one of several Indian states, amended its anti-conversion law to make it tougher. Violations are punishable with up to five years in prison. Christians make up about 2.5 percent of India's population, while Hindus comprise 79.5 percent.

(<https://bit.ly/3mAiZBI>)

ROCKS DON'T BEND

CREATIONMOMENTS.COM, 9/29/21, "ROCKS DON'T BEND" [EXCERPTS]: Rock folds always seem to me to make interesting photographs. When I lived in South Wales, there were some very fine examples in the cliffs on the Vale of Glamorgan coast. For the most part, the rock layers seem to run parallel to the beach. Then, suddenly, they bend away, upwards or downwards, in dramatic sweeps. In these bends, the rock layers continue to run parallel.

Standard traditional geology suggests that the layers would have been horizontal when originally formed. The existence of the folds, however, causes more problems for traditional geologists who rely on millions of years for all their explanations.

The Encyclopedia Britannica says: "The long linear folds that are characteristic of mountainous regions are believed to have resulted from compressional forces acting parallel to the surface of Earth and at right angles to the fold." However, it is not difficult to imagine what large compressional forces would do to rock layers. Rocks are not malleable, so the eventual result of such forces would be to crack the layers—and, indeed, such cracks can be found. Parallel bending does not make a lot of sense in a deep-time scenario.

Suppose, instead, that the layers had been recently formed early in the Flood, and forces were applied towards the end of the Flood to layers which were still plastic and had not hardened. These would bend together in parallel folds. The biblical Flood provides the best explanation for how rocks could bend!

"The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained; and the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated" (Gn 8:2-3).

(<https://bit.ly/3mKmAND>)

MAHMOUD ABBAS' ULTIMATUM TO ISRAEL

JIHADWATCH.ORG, 9/29/21, "MAHMOUD ABBAS' ULTIMATUM TO ISRAEL" [EXCERPTS]: Mahmoud Abbas has delivered an "ultimatum" to Israel: You have one year to leave what he calls "all the Palestinian territories," or else. Or else what? Or else he will bring the case before the International Court of Justice....

By "all the Palestinian territories," Abbas means the entire West Bank, where nearly half a million Israelis now live, and East Jerusalem, where nearly a quarter million Jews live. He includes, as "Palestinian territories," the Old City of Jerusalem, and in that Old City, the Western Wall and the Temple Mount, which is the holiest site in Judaism. He doesn't explain how he expects Israel to uproot and move, within a year, 750,000 of its Jewish citizens from the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Israelis still remember the national trauma when they removed 8,500 Jews from Gaza in 2005, a trauma they do not wish to repeat.

That, of course, leads nowhere. Perhaps Mahmoud Abbas does not realize it, but the chief feature of the International Court of Justice is that it has no power to enforce its decisions. None.

(<https://bit.ly/3mGnhqY>)

THE BEREAN CALL

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NEW SET! CLASSIC STORIES FOR CHILDREN



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Moody—A little girl makes up her mind to visit President Lincoln of the United States of America. Find out how you too can meet with someone truly great and powerful, the Lord God, through stories of children who have gone before. D. L. Moody's collection of stories will thrill both boys and girls as they find out about children who lived a hundred years ago but who needed Jesus in the same way that we do. CF4Kids, 156 pp.

B15508

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Mary Jones and Her Bible

Ropes—The heartwarming, real life story of Mary Jones, a young girl living in rural Wales in the late 1700s. Mary was a popular girl who loved her parents, worked hard, and was keen to learn, but most of all, she longed to have a Bible of her own. She knew, however, that Bibles were hard to come by, and even if she was fortunate enough to find one, it would be expensive. Her dearest wish looked as if it would be an impossible dream. This is an inspiring story of a young girl's commitment to God and her love for His Word. CF4Kids, 151 pp.

B00885

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Children's Stories by Ryle

Ryle—Looked up to and loved by children in his congregation, J. C. Ryle took their spiritual lives very seriously. Here is a collection of stories for children by this great communicator. J. C. Ryle encourages us to teach the whole Scripture to children and not just parts of it. This is also an interesting book for any who are involved with children at home or church. CF4Kids, 141 pp.

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A Peep Behind the Scenes

Walton—Behind many smiling faces there are hurting hearts, and behind things that are attractive and alluring, there is usually a high price to pay. A favorite of Ruth Hunt's, this is an excellent book to teach discernment and reinforce the biblical truth that there is no real, no true, no lasting joy in anything of this world. But to the believer, there is the certainty that in the Lord Jesus Christ there is safety and the only way to true happiness. CF4Kids, 255 pp.

B05941

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Christie's Old Organ

Walton—Christie has no family. He knows what it is like to be homeless and on the streets, which is why he is overjoyed to be given a roof over his head by "Old Treffy," the organ grinder. But Treffy is old and sick, and Christie is worried about him. All that Treffy wants is to have peace in his heart and a home of his own. That is what Christie wants too. One day, a girl called Mabel hears Christie's old organ, which he was playing just outside her window. The two become friends and she tells him about another home one can go to if you love the Lord Jesus. Will Christie find this home? CF4Kids, 168 pp.

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SET206

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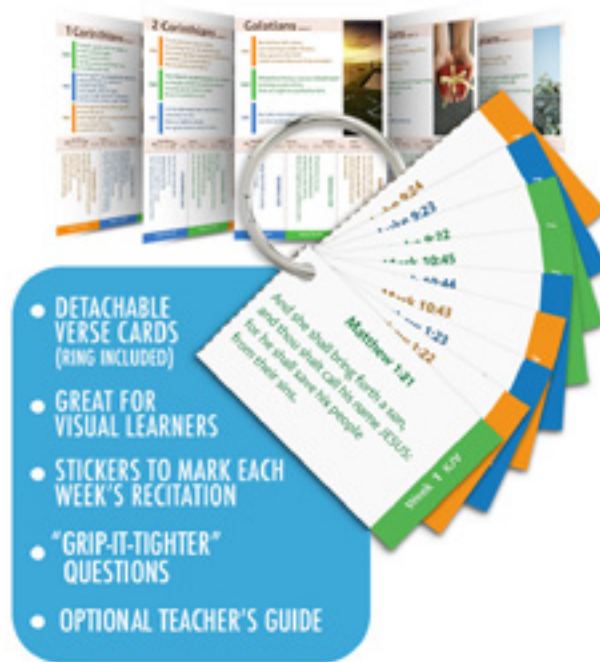


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George—Now the principles of Elizabeth George's bestselling *A Woman After God's Own Heart* are shared in sweet poetry for little girls. Elizabeth George shares the gift of pursuing a heart filled with: love, gentleness, faithfulness, kindness, goodness, joy, and peace. With charming paintings and easy-to-learn rhymes, this is the perfect way to give a little girl the gift of knowing God and His love for her. Harvest House Publishers, HB, 32 pp.

B01458 Ages 2-6 yrs wt .8 **\$14.50 SALE \$10.00**



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George—Jim and Elizabeth George share biblical truths in fun rhymes for little guys. The Georges offer growing boys encouragement to: show God's love when being a good friend, honor their parents by behaving well, practice patience as they help others—including brothers and sisters, demonstrate the Golden Rule by being generous, and more! The combination of charming paintings and easy-to-learn lessons will guide boys toward the heart of God and toward a life of godliness. Harvest House Publishers, HB, 32 pp.

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Lambert—Among the annals of missionary service around the world are countless true stories of intrepid men and women. They braved innumerable dangers, toils, tragedies, and triumphs and made important discoveries. These accounts should be read and passed on to future generations—not in order to praise these brave men and women, but to give glory to the name of Jesus Christ. Master Books, 361 pp.

B25802 Ages 12+ wt .8 **\$15.50 SALE \$12.00**



Speak Truth in Your Heart

Mally—Many girls try to change their wrong actions but never learn to discern the wrong thinking behind their actions. Sarah Mally challenges girls to identify the lies that are the root issues behind struggles they face. Including thought-provoking cartoons, stories, biblical teaching, and practical steps of action, this book teaches girls to replace lies with the truth and align their thinking with God's Word. **Includes study guide!** Tomorrow's Forefathers, 278 pp.

B08430 Ages 9+ wt 1.2 **\$16.00 SALE \$14.50**



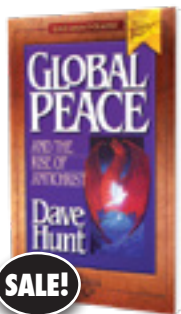
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