



*All other ground is*

# SINKING SAND

*And the rain descended, and the floods came,  
and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell:  
and great was the fall of it. — MATTHEW 7:27*

**The**  
**Berean**  
**Call**

FEBRUARY 2012

**WARNING THE WITNESSES**

*by T. A. McMahon*

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Seven years after publication of the controversial ground-breaking bestseller *The Seduction of Christianity* in 1985, its authors, Dave Hunt and T. A. McMahon, joined forces on another front. They began a ministry for the purpose of encouraging spiritual discernment among those who regarded themselves not just as “evangelicals” but as *biblical* Christians. The primary vehicle for this endeavor was through the publication of the newsletter *The Berean Call*. The ministry and newsletter name is taken from Acts 17:11, in which the writer of Acts commended those in the synagogue of the Greek city of *Berea* for being more fair minded than those in Thessalonica—because not only were they eager to receive the Word, but the *Bereans* also checked it against what the Apostle Paul taught them in order to see if his teaching was according to the Scriptures. Through the publishing and multimedia efforts of The Berean Call (TBC) believers are exhorted to get back into the Word of God instead of being “carried about by every wind of doctrine,” and are equipped with materials to help them walk in the truth. TBC’s stated mission is to:

**ALERT** believers in Christ to unbiblical teachings and practices impacting the church

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**SUPPLY** believers with teaching, information, and materials that will encourage the love of God’s truth, and assist in the development of biblical discernment

**MOBILIZE** believers in Christ to action in obedience to the scriptural command to “earnestly contend for the faith” (Jude 3)

**IMPACT** the church of Jesus Christ with the necessity for trusting the Scriptures as the only rule for faith, practice, and a life pleasing to God

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Editorial & Correspondence:  
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tel: (541) 382-6210 • fax: (541) 385-6025  
orders and donations: (800) 937-6638  
general inquiries: (541) 382-6210  
e-mail: [customerservice@thebereancall.org](mailto:customerservice@thebereancall.org)  
website: [www.thebereancall.org](http://www.thebereancall.org)



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# THE BEREAN CALL

*"[The Bereans] . . . searched the scriptures daily, [to see] whether those things were so." —Acts 17:11*

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## Warning the Witnesses

T. A McMahon

One has to admire the zeal of the Jehovah's Witnesses. They put in many hours going door to door trying to convince people they don't know to believe what they believe. Although the zeal is commendable in one sense, it's tragic in another. Their incessant labor to attain salvation is worse than fruitless; even more important, it is a rejection of the only way they can be saved.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). Jesus is God "manifest in the flesh" (1 Timothy 3:16). He declares that He is Jehovah God and that those who do not believe in Him cannot be saved: "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24).

There are many very good ministries and resources that address the errors and deceptions of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. Even though I am familiar with a number of such ministries and their books, articles, and videos, I have to admit that I am hardly the well-equipped, ready-to-straighten-them-out apologist I should be when JW's come to my door. One of the problems is that they come by at unexpected, even inopportune, times, and too often my flesh would much rather avoid them or send them packing. My wife takes another tack (which doesn't help matters). She uses the "honey approach," which is not to be confused with the "you can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar" tactic. After she greets them, she calls out to me, "Honey, it's for you!" To say that I've had a good attitude in the past about engaging them would be as truthful as their New World Translation. So, I'm under much conviction to repent of my former ways and, by God's grace, be willing to minister to those who are just as lost and in bondage as I was before Christ transformed my life.

To that end, this article is hardly the "be all and end all" for witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses, but some may find it helpful. Part of the problem is that the JW's have so many false teachings that it can be a dilemma remembering them, not to mention deciding what to address. They have their own error-filled bible, which was fabricated

### WORDS FROM JEHOVAH

- "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." — JOHN 8:24 KJV
- "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." — JOHN 1:1 KJV
- "...I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any." — ISAIAH 44:6,8 KJV
- "I and my Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I showed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God." — JOHN 10:30-33 KJV
- "I, even I, am the LORD [JEHOVAH]; and beside me there is no saviour." — ISAIAH 43:11 KJV
- "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ..." — TITUS 2:13 KJV
- "Thus saith the LORD [JEHOVAH] the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD [Jehovah] of hosts..." — ISAIAH 44:6 KJV
- "Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." — MATTHEW 4:10 KJV
- "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him..." — MATTHEW 2:11 KJV
- "And Thomas answered and said unto [Jesus], My Lord and my God." — JOHN 20:28 KJV
- "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." — JOHN 3:36 KJV

in order to support their unbiblical doctrines. They have false prophecies. They have another gospel. They have an erroneous view of death and eternal punishment. And they have dangerous practices that are based upon their false beliefs. To compound the problem, at least one of the JW's who comes to your door is a veteran and well trained to argue against anyone who would object to his cult's beliefs.

What I propose, for those who want to minister to the JW's yet who identify with my own shortcomings, is to keep things simple by zeroing in on their chief problem: they do not believe that Jesus is God, but rather a created god. Their New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures (NWT) spells that out quite clearly by corrupting John 1:3: "In [the] beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god." Jesus, whom JW's believe is "the Word," is "a god." The problems with that teaching defy both what the Bible teaches and reason. Exodus 20:1-3 declares, "And God spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Jehovah God forbids the manifestation of other gods simply because there is only one God: "I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any" (Isaiah 44:6,8). Isaiah declares that same truth over and over again (Isaiah 43:10; 45:5-6,18,21-22). Therefore, all other gods are false gods. (See resource pages.)

The biblical objections to Jehovah God having created Jesus as *a god* are found throughout Scripture. First of all, no verse in the Bible testifies to that JW teaching, and, as we've seen, it clearly contradicts the many verses declaring that there is only one God. Moreover, Jesus, rather than being a "created god," is the creator and sustainer of all things: "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist" (Colossians 1:16-17). The NWT injects the bracketed word "[other]"

between “all” and “things” in order to deny the exclusive aspect of Jesus creating “all things,” of which only God is capable. Written to support the false teachings of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, the NWT nevertheless elsewhere unwittingly confirms Jesus as the exclusive creator of “all things”: “All things came into existence through him, and apart from him not even one thing came into existence” (John 1:3 NWT).

The false JW teaching that Jesus is inferior to Jehovah God as a “created god” makes His many statements of claiming to be God a lie, and therefore He himself a liar. In Exodus, the Lord declared to Moses, “I AM THAT I AM: and he said, thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you” (Exodus 3:14). In Isaiah 43:10, as well as many other places, Jehovah announces that He is the only true God by declaring Himself to be the “I am,” that is, the eternal self-existing One. JWs argue that Jesus is not Jehovah, which contradicts the numerous times Jesus identifies himself as Jehovah, the “I am” (John 8:28; 11:25; 13:13; 14:10-11, and many others). In John 8:58-59 Jesus proclaimed, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.” Although the Watchtower Society doesn’t accept the fact that Jesus was claiming to be Jehovah God by His declaration, the Jewish religious leaders took Him at His word when He said that He and His Father are one: “Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I showed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God” (John 10:30-33). Jesus did not correct their accusation because He indeed is God.

The Jehovah’s Witnesses are in serious trouble and they need to be told so. The denial of the biblical teaching that Jesus is Jehovah God is a direct rejection of the only One who can save them. They say that’s not the case because they believe Jehovah is their savior. They are half-right because Jehovah is certainly *the* Savior. In fact—Jehovah is the only Savior: “I, even I, am the LORD [JEHOVAH]; and beside me there is no saviour.... There is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else” (Isaiah 43:11; 45:21-22). Yet their being “half-right” is akin to a bridge that only spans halfway; travelers attempting to cross it will go to their death. Jesus said if they do not believe that He is Jehovah they will die in their sins (John 8:24).

If there is only one Savior, what then of the verses proclaiming “our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”? (2 Peter 1:11; 3:18) Jesus and God can be our Savior only if they are one in the same. That’s exactly what we are told in Titus 2:13, which refers to Jesus as “the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.” The Greek grammar is indisputable in support of this verse that God and our Savior Jesus Christ are the same.

Only the teaching of the Trinity can reconcile those verses declaring that there is only one God and one Savior, yet Jehovah is the Savior and Jesus is the Savior. JWs, however, not only reject the Trinity doctrine, they also distort what biblical Christians actually believe, insinuating the false idea that they worship three Gods. Not true. The God of the Bible, that is, Jehovah God, consists of the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit: one God, three Persons. Although a comprehension of God existing in three persons is beyond the grasp of the human mind, that is the clear teaching throughout the Scriptures. Furthermore, the revealed character of God offers many logical reasons why God cannot be a singular Being as the Jehovah’s Witnesses claim. Consider, for example, the truth that God is love (1 John 4:8). God is also eternal and perfectly complete. Yet love demands an object to love. As a singular Being, He would need to create an object of His love in order to love. Such a need, if true, would exhibit His lack of being perfectly complete. But couldn’t He simply love Himself? No. Self-love is unbiblical. Since 1 Corinthians 13:5 teaches us that love isn’t self-seeking, God would be contradicting His own Word. Love, therefore, must always have existed in the Trinity, in which all three Beings of the Godhead love each other.

Are there two Jehovahs? The first part of Isaiah 44:6 declares, “Thus saith the LORD [JEHOVAH] the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD [JEHOVAH] of hosts,” and just so there is no misunderstanding, the Lord Jehovah sets the record straight in the latter part of verse 6: “I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.” Again, only the doctrine of the Trinity makes sense of this verse. Furthermore, the King of Israel and His redeemer the LORD of hosts both signify Jesus, who is the King of Israel and the King of kings and our redeemer (John 18:33,37; 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 19:16; Titus 2:14).

Further proofs abound that Jesus must be Jehovah God. Consider for example His acceptance of worship. Jesus himself declared that only God is to be worshiped (Matthew 4:10) yet He accepted worship as a child by the wise men (2:11), by a leper

(8:2), by a ruler (9:18), as the Son of God by His disciples (14:33), by the two Marys after His resurrection (28:9), and by many others including Thomas, who declared to Him, “My Lord and my God” (John 20:28). He is the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15). By Him all things consist (vs. 17). Jesus is identified as the Son, the mighty God, the everlasting Father (Isaiah 9:6). Jesus is the “Almighty” God, as the Book of Revelation proclaims throughout (Revelation 1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7,14; 19:15-16). He made Himself equal with God (Phil 2:6; John 5:18). In Jesus dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Colossians 2:9). Only God can forgive sin, yet Jesus forgave sin (Luke 5:20-25).

Jehovah’s Witnesses have been deceived into believing that their zealous works are what Jehovah requires for His forgiveness of their sins and their acceptance by Him. Jesus, however, set straight those who had the same belief: “Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent” (John 6:28-29). Only Jesus, as God and Man, could (and did!) pay the penalty for the sins of mankind. This He fully accomplished as He hung upon the Cross. Tragically, JWs have rejected their only hope of eternal life with Jesus because they are looking to “another Jesus,” a created one of their own fabrication. They need to be warned, however brief one’s encounter with them might be.

I suggest that the first question to ask the Jehovah’s Witnesses at your door is whether or not they believe that Jesus is Jehovah God. You are not looking for their rationale but rather a declarative yes or no! “No” will be their obvious response, and following that, I recommend that you give them the solemn warnings from the Scriptures, beginning with Jesus’ words: “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins” (John 8:24). Then, “if we deny him, he also will deny us” (2 Timothy 2:12), and “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48). And finally, “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36). Those verses contain the seeds of conviction that I believe need to be planted, followed, of course, by prayer that God’s Word will take root within those lost souls at your door and deliver them from their temporal bondage and eternal separation from Jehovah God.

**TBC**



## Quotable .....

### TIME

If we could ask that time stand still,  
what season would we choose?  
Oh, the glories we would forego,  
the mercies we would lose!

How could we know the very best  
in time, with our small mind?  
We'd pause before His so "right time,"  
and His "fullness" never find.

Then we will with the psalmist grant,  
"My times are in Thy hand,"  
in fleeting life enjoy each day,  
our God in love has planned.

To know Him and to hear His voice  
eternal life is this,  
and not one moment of His mercy  
would we choose to miss!

*Ruth Salinger*

A very great portion of modern revivalism has been more a curse than a blessing, because it has led thousands to a kind of peace before they have known their misery; restoring the prodigal to the Father's house, and never making him say, "Father, I have sinned." How can he be healed who is not sick, or he be satisfied with the bread of life who is not hungry? The old-fashioned sense of sin is despised....Everything in this age is shallow....The consequence is that men leap into religion, and then leap out again. Unhumbled they came to the church, unhumbled they remained in it, and unhumbled they go from it.

*C. H. Spurgeon, 1882*

## Q&A .....

**QUESTION: I wonder why you mix amillennialism with reconstructionists? Reconstructionists are Postmillennial. It is the reconstructionist post mils who have the "golden age" ideas and who share the worldview of the dominionists. Amils share your view that in this evil age, evil men will wax worse and worse. We do believe that the gospel will advance, not as do the golden agers but after the pattern of our Lord: living by dying, being poor yet making many rich, winning by losing, etc. Anyway, a little more research is needed—I've noticed most pre-mils equate the two views (amil & postmil) and they are VERY far apart.**

**RESPONSE:** Generally, "Amillennialism teaches that the thousand year reign of Christ in Revelation 20:1–6 is symbolic of the current church age, rather than a literal future 1000 year reign. It contends that the period described in Revelation 20 began at Christ's resurrection and will continue until His Second Coming" (<http://www.theopedia.com/Amillennialism>).

"The postmillennialist believes that the millennium is an era (not necessarily a literal thousand years) during which Christ will reign over the earth, not from a literal and earthly throne, but through the gradual increase of the Gospel and its power to change lives. After this gradual Christianization [dominion] of the world, Christ will return and immediately usher the church into their eternal state after judging the wicked" (<http://www.theopedia.com/Postmillennialism>).

You say that the two views are "very far apart"? In both theologies, the passage in Revelation 20 is spiritualized, supposing that it is not necessary to view it as a literal thousand-year reign of Christ. Reformed amillennialist David Engelsma states: "The New Testament instructs us to interpret Old Testament prophecy spiritually." The Postmillennialist does the very same thing. That's why reconstructionist Kenneth Gentry asks, "Why cannot there be a spiritual Israel" that replaces physical Israel (Gentry, *He Shall Have Dominion*, p. 167)? Their conclusions may vary in small details, but the principle is the same. Since both theologies teach forms of Replacement Theology, all the promises God gave to Israel must be fulfilled spiritually. As John Walvoord observes, "In order to find fulfillment of millennial promises in the present age it is necessary for [postmillennialism] to follow an allegorical or figurative system of interpretation in great areas of Biblical prophecy (*Millennial Series: Part 2: Postmillennialism*, Study by John F. Walvoord).

Consequently, the term "spiritual Israelites" and the teaching of Replacement Theology is something seen in both postmillennialism and amillennialism. Professed disagreements do not prevent agreements in several key areas. Consequently, it is difficult to sustain your point that "the two views (amil and postmil) are very far apart."

As Ron Merryman reminded us in the October 2011 *TBC* Extra, "We can thank Augustine of Hippo for spiritualizing Messiah's Millennial Kingdom, then medieval Romanism for popularizing Augustine's amillennialism, and the Reformers for not correcting the error."

**QUESTION: We disagree with your premise on what God has in store for fleshly Israel, the nation. Neither the Old Testament nor the New Testament**

**promises wholesale salvation for the Jews in the end times. We believe that the church is the New Israel of God as the Bible teaches. It's His New Bride. He divorced His once chosen people. The divorce was finalized in 70 A.D. Prophet Hosea's divorce from Gomer mimics God's divorce from fleshly Israel, which was finalized when they murdered Jesus.**

**RESPONSE:** Speaking to "fleshly Israel," the Lord promised that although they would be scattered across many nations, they would be gathered again (Dt. 30:3).

With the increasing influence of Replacement Theology, it cannot be repeated too often that the Lord distinctly said that "though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished" (Jer 30:11). As to their importance as "signs of the times," the prophet Joel recorded that "I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land" (Joel 3:2; see also Zec 7:8, etc.).

In Luke 21:24, speaking to Jewish listeners, the Lord Jesus proclaimed, "And they [Israel/Jews] shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."

In Matthew 23:39, the Lord Jesus tells a disobedient Israel, "For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." Jesus was simply repeating the promise of Zechariah 12:10, where it is promised that the Lord will return, and "they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn." How can this be the church? When did the church "pierce" the Lord? It just doesn't fit.

Further, how can "Hosea's divorce from Gomer mimic God's divorce from fleshly Israel, which was finalized when they murdered Jesus"? The Lord specifically tells Hosea to "Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine" (Hos 3:1).

The Lord then tells Hosea to buy back his wife, and Hosea obeys (v. 2). Under the inspiration of the Lord, Hosea declares to his wife, "Thou shalt not play the harlot,

and thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for thee" (v. 3).

In a prophecy that is based upon Hosea's reconciliation with his wife, the prophet writes "For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim" (v. 4). So it has been since A.D. 70, but we are told, "Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days" (v. 5).

Finally, the Apostle Paul noted that God was far from finished with the nation of Israel (Rom 11:1-26). We know from the context that Paul is talking about "fleshly Israel," a nation into which he was born. "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob" (Rom 11:26).

**QUESTION: In *Occult Invasion*, Dave Hunt wrote that "water witching," or divination, is an occult practice. The well drillers who drilled the well for my own domestic water told me how they had located the best place to drill. They also demonstrated how the "rod" reacted to the presence of water. Are you saying that I should stop using the well and pay thousands of dollars to have them drill another somewhere else when this one is strong and healthy, [and] in a perfect place? James 1:17 says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." Why not just accept that this is what God wants for me, since it perfectly fits my needs?**

**RESPONSE:** Dave's perspective regarding "water witching" is that it seems to be an occult practice akin to divination because there is no scientific basis for the process. He gives an example of "water witching" *over a map* by a person in Maine, who not only located water in *Bermuda* but told the drillers the depth at which they would find water, its quality, and its quantity! Clearly that process is not scientific. Either it's occult (divination), or it's just a lucky guess. Dave's concern is that it may promote divination as a legitimate method for people.

You have misappropriated James 1:17, implying that the Lord agrees with human pragmatism, i.e., "If it works, it's a good thing." The fact remains that divination is an ungodly, unbiblical, and occult practice.

No one is saying that you should stop using the well. That's between you and

the Lord: "the just shall live by faith." If you weren't aware before the drilling that the well drillers used water witching and neither did you seek them out for their occult technique, your situation seems to be similar to those who unknowingly ate food offered to idols. In 1 Corinthians, Paul wrote that it was permissible for a believer to consume meat that had been offered at a pagan altar, with the caveat being the conscience of a weaker brother. In Corinth, there were many believers who had worshiped these same idols. They did not fully know that God was absolutely sovereign over all other pretenders. For them to eat food offered to idols created something Satan could and would exploit (1 Cor 8:1-13). The same may be said for those dabbling in dowsing. Whom might they influence?

**QUESTION: What do you think about the teaching that we all hate ourselves and have to learn to love ourselves?**

**RESPONSE:** First of all, I'd say it's not even rational. Ephesians 5:29 says no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth it and cherisheth it.

Having to learn to love ourselves is a totally new "doctrine" within the church. Read A. W. Tozer, Moody, Torrey, Spurgeon, Andrew Murray. You won't find it in any of them. It's been picked up the last 45 years from psychologists; men who did not get it by studying the Word of God on their knees in prayer.

Erich Fromm, an atheist, popularized the idea of self-love. He got it from Nietzsche. One of Fromm's books was *Ye Shall Be as Gods*. He took the lie of the serpent for its title. In his book, *Man for Himself*, he justified the idea that we all hate ourselves and that we need to learn to love ourselves by saying that Jesus taught it when He said, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself" (Mt 22:39).

Let's look at Matthew 22:36-40. Jesus gave the two great commandments: love God and love your neighbor. Today, a third one has been introduced: love yourself. However, if we were deficient in self-love, Jesus wouldn't have said to love your neighbor as you love yourself, because he said it to everybody and not to a certain class or category of people.

So it's a given—we must already love ourselves. And He couldn't say "do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Mt 7:12) if we all innately hated ourselves and wanted to do ourselves harm.

This teaching came into the church from psychology and was picked up by Robert Schuller in his book, *Self-love: The Dynamic Force of Success*. Since then, it

has moved throughout the church and has been picked up by men in the best pulpits. There are no scriptures to support it. Read Philippians 2:3 and Romans 12:2.

Remember, God made man in his image. C. S. Lewis wrote, "We are but mirrors whose brightness, if we are bright at all, depends entirely on the Son which shines upon us."

If there's something wrong with the image in the mirror, the mirror needs to get back in line with the one whose image it was designed to reflect. But instead of being turned toward God and a relationship with Him, we're being turned to ourselves, a self-image psychology.

The Scriptures say, "but we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image" (2 Cor 3:18). What we're being taught today is that we need to visualize our self-image as we want it to be—focus our self-concept and then we'll be transformed into that. That is absolutely opposite what the Bible says, and it is destructive to biblical Christianity.

**QUESTION: Many are teaching that the church must be united and purified before Christ can return. Is that biblical?**

**RESPONSE:** It is neither biblical nor logical that the small fraction of the church that is alive on earth at the time of the Rapture must have attained to a status that was unknown by Christians who have died in order to join them at that heavenly marriage to our Lord. Yes, the Bride is made ready and robed in white linen (Rv 19:7-8)—but the Bride is the entire church. If this purification is a prerequisite for being raptured, then what about those who died before the Rapture? Clearly, they must be "made ready" after they get to heaven. Then why wouldn't this happen to all Christians up there, rather than on the earth?

Surely this final cleansing can only take place at the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Cor 5:10) when we give account to our Lord, our works are tried in the fire (1 Cor 3:11-15) and we are rewarded or suffer loss. There is no biblical basis for a "last-days revival" that will make Christians worthy to be raptured to heaven. We are worthy of heaven through Christ's finished work alone. Moreover, the Bible speaks of the last-days church as apostate (2 Thes 2:3). Christ even questions whether He will find faith on the earth when He returns (Lk 18:8). Even the wise fall asleep while the bridegroom tarries (Mt 25:5). Hardly the "last-days revived church"! Let us therefore watch and be ready for our Lord!



## TBC NewsWatch

### NATIONAL SEXUALITY STANDARD/PARENTAL RIGHTS?

**CITIZEN LINK BLOG, CUSHMAN, 1/10/12:** NATIONAL “SEXUALITY STANDARDS” VS. PARENTAL RIGHTS? [EXCERPTS]—The Associated Press (Hefling, AP Education Writer, Washington DC, 1/10/12) is running a story in nationwide news outlets promoting the advent of “national sexuality education standards.”

What this actually amounts to is a wish list put together by some of the largest “safe sex,” abortion and homosexual advocacy groups in the nation—who are using this as a marketing campaign to get their agenda promoted in your local schools.

[The] promoters, developers and “advisory committee” members attributed in the report, include:

- the nation’s largest teachers union, the National Education Association
- the nation’s largest homosexual activist group devoted entirely to targeting kids in K-12 schools—GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network
- Planned Parenthood Federation of America and SIECUS (Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States)

So what do these groups actually want taught in schools? Here is just a sampling:

“By the end of the 2nd grade, students should be able to...identify different kinds of family structures” and “Demonstrate ways to show respect for different types of families.” [TBC: They are redefining the meaning of “family.”]

“By the end of the 5th grade, students should be able to...define sexual orientation as the romantic attraction of an individual to someone of the same gender or a different gender.”

“By the end of the 8th grade, students should be able to...access accurate information about gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation.” (Translation: By 8th grade, students should be given contact information, Web sites and advocacy-based resources from homosexual and transgender activists groups).

“By the end of the 8th grade, students should be able to...describe the steps to using a condom correctly.”

“By the end of the 12th grade, students should be able to...analyze the influence of friends, family, media, society and culture on the expression of gender, sexual orientation and identity....”

“By the end of the 12th grade, students should be able to...compare and contrast the laws relating to pregnancy, adoption, abortion and parenting.”

Even more disturbing than these “standards,” is the lack of guidance in the report for how schools should respect the rights of parents who want to direct how, when and if their children are exposed to controversial topics like homosexuality, abortion and condom instruction.

[TBC: This is evil masquerading as social good.]

### OKLAHOMA BAN ON SHARIA UNCONSTITUTIONAL

**AP, 1/10/2012: OKLAHOMA CITY COURT BAN ON ISLAMIC LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL [EXCERPTS]**—An amendment that would ban Oklahoma courts from considering international or Islamic law discriminates against religions, and a Muslim community leader has the right to challenge its constitutionality, a federal appeals court said Tuesday.

The court in Denver upheld U.S. District Judge Vicki Miles-LaGrange’s order blocking implementation of the amendment shortly after it was approved by 70 percent of Oklahoma voters in November 2010.

Muneer Awad, the executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Oklahoma, sued to block the law from taking effect, arguing that the Save Our State Amendment violated his First Amendment rights. The amendment read, in part: “The courts shall not look to the legal precepts of other nations or cultures. Specifically, the courts shall not consider international law or Sharia law.”

Backers argued that the amendment intended to ban all religious laws, that Islamic law was merely named as an example and that it wasn’t meant as a specific attack on Muslims. The court disagreed.

“That argument conflicts with the amendment’s plain language, which mentions Sharia law in two places,” the appeals court opinion said. Awad argued that the ban on Islamic law would likely affect every aspect of his life as well as the execution of his will after his death. The appeals court pointed out that Awad made a “strong showing” of potential harm.

“When the law that voters wish to enact is likely unconstitutional, their interests do not outweigh Mr. Awad’s in having his constitutional rights protected,” the court said.

### EDUCATOR “EXILED” FOR BELIEFS

**ONE NEWS NOW, 1/11/2012: KELLOGG, EDUCATOR EXILED FOR BELIEFS, [EXCERPTS]**—A distinguished university professor is suing his school, claiming that he is being discriminated against for his views on creation and intelligent design.

John Oller, a communicative disorders professor at University of Louisiana-Lafayette, writes and lectures on creation and intelligent design, arguing linguistic and genetic complexities are not a matter of chance. For this reason, the university has severely restricted his teaching opportunities. David Hacker of the Alliance Defense Fund describes the discrimination that the educator faces.

“Despite a stellar academic record, this professor has found himself exiled from participating in the instruction of any department students simply because he holds views that some university officials don’t favor,” Hacker explains. As a result of that, he says Professor Oller feels he has no choice but to sue the university.

“Universities, which are supposed to be a marketplace of ideas, are increasingly censoring views that challenge campus orthodoxy,” Hacker points out. “It is our hope that this lawsuit will vindicate Dr. Oller’s academic freedom while demonstrating the right of professors to pursue the truth without censorship when their academic conclusions don’t match the fashionable consensus.”

The lawsuit contends that Professor Oller’s First Amendment rights and the university’s own Academic Freedom Policy have been violated.

### 40 LASHES FOR BECOMING CHRISTIAN

**VOICE OF THE MARTYRS, HARP, 1/10/2012: WOMAN GIVEN 40 LASHES IN FRONT OF HUNDREDS FOR BECOMING CHRISTIAN, [EXCERPTS]**—There is a serious cost to being a Christian in Somalia....Compass International reports that twenty-eight year old Sofia Osman was publically whipped and given forty lashes because she converted from Islam to Christianity. Spectators cheered as she was given the public flogging and some even thought she had died as a result of the punishment, which was given upon her release from the Islamic extremist al Shabaab militants who had custody of her since November 2011.

We would ask for your prayers for healing for Sofia. Please pray for her physical healing as she recovers from this horrific beating and most importantly that she would remain strong in her faith for Christ.

Sofia has been a Christian for four years and came to faith while in the underground church in war-torn Africa.

[TBC: The 40 lashes were the judgment of Sharia Law, the same Sharia Law that the people in Oklahoma voted overwhelmingly to keep out of their state but was recently overturned by a federal appeals court.]

## T. A.'s Speaking Schedule

Feb 11	<b>Te Tuhi Centre for the Arts</b> Pakuranga, Auckland (021) 920 531
Feb 12	<b>Crossroads Christian</b> Rothsay Bay, North Shore (021) 920 531
Feb 13	<b>Calvary Chapel/Vardon School Hall</b> Hamilton (021) 100 2660 www.calvaryhamilton.co.nz
Feb 14	<b>Emmanuel Congregational Church</b> Palmerston North (06) 326 8533
Feb 15	<b>Central Baptist Church</b> Wellington (04) 565 0820
Feb 16	<b>Middleton Grange Sch. Hall</b> Upper Riccarton, Christchurch (021) 178 2898
Feb 17	<b>Queenstown Bible Chapel</b> Queenstown (03) 442 3728
Feb 19 (a.m.)	<b>All Saints Hall</b> Dunedin (03) 472 8887
Feb 19 (p.m.)	<b>Queens Drive Gospel Hall</b> Dunedin (03) 472 8887
Feb 21-22	<b>Shellharbour Christian Fwshp.</b> Shellharbour, NSW 0421 040 625
Feb 23	<b>Clayton Assembly of God</b> Clayton, Vic (03) 9544 3252
Feb 24	<b>First Romanian Baptist Church</b> Endeavour Hills, Vic 0409 025 401
Feb 25	<b>Calvary Chapel Melbourne</b> Endeavour Hills, Vic (03) 9704 2461 www.calvarymelbourne.com.au
Feb 26 (a.m.)	<b>Glen Waverley Comm. Hall</b> Glen Waverley, Vic (03) 9727 4098
Feb 26	<b>Cornerstone Gospel Church</b> Frankston, Vic 0439 039 079
Feb 28	<b>NarreHills Family Church</b> Narre Warren Nth, Vic (03) 9707 5975
Mar 2	<b>Finnish Pentecostal Church</b> Mt. Gravatt, Qld (07) 3849 6331
Mar 3-4	<b>Christian Witness Ministries</b> Eight Mile Plains, Qld (07) 3137 1031 www.cwm.org.au; www.cwmfellowship.org
Apr 19-21	<b>St. Louis Biblical Disc. Conf.</b> St. Charles, MO (314) 921-9800 www.pfo.org/2012-cbd.htm
Apr 22	<b>Calvary Chapel St. Louis County</b> Maryland Heights, MO (314) 344-8581

## Letters .....

### Berean Call,

I have read some of the content of your website, and I have come to the conclusion that much of what is written here exemplifies illegitimate claims—I refer specifically to your post [from the radio program], “The Changes in Christianity Over Time” [in] Contending for the Faith. You express a very anti-Catholic viewpoint, treating Catholicism as if it is somehow less legitimate than Protestantism.

Catholicism was the first organized form of Christianity, and certainly has had a rocky history involving the Crusades and the political agenda of the Pope surpassing the spiritual quality of Christianity. However, I also find it incredibly unfair for you to judge Catholics for actions perpetrated thousands of years ago. You have no right to perpetuate prejudice against Catholics because Catholics “used to burn us at the stake.” That’s the equivalent of a black man saying, “I shouldn’t have to consider whites my social equal because 150 years ago, blacks were treated as second-class citizens.” In the case of race, such an attitude is called “racism.”

...Additionally, Protestantism has just as much of a horrifying history as Catholicism. It was Protestants who used the Bible to defend slavery, quoting, “Slaves obey your masters,” and Protestants who hanged accused witches in Salem, Massachusetts, in the 1690s. Your history is bloody and fraught with corruption....Candidates for public office abuse Christianity in order to gain political power.... AA (email)

### Dear Dave,

I just finished your book *A Woman Rides the Beast* and I must say thank you and Praise the Lord for your scholarly work. It just defies logic how [the] world can be so deceived about the RCC. The fact that they accept and believe in the RCC testifies to the fact that most people don’t read the Holy Bible, and if they do read it, they don’t really believe it. Thank you again, and may the Almighty God of the Bible and His Son Jesus Christ keep you thru the power of His Holy Spirit as you serve Him daily. NL (email)

### Dear Friends...Dave, Tom, and all,

Please accept my thanks and gratitude for *The Berean Call* and your continued faithfulness and integrity as you address various issues. What a thrill to read the “Letters”—especially from prisoners whose lives are being changed. You are a blessing to me and so many, many others. LP (WA)

### Dear Dave,

I don’t have a question, but I do have a strong recommendation. I am currently half way through reading your book *Beyond Seduction—A Return to Biblical Christianity*. I bought this book through a third party on Amazon.com. [It] is well written and needs to be out in circulation again. I know you have put a few of your older books... in circulation again and would recommend this book to be [reissued] as well. You did a great job identifying the myths and lies that are now promoted as a blend of Christianity. Everything you say in that book makes good biblical sense. Every Christian who loves God’s truth (the real truth) should read this book....*Beyond Seduction* does a good job at putting the lie and the truth side by side so that it can easily be examined scripturally.... Thank you for standing in the gap and being a light so that those who really want to know God’s truth can be better equipped to stand against the deception. JS (email)

### Dear T. A. McMahon,

I’m a 65-year-old born-again Christian and...have been saved seven years to date. It was the best decision I have ever made. Sorry to say that I am a prisoner....[Rick Warren] is endorsing many Bible studies and different programs on this prison yard. One is Celebrate Recovery...a 12-step program that is based on biblical scripture, so they say. By your article in the *Berean Call* (Aug ’11), it seems to me that Rick Warren is mixing bad with good. I see compromise in what he is doing. I feel as “Genuine” Christians we do not need 12-step programs when we have 66 books of God’s word. I’m asking for any information on Rick Warren so I can go to the chaplain and stand up for the truth. Any help from you would be a blessing. Your publication (over the last few years I’ve been getting it) has really helped me grow in my knowledge about the Truth. Thanks to you and Mr. Hunt for all that you do. May He keep blessing your desire to expose the false teachings of many. LK (CA, prisoner)

### Mr. Hunt,

Thank you for your excellent and eye-opening book on Calvinism. I bought a copy in 2006 but never fully read it until 2010—stupid me! If I had read it earlier I would not have been caught up in that false system for over four years.

God bless you for standing up for the truth of God’s Holy and Inerrant Word. Calvinism is nothing more than a man-made, high intellectual, philosophical attack on the God of the Bible. In short, it is modern day Gnosticism! Again, thank you, and as always: Acts 17:11 and 2 Timothy 2:15! MC (email)



**Dear Dave, Tom, and Staff,**

The Berean Call has been a source of truth and light in our lives for many years and we are deeply appreciative of and indebted to you for your selfless and tireless service. May our God continue to abundantly bless you and the work of your hearts and hands. R&LH (TX)

**Dear brother in Christ,**

I am missing your lectures here in Brasil. My wife has translated some of your books, like *Battle for the Mind*, to Portuguese. I hope we can meet again. We really are in a fierce battle. As Jesus' followers we need to pray for each other. My Lord sustain your faith and health, not only you but all your family! LC (Brazil)

**Dear Berean Staff,**

Just wanted to let you know what a blessing your publication is to me. I learned a lot in [the September] issue and am grateful for your steadfast stand on "what does the Bible say?" It arrived today, and I read it cover to cover immediately! My late father, a conservative, evangelical minister, never wavered in his proclamation of Biblical truth, and your newsletter is an encouragement and comfort to me because it reinforces what he taught me. My prayer is that I will stay true to God's Word, the Bible, and be steadfast against all the heresy being followed today. I regret to say I was a member of a Christian Reformed Church for several years, not realizing just how far away from Scripture they have strayed. Through reading your publication and attending a Biblical Worldview Reunion Weekend in Branson, MO... my "spiritual senses" have been greatly sharpened. THANK YOU! God bless and keep you all as you proclaim God's truth boldly. RR (IL)

**Dear TBC,**

I listened to "God's Plan for the Clueless" and thoroughly enjoyed Tom's testimony! Fascinating stuff! Thank you for giving us the opportunity of learning the background of your work and the wonderful beginnings of the work of TBC. I continue in prayer for this special ministry and the team members who "make it happen"!! RN (United Kingdom)

**Dear Dave,**

I just wanted to say what a brilliant book [*Cosmos, Creator, and Human Destiny*] that absolutely slams down Dawkins and his fellow atheists who do worship their tiny god—Darwin. This book was an answer to my prayers—that someone would write a book against Dawkins's deluded books. No one else could have written such a masterful and wonderful put down of Dawkins....One

suggestion I have to Dave is that someone should do a computer study of the population of planet earth at present and program back to 3.2 million years ago. If we came from two parents 3.2 million years ago we would be walking on nothing but bones fifty feet high. Thanks to the Lord for Dave's brilliant book. KS (CA)

**Dear Dave, T. A. & Staff,**

What a blessing you dear servants have been [and are] to my wife and me these many years. Your many warnings & teaching the truth have added so much to our blessed assurance. May God restore you and bless you in good health. GC (OK)

**Dear Mr. McMahon,**

We have been receiving your newsletters now for several years and find much of what you write about to be right and helpful. However, with your ever increasing attacks on Calvinism, we can no longer (in good conscience) read your writing and agree. As another wrote in regarding your unhealthy bias against Calvinism in the September newsletter....I believe you really don't know exactly what you are talking about. Most people we meet who are confused about exactly what the Bible teaches, just throw out the term "Calvinism" and shut themselves off to really understanding.

This month, your comments about unbiblical beliefs coming from Augustine, Martin Luther and John Calvin are disturbing. The Catholic Church you warn so much about, would still be prevailing if God did not use these men during the Reformation. You are off base and spreading a deadly poison straight from the pit of hell.

Your arrogance is oozing out and it is no surprise. Most people that reject Biblical truth, such as Total Depravity, usually are most prideful, because they see themselves as just a little bit better than the rest, since they were not totally *dead* in their sin and had the ability to Choose God. We will pray for you and ask that you no longer waste the ink or a stamp to mail us your newsletter. You are hindering the unity of the Church, of which you will give an account. AF (email)

**TBC,**

Paul, in 2 Corinthians 12:4 spoke of things unspeakable when he tried to describe the third heaven. The work you do at TBC, rightfully dividing the word of truth, I can't begin to describe the joy that fills my soul with each communication from your ministry. When someone tries to condemn you on some topic, my ears go up, but I always find that they didn't do good research, or they are offended because you exposed their error. I love TBC! We thank the Lord for you. JM (PA)

**Dear T. A.,**

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for your excellent article, "Is Your Eschatology Showing?" in the October issue of *TBC*. Indeed, "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things" (Rom. 10:15, emphasis mine). The last part of this verse aptly describes that "blessed hope" (Titus 2:12-13) of every born-again child of God, in his heart of hearts, as he makes his way through this spiritually sick and dying world—the expectancy of our Lord's soon return for us, His Bride, and to govern this world in Righteousness. Sadly, this is the very thing that is today sorely missing from the proclamation of the gospel in our churches....Today, the name "Christian" has unfortunately become almost a household word in our society and often means nothing more than just another political affiliation or a worldview, little different from that of the "religious" advocates within the Judaism of Jesus' Day. Oh, that as you say, may our true biblical eschatology show! OF (CA)

## TBC Notes

### Handy "Witness Warning" Verses

In the center of this month's front page article is a section of verses that you can cut out and keep in your Bible or near your door. You might also make copies of the article itself and keep them handy for your proselytizing visitors, giving them out as the Lord leads you. If the cut-out section of verses or the article is turned down by the callers, they will probably allow you to read the verses to them.

The objective is to let the Word of God, the Word of Truth (John 17:17) speak to their hearts. Scripture tells us that God's Word will not return void but will accomplish what God intends (Isaiah 55:11). It may bring conviction that will lead to repentance and salvation. Or it may bring condemnation for their rejection of the truth. In any case it is the Sword of the Spirit that presents the critical warning regarding where the Jehovah's Witnesses will spend their eternal destiny. That may be more effective than situations that often wind up merely as a debate session.

T. A. McMAHON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel . . . for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth [it]. —MARK 16:15, ROMANS 1:16*

## THE GOSPEL'S THREE ELEMENTS

*excerpts from the THE NONNEGOTIABLE GOSPEL*

The one true “gospel of God’s grace,” which God offers as our *only* salvation, has three basic elements: 1) who Christ is—fully God and perfect, sinless man in one Person (were He less, He could not be our Savior); 2) who we are—hopeless sinners already condemned to eternal death (or we wouldn’t need to be saved); and 3) what Christ’s death accomplished—the payment of the full penalty for our sins (any attempt by us to pay *in any way* rejects the Cross).

Christ has commanded us to “preach the gospel [good news!] to every creature [person]” (Mark 16:15). What response is required? Both the desperate question and uncomplicated answer are given to us: “What must I do to be saved?...*Believe* on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:30, 31). Neither religion, ritual, nor good works will avail. God calls us to simply *believe*. “For by grace are ye saved through *faith*” (Ephesians 2:8)—whosoever *believes* in him will not perish, but has eternal life (John 3:16).

It is the *gospel* alone that saves those who *believe* it. Nothing else will save. Therefore we must preach the gospel. Paul said, “Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel” (1 Corinthians 9:16). Sentimental appeals to “come to Jesus” or “make a decision for Christ” avail nothing if the gospel is not clearly explained and believed.

Many are attracted to Christ because of His admirable character, noble martyrdom, or because He changes lives. Such converts have not believed the *gospel* and thus are not saved. This is the solemn teaching of Scripture (John 3:36)!

Paul said that “the gospel of Christ...is the power of God *unto salvation* to every one that believeth” (Romans 1:16). He also called it “the gospel...by which also *ye are saved*” (1 Corinthians 15:1, 2); and “the gospel of *your salvation*” (Ephesians 1:13). Clearly, from these and other scriptures, salvation comes *only* through *believing the gospel*. Christ told His disciples to go into “all the world, and preach the gospel” (Mark 16:15), a gospel which the Bible precisely defines.

Salvation comes on God’s terms and by His grace, and we negotiate the gospel neither with God nor with one another.

“The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world” (1 John 4:14). Salvation is a work of God and His Son. We either believe it or reject it. We don’t “dialogue” about it.

It is also called the “gospel of Christ” (Mark 1:1; Romans 1:16; 15:19; 1 Corinthians 9:12, 18; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 9:13; 10:14; Galatians 1:7; Philippians 1:27; 1 Thessalonians 3:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:8). He is the Savior, and salvation is His work, not ours, as the angels said: “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11).

Paul specifies the gospel that saves: “that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3, 4). “I am the door,” said Christ: “by *me* if any man enter in, he shall be saved” (John 10:9).

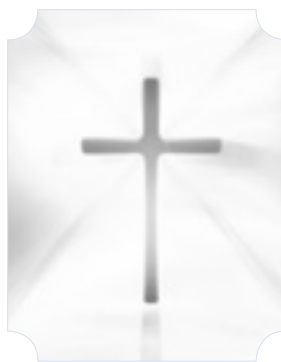
The gospel contains nothing about baptism, church membership or attendance, tithing, sacraments or rituals, diet or clothing. If we add *anything* to the gospel, we have perverted it and thus come under Paul’s anathema in Galatians 1:8, 9!

The gospel is all about what Christ has done. It says nothing about what Christ must yet do because the work of our redemption is finished. “Christ *died* for our sins.” His was a past act, never to be repeated, for Christ triumphantly declared, “It is *finished*” (John 19:30)!

Nor does it say anything about what *we* must do, because we can do nothing. “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us” (Titus 3:5); “for by grace are ye saved through faith...the gift of God (is) not of works, lest any man should boast...” (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

Instead of works, the gospel requires faith. It is the power of God unto salvation to those who *believe*. “But to him that *worketh not*, but *believeth* on him that justifieth the ungodly, his *faith* is counted for righteousness” (Romans 4:5)...“that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

The gospel is a two-edged sword. It declares, “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life.” The same verse





also says, “and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36).

### { *The Difficult Part* }

Right here we come to the most difficult part of the gospel to accept—that those who do not believe it are eternally lost, no matter what good works they do.

The reasons for that fact are grounded in both God’s love and His justice. God’s justice requires that the infinite penalty for sin must be paid. In payment we would be separated from God forever, so He became a man through the virgin birth to pay the penalty for us. No one can complain against God. He has proved His love by doing all He could for our salvation. He has himself paid the penalty and on that basis can be both “just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus” (Romans 3:26).

Christ pleaded in the Garden, “if it be possible (i.e., if there is any other way mankind can be saved), let this cup pass from me” (Matthew 26:39). We know that there is no other way or God would not have required His beloved Son to bear the full brunt of His wrath against sin. The fact that men nailed Christ to the cross would only condemn us. But on the cross, when man was doing his worst to his Creator, Christ paid the penalty for our sins in full.

Only if we accept that payment on our behalf can we be saved. “[T]here is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we *must* be saved” (Acts 4:12); “what *must* I do to be saved?...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:30, 31).

To “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ” includes *who* He is and *what* He *has done*.

Jesus said, “...Ye are from beneath; I am from above...if ye believe not that I AM [this is God’s name, Yahweh], ye shall die in your sins” (John 8:23, 24). Jesus himself says we must believe that He is God, for He is; and no one less than God could save us. We must believe that the sinless One “died for our sins,” and was buried; and that He rose bodily from the grave. Only by believing this gospel are we saved. So says God’s Word.

Why could not even a Mother Teresa get to heaven by good works? Because we are all sinners; and because once we have broken one of God’s commandments we “[are] guilty of all” (James 2:10); and “by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight” (Romans 3:20). Keeping the law perfectly from now on could never make up for having already broken it.

For God to grant salvation by any other means than faith in Christ alone would be an insult to the One whom the

Father insisted had to endure His wrath as the sacrifice for sin. Furthermore, God would be breaking His own code of justice and going back on His Word. No, even God himself could not save earth’s most notable “saint.” Christ’s blood avails only for repentant sinners.

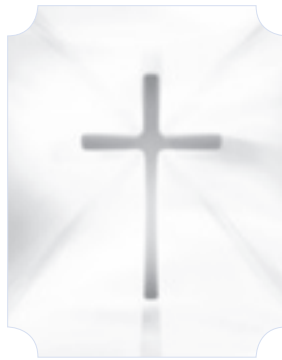
Oswald Chambers warned lest, in our zeal to get people to accept the gospel, we manufacture a gospel acceptable to people and produce “converts” who are not saved. Today’s most popular perversion is the “positive” gospel, which is designed to offend no one with truth. One of our most popular televangelists, for example, has said that it is demeaning to call anyone a sinner and that Christ died to restore human dignity and self-esteem. He claims to win many to Christ with that seductive message—but such a gospel does not *save sinners*.

Evangelistic appeals are often made to “come to Christ” for the wrong reasons: in order to be healthy, happy, successful, to restore a marriage, or to handle stress. Others preach a gospel that is so diluted or perverted that it deceives many into thinking they are saved. No fraud could be worse, for the consequences are eternal!

Religion, not atheism, is Satan’s main weapon. “The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ... should

shine unto them” (2 Corinthians 4:4). To combat “the gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 20:24), the great deceiver has many false gospels, but they all have two subtle rejections of grace in common: ritual and/or self-effort.

Ritual makes redemption an ongoing process performed by a special priesthood; and self-effort gives man a part to play in earning his salvation. The one denies the finality of the Cross. The other denies its sufficiency. Either one robs God of the uniqueness of the gift He wishes to bestow upon fallen man: “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23). **†**



### **The Nonnegotiable Gospel**

**Hunt**—Most people are surprised to learn that the gospel contains nothing about baptism, church membership or attendance, tithing, sacraments or rituals, diet, or clothing. In fact, if we add anything to the gospel, we have perverted it. So whether you are just checking out what the Bible has to say, or whether you’ve been attending church for years, this booklet cuts through religious confusion. It contains no hidden agenda or clever doctrines of men; instead, it invites the reader into a pure, personal relationship with Jesus Christ, through an unadulterated understanding of God’s Word. The Berean Call, 44 pp.

**B45645**

wt 0.1 **\$2.50**

# HE *Gave* HIMSELF *written by* BARRY KIRK

SPEAKING *POETICALLY*, Messiah spoke through the Psalmist when He said, “they pierced my hands and my feet.” Isaiah *prophetically* foretold of His wounds and bruises and chastisement. Peter remembered that Christ suffered and was reviled, and he also spoke of our sins that He personally bore in His own body on the tree and of His stripes—ugly stripes. Paul variously describes the cross-work of the Lord Jesus—“Delivered for our offenses,” “Became obedient unto death,” “Made peace through the blood of His cross” and “Reconciled in the body of His flesh through death,” etc. And the Gospels all say in unison that they “Crucified Him.” And so, many are the inspired “attempts” (I speak as a man) to communicate the very personal cost connected with the ultimate and most valuable sacrifice made by the Lord Jesus. But none is more personal and none is of higher value than when we read these moving words, “**He gave Himself.**” Not so much that He was given—though He was and we would never belittle the truth that “God gave His only begotten Son,” but what did it ever mean for that Son to give Himself personally and freely and without reserve? His precious word by the Holy Spirit just describes it this way—“**He gave Himself**”—and uses that simple, yet inspired, terminology five times in connection with five titles of the Lord Jesus along with five different objects.

1. “**Christ...hath given Himself...a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour**” (Eph 5:2). Oh how we thank Him for the Godward character of His sacrifice. It took the Christ, the Anointed One, the Promised One, the Messiah Himself, to satisfy all the demands of an Outraged Holiness. No other was found who could wholly meet God’s requirements of a sacrifice without spot on the outside and without blemish on the inside that would pay sin’s penalty. Only the Christ would do. Blessed be His name.

And though His sacrifice was primarily for God, we need not even leave our chapter and verse to see the manward character of His sacrifice as well when we read, “Christ also hath loved us, and hath **given Himself** for us an offering” and “Christ also loved the church, and **gave Himself** for it.” (Eph 5:2,25). What a lovely truth that all that Christ gave when he **gave Himself** to God, He also **gave for us**! The One chosen aforetime to satisfy God is the selfsame One who *gave Himself* for us. Blessed be His name.

2. “**Our Lord Jesus Christ...gave Himself for our sins** that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father” (Gal 1:3,4). Here He is not only the Promised, Chosen and Anointed One but also the Sovereign, Controlling and Omniscient Lord whose name is “Jesus (Jehovah saves) for He shall save his people from their sins” (Matt 1:21). It must be “our Lord” for He must have the power and authority to save. It must be “Jesus” for He must have the heart of Jehovah to save. And it must be “Christ” for He must be worthy to save us from our sins. Oh our sins! Sins that have wreaked havoc on lives, sins that have caused so much damage, sins that have cursed, sins that have enslaved, sins that have caused so much hurt and trouble. It was sins—our sins which gave power to this present evil system and it was our sins which had consigned us to an empty separation from a holy and loving God. Oh how desperate

our need, but oh thank God that our Lord Jesus Christ knew all my sins and **gave Himself** for them all. Blessed be His name.

3. “**The great God and our Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us**, that he might redeem *us* from all iniquity” (Titus 1:13,14). “Amazing love! How can it be that Thou my Lord shouldst die for me?” Who is it that **gave Himself** for us? It was none other than the Great God. That is Who our Savior is. Oh dear brother and sisters, we must be absolutely, uncompromisingly dogmatic on this very fact—our Savior Jesus Christ is the Great God! It took full, one hundred percent deity to fully pay the awful price of “all iniquity.” Any other payment would fall pathetically short, but “the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” Nothing left undone—nothing left unpaid. Our Great God and our Savior Jesus Christ has **given Himself**. Blessed be His name.

4. “**The man Christ Jesus; who gave Himself a ransom for all...** and without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh...” (1 Tim 2:5-6; 3:16). Oh dear brothers and sisters, we must be absolutely, uncompromisingly dogmatic on this very fact, too: God became fully Man! In the work of redemption, the complete and impeccable humanity of Christ Jesus is equally as indispensable as His essential deity. If He were not Man, He could not have died and the wages of sin would not and could not have been paid. If He were not Man, there would have been no identification with Adam’s race [though without sin]. Many lovely and essential truths concerning His humanity could be dwelt upon but no lovelier than this: The Man Christ Jesus **gave Himself** and paid in full the corresponding payment for the release of those enslaved by sin. Oh that mighty stoop. We will never know the depths to which He stooped until one day when we see the heights from which He came. Blessed be His name.

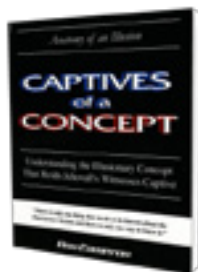
5. “**The Son of God loved me and gave Himself for me**” (Gal 2:20). Think of it. Dwell on it. Meditate on it. Be occupied with it. Try to exaggerate it. Proclaim loud wherever you can. The Son of God **loved me and gave Himself for me!!** He would forgo all the rights and privileges that He had enjoyed and always had deserved at His Father’s right hand to come down here. And in utter completeness...in calculated abandon...all the way to the uttermost...withholding nothing He gave himself for me. *The Son of God gave himself instead of me. The Son of God gave himself as me. The Son of God gave himself because of me.* Why His stoop? Why His sweat? Why His scorn? Why His stripes? Why His shame? Why His spikes and spear? *It was me! It was me! The Son of God loved me and gave Himself for me!* Yes, there can be no doubt that we marvel that **He gave Himself** for the church and that **He gave Himself** a ransom for all and that in a broader sense He gave Himself for us and our sins...but as long as eternity rolls, I will never be able to get over this fact: that, even though He knew me through and through before I was ever formed, He knew all my failures and rebellion and total depravity, **the very eternal Son of God loved me and gave Himself for me!**

BLESSED BE HIS NAME!

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## WARNING THE WITNESSES! DISCERNMENT RESOURCES



### Captives of a Concept

**Cameron**—"You'll never get sick. You will never grow old. You will never die." Although the above words come from the movie *Cocoon*, they could have come from the Watchtower Society, because this is the same thing they have been proclaiming for decades as part of "the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new world that is about to replace the present wicked, lawless system of things." This very appealing prospect attracts

many people to begin studying the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses. But during the course of their study, they are drawn into the delusory teachings of the Watchtower organization and gradually lose their ability to discern truth from lies. This book offers suggestions about how to help Jehovah's Witnesses and how to show them the truth about their religion. Lulu, 144 pp.

**B00103**

wt 0.3 \$17.00



### Witnesses of Jehovah

**Good News Defenders**—*Witnesses of Jehovah* goes behind the scenes to reveal how the Watchtower Society holds tyrannical control over the lives of its 3,400,000 members. The Watchtower is "big business." In the United States alone, over 1,200,000 Jehovah's Witnesses spend more than 184 million man-hours each year peddling a counterfeit gospel door-to-door. The incredible sales organization and the devastating impact it has on the lives of people who "buy" its deceptive line is the subject of this hard-hitting investigative film. 58 min.

**DVD010**

wt 0.3 \$20.00



### 30 Years A Watchtower Slave

**Schnell**—More than an account of how a cult enslaved a man, Schnell's story illustrates how false teachers "crept in unawares" (Jude 4). The decade following World War I was a time of upheaval, destruction of institutions, and unbridled license. The Watchtower Society masterfully promoted a message that seemed to promise hope in the midst of chaos. Many invested their lives in the Brooklyn-based society, accepting and promoting the message that most would never see

heaven. The Watchtower appeals to those searching for certainty and a place to belong. Schnell joined the Watchtower Society in the 1920s, but the societal issues of that time grimly parallel those of today. It would be wise to heed the warning of the author: "Let my life of slavery be your warning! It took me thirty years to get free!" Baker Books, 214 pp.

**B04420**

wt 0.8 \$16.00



### Jehovah's Witnesses - What You Need to Know

**Rhodes**—Ron Rhodes summarizes Watchtower teaching and methods for witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses. This 16-panel, full-color, handy fold-out summary is just the ticket for aiding in the discernment of various teachings.

**QRO2**

wt 0.1 \$3.00

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## NEW! DVD FROM T. A. McMAHON



### Seduction: A Primer to Persecution?

**The Berean Call**—Over the last three decades, Dave Hunt and T. A. McMahon have addressed many trends and teachings that have influenced the evangelical church, particularly in the United States. Their concern has focused primarily on unbiblical beliefs and practices that have turned Christians away from the Word of God. Spiritual seduction has proliferated here and has shipwrecked the faith of many. Believers in the United States have never yet experienced significant religious persecution—certainly nothing like what has taken place in China, India, or throughout countries controlled by Islam. Historically, true Christians in the West as far as Europe have suffered violence from the Caesars of Rome, the Church of Rome, and Communism, among others, but a comparable level of persecution has not reached the shores of North America. Dave and Tom have only rarely addressed the potential for persecution in the U.S., but it is now beginning to rear its ugly head. At TBC's 2011 Bible Conference, T. A. spoke about the increasing signs that point to a pending clash between those Christians who will conform to the world by compromising biblical teachings and those who remain steadfast in the faith. What will be the result of this conflict, when the world and the "church" unite to stop the true Word of God from going out? In this DVD presentation, Tom explores a number of pertinent Bible passages concerning this alarming trend. This should be a wake-up call to all Berean-minded believers. 50 min. 1 disc.

<b>DVD221</b>	<i>Seduction: A Primer to Persecution?</i>	retail \$12.99	wt .2	<b>\$12.50</b>
<b>DVD217</b>	<i>Is Your Eschatology Showing?</i>	retail \$12.99	wt .2	<b>\$12.50</b>
<b>DVD218</b>	<i>God's Plan for the Clueless</i>	retail \$12.99	wt .2	<b>\$12.50</b>

## NEW! TOZER BOOKS

*Tozer classics back in print*



### The Counselor

**Tozer**—Following a straightforward, inspiring and theologically sound approach, Tozer helps readers to know God more fully and to embrace the complexity of His Spirit. Tozer warns of spiritual stagnancy and the dangers of a church that lacks the true presence of the Holy Spirit. Wing Spread Publishers, 164 pp.

**B05364** retail \$12.99 wt 0.4 **\$12.00**



### Faith Beyond Reason

**Tozer**—Do you believe God will move heaven and earth for you if you trust Him? In this treasure of spiritual insights about faith, Tozer takes an in-depth look at the gospel of John and asks us to examine our faith and what it stands on. *Faith Beyond Reason* will leave you with a new and empowering sense of what your faith means while subtly revealing the power of God in your life. Wing Spread Publishers, 160 pp.

**B60337** retail \$12.99 wt 0.4 **\$12.00**

## HAVING AN ANSWER FOR MORMONS



### DNA vs. The Book of Mormon

**Living Hope Ministries**—The Book of Mormon teaches that Israelites, having immigrated to and fully populated the American continents, are the principal ancestors of modern-day

Native Americans. Citizens of more than 150 of these tribes have been tested to determine their ancestry. This video presents the evidence from DNA researchers, including Mormon scientists, that refutes this teaching. English/Spanish option. 49 min.

**DVD067** wt .3 **\$16.00**



### The Bible vs. The Book of Mormon

**Living Hope Ministries**—The Book of Mormon is sometimes called "a companion volume to the Bible." But can this be true? Do the Bible and the Book of Mormon agree? This

presentation leaves no question as to the truth and accuracy of the Word of God and the falsehoods and inaccuracies found in the book of Mormon. 66 min.

**DVD154** wt 0.3 **\$16.00**



### Jesus Christ/Joseph Smith

**Cameron**—This book and companion DVD, seek to compare historical LDS teaching with God's Word. You will hear interviews with former members of the LDS Church who, at one time, believed very strongly that

Joseph Smith was a true prophet sent by God to restore Christianity to the earth. When they realized that their presuppositions were not true they had to make some extremely difficult life-changing decisions. Good News for LDS, Book 476 pp., DVD 90 min.

**B01558** wt 1.7 **\$15.00**



### Mormon Claims Answered

**Cowan**—Mormonism has claimed that all other churches are universally apostate, but such claims against historic Christianity are flawed. This concise resource examines LDS claims in light of historical

documents, scientific evidence, the Bible, and authoritative Mormon sources. Utah Christian Publications, 120 pp.

**B00400** wt 0.4 **\$5.00**



### What Every Mormon Should Ask

**Cowan**—Author Marvin Cowan shares from his own experience in the Mormon Church, touching on issues like these: *How can I be sure that I'm doing enough? Why*

*can't I find some of the Mormon doctrines in the Bible? What role do prophets have today? and Being "saved" - what does it mean?* Utah Christian Publications, 32 pp.

**B02317** wt 0.3 **\$3.00**



### Fast Facts on Mormonism

**Ankerberg/Weldon**—Ankerberg and Weldon use their unique question-and-answer style to look at Mormon teachings that are clearly incompatible with

true Christianity. Drawing on Christian, Mormon, and secular studies, researchers John Ankerberg and John Weldon unravel Mormon claims. Harvest House, 180 pp.

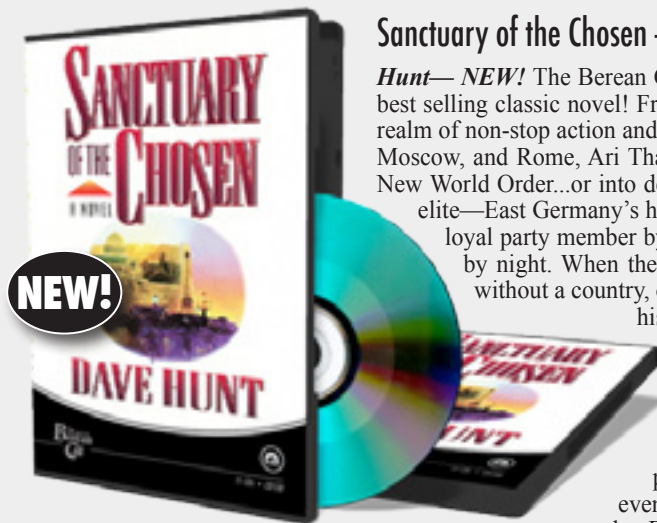
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FEBRUARY 2012

## NEW! SANCTUARY OF THE CHOSEN AUDIOBOOK



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high-quality DVD cases with attractive color inserts featuring artwork from the bestselling paperback edition. About 10.5 hours of listening enjoyment make this a wonderful way to "redeem the time" while driving or relaxing, and a great way to share the excitement of this Dave Hunt classic with others.

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