

KNEE SWEET ROME?



*BUT if our gospel be hid, it
is hid to them that are lost:
In whom the god of this world
hath blinded the minds of them
which believe not, lest the light
of the glorious gospel of Christ,
who is the image of God, should
shine unto them.*

—2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-4

The
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Call

FEBRUARY 2015

BOWING THE KNEE TO ROME

by T. A. McMahon

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Founder: Dave Hunt

Executive Director: T. A. McMahon

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Contacting Us

tel: (541) 382-6210 • fax: (541) 385-6025

orders and donations: (800) 937-6638

general inquiries: (541) 382-6210

e-mail: customerservice@thebereancall.org

website: www.thebereancall.org

online store: www.thebereancall.com



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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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Bowing the Knee to Rome

T. A. McMahon

We live in strange times. When I became a born-again believer nearly four decades ago following thirty years as a Roman Catholic, not one non-Catholic Christian chided me for leaving the Church of Rome. In those days it was fairly obvious to evangelicals that the teachings and practices of Roman Catholicism were at odds with the teachings of the Bible. Yes, there were a few things, at least superficially, that Catholics and Bible-believing Christians held in common. The virgin birth of Christ, which involved the conception of Jesus by the Holy Spirit, is one example. Yet, regarding Christ's miraculous birth, the Catholic Church added to the virgin Mary the dogmas of her Immaculate Conception, i.e., her having been conceived without sin, and her perpetual virginity. Although those extra-biblical teachings are serious errors, they do not directly contradict the gospel that is essential for salvation.

I would hope that everyone who is reading this article, (particularly if they profess to be Bible-believing Christians) has understood and received the true gospel, which requires the belief (and *belief* alone) that Jesus, through His sacrificial death and resurrection, paid the penalty for sin in full for every man, woman, and child. That is the gospel that the Bible teaches explicitly in more than one hundred verses and implies in hundreds more. However, that is *not* the gospel according to the Roman Catholic Church. In truth, the Catholic Church's opposition to the biblical gospel in its teachings and practices has been made evident through its councils and murderous inquisitions down through history.

During the Reformation, many individuals (primarily former Catholics) worked to restore the biblical gospel. In truth, it had never ceased to be believed by a remnant outside the Catholic Church. Yet the Reformation helped to get the Scriptures back into the hands of multitudes of believers. In response, the Church of Rome made its official position on the gospel crystal clear in its counter-reformation Council of Trent (1545-1563). Here are just three of the so-called infallible Council's more than one-hundred condemnations for those who believe what the Bible teaches about the gospel: "If anyone says that the sinner is justified by faith

alone, meaning that nothing else is required to cooperate in order to obtain the grace of justification...let him be anathema" (6th Session, Canon 9). It is because the Catholic Church requires far more than faith for salvation that it must anathematize (condemn) those who reject its sacramental works.

"If anyone shall say that justifying faith is nothing else than confidence in the divine mercy which remits sins for Christ's sake, or that it is this confidence alone by which we are justified: let him be anathema" (6th Session, Canon 12). Again we see that according to Rome, belief alone in Christ's finished sacrifice on the cross is condemned.

"If anyone says that after the reception of the grace of justification the guilt is so remitted and the debt of eternal punishment so blotted out to every repentant sinner, that no debt of temporal punishment remains to be discharged either in this world or in purgatory before the gates of heaven can be opened, let him be anathema" (6th Session, Canon 30). Though many Catholics wrongly believe that their Church has moved beyond the declarations of its Councils such as Trent, they nevertheless cling steadfastly to the necessity of Purgatory in the hope of burning off their residue of sins, thus making them fit to enter Heaven. That is a rejection of the finished work of Christ and therefore a "gospel" that will save no one.

It is essential for everyone who claims to be a Christian and says that they love Roman Catholics—and who believe that most Catholics are saved simply because they "love Jesus"—to understand the official Catholic "gospel" (which every Catholic is obligated to believe) and to realize how diametrically opposed it is to the biblical gospel. To truly love Jesus means to love Him as the Scriptures declare: "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life" (1 John 5:20). The Catholic "Jesus," who did not pay the full penalty for sin and who remains on crucifixes above the altars in Catholic churches is said to be "immolated" during the Mass. Immolation means to be *killed*—and not simply as a symbolic gesture, according to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: "The sacrifice of the altar, then, is no mere empty commemoration of Calvary, but a true and proper act of sacrifice, whereby Christ the high priest by an unbloody immolation offers himself a most

acceptable victim to the eternal Father, as he did on the cross. 'It is one and the same victim; the same person now offers it by the ministry of his [Catholic] priests, who then offered himself on the cross. Only the manner of offering is different'" (pp. 445-46). This direct denial of the finished sacrifice of Christ takes place daily on millions of Catholic altars in clear-cut contradiction to Hebrews 10:10: "By [God's will] we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ *once for all*."

The truth is that if we honestly love Catholics and want them to receive the forgiveness of their sins and the gift of eternal life that Jesus has paid for and that He offers through a simple act of faith on their part, then any form of encouraging the false gospel of Rome (no matter how well-intentioned) by those who profess to know Christ is a betrayal of the truth and insures for Catholics eternal separation from God. Tragically, that leaven of compromise is what has been infiltrating the church for the last three decades.

Through its newsletter articles and resource materials over many years, TBC has addressed such lethal appeasement of Roman Catholic dogmas by highly visible leaders in their evangelism efforts—men such as Billy Graham, who used Catholic priests and nuns as counselors at his crusades; Bill Bright, who placed practicing Catholics in Campus Crusade leadership positions in Ireland; and Luis Palau, who collaborated with Catholics in South America. Under the leadership of Chuck Colson and Catholic priest Richard John Neuhaus, among others, influential evangelical and Catholic leaders signed the Evangelicals and Catholics Together document, thereby committing themselves to working together to convert the world to Christ. Promise Keepers, led by Roman Catholic Bill McCartney, strived to break down the historic wall of division between Catholics and non-Catholic Christians. Hank Hanegraaff's *Christian Research Journal* ran a series on Roman Catholicism, declaring that the Church held a biblical view of justification by faith. It was written in part by apologist Norm Geisler and defended by Hanegraaff on his radio program, claiming that the gospel of Rome is fundamentally biblical. Tridentine Catholic movie writer and director Mel Gibson won the hearts of multitudes of evangelicals with his *The Passion of the Christ*, which was based on the sacred Catholic ritual of the Stations of

the Cross, a rite that is dedicated to Mary as co-redemptrix with Jesus.

Dave Hunt, writing about the response to the death of Pope John Paul II, noted,

The praise heaped on the pope upon his death by evangelical leaders is incomprehensible! Incredibly, Billy Graham praised John Paul II for "his strong Catholic faith." Increasing numbers of evangelicals are joining Colson, [J. I.] Packer, Billy Graham, and others in accepting as fellow Christians Roman Catholics who embrace this false gospel.... Pat Robertson said that "the most beloved religious leader of our age [has passed] from this world to his much-deserved eternal reward."...Mark Oestreicher, president of Youth Specialties, called the pope's death "a key point in history where we have the opportunity to embrace [Catholics as] fellow children of God." That is like failing to set up flares and warning signs for motorists traveling along a highway where a bridge is out and waving them on to their death instead!

Like Billy Graham, Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptists' Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, emphasized that any disagreements Protestants may have had "with John Paul II are [irrelevant] to the foundations of the faith." Land praised the pope's "staunch defense of traditional Christian faith...." Yet John Paul II, on more than one occasion, gathered together for prayer witch doctors, spiritists, animists, Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, and other leaders of world religions, declared that they were all "praying to the same God" and credited their prayers with generating "profound spiritual energies" that would create a "new climate for peace."

The 4,000-member Evangelical Theological Society's president Francis Beckwith resigned to return to his Catholic roots (with the official blessing of ETS's leadership). Rick Warren brought his Purpose Driven church-growth program to the Catholic Church showing no apparent concern for that church's false gospel.

But that was then; so what is the situation now? Anyone who is saddened over what has taken place in the recent past, e.g., the blatant disregard of the biblical gospel as the only hope for the salvation of mankind, should be deeply grieved at what's taking place today. The Vatican appears to be turning up the heat in its efforts to romance "Protestants," a misnomer for non-Catholic Christians. Vatican II's declaration referring to baptized non-Catholic Christians as "separated brethren," a change from their having been referred to historically as "heretics" as defined by the Council of Trent, has been surprisingly successful in endearing many

evangelical leaders to Rome. There is a saying related to this approach that is borne out in the Church of Rome's practice: "Rome, when in minority is as gentle as a lamb, when in equality is as clever as a fox, and when in the majority is as fierce as a tiger." We seem to be in the "clever as a fox" stage here in the US, if what is taking place is any indication.

The "retired" Benedict XVI, the former prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (with its roots in the Roman Inquisition), surprised many by his extraordinary ecumenical efforts as pope. Doctrine became a nonissue, at least on the surface. His successor, Pope Francis, has not only followed the lead of popes John XXIII, John Paul II, and Benedict, but he has put ecumenism in warp speed. Early last year, Francis sent an iPhone video greeting to the audience at a Kenneth Copeland Conference via Anglican-Episcopal bishop Tony Palmer (now deceased), who was also a director of the Kenneth Copeland Ministries in South Africa. For those not aware, Copeland and his wife, Gloria, have led millions into their unbiblical prosperity-and-health doctrines, which feature a false gospel and "another" Jesus who paid for sins by being tortured by Satan in hell. The greeting led to an invitation from the pope to Copeland and some of his false teaching compatriots (James Robison, Geoff Tunnicliff, John and Carol Arnott) to meet with him at the Vatican. Influential Charismatic mystic and false prophet Kim Clement declared that God told him that He had chosen Pope Francis to bring Spirit-filled Protestants and Catholics together.

Rick Warren has hardly taken a back seat on the journey to Rome. In a series of interviews that he gave last year to EWTN, the Catholic network (which, by the way, he confessed was one of his favorite TV channels), Rick defended Catholicism and attempted to explain the misconceptions held by evangelicals. In keeping with his unbiblical Global P.E.A.C.E. Plan, which stresses the cooperation of the world's religions, he spoke at the Vatican's International Religious Colloquium on the Complementarity of Man and Woman. He later "called for adherents of various Christian denominations to unite with Roman Catholics and Pope Francis to work together on three shared goals, focusing on the sanctity of life, the sanctity of sex, and the sanctity of marriage" (www.aleteia.org/en/religion/article/megachurch-pastor-rick-warren-joins-pope-francis-in-support-of-common-mission).

Hopefully, every believer reading this is asking "What of the sanctity of the biblical gospel?" Without that, all other attempts at "sanctity" are a temporal delusion and an eternal tragedy! Yet fewer and fewer of those who profess to be Bible-believing Christians seem to be concerned about this

and are comfortable with what has become Warren's ecumenical mantra: "If you love Jesus," he claims, "we're on the same team."

If you are puzzled or perhaps even dazed by what's going on in Christendom, the Scriptures supply the answers: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Timothy 4:3-4). Where sound doctrine has given way to experientialism, subjectivism, and emotionalism, as it has among the millions of followers of the false Signs and Wonders teachings, biblical discernment has been abandoned; being a Berean is impossible.

However, hyper-Charismatics and Pentecostals are not the only ones ripe for Rome's seduction. Consider again conservative theologian Francis Beckwith, the former head of the *Evangelical* Theological Society who returned to his earlier Catholic faith (emphasis added). How could he have done this if he had truly understood and received the simple and foundationally *sound doctrine* of salvation? How could one rationally give up the unfathomable free gift that Christ provided and turn instead to a salvation by works—unless he had never received that gift? You could also ask how Beckwith could have been elected president of such a prestigious "Protestant" organization.

Beckwith, however, provides some insights that are reflective of the attitude and beliefs of most Christians today. When asked if he thought the historic hostility between Catholics and evangelicals is eroding, his response was: "Yes. I think it is largely the result of working together on cultural questions [Rick Warren's approach], which has led to more careful and charitable reading of each other's beliefs. So, for example, it is rare today to find a serious Evangelical accusing the Catholic Church of believing in 'works righteousness.' Sure, the more flamboyant voices say such things, but most sophisticated Evangelicals do not take them seriously" (*The Catholic World Report* 11/5/2014). "Flamboyant voice" here refers to a vocal, narrow-minded fundamentalist, versus "sophisticated Evangelical," which describes one who takes "more careful and charitable reading of each other's beliefs." Tragically, such a mindset is the growing trend among professing evangelicals.

I thank Jesus every day that the evangelicals who witnessed to me more than three decades ago loved me enough to reject such soul-damning "sophistication" and to minister to me in truth. For this I am eternally grateful, and I pray that my fellow believers will do the same for their Catholic acquaintances, friends, and loved ones. **TBC**

Quotable

We need to worship and to adore as well as to analyze and explain. Mary of Bethany learned much by just sitting at Jesus' feet, listening to Him and loving Him. Our generation's greatest lack is just here.

—Isobel Kuhn

(Isobel and her husband, John, served with China Inland Mission from 1928 to 1954.)

Q&A

QUESTION: I recently read some of St. John of the Cross, *Dark Night of the Soul*. That night I had bad dreams and was troubled in spirit. Some of what I read suggested that we should not meditate or reason when feeling far from God but simply contemplate, because God is doing something new. Am I imagining it, or is this work counter-Christian?

RESPONSE: What “St. John of the Cross” offers is Medieval Catholic mysticism that is divorced from the sure Word of the Lord. According to Catholic sources, John, a Spanish mystic and Carmelite friar, was one of the major figures of the “Counter Reformation.” He studied the humanities at a Society of Jesus (Jesuit) school, and was canonized as a saint by Pope Benedict XIII (1726). He quoted extensively from the Bible in his works (Peter Tyler, *St. John of the Cross* [New York: Continuum, 2010] p. 116), but it is clear that what he taught is contrary to Scripture.

Like “St. Teresa of Avila” (1515-1582), he was of the Carmelites, a religious order dedicated to the Virgin Mary (“Mary and the Holy Spirit in the Writings of John of the Cross,” www.icspublications.org/archives/others/cs6_10.html). According to Catholic teaching, he regarded pain and suffering as an integral part of salvation. Gerald Brenan, biographer, wrote, “With stones for pillows, their feet wrapped in hay, among...crosses and skulls, the friars remained praying from midnight to daybreak while the snow drifted through the tiles onto their clothes....Their only other possessions were a few books, some scourges [for self-administered penance and sharing in Jesus' suffering] and bells and five hour-glasses [for precisely regulating their schedule]” (Gerald Brenan, *St. John of the Cross: His Life and Poetry* [Cambridge University Press] p. 15).

In a review, Gary Gilley notes, “*Dark Night of the Soul* is not a complete treatise on mysticism, focusing almost entirely on the first tier—purgation. It was apparently St. John's intention to write on illumination and union, but either he chose not to do so or his manuscripts have been lost (p. 193).

“Concerning ‘purgation’ we are told that there are two stages: purgation of the

senses and of the spirit....The dark night is a description of these two levels of purgation. In the first stage...the senses and affections are killed in order that they not obstruct the spirit” (Book review at: www.svchapel.org/resources/book-reviews/4-christian-living/113-dark-night-of-the-soul-by-st-john-of-the-cross).

Rather than “killing” the senses and affections, Scripture clearly tells us, “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth” (Col 3:2). Biblical meditation doesn't involve disabling or setting aside the mind, but instead, as Psalm 1 tells us, godly men (and women) take delight in God's Word, and meditate upon it both day and night (Ps 1:2). In Joshua 1:8, the Lord instructed, “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein....”

QUESTION [abridged]: With the false doctrine of a “rapture” as the main focus, it's hard to believe that Bereans would advocate [this] nonbiblical doctrine. Nothing in 1 Thessalonians or in any other New Testament passages teaches that Jesus will return secretly to take believers to heaven for seven years and then return with them for another thousand years....So, where did the “rapture” doctrine come from?

Eusebius, Origen, Clement, and Ignatius, et al., never mentioned...the dispensational rapture or earthly reign of Christ.... Jesus will never set foot on planet earth again. He arose from the Mt. of Olives - at the next and only trip, all the saved will meet the Lord in the air. That's what the Bible teaches. You folks can thank John Nelson Darby, Hal Lindsay, Tim LaHaye, Cyrus Scofield and other “latter day prophets.” Throw in William Miller and Ellen G. White for being bedazzled by their sundry array of false prophecy.

RESPONSE: Bereans, who indeed search the Scriptures diligently (Acts 17:11), have no reasonable choice other than to believe in the doctrine of the Rapture. We can start with John 14:1-3, where Jesus tells his disciples (which includes all believers in Him) that He is going to the Father but He will return for them and take them where He will be. Paul tells us that the event is a mystery in which all believers will be miraculously changed when the Lord descends from heaven and catches them up to meet Him in the air, promising that they shall always be with Him (1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18). Scripture promises that Jesus delivers His bride from the wrath to come known as the time of Jacob's trouble and the great tribulation (1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9-10), for which Daniel 9 supplies the seven-year timeline. Jude 14 tells us that the Lord will return with ten

thousands of His saints to execute judgment upon the ungodly, and Revelation 1:7 adds that every eye shall see Him. Matthew 24:30 states that all the tribes of the earth shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. Job 19:25 and Zechariah 14:3-4 declare that at His return the Lord shall stand at the latter day upon the earth, specifically upon the Mount of Olives. Zechariah further adds that living waters will go forth and the Lord shall be king over all the earth. Multiple other verses supply more details, which every believer can search out and truly have confidence in the doctrine of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

Regarding doctrine, a “Berean” should have only a passing interest (if that) in the commentaries or the writings of *men*—certainly those of the early church fathers (who were a mixed bag of truth and heresies) and especially of the false prophetess Ellen G. White, who did not believe in a pre-trib Rapture. Confidence in any doctrine must be based solely upon one's own understanding of the Scriptures, especially since the Word of God declares that we are all personally accountable for what we believe. (See 1 Cor 2:9-16)

QUESTION: I just saw a trailer for a documentary titled *Left Behind or Led Astray?* that takes a post-tribulation Rapture position. One of the featured participants chides pastors who teach a pre-tribulation Rapture for not equipping their congregations to go through the seven-year great tribulation. What is your response?

RESPONSE: First of all, how does a pastor, a shepherd, prepare his flock to go through the most horrendous circumstances this side of the worldwide flood of Noah's time? Even a cursory reading of the book of Revelation regarding what takes place during the Great Tribulation gives enough description of cataclysmic events that would make survival preparedness a delusion at best. Add to that the rabid persecution of all those believers who do not take the mark of the Beast. Nearly all of them will be caught and martyred by the armies of the Antichrist. Yet those who do survive won't be thanking their alleged readiness but rather the miraculous intervention of the Lord. Furthermore, Dave Hunt referred to the placing of the Rapture at the end of the Tribulation as a classic non-event. Why? Because there would be very few believers left to be caught up to meet Jesus in the air. Moreover, when all believers, both Jews and non-Jews, are removed from the earth they are given immortal bodies (that do not procreate) and will be with the Lord forever. Post-tribulation has no answer for who will then populate the earth during the millennial reign of Christ.



IN DEFENSE *of the* FAITH

BIBLICAL ANSWERS *to* CHALLENGING QUESTIONS

A Confusion About Roosters Crowing

QUESTION: In Matthew, Luke, and John, Jesus tells Peter that before the cock crows once the next morning he will deny Him three times. Yet in Mark 14, Jesus just as clearly tells Peter that his denial will come before the cock crows twice. Can you help me resolve this apparent contradiction?

RESPONSE: This is one more of a number of seeming contradictions that skeptics and critics have exploited in attempting to discredit the Bible. However, a little investigation and clear thinking shows that they are not contradictions at all. Indeed, the fact that different language is used in the four gospels proves that the authors weren't all copying from "Q" or some such document theorized by critics. It also shows that the inspiration of the Holy Spirit did not destroy the freedom of different witnesses to express themselves. And that very freedom of expression explains many of the apparent contradictions.

Let's carefully compare the story as told in all four gospels. Matthew 26:34 says "before the cock crow," while Luke 22:34 and John 13:38 use the negative form, "the cock shall not crow." Obviously, Christ is not referring to a particular rooster crowing, nor to some rooster crowing *once*, but to that time in the morning known as "the *cockcrowing*." Such is the expression used in Mark 13:35, for example, when referring to the time ("at even, or at midnight, or at the *cockcrowing*, or in the morning") when Christ might return. So Jesus warns Peter that before the usual *cockcrowing* the next morning he will have denied his Lord three times. In fact, all four gospels agree that this is what happened.

Far from contradicting the other gospels, Mark simply gives a further detail in Christ's warning to Peter and thereby provides additional insight. He lets us know that Christ also told Peter: "Before the cock crow *twice*, thou shalt deny me thrice" (14:30). This in itself was an unusual statement. When roosters start crowing, the first is followed rather quickly by a second, third, fourth, and many subsequent crowings building to a chorus if there are many roosters in the vicinity.

Mark then reveals (14:66–72) that although Peter's first denial was long before the time of "cockcrowing" that morning, yet a rooster (or perhaps several) crowed immediately after the words were out of Peter's mouth. How do we know this first crowing was long before the time of "cockcrowing"? Though we are not told how much time elapsed between the first and second denials, Luke does inform us that "about the space of one hour" (22:59) elapsed between the second and third denials.

A Gracious First Warning Unheeded

The unusual crowing of a rooster an hour or more before the normal time and immediately after Peter's first denial should have brought him to repentance—which was no doubt why the Lord provided that special warning and unusual circumstance. Instead, though Peter had sworn he would die for Christ, he continued in denying his Lord two more times, at the end with extreme profanity (Mark 14:71). Immediately after the third denial, the morning's chorus of roosters (the "*cockcrowing*") sounded, and at last, repentant, Peter went outside to be alone and to weep bitterly (Matthew 26:75; Luke 22:62).

The honesty of the accounts is revealed in the fact that neither repeats the other but that each provides a piece of information that is necessary to the whole. And the inspiration of God guiding what each says, though from independent points of view, is seen in that this remarkable blending together of all four testimonies is necessary to provide us with the whole picture.

In probing deeply enough to reconcile what at first seemed like a contradiction, we have learned a valuable lesson. We see God's grace to Peter, causing a premature crowing of one or more roosters immediately after his first denial to prevent him from going any further. And has God not given similar warning at times to each of us to call us back from the brink of shame and disaster? Sometimes we have heeded, while at other times, like Peter, we have gone headlong until, overwhelmed by remorse, we have wept in repentance.

THE FACE OF JESUS CHRIST

*For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness,
hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge
of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

— 2 CORINTHIANS 4:6



WHAT EXACTLY is it that we see when we look into the face of Jesus Christ? The verse we are considering says we see not only “the light of the knowledge of God” but also the “light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” In Him we see not only God but His glory displayed. This gives us a new understanding of that which makes God glorious—and it comes as both a surprise and a shock. For the face that reveals the glory of God is a marred face, spat upon and disfigured by the malice of men. The prophetic word of Isaiah concerning Him [says] “His visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men” (Isaiah 52:14)....

But, you say, that is not a vision of glory, but of shame and disgrace! However, it is glory as God counts glory, for the glory of God consists in something other than what we suppose. We are always falling into the mistake of thinking God is “such an one as ourselves” (Psalm 50:21) and therefore that His glory consists in much the same things as that in which man’s glory consists, only on a larger scale.

Man’s glory is normally thought to lie in his ability to exalt himself, and to humble others to his will. That is glory, that is power, says the world. “Men will praise thee when thou doest well to thyself” (Psalm 49:18). How often have we coveted the glory of being able to sit at a desk as a high administrative chief and at the touch of a button command men to do what we want! Glory in a man’s eyes is always that which exalts him.

In Jesus, however, we see that God’s glory consists in the very reverse—not so much in His ability to exalt Himself and humble man, but in His willingness to humble Himself for the sake of man; not so much in a mighty display of power that would break in pieces those that oppose Him, but rather in the hiding of that power and the showing of grace to the undeserving when they turn to Him in repentance. When Moses said, “I beseech thee, show me thy glory,” God replied, “I will make all my goodness pass before thee” (Exodus 33:18-19). Not “I will make all My power, My majesty, My holiness pass before thee” but “I will make all

My goodness to the weak, the sinful, and the undeserving pass before thee.”

In showing His goodness (grace, as it is called in the New Testament) He was showing His glory. His glory is His grace (Ephesians 1:6). It is this that makes the angels hide their faces and bow in wondering adoration of God. And it is this glory which is fully seen in the face of Jesus and nowhere else. “In Him most perfectly expressed, the Father’s glories shine.”

This was the concept of glory that occupied the Savior’s mind. On one occasion He said, “The hour is come that the Son of man should be glorified” (John 12:23). A few verses further on He speaks of it as an hour when He would be lifted up and would draw all men to Himself (John 12:32). Again and again He had said, “Mine hour is not yet come.” Now He says, “It is come.” Were we reading all this for the first time, we would surely feel like saying at this point, “Never was the hour of glory and vindication more merited than in His case, for none ever walked the path of vilification and opposition more patiently than He!” What is our surprise, then, when we discover that He is speaking not of being lifted up on a *throne* but on a *tree*, as a public spectacle of shame—and all that for rebellious man, that He might save him from the miseries of his sin. “This,” says Jesus in effect, “is the hour of My glory, for it is the hour of My grace to sinners.” In Jesus, then, we see that God’s highest glory consists in His securing our deepest happiness. What a God is this!

How different is this sight of Him from the conception our guilty consciences have given us! A guilty conscience always makes us want to hide from Him, as if He were a God with a big stick! Little wonder, then, that He goes on to say, “I, if I be lifted up from the earth, [revealing the glory of God in grace] will draw all men unto me.” Here is a revelation of God that makes Him not only understandable but also infinitely desirable.

We need to look, then, no further than the face of Jesus Christ to see God, and to know Him as He really is.

FROM *WE WOULD SEE JESUS* BY ROY HESSION



ROY HESSION (1908-1992): was a British evangelist and author. He accepted Jesus in 1926 while on a Christian holiday camp. After working for Barings, the merchant bank, for ten years, he committed himself to full time preaching and became one of the most effective Christian evangelists in post-World War II Britain, especially among young people. In 1947 Hession met leaders of the East African Church which was then experiencing a sweeping revival, and recognized his deep personal need. It was like starting the Christian

life over as he came humbly to the Cross. The principles which the Lord taught him were first published in 1950 as *The Calvary Road* and are now available in over 70 languages! Hession’s other titles include *We Would See Jesus* and *Be Filled Now*.



We Would See Jesus

Roy Hession—*We Would See Jesus* is an amplification of Roy Hession’s classic, *The Calvary Road*.

The Lord Jesus has come to take from us every yoke of bondage, to set us free to serve Him in the freshness and spontaneity of the Spirit, and to receive the abundant blessing God has for us. CLC Publications, 154 pp.

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TBC NewsWatch

WHEN I WAS AN ATHEIST I HATED PEOPLE

CHRISTIANPOST.COM, 1/9/14, "WHEN I WAS AN ATHEIST I HATED PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY PEOPLE THAT TALKED ABOUT GOD," SAYS FORMER FLYLEAF SINGER LACEY STURM [EXCERPTS]: Lacey Sturm, an author and former lead singer of the multi-platinum selling band Flyleaf, recently spoke to *CP Voice* about her time as an atheist and how she felt about Christians during that period.

"When I was an atheist I hated people, especially people that talked about God... I thought that they were naïve. It wasn't a good thing to tell people about God and make them feel like they're safe and that He's going to take care of them when bad things happen." However, her perspective on that changed drastically when she embraced God as a Christian.

"Now that I do have faith in God and did have a miraculous encounter with God [I learned] that God is big, bigger than I could ever understand, good in a way that I could never comprehend, He knows what He's doing and that's just enough to help you have faith of your own."

(<http://goo.gl/8W246i>)

MORE STUDENTS TUNE OUT FAR-LEFT PROFESSORS

ONENWSNOW.COM, 1/2/14, "HOPE FOR NEW YEAR: MORE STUDENTS TUNE OUT FAR-LEFT PROFESSORS" [EXCERPTS]: Charles Angeletti, a history professor at the Metropolitan State University of Denver, has his students read a "New Pledge" that mocks the "Pledge of Allegiance."

The professor's version reads: *I pledge allegiance to wrap myself in the flag of the United States against anything un-American and to the Republicans for which it stands, two nations, under Jesus, rich against poor, with curtailed liberty and justice for all except blacks, homosexuals, women who want abortions, communists, welfare queens, tree-huggers, feminazis, illegal immigrants, children of illegal immigrants, and you, if you don't watch your step.*

Angeletti has been distributing the material, and requiring students to recite it, for more than 20 years.

Cultural analyst Janice Crouse says it's an "open secret" among students that your classroom grade will suffer if your opinion differs from the professor, who is an avowed Republican-hating atheist and socialist. But if you go along with his "diatribes" in the classroom, "then you're fine," she notes.

OneNewsNow has reported on Dr. Mike Adams, a criminology professor

who was punished for his beliefs by the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. A jury found that Adams was unjustly denied a promotion by the university and a federal court upheld the decision.

Angeletti and his "New Pledge" were uncovered by Campus Reform, which included a response from the professor for its online story. "We're very racist, we're very repressive, we're very Christian oriented, we don't tolerate other kinds of thinking in this country," Angeletti told the website.

Crouse says she hopes that many students are rejecting the biased rhetoric and that eventually the left-dominated climate on college campuses will turn around.

(<http://goo.gl/SphFFF>)

A THOUSAND CHURCHES DESTROYED IN NIGERIA

FRONTPAGEMAG.COM, 1/6/15, "A THOUSAND CHURCHES DESTROYED IN NIGERIA" [EXCERPTS]: In just two months, from August to October, nearly 200 Christian churches were destroyed by the Islamic organization Boko Haram and its Muslim allies after their capture of towns and villages in the north-eastern states of Borno and Adamawa.

In 2011, hundreds of Christians were killed and 430 churches destroyed or damaged in Nigeria by Boko Haram. In 2012, 900 Christians were slaughtered and an unknown number of churches destroyed. In 2013, 612 Christians were slaughtered and approximately 300 churches destroyed (suggesting that in the last four years alone, approximately 1,000 Christian churches have been destroyed...according to [a] Human Rights Watch report, Boko Haram has so far [killed] 2,053 people in 2014...likely [exceeding] the previous four years).

A typical church attack in Nigeria was reported as follows: "Armed Muslim extremists stormed two churches in Taraba state on Sunday (Oct. 19) and killed 31 people as they worshipped....Two pastors, one pastor's son, and 28 other Christians were slain in the attacks." According to the Rev. Caleb Ahema, president of the Christian Reformed Church of Christ in Nigeria, "The attack on Christians in Taraba state is a planned genocide against Christians by Islamic insurgents who have invaded the southern part of the state, inhabited mostly by Christians, since February."

The Center for the Studies of Global Christianity in the United States concluded that "about 100,000 Christians die every year because of their religious beliefs, that is to say one every five minutes. In addition, in many countries, many other religious minorities suffer violence

and persecution. Just to name a few...Iraq, Syria, Nigeria, Cameroon, Sudan, Pakistan, Somalia and Egypt....

(<http://goo.gl/2ejosK>)

550 MILLION YEARS OF NON-EVOLUTION

ICR.ORG, 11/26/14, "550 MILLION YEARS OF NON-EVOLUTION" [EXCERPTS]: A strange, new, mushroom-shaped species discovered alive on the deep seafloor near Australia—more than 3,000 feet below sea level—may be a record-breaking living fossil. Researchers investigated the anatomy of this phenomenal animal and published their finds in the online journal *PLoS ONE*. The creature has a pharynx running down the center of a central stalk, leading to "gastrovascular branches" that look like leaf veins running through a soft disc-like body part. It's not a jellyfish, sea squirt, or sponge.

Because it doesn't fit current categories of biology, the search is now on to find out what this creature is, and if or how it might relate to other animals—such as its basic phylum. Every phylum includes a very broad group of creatures. For example, phylum Cnidaria includes all forms of jellyfish, but excludes all other creatures. But so far, this new mushroom-shaped species "cannot at present be placed in an existing phylum." It does, however, have a genus: *Dendrogramma*.

The study authors noted how close their big discovery resembles certain fossils found in Ediacaran rocks. Only rarely are fossils found in these layers beneath the Cambrian strata. In contrast, Cambrian fossils abound with diversity and contain representatives of almost every living phylum, including fish from Chordata, the phylum for vertebrates.

This newly discovered sea creature also challenges evolutionary interpretations of biology. If this really is a "living fossil"—a creature with ancient fossil representatives yet still alive today—that can be found in the Ediacaran rocks, then how will secular biologists explain that evolution had no effect on it over the course of 550 million years?

If future research confirms that these living *Dendrogramma* represent Ediacaran animal forms, then none of these challenging questions confront biblical creation. Instead, finding solid answers will be simple: God created these creatures to reproduce more of their own unique kind, not evolve into some other phylum.

These new *Dendrogramma* species might confront evolutionary ideas by setting the record for the longest-surviving, unevolving life form.

(<http://goo.gl/1ZC1zq>)

T. A.'s Speaking Schedule

- May 1-3** **Candlelight Fellowship**
Coeur d'Alene, ID
(208) 772-7755
- May 15-17** **Cornerstone Baptist Church**
 Fargo, ND
(701) 371-2416
- Aug 28-30** **TBC Conference**
Bend, OR
(800) 937-6638

STS 24/7 Broadcast Schedule

- Jan 30/Feb 6** **Caryl Matrisciana**
Wide Is the Gate, vol. 3
- Feb 13/20** **Jim McCarthy**
Gospel of Rome
- Feb 27/Mar 6** **Stay tuned!**

Listen to Search the Scriptures 24/7 at:
www.thebereancall.org/radio
(Schedule is subject to change.)

Letters

TBC,

Thank you so much for your commitment to the truth in love. Our pastor [recently] declared that one could lose their salvation. I am so thankful for your "Once Saved, Always Saved" tract by Dave Hunt. LL (email)

Hello,

I really enjoyed Tom's interview with Gaylene Goodroad, whose comments regarding the occultic history of Asian martial arts gave me a great deal of food for thought in how I should proceed in my own martial arts journey. While I agree with Gaylene that Christians should not pursue arts which contain eastern mysticism, I disagree that Christians should not pursue styles that do not contain this occultic element. To do so would be a case of "throwing the baby out with the bathwater." While I would agree that Christians should not train for fighting, e.g. MMA, I disagree that Christians should not train for self-defense. Self-defense is an entirely biblical concept, and to train to protect oneself or loved ones should not be discouraged. Thank you! DA (email)

TBC,

I left a phone message but I wanted to also write to offer kudos on your recent broadcasts [on STS 24/7] regarding Hank Hanegraaff's false teaching about "Christian Palestinianism." Because he has jumped

on this bandwagon I decided to act. Below is what I wrote to Bott Network regarding Hanegraaff:

"I have led a Men's Bible Study here... for many years. I have always pointed members in that group—and everyone else I can—to the solid preaching and teaching found on the Bott Network. There is one reservation I have, though, and it is with Hank Hanegraaff. I have emailed and called you before regarding the anti-Biblical and anti-Jewish 'replacement theology' he teaches during his broadcasts.

"I contact you again because lately he has taken up the banner of 'Christian Palestinianism,' which is just the latest coloration of this corrosive, unbiblical, anti-Israel 'theology.' What Hanegraaff is promoting is NOT biblical and represents a stain on Bott Network's otherwise exemplary Christian ministry...." BF (email)

Dear TBC,

God bless all of you and your work for the Lord. I've been reading secondhand issues of your newsletter for about ten years now and this is the first time I've written.

I came across your survey in the [Oct '14] issue, so I had copies made and had all the guys in my Bible study fill it out [enclosed with letter]. Some answered the question on what qualifies one for heaven incorrectly. I talked with them personally later on and they had misunderstood [the question]. They are very new to the faith and the "qualify" part didn't register with them.

Anyhow, I hope this helps with what you're doing. I know it has given me some insight.... Keep contending for the faith. I hope to be joining the fight outside these walls [in 2015], after 27 long years. SB (CA, prisoner)

Dear Friends,

I just wanted to thank Berean Call in general. First, I would like to thank our dearly departed Dave Hunt. Also, all of the staff, Tom and everyone else. Thank you for helping me and my family to understand our Lord's will. Thanks for holding steadfast in all your newsletters and books and tracts. Thanks for all the emails you send in various articles and messages and quotes from God's Holy Word. Thanks, Berean Call, for sharing the hard truth..., and finally, thank you for loving our dear Lord in the way that we all should, by preaching and teaching love from God's own heart! No watering down the gospel! JK (email)

Hello,

Tom's sermon [from CC Cypress] is causing many tears of joy, of sorrow, and conviction, but most definitely of love from our Lord Jesus Christ. Humbly and with tears

I thank T. A. for the truth of God's Word. Truly I am rich and blessed to be able via the Internet to get fed for I am not near a godly church in my area. To God be the Glory. This discipleship is a lonely road because my family is not saved and I weep for them and they walk away from me. Thank you again, dear brother in Jesus Christ. CC (email)

Dear Tom,

I recently attended a Celebrate Recovery meeting. There was something about it that made me feel uncomfortable and sent up red flags, but I could not put my finger on it. It is hard for me to think clearly right now because I am going through a difficult time. I did some searching on the Internet and was so fortunate to find T. A. McMahon's article on Celebrate Recovery! That helps me understand what made me feel uncomfortable except I couldn't explain it much less express it. Thank you so much for your astute thoughts and wisdom and making the effort to write it down for the rest of us. BT (email)

TBC Notes

The Good News... Not of Works...

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever *believeth* in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever *believeth* in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that *believeth* on him is not condemned: but he that *believeth* not is condemned already, because he hath not *believed* in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 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 3:14-18, 36).

"[The Philippian jailer] brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, *believe* on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house" (Acts 16:27-32).

Faith is the only requirement.

T. A. McMAHON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE STORY — A NEW “COMMON CORE” CATECHISM?

Zondervan's NIV Bible Curriculum Appeals to Catholics & Evangelicals Alike — EDWIN NEWBY & MARK DINSMORE

SEVERAL years ago Zondervan released a condensed version of the Scriptures called *The Story*, which it describes as “an abridged, chronological Bible that reads like a novel” (see Jan. 2014 *TBC*). Based on the New International Version (NIV), *The Story* is now published in several editions for children using the New International Reader’s Version (NIRV) with “age-appropriate” design and illustrations: *Little Ones* (preschool), *Children* (ages 4-8), *Kids* (ages 8-12), and *Teens*. With the addition of leadership aids, study guides, and DVD resources, *The Story* is now being marketed as a year-long curriculum for all ages.

Pastors and parishioners alike are praising the 31-week church-wide reading program. Here is a compilation of several remarks from the promotional website: “*The Story* increased our church’s biblical literacy. So many people simply did not have a grasp of the biblical narrative, let alone how it all fits together.... *The Story* provided an amazing synergy and common focus like nothing we have ever done here.... [Women are saying] ‘For the first time, my husband is reading the Bible every day. We’re praying together, we’re talking about spiritual things together....’ Many of our teens are reading the Bible for the first time. They are engaged in the learning process and are asking good questions.... We are already seeing almost a 20 percent increase in attendance. Not only are our members excited, we are seeing a lot of new faces all of a sudden.... This has really given our church a united focus.... It offers an opportunity for the congregation to gel.”

With such positive feedback from so many, some will deem this review as nothing more than an exercise in nit-picking. But as we’ve previously noted, when someone condenses the Bible into what they perceive are the important parts, their uninspired editing often leaves out very important details. In this case, omissions and distortions are rampant. Time and space do not permit a comprehensive critique of the full curriculum package, but a quick survey through several of the resources in the samples we received presents sufficient cause for concern on several levels. First, contrary to popular belief, participants are not reading the whole Bible; important Scripture portions are omitted or glossed over with “transition text” that gives the impression of a complete and accurate summary but that often obscures or neglects key passages, events, and matters of doctrine. Second, sidebars and subjective commentary run throughout various editions of *The Story*. Intended as study helps, these additions often supply a distorted interpretation and application of Scripture while simultaneously introducing “emergent” and mystical concepts of contemplative spirituality. And third, the curriculum’s broad appeal and aggressive promotion to Catholic churches reveals an ecumenical foundation for *The Story* that appears to stem from an agenda for creating a “common core” catechism that will aid in restoring “separated brethren” to Roman Catholicism.

Missing: “The REST of The Story”

The marketing tagline for the curriculum is “Read the Story. Experience the Bible.” The irony is that although readers “experience” *The Story*, they are not reading *the Bible*. Throughout every edition of *The Story*, doctrine is downplayed. In particular, the definition of sin, as well as its cause and cure, are subtly “reimagined.” Previously, we noted how the account of Lot in Sodom and Gomorrah is condensed to a simplistic summary: “Lot made some bad decisions [in taking] up residence near Sodom. In retrospect, it was a *poor choice of real estate*....” Nothing of the moral state of the cities and the true purpose for God’s judgment is retained in *The Story*.

Though neutrality may not offend, it often does go hand in hand

with shallowness of biblical knowledge. In *The Story for Kids* each chapter ends with a few questions. But instead of questions pertaining to what the *Scriptures* say, the reader is presented with questions such as: What do *you think* angels look like? Where did you get *your ideas*? What does the Holy Spirit mean *to you*? How can you show others that you are a Christian? (p. 225). Most of these questions have a subjective, feelings-based, and works-oriented focus. Yet, *biblical* faith is objective, secure, and quite independent from what we may or may not feel. As the treasured hymn reminds us, we “dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.” In its attempt to condense Scripture into pre-digested soundbites, *The Story* misses the mark. As Jesus declared (quoting Deuteronomy 8:3), “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by *every* word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Mt 4:4).

Encouraging Children to “Be Still”

In *The Story for Children: A Storybook Bible*, by Max Lucado, Randy Frazee, and Karen Davis Hill, young readers are subtly seeded with mystical and contemplative ideas. In chapter ten, “Messages from God,” we read on page 103 that “the Israelites settled in the land of Canaan, the land that God had promised them. Every year the faithful Israelites traveled to the city of Shiloh to visit the tabernacle where they could *feel* God’s *presence*...” (emphasis added). Drawing upon their own imaginations, the authors not only tell us how the Israelites must have *felt* but appear to suggest that it was a key reason for this pilgrimage (a concept found nowhere in Scripture). Today, there is a renewed interest in “practicing the *presence*” of God by incorporating the occult methodologies of Eastern meditation into Christian worship.

On page 109, we drop in on the retelling of Samuel being called by God while under the ministry of Eli:

This time, the boy didn’t go to Eli. Instead he answered the voice. “Speak, Lord. I am your servant. I am ready to listen.” God told Samuel about things that would happen in the days ahead. Samuel listened carefully. From that night on, God spoke clearly to Samuel.... And the people of Israel knew that Samuel was a good man of God.

Here we see great selectivity in what is retold from the biblical account in 1 Samuel 3, as well as the way it is presented. First, *The Story for Children* mentions absolutely *nothing* concerning the message of judgment upon the house of Eli, nor why—neglecting not only an explanation of priestly functions and their purpose but also missing an important lesson in character, responsibility, and consequences. Second, *The Story for Children* downplays Samuel’s unique role as a prophet, extolling him simply as a “good man.” In reality, the Scriptures declare that “all Israel...knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD” because “none of his words [fell] to the ground” (1 Sm 3:19-20). Furthermore, Jesus said, “There is none good but God,” which simply illustrates that dumbing down the Scriptures can result in serious confusion as young readers grow. Again, these points would be considered hair-splitting by some—except for the fact that *The Story for Children* appears to be making a special point in its re-presentation of Samuel’s account. In the sidebar titled “God’s Message,” which is an area intended as a “take-away point,” readers are advised to

Be still and listen. I am calling your name. My people need a strong, new leader. I have chosen you. You will be a wise prophet for them. Through you, they will hear my words and follow.

Since this sidebar appears without any qualification or explanation, the vast majority of young readers—and even teachers—will accept this “Message” as suggesting that all believers can learn to receive direct revelation from God and become “wise prophet[s].” This gross distortion of God’s Word actively promotes contemplative spirituality to impressionable children as a model for “hearing from God.” Not only is this methodology unbiblical—it is dangerous. It includes no warning to “try the spirits” (1 Jn 4:1), which Jesus and the Apostle Paul warn repeatedly will attempt to deceive God’s children.

Offending These “Little Ones”

After a condensed account of David’s victory over Goliath, another “God’s Message” sidebar on page 115 reads, “You shall become a great warrior and leader of my people. I have chosen you not for your riches or your name or your appearance, but for the tenderness and gentle kindness you show when tending your sheep. I have been won over by your heart....” Again, in their attempt to paraphrase God’s thoughts toward David, the authors and publisher seem to be speaking directly to the reader. But did you catch the unbiblical emphasis? In a possible reference to Acts 13:22 (“I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart...”) the authors put words in God’s mouth: “I have been *won over* by your heart.” In reality, there is nothing in any of our hearts that will “win” God’s favor or approval. According to God’s Word, the truth is that our “heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked...” (Jer 17:9) and “all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags” (Is 64:6). Once again, core doctrines of our biblical faith are skewed with subtle works-based lies of the social gospel that appear to be skillfully woven throughout *The Story*.

Turning the pages produces example after example, which ultimately leads one to the inescapable conclusion that this is not merely a retelling of the Scriptures in story form for young readers but is an emergent-ecumenical *revision* of God’s Word that has the effect—if not the intent—of minimizing the true nature of sin (ostensibly so as not to offend “little ones”). In reality, as leaders and teachers of God’s word, the authors of *The Story for Children* will “receive the greater condemnation” (stricter judgment) and are in danger of “offending...these little ones” (Mt 18:6) by causing them to stumble in areas of doctrine and practice. This becomes clear in the account of David and Bathsheba from 2 Samuel 11-12, which *The Story for Children* condenses to a few lines beneath the headline, “A Selfish Decision” on page 118:

King David ruled Israel for many years. He was a good king, and most of the time he made good decisions. But one time King David made a bad choice. He *fell in love* with another man’s wife!” (italics added)

One can understand the desire to be delicate concerning the sexual nature of adultery, especially when teaching young children. However, to mask the seriousness of the offense by glossing over the concept of adultery and calling David’s sin “a selfish decision” and “a bad choice” (phrases used repeatedly by the authors in place of “sin”) is, well, simply unforgivable—especially in light of these omissions: Nothing is said about David’s murder of Bathsheba’s husband, nor the judgment pronounced by Nathan the prophet, nor the awful consequences suffered by David. Instead, the summary of all these details is presented on page 120:

David’s heart ached. It made him sad to know he had disappointed God. This was a time of many hardships in David’s life. He was a king. He had riches.... But more than all of that, David wanted God’s love. He asked God to forgive him. Later, Nathan told David, “God has forgiven you for the bad choice you made.”

We find no account of David’s repentance nor the grievous consequences of his sins (the death of the conceived infant). Once more, the plain and pure message of the gospel—namely, sin, repentance, and salvation—are nowhere to be found. The account of King David in the teen edition is only slightly better in the respect that it contains more details, but it is similarly skewed, introducing thoughts and words into the narrative that are either not found in Scripture or are contrary to God’s Word. As TBC’s beloved founder, Dave Hunt, often said: “Examples could be multiplied.”

A Common Catechism for the Apostate Church?

In today’s media-saturated world, we understand the desire for microwaving meals and reading condensed books. In fairness, *The Story* curriculum is in fact producing some positive results in people who have never read the Scriptures cover-to-cover or who have never benefited from expository preaching verse-by-verse. And there’s certainly nothing wrong with a Bible survey course or with studying the Scriptures in chronological order (historically speaking). Nor is there anything wrong with eliminating chapter and verse divisions (which are not divinely inspired) in order to restore the natural flow of language. But in addition to using problematic translations (NIV and NIV), *The Story* is tainted with unbiblical and extrabiblical ideas that cannot be justified by the “greater good.” Furthermore, the curriculum is being marketed to, and embraced by, Catholic churches everywhere. A longtime pastor and friend of the ministry recently contacted us following interaction with a Zondervan salesman.

A Zondervan salesman tried to push “The Story” curriculum on us. Being familiar with Zondervan’s Emergent and ecumenical agenda, I asked if Catholics would like it. He enthusiastically replied that they would. In fact the sales rep boasted that he’d “sold over 50 priests on the package deal!”

Together, publishing giants Zondervan and Thomas Nelson control at least half of the Christian book and Bible industry. With both companies now subsidiaries of secular behemoth HarperCollins, they are part and parcel of the global publishing empire owned by knighted media magnate Rupert Murdoch. And with evangelical and world leaders from Rick Warren to Tony Blair trumpeting the virtues of the Vatican, Zondervan’s Catholic-friendly curriculum provides a valuable support role for Rome’s “New Evangelization” under Pope Francis, the first pope in history to be tapped from the controversial “Society of Jesus” that was founded in 1534 by soldier-turned-mystic, St. Ignatius of Loyola. Swearing absolute obedience to the pope, Ignatius and his Jesuit order were central to the Counter-Reformation—a war against Protestantism that was launched at the Council of Trent (1545-1563).

Inspiration for Ignatius’s now-famous work, *Spiritual Exercises*, came from his experiences during extended prayer—up to seven hours a day—while living in a cave. (Curiously, Muhammad received inspiration for the Qur’an in similar fashion.) Today, the Ignatian spirituality of *Exercises* is at the heart of evangelicalism’s fascination with the “spiritual disciplines” and contemplative spirituality that have overtaken Christian schools, universities, seminaries, publishers, and parachurch ministries. The worldwide mission of the Jesuits is to be “contemplatives in action [who] accept whatever mission the Pope requires [for] the greater good of all people from all faiths...[in] broader dedication to the universal church” (www.jesuit.org/aboutus).

In accordance with these goals, it appears that *The Story* is acting as a “common catechism” for Catholics and evangelicals alike. The best that we can hope for is that rather than remaining satisfied with regurgitated baby food, readers of *The Story* will somehow be motivated to obtain a real Bible and find that “...the holy scriptures...are able to make [even young children] wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Tm 3:15).

NEW! HENRI LANCTIN MESSENGER OF GRACE



Henri Lanctin: Messenger of Grace

Arsenault—Born in Fontenay, France, Henri Lanctin (1892-1986) emigrated to the United States at the age of sixteen. He found employment as a gardener in Paterson, New Jersey. He received Jesus Christ as his personal Savior during the summer of 1909. After studying at the Feller Institute in Quebec, he became a pastor in Lac Long, Quebec, and then in Connors, New Brunswick, where he contracted tuberculosis in

1931. The doctors gave him no hope of recovery. However, miraculously, he did get better; and, in 1934, he founded La Bonne Nouvelle Mission in Moncton. Despite constant—and at times—violent opposition, he continued for over sixty years to preach the Gospel of salvation by grace to French-speaking people in Canada, especially Acadians. As one reader says, “With fervor and zeal reminiscent of the Apostle Paul, Henri Lanctin was propelled by a deep love for Christ and an all-encompassing vision to reach French Canadians, particularly Maritime Acadians, for the Lord. Enduring intense testing, trials and persecution, he was undaunted in this evangelistic mission.” Robert Arsenault, 241 pp. Retail \$29.95

B08015

wt 1.0 **\$15.00**



Roman Catholic Tradition: Claims and Contradictions

Webster—A fully documented survey and comparison of the teachings and claims of Catholicism against the truth of Scripture and the facts of history. Deals with issues such as the papacy, Mary, baptism, and much more. Presented in short, easy-to-read segments. Christian Resources, 80 pp. Retail \$9.00

B00015

wt .3 **SALE \$8.00**



The Gospel According to Rome

McCarthy—*The Gospel According to Rome* is a powerful and insightful examination of the Catholic Church that provides: a side-by-side comparison of Scripture with the Catholic catechism. Harvest House Publishers, 397 pp. Retail \$15.99

B01077

wt 1.2 **SALE \$13.00**



Far from Rome Near to God

Bennett/Buckingham—This book contains the moving testimonies of fifty priests who found their way by the grace of God out of the labyrinth of Roman Catholic theology and practice into the light of the gospel of Christ. Banner of Truth, 346 pp. Retail \$12.00

B07331

wt 1.0 **SALE \$10.50**



Answers to My Catholic Friends

Heinze—As an evangelical missionary in Italy for over thirty years, Thomas F. Heinze has found that there are certain things that Roman Catholics would like to know about the faith of the Protestants and about the Bible. Chick Publications, 62 pp. Retail \$5.50

B08522

wt .2 **SALE \$4.50**

MUST-SEE DVD_s FOR MINISTRY TO CATHOLICS!



Catholicism: Crisis of Faith

Lumen Productions—This compassionate video depicts more than two dozen ex-Catholics, including former priests and nuns, who tell how they found real salvation through faith in Christ alone. An excellent evangelistic tool to give to Catholic friends and relatives to watch in the privacy of their own homes. 1 DVD, 54 min. Retail \$19.95

DVD006

wt .2 **SALE \$14.00**



Messages from Heaven

Eternal Productions—*Messages from Heaven* is a biblical examination of the apparitions of the Virgin Mary. Those who follow these apparitions believe Mary has come to turn us back to God, while others insist that these events are either fabrications or the working of Satan. Does the Bible anticipate apparitions, signs, and wonders in the last days? How might the apparition of Mary and other paranormal events transform the world in the third millennium? This unique DVD answers those questions and more! 1 DVD, 79 min. Retail \$21.99

DVD048

wt .2 **SALE \$10.00**



The Coming One World Religion

Proclaiming the Gospel—Two powerful talks on one disc! Also includes *We Must Tell Catholics the Truth*, which kindly and clearly demonstrates that the Bible is the most trustworthy authority for the truth. Catholics may never know they have been deceived until they first recognize that the Bible has supreme authority over their “infallible” bishops and “sacred” tradition. 1 DVD, 104 min. Retail \$21.99

DVD071

wt .2 **SALE \$19.00**



A Woman Rides the Beast

The Berean Call—Most “end times” discussions focus on the coming Antichrist—but he is only half the story...there is another mysterious character at the heart of prophecy—a woman who rides the beast....Join Dave Hunt on this hour-long journey through history as he presents an overview of end-times prophecy and explains why he believes that a revived Roman Empire and the church of Rome are major players in what lies ahead. 1 DVD, 56 min. Retail \$15.99

DVD028

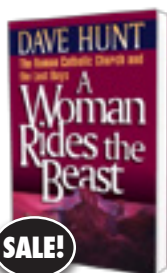
wt .2 **\$15.00***

SET96

*A Woman Rides the Beast DVD - FREE with purchase of set!

wt .8 **\$43.00**

SALE! A WOMAN RIDES THE BEAST



A Woman Rides the Beast

Hunt—Are you missing half the story about the last days? Virtually all attention these days is focused on the coming Antichrist—but he is only half the story. Many are amazed to discover in Revelation 17 that there is also another mysterious character at the heart of prophecy—a woman who rides the beast. Who is this woman? Tradition says she is connected with the church of Rome. But isn't such a view outdated? After all, today's Vatican is eager to join hands with Protestants worldwide. "The Catholic Church has changed," is what we hear. Or has it? In *A Woman Rides the Beast*, prophecy expert Dave Hunt sifts through biblical truth and global events to present a well-defined portrait of the woman and her powerful place in the Antichrist's future empire. Eight remarkable clues in Revelation 17 and 18 prove the woman's identity beyond any reasonable doubt. Harvest House Publishers, 549 pp. Retail \$16.99

B01999 wt 1.3 ~~\$16.00~~ **SALE \$14.00**
CD148 Audiobook - 16 CDs wt 1.3 ~~\$50.00~~ **SALE \$40.00**
MP3148 Audiobook - 1 MP3 Disc wt .2 ~~\$16.00~~ **SALE \$7.00**

SALE! TBC CATHOLIC TRACTS!

TBC's "plain vanilla" tracts are distilled from chapters of Dave Hunt's books and newsletter articles exploring pivotal issues affecting the church and world today.



Catholicism - Christian or Cultic?

Hunt—The evangelical church today is being seduced as never in its history. It faces a danger so grave that, although we have discussed this problem before, it must be addressed again with new insight and vigor. If evangelicals succumb to the seduction of Catholicism, then their gospel witness will be submerged in confusion and could eventually be lost—a tragic and new dimension to the apostasy from which the church and the world will never recover. 8-panel, black and white, 10 pack.

TR110 wt .2 **SALE \$2.00**



Baptismal Regeneration

Hunt—Baptism by immersion, as practiced by the early church, symbolizes the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. Unfortunately, various innovations and heresies were gradually introduced: that one must be baptized to be saved [and] that baptism itself saves the soul even when administered to infants. These heresies became known as the doctrine of baptismal regeneration and continue to our present day. 8-panel, black and white, 10 pack.

TR107 wt .2 **SALE \$2.00**

SAVE 35% ON SET! THE CATHOLIC DEBATES SERIES FEATURES DAVE HUNT vs. CATHOLIC APOLOGISTS



The Catholic Debates - CD collection

Hunt—SAVE 35% on this timeless and indispensable collection! Ideal for believers desiring to share the Good News of Christ with family and friends, or who simply want to be "ready to give an answer" to the 1 in 4 Americans who call themselves Catholic. Featuring Dave Hunt in 7 debates with Catholic apologists Robert Fastiggi, Keith Fournier, Karl Keating, Gerry Matatics, and Robert Sungenis, this series provides an ear- and heart-opening education to all who listen. This classic debate set has been repackaged into a 2-volume CD set (contains 15 discs in 2 clamshell cases). The Berean Call, 15+ hrs.

CD901 15 CDs — retail \$79.99 wt 1.2 **SALE \$49.00**



Roman Catholicism: Is It "Another Gospel"?

Hunt/Matatics—Debating whether Rome presents "another Jesus." Retail \$15.99

CD001 3 discs wt .2 **SALE \$10.00**



Saint Peter: Is He the Rock of the Catholic Church?

Hunt/Fastiggi—Debating Rome's claim to be the true church of Christ by unbroken apostolic succession. Retail \$10.99

CD034 2 discs wt .2 **SALE \$7.50**



Roman Catholic Salvation: Is It Affirmed by the Bible?

Hunt/Sungenis—Debating whether anything but Grace through Faith is meritorious for Salvation. Retail \$10.99

CD057 2 discs wt .2 **SALE \$7.50**



Roman Catholicism: Is It Evangelical?

Hunt/Fournier—Debating whether the gospel as taught by Rome is supported by the Scriptures. Retail \$10.99

CD002 2 discs wt .2 **SALE \$7.50**



Justification: Is It by Faith Alone?

Hunt/Fastiggi—Debating the doctrine of Justification by Faith alone. Retail \$10.99

CD035 2 discs wt .2 **SALE \$7.50**



R.C. Church History: Can It Be Identified with the Early Church?

Hunt/Keating—Debating clear distinctions between the Body of Christ and foundational Roman Catholicism. Retail \$10.99

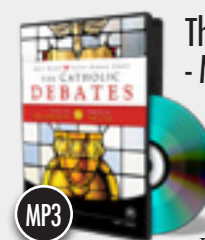
CD032 2 discs wt .2 **SALE \$7.50**



The Eucharist: Is It the Body and Blood of Christ?

Hunt/Fastiggi—Debating biblical communion and the Catholic Mass. Retail \$10.99

CD036 2 discs wt .2 **SALE \$7.50**



The Catholic Debates - MP3 collection

Hunt—Featuring Dave Hunt in 7 debates with Catholic apologists Robert Fastiggi, Keith Fournier, Karl Keating, Gerry Matatics, and Robert Sungenis. 1 MP3, 15+ hrs. Retail \$39.99

MP3901 wt .2 **SALE \$20.00**

NEW YEAR CLEARANCE! SAVE UP TO 66% ON A VARIETY OF RESOURCES



From Darwin to Design

Cagan—The author documents how nature and science both point to God and includes scientific facts proving the accuracy and truthfulness of the Holy Scriptures. This powerful testimony is a tremendous witnessing tool for your unbelieving acquaintances. Whitaker House, 169 pp. Retail \$12.99

B81227 wt .7 ~~\$12.00~~ **SALE \$5.00**



War of the Worldviews

Ham & Mortenson, et al.—In this powerful book, you will find ammunition for the “war of the worldviews”: answers to some of the most common arguments for evolution, analyses of Christian compromise positions, and a call for a return to true biblical authority. Master Books, 192 pp. Retail \$12.99

B00470 wt .7 ~~\$12.00~~ **SALE \$6.00**



Geology by Design

Froede—From the acclaimed Creation Research Society, this technical study of rock strata, and the fossils found therein, gives a solidly scientific rationale for believing in a young earth. Ideal for upper-level homeschool students. Master Books, 160 pp. Retail \$14.99

B05037 wt 1.1 ~~\$14.00~~ **SALE \$7.00**



Dinosaurs

Answers in Genesis—More than any other subject, dinosaurs are used to promote the idea of evolution. Museums, media, and schools all proclaim that dinosaurs died millions of years ago. They also teach that the birds in your backyard are actually descendents of dinosaurs. But what is the truth? Only when we start with the Bible can we understand the true history of dinosaurs. Answers in Genesis, 95 pp. Retail \$5.99

B08002 wt .2 ~~\$5.50~~ **SALE \$4.00**



The Bible Comes Alive - Vol 2 & 3

Wilson—For decades, a battle between science and Bible-believing Christians has raged. Prominent scientists have ridiculed Scripture. But now, through the spade and brush, the science of archaeology is causing an about-face, and through these discoveries the Bible becomes three-dimensional, living, in color! Dr. Wilson has literally been in the trenches for many years, carefully documenting and studying the thousands of archaeological discoveries of the Middle East that declare the Bible to be true. For the first time, photographs of these archeological sites and accompanying commentary have been compiled for the series, *The Bible Comes Alive*. A must for every home library. New Leaf Press.

B97441 Volume 2, 157 pp. — Retail \$14.99
B97451 Volume 3, 150 pp. — Retail \$14.99
SET41 Volumes 2 & 3 — Retail \$29.98

wt 1.1 **SALE \$5.00**
 wt 1.1 **SALE \$5.00**
 wt 2.0 **SALE \$10.00**

BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS



Granny Han's Breakfast

Groves—Granny Han's cupboards were bare! Granny prayed for her food and before she knew it, a large and wonderful breakfast appeared before her eyes. An inspiring little book and a true story.

“This is a great little book to encourage you to trust in the Lord for His provision, and for the salvation of others! It is short and simply written, making it useful for parents and their children.” - TBC Staff member. OMF, 29 pp. Ages 7-10 Retail \$4.49

B02152 wt .4 ~~\$4.00~~ **SALE \$3.50**



Absotively Positively

Kerby—Designed for children ages 8 to 14 and written in an entertaining style, the book tells the story of a search for answers by students in a Sunday School class. They learn that the best evidence isn't always what can be seen—and that the answer was there in front of them all along! Full-color. Master Books, 24 pp. Ages 8-14. Retail \$13.99

B04948 wt .9 ~~\$13.00~~ **SALE \$6.00**

DISCERNMENT TITLES



The Other Side of the River

Reeves—A compelling and deeply personal account of a young man's spiritual plunge into a movement called the “River.” Sometimes referred to as the River Revival, the

Third Wave or the Latter Rain, this movement is marked by bizarre manifestations, false prophecies and, esoteric revelations. For Kevin Reeves, his determination to rescue his family came to the forefront, even if the cost was high and even if he had to stand alone. Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 229 pp. Retail \$9.99

B03150 wt .8 ~~\$12.00~~ **SALE \$8.00**



What Every Mormon Should Ask

Cowan—How can we find assurance that our lives are in line with the Gospel? Author Marvin Cowan shares from his own experience in the Mormon Church. Utah Christian Publications, 32 pp. Retail \$3.99

B02317 wt .3 ~~\$3.00~~ **SALE \$2.50**

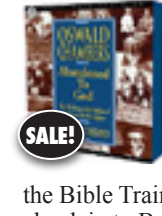
AUDIO & VIDEO TITLES



Should Christians Support Israel?

Price—Randall Price tackles the controversial issue of whether Israel continues to have a future in the purpose of God and whether Christian support of Israel is supported by the Christian Scriptures. Dr. Price provides answers to these questions: *Why do Christians support Israel?* • *Has the Church replaced Israel?* • *Is the modern state of Israel in the plan of God?* 1 DVD, 47 min. Retail \$14.99

DVD133 wt .2 ~~\$14.50~~ **SALE \$7.50**



Abandoned to God

Hovel Audio—Enjoy this audio version of the biography of Oswald Chambers. The last six years of his life were spent as principal of the Bible Training College in London and as chaplain to British Commonwealth troops in Egypt during World War I. This story shares many personal, often humorous, moments in the life of this well-loved preacher and teacher. Unabridged, read by Simon Vance, 8 CDs, approximately 9.5 hours. Retail \$26.98

BT009 wt .5 ~~\$26.00~~ **SALE \$15.00**

FEBRUARY 2015

NEW! DAVE HUNT PAPERBACK CALVIN'S DILEMMA



Calvin's Dilemma: God's Sovereignty vs. Man's Free Will

Hunt—Drawn from Dave Hunt's masterful work on Calvinism, this long-awaited installment in the "easier-to-read" paperback series provides an invaluable and highly accessible examination of one of the most hotly debated topics among evangelicals today. The apparent tension between God's sovereignty and man's free will has been a point of study and discussion—and, sadly, of contention—among sincere Christians for centuries. Some have taken the approach of C. I. Scofield, that these are two truths that must both be accepted but that cannot be reconciled.

"Both are wholly true, but the connecting and reconciling truth has not been revealed." R. A. Torrey agreed that we should not "try to explain away the clear teaching of the Word of God as to the sovereignty of God [and] the freedom of the human will...." Unfortunately, neither Calvin nor many of his followers today have been willing to accept both sides of this biblical teaching. The result has been devastating in its consequences for the gospel: that man can only *reject* Christ; he cannot accept and believe in Him unless he is sovereignly regenerated by God. Calvinism refuses to accept what so many great evangelists have recognized is vital. In *Calvin's Dilemma*, Dave Hunt skillfully demonstrates the essential balance that is missing—thus bridging the divide biblically. The Berean Call, 229 pp. Retail \$12.99

B60781

wt. 6 **\$10.50**

SAVE THE DATE!

**2015 TBC Bible Conference
Bend, OR — August 28-30**

SAVE THE DATE! We have reserved our 2015 conference dates at the Riverhouse here in Bend! We hope that you'll be able to join us August 28, 29, and 30. We'll post more information soon, but in the meantime, please be praying for our staff as we prepare. The Lord has been so gracious to provide everything we need and we want to give Him all the glory!

For more information about Bend and a list of recommended places of lodging go to our website at:

www.thebereancall.org/conference