

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

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

## Homosexuality and the Reign of Terror

T. A. McMahon

THE TITLE of this article may provoke cries of “homophobia” from some, even those not connected with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. A person *may* come to that conclusion after reading what I’ve written, but any thoughts prior to that reflect a bias founded upon ignorance. Before I get to an explanation of the title, however, I need to address the accusation of being called “homophobic,” a label that is used in wholesale fashion by many and applied by some to anyone who takes issue with homosexuality.

*Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines homophobia as an “irrational fear of, aversion to, or discrimination against homosexuality or homosexuals.” Other meanings include “hatred of or prejudice against gays and lesbians,” “bigotry,” and even “racism.” No doubt there are individuals who manifest those characteristics, but to apply the words to those who are critical of the practice of homosexuality is a blatant abuse of a term that is questionable at best.

*The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)*, the chief reference book of psychotherapists, which includes all that they consider to be psychological phobias, has no listing for *homophobia*. This would indicate that the term is viewed to be without merit by the American Psychiatric Association, which produces each edition of the *DSM*. The APA could hardly be considered biased in favor of so-called homophobes since, after being pressured by the LGBT Task Force in 1973, it voted to remove from the *DSM* the term *homosexuality*, which it had previously defined as “sociopathic personality disturbance” and “sexual deviation.” Homophobia can thus be dispensed with as nothing more than a derisive epithet that falsely characterizes those who oppose any aspect of homosexuality.

Why did I title this article “Homosexuality and the Reign of Terror”? That may seem greatly overstated right now, and perhaps “the Reign of Intimidation” would be a description better suited to what we are experiencing today. One doesn’t need the gift of prophecy, however, to recognize the direction of the serious “judicial” incidents that have taken place thus far. For example, here and in Canada we’ve seen the rise of “human rights commissions” that major on issues related to homosexuality, primarily prosecuting as “hate crimes” the act of writing or speaking out against the practice.

One Canadian columnist gives his perspective: “For more than twenty years . . . I have been writing against the human rights commissions, which have quasi-legal powers that should be offensive to the citizens of any free country. They are kangaroo courts, in which the defendant’s right to due process is withdrawn. They reach judgments on the basis of no fixed law. Moreover [in addition to heavy fines], ‘the process is the punishment’ in these star chambers—for simply by agreeing to hear a case, they tie up the defendant in bureaucracy and paperwork, and bleed him for the cost of lawyers, while the person who brings the complaint, however frivolous, stands to lose nothing.”

Here in Oregon we have our own kangaroo court system in the works. Aaron and Melissa Klein are bakers who refused to make a wedding cake for a homosexual marriage. The lesbian couple who tried to order the cake complained to the Oregon Bureau of Labor

and Industries (OBLI). The Labor Commissioner levied a fine of \$135,000 and issued a gag order preventing the Kleins from speaking about the religious beliefs that had caused their refusal to honor this homosexual marriage with a cake. In his review of the proceedings, C. H. Fisher noted, “The Kleins were not charged and prosecuted in a traditional court of law. There was no due process, no jury of their peers, and their Constitutional rights were violated, including the First Amendment regarding freedom of religion. It amounts to Christian persecution not unlike what is occurring in some foreign nations.”

Now we have not only kangaroo courts in place, but we have a recent decision by this country’s highest court ruling in favor of homosexual marriage. As one consequence of this ruling, litigation scenarios will take place that involve churches that refuse to marry two males or two females. Pastors are ripe for lawsuits by those claiming that they have been psychologically damaged by such a refusal. One needs only to review the list of more than fifty grievances (Crying, Disappointment, Distrust of men, Resumption of smoking habit, Upset stomach, etc.) brought by the two lesbian women against the Kleins to see the potential for financial awards (e.g., \$135,000 in damages) for whoever would appeal to the courts.

Biblically steadfast churches will face a great deal of trouble, both legally and socially. Sadly, they will constitute a small remnant out of the multitudes of churches that claim to be Christian. The Scriptures indicate this prophetically, and it is what we are seeing take place throughout this country. The Apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote that most Christians in the latter days will not follow the teachings and instructions of the Bible: “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:3).

That condition may well bring about much contention *within* Christendom, especially in the West. As governments put more pressure on Christianity through their laws, with threats of removing tax exemptions, and because of their growing opposition to biblical teachings, multitudes of churches that have been less than serious about following Scripture will submit in order to protect themselves legally and financially. False shepherds and false teachers will defend their compromises with the world by assailing those who remain steadfast in the faith.

Doctrinal disputes down through church history have led to murderous consequences. Saul’s persecutions of the early church were brutal. The Catholic Church’s inquisitions were horrendous. Even the Reformers were guilty of deadly persecutions over doctrinal disagreements. Could all that is taking place in opposition to the teachings of Scripture lead to a scenario of a reign of terror? A reading of the Book of Revelation gives a clear answer to that question. The most intense persecution occurs against those who turn to Jesus and will consequently be martyred during the Great Tribulation, which takes place after the Rapture of the church. Nevertheless, prior to that time, the church will experience events akin to a reign of terror unlike anything previously known in the US, although many of our brothers and sisters around the world have increasingly experienced more than a taste of it.

Historically, the phrase “Reign of Terror” was applied to a notorious period of the French Revolution. A few characteristics of the Reign of Terror correlate with what is developing today in

the US—where the issue centers around homosexuality. It's rather stunning that the LGBT community, consisting of less than 4 percent of the US population, has had such power and influence over the media and in our legal institutions and is thereby seemingly able to force its will on the masses.

In 18th century France, the Jacobins, although small in number, took control of the government of France aided by the popular support of the *Sans-Culottes* (the far more numerous poor of France). The objective of the Jacobins was to coerce and conform the thinking and actions of the French people to their own ideology. Their leader, Robespierre, attempted to replace traditional Christian morals and values with his own concept of a "Republic of Virtue." This has been the chief strategy of the LGBT movement in America. One has only to consider what has been implemented in our school systems, from kindergarten through high school, and to check out the pro-gay resource materials that have been mandated for use by school boards throughout the country.

According to French history, one-time supporters of the Jacobins who began to believe that their means were becoming too extreme, were guillotined. Although that's not the case in the US, some who have fervently objected to the LGBT agenda have been fiercely targeted by the movement in order to counter their influence. Much of the LGBT propaganda has left many Christians in a confused state, particularly young adult Christians who see the church's bewilderment over how to respond. They battle accusations of being unloving, intolerant, and bigoted. The only confident response for anyone who calls himself a *biblical* Christian (one who desires to know in truth the instructions of the Bible and to obey what it teaches) is to abide in the Word of God.

The Apostle Paul, in the first chapter of Romans, gives God's view of homosexuality in no uncertain terms:

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was [due]. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not [fitting]. (Romans 1:20-28)

All sins separate mankind from God: "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear" (Isaiah 59:2); "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Death here means separation. For those who reject Christ's free gift of salvation, that separation is forever. For those who have believed the gospel and yet fall into sin, their temporal relationship with God is affected, but it can be restored immediately when they repent.

Both heterosexual sins (e.g., fornication, adultery) and homosexual sins (men with men, women with women) result in separation from God. God is no respecter of persons regarding "the wages of sin." Yet there is a major difference. Homosexuality is an assault against the way God made things—His creation order. It goes far

beyond disobedience to His instructions; it is an affront to the Creator of nature by glorifying His creatures, by exalting humans, and by corrupting natural sexuality. It is a sin (although that is vigorously denied by many "within" the church) of such consequence that should the LGBT community achieve its goal of worldwide acceptance of its practice of sex as an "alternate lifestyle," it would sound the death knell for the human race. Men do not procreate with men, nor do women have babies with women.

Homosexuality is about sexual immorality. Period. All of the propaganda circulated by the LGBT proponents is aimed at obfuscating that simple fact. It is a grievous distortion of what God created as something good. Scripture couldn't be any clearer in its opposition to homosexual acts as seen both in its words and phrases. The New King James version of the Bible underscores the Bible's disdain in contemporary language: "uncleanness," "lusts," "dishonor their bodies," "vile passions," "exchanged the natural use for what is against nature," "committing what is shameful," "receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due," "a debased mind to do those things which are not fitting."

The Bible describes the sinful fruit of rejecting God and what ensues from a homosexual lifestyle: "Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful" (Romans 1:29-31).

Although each sin may not apply to every homosexual, the context of the verses makes a specific connection. It's similar to 2 Timothy 3:2-5, where the sins listed are those that are produced by an individual whose life centers upon self-love.

Scripture clearly teaches that the God/Man Jesus, the Creator of humanity, through His sacrifice on the Cross, paid the immeasurable penalty for the sins of *every* man, woman, and child. He did that although we were as yet His enemies. Amazing love! His forgiveness is available for every sinner—heterosexual or homosexual—who repents by turning to God in faith, receiving His forgiveness, and, along with that, His gift of eternal life. That is the only way mankind can be reconciled to God.

How then shall we respond to what is taking place in our society and our churches—perhaps even in our own families—regarding homosexuality? We have to do things God's way. We have to obey His instructions because that's the only way any endeavor will benefit anyone and also be pleasing to God.

Again, homosexuality is a sexual sin. Those who commit such sins are bringing destruction and God's wrath upon themselves if they don't repent. Those who struggle with that sin within the body of Christ must be ministered to with much compassion, as we remember that Jesus, our Lord and Savior, already paid the penalty for that sin.

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness [gentleness NKJ]; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:1-2)

A believer caught up in homosexuality must have a heart that is willing to repent of the sexually immoral practice. They must be ministered to in the spirit of gentleness, but the practice of this sin must never be accepted within a fellowship by true believers.

The ordination of practicing homosexuals and support of gay marriage within Christendom is increasing, but it is in direct contradiction to God's Word. If a fellowship intends to remain true to the Scriptures, its position regarding homosexuality must be made clear. It cannot be practiced among believers.

How should we react to laws in our society that support homosexuality in opposition to the Scriptures? The only response a Christian can have is in the God-inspired words of Peter and the other Apostles: "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

TBC



# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Submit your own questions to: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708  
or e-mail: [editorial@thebereanall.org](mailto:editorial@thebereanall.org)

**QUESTION [COMPOSITE OF SEVERAL]:** Why do you ignore the evidence in Scripture that the early church baptized “in the name of Jesus”? Even if Matthew 28:19 is correct [for the baptismal formula]..., Peter carried it out, as in Acts 2:38. Are you saying that Peter was wrong to baptize in the name of Jesus alone?

**RESPONSE:** “Even if Matthew 28:19 is correct?” Do you really believe that the inspired words spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ are “incorrect?” The one true God eternally exists in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Among those denying God’s triune nature is the United Pentecostal Church (UPC). It also teaches that baptism is necessary for salvation and that it must be done only “in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.” Yet Christ told His disciples to baptize “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” (Mt 28:19).

A major verse for the UPC is Zechariah 14:9: “And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one.” That doesn’t mean that He will have a single name—much less that it is “Lord Jesus Christ.” Moreover, “that day” hasn’t yet come, so this verse won’t help the UPC now. As the context shows, during the Millennium the entire world will know who the one true God is, and He will not be called by any false names.

Jesus said to baptize specifically in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Nothing could be more fitting to symbolize the believer’s identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. The *Father* gave and sent the Son to be our Savior; the *Son* died for our sins; and it was through the *Holy Spirit*, by which we are born again, that Christ “offered Himself without spot to God” (Heb 9:14).

Paul demonstrated this in Ephesus when he asked whether they had received the Holy Ghost, and they said, “We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.” Paul’s shocked response was, “Unto what then were ye baptized?” (Acts 19:2-3). Why ask about their baptism? Because no one could be baptized “in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost” and not hear of the Holy Ghost! Paul wouldn’t have asked that question if baptism was to be only “in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

The UPC also argues that “Without...*water baptism*...it is *impossible* to enter into the Kingdom of God.” Paul’s understanding of baptism, however, was quite different. He writes to the Corinthians, “I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius...and [the] household of Stephanas...” (1 Cor 1:14-16). Yet Paul calls himself the “father” of the Corinthians and explains why: “For in Christ Jesus I have begotten you *through the gospel*” (4:15). They had been born again into God’s family as His children, and Paul had been the means of their salvation—*without baptizing them*.

Paul reminds the Corinthians that they were saved through *believing the gospel* (1 Cor 15:3). He repeatedly declares that we are saved *only* by believing the gospel: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth [it]” (Rom 1:16). Salvation comes through believing the gospel, not by being baptized. Paul declared, “For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel” (1 Cor 1:17). Clearly baptism is no part of the gospel and thus has nothing to do with salvation.

**QUESTION:** Is an “apostate” one who was never a believer to begin with? Or is it the way the dictionary defines it: a person who abandons/rejects a faith he previously actually believed in?

**RESPONSE:** We are in the midst of widespread apostasy. By that term we mean: departure from “the faith once for all delivered to the saints,” for which we are to earnestly contend (Jude 3). I believe that apostates include two types of people:

1) Those who have knowingly turned completely from Christ and no longer even pretend to be Christians; and...

2) Those who still claim to be Christians but have departed from the faith, e.g.:

a) Those who deliberately twist the Scriptures, perverting the gospel “to draw away disciples after them” (Acts 20:30) or who endorse false teachers (though they know better) because they want to share their fame and power (Jude 16) —or who simply want to be “positive” so as to “offend” no one.

b) The naïve, who are genuinely deceived by false prophets/teachers.

Most of the epistles involve correction of false doctrine and practice that was already in the church in those days. It is the mushrooming, widespread incidence of the apostasy in number 2 above among those who *claim* to be Christians that I believe Scripture points to as a specific sign of the last days just prior to the Rapture.

When asked, “What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” (Mt 24:3), Christ identified apostasy as the foremost sign of the last days, i.e., religious deception, which He mentioned three times:

Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. (Mt 24:4-5) And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many (v. 11) For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect (v. 24).

Christ’s warning made several things clear: 1) The major sign of the nearness of His coming would be religious deception by professing Christian leaders; 2) A central feature of the deception would be false prophets showing “great signs and wonders,” which, though convincing, would also be false; 3) The repetition of the word “many” indicated that this religious deception would be widespread, apparently worldwide; 4) The words “Christs,” “prophets,” “signs and wonders,” and “elect” indicated that the deception would be among professing Christians, i.e., those inside the church.

The first reason that Jude gave as to why we must “earnestly contend for *the faith*” was the fact that “there are certain men crept in [inside the church] unawares...ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ” (Jude 4).

But what is *the faith*, a departure from which marks one as an apostate? Some might say that as long as a person believes that Christ died for his sins, was buried, and rose the third day, he is saved. But that declaration doesn’t explain the full gospel. As defined by Paul, the gospel declares the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ according to the Scriptures (1 Cor 15:3-4). Surely that involves who the biblical God is, who the biblical Christ is, what the biblical problem between God and man is, the biblical and only means of man’s forgiveness by God, and the eternal consequences for those who reject the biblical gospel. None of these is a peripheral point of doctrine to be ignored or compromised. To do so would be a departure from the faith into apostasy to proclaim a false gospel.

Just as Israel, to whom God sent His prophets to warn them of their apostasy and its dire consequences, would not listen, so it is today with many professing Christians. Glad to follow any pied piper and unwilling to hear the Lord, they dance merrily on to judgment.

Time on this earth is drawing to a close. Let us determine to remain true to and earnestly contend for “the faith once delivered unto the saints.” And may we rescue many before it is forever too late.

# LETTERS

To connect with TBC, write: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708  
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**Dear Tom,**

Thank you...for your diligence and steadfastness in sharing the Word with me. I am 85 years old and have known Jesus most of my life. Many times you and Dave have kept me on the “straight and narrow.”

How I long for the sound of the trumpet to catch me away. How much closer we are than when Dave wrote the article “Revival or Apostasy?” (republished 4/15)! DP (MN)

**Dear Friends,**

To give you...a picture of how helpful your reviews are to lay people like myself: My situation is that I have a severe form of PTSD [and many struggles]. Most recently, my son committed suicide. With all this going on in my life, I am not thinking as clearly as I’d like...I’m just clinging to the Lord, moment by moment, and trying to make it through each day. I am trying to find the resources I need [and,] at first glance, Celebrate Recovery looked like an

excellent resource and support—after all, it’s at a church! Thank God that it must have been the Holy Spirit waving a red flag to tell me there is something amiss at CR and that I should research it. That’s how I found your article. I hope this gives you a “real life” perspective of how your article helped me. Anon (email)

**TBC,**

Thank you so much for [publishing] the excellent and well-written book [*Biblical Guide to the Shemitah* by David James]! I do hope that Dr. Reagan will read it and seek to understand it. Thank you for keeping us from veering off biblical truth due to a lot of other loud voices. I needed that! KR (Australia)

**Dear Mr. McMahon,**

Your September article rings very true to my husband and me. We have visited many churches over the past few years. Some were fine for a time and then began to slip. Some were bad from the first and only visit. Others had fairly good messages, but the music was unbearable. It’s hard to imagine screaming and gyrating praise to our Lord in heaven when we can’t stand it here! So, we have come together with a dozen other like-minded Christians and have a home church. We meet faithfully, study the Word deeply, care for one another in prayer and deed, and wonder when we will be discovered. It fulfills the need for fellowship but goes far beyond that. We are learning more about Jesus Christ and His Word than ever before. We have a clearer understanding of what it means to be the church—in the warmth of a living room. Anon (email)

**To the Berean Call family,**

I’ve always looked forward to receiving the Berean Call each month with much anticipation. This country is in dire need of such a publication. It is so sad to see so many people turning their backs on God. There is so much wrong teaching [and] many false religions that are leading people astray.

It seems that Christians are becoming the “enemy,” but Jesus said that we can expect it to happen. I pray daily for the lost ones, for those who follow after other gods, and for those who stray.

I am 92 years and my husband will soon be 97, so we have no idea how long before we move into our new heavenly abode. Our dear Savior and Lord is always faithful, we are thankful for all He has given us from His bounty, and are most grateful for His grace towards us. BB (CA)

## TBC NOTES

### *Hold Fast*

The writer of Hebrews (whom I believe to be Paul) was inspired to exhort the recipients of the letter to “... give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip” (Hebrews 2:1). The “slipping” in much of the church today seems to be more akin to an avalanche.

There is, however, on an individual basis, a slip-prevention program that every believer can employ that can put the brakes on, and reverse the damaging trend. It’s “Holding fast the faithful word...” Against the overwhelming amount of false teachings and practices that abound throughout Christendom, it’s only a knowledge of and living out the “faithful word” that will produce confidence in God’s truth. That comes about by diligence (meaning daily reading and doing what God’s Word says).

Here are some scriptural exhortations and encouragements: *Prove all things; hold fast that which is good* (2 Thessalonians 5:21). *Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus* (2 Timothy 1:13). *Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers* (Titus 1:9). *But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end* (Hebrews 3:6). *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward* (Hebrews 10:23, 35). *But that which ye have already hold fast till I come* (Revelation 2:25).

T. A. McMAHON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## T. A.’S SPEAKING SCHEDULE

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Oct 18    | <b>First Assembly of God</b><br>Prineville, OR (541) 447-7254  |
| Oct 30-31 | <b>Michiana Christian Assembly</b><br>Niles, MI (903) 567-6423 |

## STS 24/7 BROADCAST SCHEDULE

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Oct 2/9   | <b>Greg Durel</b><br>RC Pope’s US visit |
| Oct 16/23 | <b>Dave &amp; Tom Classic</b>           |

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# NEWSWATCH

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

## EUROPE IS MAKING A FATAL MISTAKE

**FRONTPAGEMAG.COM, 9/16/15, "EUROPE IS MAKING A FATAL MISTAKE" [EXCERPTS]:** Allowing millions of Syrians and others from the Muslim Middle East into Europe will end up a catastrophe for Europe...As a Jew, I am particularly sensitive to any parallels to the Holocaust. [Since] Syria,—the Assad regime and the Islamic State are devouring each other and hundreds of thousands in their way, how can I not think back to a time when Jews sought to escape the Nazi monster devouring them?

For one thing, the parallels are far from precise. Every Jew in Nazi-occupied Europe—man, woman, child, baby—was targeted for death. The Syrian people are not targeted for death. The only such targets in the Middle East—aside from the Jews of Israel—are Christians and Yazidis.

[It's]also imprecise because the vast majority of the Jews...were assimilated citizens of their respective countries. In contrast, most of the Muslims of the Middle East...hold values that are not merely different from, but opposed to, those of Europe.

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

## VIABILITY OF BABIES NOT LEGALLY "HUMAN"

**CHRSTIANHEADLINES.COM, 9/14/15, "EVIDENCE MOUNTS FOR VIABILITY OF BABIES NOT CONSIDERED LEGALLY 'HUMAN'" [EXCERPTS]:** A new study published September 8 found that more infants born before 28 weeks gestation are surviving without disease or other complications compared to 20 years ago. The findings cast further doubt on the adequacy of the viability standard for protecting the unborn.

The study...broadens a previous study published in May that found an increased survival rate for infants born at 22 weeks. The study examined 5,000 infants born at 27 weeks or earlier between 2006 and 2011.

More than 450,000 infants are born prematurely in the United States every year. While the previous study showed improvement in survival rates for infants born at 22 weeks gestation, the latest study shows a greater upward trend. In 1993, only 52 percent of infants born at 24 weeks survived. But in 2012, 65 percent survived. And the percentage increase in healthy premature infants is even more significant: 47 percent of infants born at

27 weeks in 2012 survived without major illnesses compared to 29 percent in 1993.

"Extremely pre-term babies born before the 28th week are now surviving in greater numbers, and their outcomes are better when you look at the illnesses they have" in neo-natal intensive care units.

Though prematurely born infants still face respiratory struggles due to under-developed lungs, medical advances have improved their chances of survival. More doctors prescribe antenatal steroids [which] help stimulate an infant's lung development. In 1993, only 24 percent of women at risk for a premature delivery were prescribed the steroids, compared to about 87 percent in 2012, according to the study.

Despite the new research, babies are still only legally considered viable at 24 weeks. But Dr. Edward Bell, co-author of the May study, told The New York Times that 22 weeks should be the new viability standard. "I guess we would say that these babies deserve a chance," he said.

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

## HILLSONG HOUSTON KNEW ABOUT 'GAYS' IN CHOIR

**CHRISTIANPOST.COM, 7/28/15, "HOUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM: VIDEO SHOWS HILLSONG'S BRIAN HOUSTON KNEW ABOUT OPEN 'GAYS' IN CHOIR" [EXCERPTS]:** A video has surfaced online showing that Hillsong leader Brian Houston knew about two openly homosexual men serving as choir members at least one year ago—despite his recent claims that it was a "complete surprise" for him to learn that two men at Hillsong's New York campus had become "engaged."

Houston was interviewed on ABC's "Nightline" in November 2014 [where he said] "Apparently—someone told me—there's two gay guys singing in the choir in New York."

(<http://goo.gl/2OIl6j>)

## SUDANESE CHRISTIAN WOMEN FOUND INNOCENT

**CHRISTIANHEADLINES.COM, 8/13/15, "FOUR SUDANESE CHRISTIAN WOMEN FOUND INNOCENT OF 'IMMORAL DRESS'" [EXCERPTS]:** Four Sudanese Christian women have been found innocent after being arrested for "immoral dress." [The] women were among four others who were charged with immoral dress when they left a church

service in Khartoum; three of the women were fined, and one is still awaiting trial.

Khartoum has a strict policy of dress, requiring women to keep their bodies covered, except for hands, feet and face. However, Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) believes the increased number of Christian women arrested for immoral dress is a campaign against religious minorities in Sudan.

CSW [said], "While we welcome the fact that four of these women were found innocent, we question how some have been found guilty when they were all dressed similarly and entirely in keeping with the law and Sudanese customs."

(<http://goo.gl/f5mgSl>)

## THE BEREAN CALL

Founder: Dave Hunt

Executive Director: T. A. McMahon

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## DONATIONS

The Berean Call (TBC) has always operated on the belief that God will provide as we seek His face, so we do not make appeals for financial help. Although the ministry operates primarily on donations, these are freewill and not solicited. Through the years, TBC has seen God "do exceeding abundantly above" all that was asked or thought.

## CONTACTING US

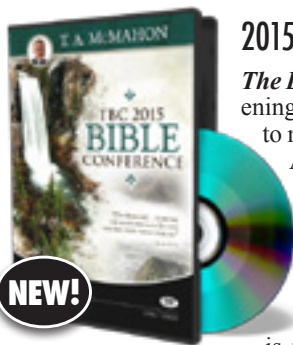
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# NEW! T. A. McMAHON 2015 CONFERENCE DVD

Enjoy special pricing on these resources from T. A. that will encourage you to stand strong in the faith against such issues as the homosexual agenda, social justice, and other last day doctrines.



NEW!

## 2015 Conference - T. A. McMahon

**The Berean Call**—We live in exciting and sometimes frightening times. It is such a comfort to hear teaching that helps to make sense of some of the incredible events in our day. At this year's conference, T. A. gave three talks titled: *Fellowship: Fortification against Apostasy, Homosexuality and the Reign of Terror*, and *The Power of the Spirit*. These three talks are sure to encourage you in your walk with the Lord and bring your focus and attention back to God's word — where we can find the answers to all of life's questions. Each session is followed with a informative Q&A session. 3 DVDs,

approximately 225 min. Retail \$20.99

DVD265

wt .3 \$15.75



## Temporal Delusion

**McMahon**—If you seek to understand current church trends in the light of God's revealed and perfect Word, you'll find this easy-to-read volume both helpful and heart-pricking concerning the true state of the church today. In the process, you'll discover that what you believe about "controversial" Last Days doctrines should indeed impact the direction and focus of our daily Christian walk—encouraging and equipping us to "redeem the time." *The Berean Call*, 157 pp. Retail \$12.99

B60712

wt .8 \$10.50

SET146

SAVE 50% off retail on the book and DVD set — Retail \$33.98

wt 1.5 SALE \$17.00

## HALLOWEEN AND WITCHCRAFT DISCERNMENT



### The Facts on Halloween

**Ankerberg/Weldon/Burroughs**—"Trick or treat!" Every Halloween, kids set out to gather as many goodies as they possibly can, acting out practices they know little about. Whether through trick-or-treating in the neighborhood or dressing up in scary costumes for school, children learn about witches and ghosts, gruesome rituals, and the occult. The authors answer such questions as *When and where did Halloween originate?* • *Is Halloween different today than it was a generation or two ago?* This concise booklet will help you make an informed judgment about the history and impact of Halloween and guide you in deciding how to approach it. Harvest House Publishers, 89 pp. Retail \$5.99

B22197

wt .2 \$5.50



### Harry Potter: Witchcraft Repackaged, Making Evil Look Innocent

**Matriciana Productions**—Does witchcraft actually have power? If so, what is its source? Does the Harry Potter series' presentation of child-friendly witchcraft make its philosophy any more acceptable just because it is packaged as "children's fantasy literature"? Best-selling author Caryl Matriciana, one of today's leading experts on world religions, sects, and cults, along with author Robert McGee answer these questions and draw parallels between Potter's so-called fantasy and witchcraft as it is practiced by many today. 1 DVD, 60 min. Retail \$16.95

DVD052

wt .3 \$15.00

## NEW! 2015 CONFERENCE DVDs



NEW!

### 2015 Conference - Complete Set

**Del Cristo/James/McMahon/Seegert/Wilkinson**—We give thanks to the Lord for allowing *The Berean Call* to have another outstanding conference. This year, alongside T. A. McMahon, we were encouraged by returning speakers David James and Paul Wilkinson, and were also blessed by newcomers Jiovanne Del Cristo and Jay Seegert. The topics ranged from creation vs. evolution, spiritual gifts, parenting, biblical discernment, and more! Our speakers covered a wide variety of issues plaguing the church today, but all pointed back to where our salvation lies: in Christ alone! 12 DVDs, approximately 900 min. Retail \$129.99

DVD270

wt .8 SALE \$65.00



NEW!

### Jiovanne Del Cristo

**The Berean Call**—*Closing the Gap between Children and Their Parents, The Growing Heresy within the Hispanic Church*, and Q&A. 2 DVDs, 150 min. Retail \$13.99

DVD267

wt .3 SALE \$10.50



NEW!

### David James

**The Berean Call**—*The Mystery of the Shemitah & the Blood Moon Tetrad, The Process of Biblical Discernment: Test Case — the Shemitah and Blood Moons*, and Q&A. 2 DVDs, 150 min. Retail \$13.99

DVD266

wt .3 SALE \$10.50



NEW!

### Jay Seegert

**The Berean Call**—*Creation in Six Days? A Biblical & Scientific Analysis, Evolution: Probable or Problematic?*, and Q&A. 2 DVDs, approximately 150 min. Retail \$13.99

DVD268

wt .3 SALE \$10.50



NEW!

### Paul Wilkinson

**The Berean Call**—*Israel Betrayed - Part 1, Israel Betrayed - Part 2, A Cup of Water*, and Q&A. 3 DVDs, approximately 225 min. Retail \$20.99

DVD269

wt .3 SALE \$15.75

Note: See above for a special offer on T. A. McMahon's DVD set!

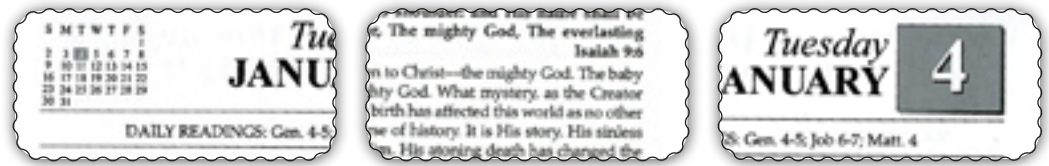
# NEW! 2016 CHOICE GLEANINGS CALENDARS, JOURNAL, AND PLANNER

*A perennial favorite — with KJV scriptures, inspirational quotes, and a daily reading plan to encourage you in the New Year! Supplies are limited so order them while they last!*



**Gospel Folio Press**—With the uncertainties of the future as we enter another new year, it's a blessing to know there is a "lighthouse" to guide us through the stormy seas of life. Contributors to this beloved devotional calendar have prayerfully submitted their thoughts on God's Word, providing light to our pathway and comfort and guidance for each day. *Choice Gleanings* (originally named *The Remembrancer*) has been bringing inspiration and encouragement to Christians since 1940! Now available as a wall calendar or spiral bound for use on a desk, table, or windowsill.

- |               |  |        |               |
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| <b>2</b> CA02 | Desk-style Calendar - 365 Days (Retail \$9.99) | wt .6  | <b>\$9.50</b> |



Note: Calendar images differ slightly from actual product. Inside details (shown right) have been reduced in size.



## Choice Gleanings 2016 - Daily Devotional Pocket Planner

**Gospel Folio**—Now the *Choice Gleanings* devotional calendar is also available as a convenient pocket planner! Contains the same devotions as the desk and wall calendar but is small enough to fit into your purse or pocket! FEATURES INCLUDE: *Month at a glance* • *Daily readings* • *Page per day* • *Inspiring devotional* • *Appointment & to do list* • *A twelve hour (eight a.m. - eight p.m.) appointment schedule* • *Durable semi-exposed wire-o binding (will open flat)* • *Dimensions: 4.0 x 7.0 in.*

**CA04** retail \$9.99 wt .5 **\$9.50**



## Choice Gleanings 2016 - Daily Devotional Journal

**Gospel Folio**—Enjoy *Choice Gleanings* as a year-long journal! Along with daily verses to take you through the Bible in a year, you will gain insight and comfort from the devotional messages. Ample space is included to record your notes and prayers every day of the week! FEATURES INCLUDE: *Month at a glance* • *Daily readings* • *Inspiring devotional* • *Appointment & to do list* • *Durable semi-exposed wire-o binding (will open flat)* • *Dimensions: 6.0 x 8.5 in.*

**CA03** retail \$12.99 wt 1.2 **\$12.50**

# SALE! DVD GREETING CARDS LOWEST PRICES EVER—ONLY \$2 TO \$4 EACH!

*Each 5x7 greeting card includes a full-length DVD. Sorry, no returns on this item, regardless of quantity. Cards are not packaged for resale. Envelopes are included with card but extra postage is required. Visit [thebereancall.com](http://thebereancall.com) for more details.*



## When the Trumpet Call Shall Sound

**TBC**—This DVD card features a powerful message from Paul Wilkinson's Sunday service at the 2014 TBC Bible Conference. Titled "When the Trumpet Call Shall Sound," Paul's message of hope and encouragement is a timely reminder for all believers to remember that "our redemption draweth nigh." To preview the DVD visit: [thebereancall.com/products/greeting-card-when-the-trumpet-call-shall-sound](http://thebereancall.com/products/greeting-card-when-the-trumpet-call-shall-sound)

**CARD04** 1 greeting card wt .1 **\$4.00**



## God of Wonders Winter Card

**TBC**—These beautiful greeting cards praise our Creator in picture and verse. The cards, printed on glossy card stock, feature an inspiring winter scene and passage from Psalm 147:16-18. Packaged inside both cards is the breathtaking DVD *God of Wonders*. To preview the *God of Wonders* DVD visit: <http://thebereancall.com/products/god-of-wonders-card-winter>

**CARD03** 1 greeting card wt .1 **\$4.00**



## God of Wonders Spring Card

**TBC**—These beautiful greeting cards praise our Creator in picture and verse. The cards, printed on glossy card stock, feature an inspiring winter scene and passage from Song of Songs 2:11-13. Packaged inside both cards is the breathtaking DVD *God of Wonders*. To preview the *God of Wonders* DVD visit: <http://thebereancall.com/products/god-of-wonders-card-spring>

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