• DAVE HUNT, FOUNDER • WWW.THEBEREANCALL.ORG



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

Mysticism and the Coming World Religion – Part One

T. A. McMahon

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

-2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

-REVELATION 13:3-4

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

-REVELATION 13:8

ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES, in the last days prior to Christ's return a religion will appear that will deceive virtually the entire world into following it. It will be led by the Antichrist ("the beast"), who will be worshiped as God.

Scripture also indicates, however, that the bride of Christ will be removed from the earth in the Rapture (Jn 14:1-3; 1 Th 4:16-18) before that religion is fulfilled. If true, then why would the knowledge of the coming world religion be of value for true believers in Christ?

There are a number of reasons. First of all, the biblically false content of the coming world religion doesn't suddenly appear overnight. The seeds of it began in the Garden of Eden with Satan's seduction of Eve (Gn 3:1). His first words, "Yea, hath God said...?," set forth his strategy of undermining God's commands and instructions. That has continued right up to this present time and is increasing exponentially. Secondly, Satan's offer of godhood to Eve has manifested itself throughout history. Most of the religions of the Far East teach that God *is* everything or *in* everything, making everything and everyone God or part of God. Many of the Caesars and other rulers imposed the worship of themselves as deities upon their people. Those forms of idolatry will culminate in the worship of self, the Antichrist, and Satan.

Thirdly, Jesus characterized the days prior to His return for His bride as a time of great deception. He told His disciples, "Take heed that no man *deceive* you" (Mt 24:4 - emphasis added). His warning included deceits such as false Christs, lying signs and wonders, and unbiblical doctrines and teachers. Some have wrongly concluded that Christ's warning wasn't for believers, asserting that verse 24

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

implies that it would be impossible to "deceive the very elect" (24:24). That can't be the case because Jesus addressed this warning (v. 4) to His disciples—who were certainly His "elect." Fourthly, the Word of God gives multiple instructions on how to protect ourselves from the lies of Satan that can adversely affect our fruitfulness in the Lord.

These seductive and deceptive devices of God's chief adversary will increase prior to the Rapture, but God's Word gives us the prevention program against being seduced by Satan's lies: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pt 5:8).

The Apostle Paul pointed to a time in the history of the church when a condition would be prevalent that would greatly undermine the faith of professing and true believers: "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 Tm 4:3 - emphasis added). Sound doctrine—what is that? It's simply the teachings given to mankind by God through His prophets. It is God's written Word, His *objective* communication to humanity, containing information that comes directly from Him without the input of mankind. That's what makes it *sound* doctrine. God, being infinite, has communicated to finite man what He wants him to know and do. That's the only way finite humanity can truly know their infinite Creator and what He has in mind regarding them.

Undermining sound doctrine is Satan's primary goal in his attempt to shipwreck the faith and fruitfulness of believers. The strategy involves corrupting the Word of God by adding to it or subtracting from it. Thus the Scriptures are distorted through the input of fallen, finite man and the contributions of seducing spirits and doctrines of demons (1Tm 4:1). Such modifications demolish the objective truth of Scripture. The Bible no longer stands as God's Word when "adjustments" are made by other sources. This is taking place today in unprecedented fashion, especially through the introduction (or re-introduction) of mysticism.

The antithesis of the objective Word of God, mysticism is defined by *The Merriam-Webster Dictionary* as "the belief that direct knowledge of God, spiritual truth, or ultimate reality can be attained through *subjective* experience such as intuition or insight," and adds that it is "vague *speculation*, a belief without *sound* basis (emphasis added)." Google gives this definition: "belief characterized by self-delusion or dreamy confusion of thought, especially when based on the assumption of occult qualities or mysterious agencies." A mystical worldview, which is intensifying in both the world and its religions, will be foundational to the coming one-world religion.

Among many reasons, the primary one is that mysticism has a universal appeal that will attract and unify all the religions of the world. Why? Because it avoids doctrine (rules, regulations, commandments, obligations, requirements, etc.). The doctrines of the Bible are given by God and are to be obeyed; not obeying them is rebellion, which is the state of the world as well as the state of many within the church. The religions of the world also have doctrines, albeit false ones, against which their followers often rebel. Doctrines divide because people don't particularly like rules that demand obedience. The stricter the rules, the less

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attractive the religion. That's a potential problem for the religion of the Antichrist because its goal is to attract other belief systems and draw all people into its spiritual web.

Mysticism avoids objective rules and requirements, whether biblical or not. It's a belief system without a sound (objective) basis that majors on subjective experience, insights, intuition, dreamy confusion of thought (e.g., altered states of consciousness), speculation, and mysterious agencies. So the arbiter of what is right and true is how one *feels*: "If it feels right, then it must be right, and therefore ultimately true."

In order for mysticism to become the foundational belief system of the one-world religion, it must include all the world religions. With rare exceptions, the religions of the Far East are fundamentally mystical, so little change is necessary for them. But what of the laworiented religions of Roman Catholicism and Islam? Their combined numbers exceed two billion followers, so they must be included in the religion of the Antichrist. Yet they are both legalistic—Catholicism with its canons and decrees, inquisitions, and obligations, and Islam with its Sharia laws. Obviously this must change in order for them to fit in with the necessary ecumenism of the one-world religion.

Such a change will likely be facilitated by the roots of mysticism that have been a part of both religions for centuries. In Roman Catholicism, for example, the influence of the Desert Fathers began in the third century, just before Constantine, and continued past the time of Augustine in the fourth and fifth centuries. These were hermits and mystics, living in seclusion, in caves, some of them attempting to imitate Jesus in His personal desert confrontation with the devil. Their fleshly attempts at overcoming Satan and his demons often led to madness. They lived in caves, isolated from the rest of civilization, which also led to altered states of consciousness. As we know today, that condition opens a person to communication with the spirit world, i.e., demons. An altered mental state often creates the illusion of oneness, or union, with God—the ultimate goal of mysticism.

This system of isolation was in place at the beginning of the development of the Roman Catholic Church. It was furthered through monasticism, in which monks and nuns withdrew from society by entering monasteries. The idea was to fully commit themselves to God by separating from the secular world. Some monastic orders took vows of silence. That left them vulnerable to the spirit realm. (Silence, by the way, is a huge feature of and heavily promoted by the contemplative movement today.)

In the sixteenth century, a Spaniard named Ignatius Loyola, who was the founder of the Jesuits, fostered mysticism through his Spiritual Exercises. They are enormously popular among Catholics and contemplative evangelicals today. One Jesuit source tells us: "Ignatius was convinced that God can speak to us as surely through our imagination as through our thoughts and memories. In the Ignatian tradition, praying with the imagination is called contemplation" (Kevin O'Brien, *The Ignatian Adventure: Experiencing the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius*, p.141). "Praying with the imagination," by the way, is another term for creative visualization, a powerful occult technique that ushers the visualizer into the spirit realm.

Contemplative techniques have divorced the practitioner from the objective Word of God, leading one into the subjective arena of the imagination and feelings. This is what people like Richard Foster (*Celebration of Discipline*) and Sarah Young (*Jesus Calling*) are promoting. The practical consequences of disregarding critical judgment are often disastrous. Yet that is and will be the outcome of a religious system that people will flock to in the Last Days.

Following the mystical practices of Ignatius Loyola in our day were Catholics Thomas Merton and Henri Nouwen. Both are deceased. Merton was a Trappist monk and priest; Nouwen was also a priest, and both were well-known mystics. They were paragons of the modern contemplative movement and greatly influenced leading evangelicals such as Richard Foster, Dallas Willard, Eugene Peterson, Beth Moore, Kay Warren, and others. Merton studied the Desert Fathers and the Christian mystics and recognized their connection with the meditative practices of Eastern mysticism in Zen Buddhism, Taoism, and Sufism, which he taught and practiced. Asked if he felt that "turning away from traditional Christianity toward the East" would cause "an eventual turning back to a different form of Christianity, one that might even be more genuine," Merton replied, "Yes, I think so" (Merton, *Thomas Merton: Preview of the Asian Journey*, 53-54).

Henri Nouwen has become *the* favored mystic among evangelicals. One of his most popular books is *Behold the Beauty of the Lord: Praying with Icons*. It's an instruction manual on how to use imagery as the window of heaven in order to enter into the deeper things of the soul. Nouwen espouses mysticism because he sees it "as my call to help every person claim his or her own way to God." That doesn't seem to faze Rick Warren, who quotes him favorably in his best-selling *Purpose Driven Life*, or Kay Warren, who recommends Nouwen's books, or Philip Yancy, who sings his praises in *Christianity Today*, or Chuck Swindoll, who is enamored with his contemplative teachings, or Tony Campolo, who calls the deceased Catholic priest "one of the great Christians of our time."

Of late there is Pope Francis. Surging ahead at an ecumenical and mystical speed that thrills the world's religions and has left traditional Catholicism in its wake, the pope and his ecumenism has many professing Christians flocking to Rome at his personal invitation: Kenneth Copeland, James Robison, Rick Warren, Geoff Tunnicliffe, John Arnott, and Joel Osteen, to name a few. After meeting with the pope, Osteen said, "*I like the fact that this pope is trying to make the church larger, not smaller. He's not pushing people out but making the church more inclusive. That resonated with me.*" Luis Palau has been a long-time friend of the pope, and Timothy George wrote an article for *Christianity Today* titled "Our Francis, Too: Why we can enthusiastically join arms with the Catholic leader."

The most influential evangelical pastor today, Rick Warren, refers to him as "our new pope." Pope Francis is certainly the man for the renewal of mystical Roman Catholicism. He's a Jesuit, fully rehearsed in the Spiritual Exercises. In his address before the US Congress recently, he praised mystic monk and priest Thomas Merton.

Many were appalled that one of the first overtures of the new head of the Roman Catholic Church in regard to winning and influencing evangelicals was to send a personal greeting to a conference led by Kenneth Copeland. Was the pope clueless about Copeland's false doctrines, his charismatic abuses, his prosperity distortions of Scripture, not to mention his con-man-like greed? I think not. Why? *Because it doesn't really matter*. Doctrines, whether true or false, take a back seat—or no seat at all—in mysticism. Remember, as noted, *doctrines divide*. Therefore they need to be pushed aside in order to make room for what helps people to get along, what encourages relationship building, what *feels right*. That was the gist of the *Christianity Today* article, "What Evangelicals Like about Francis." Never mind the theology of the pope. It's how he makes everyone *feel*. More and more, it seems, this is what's important to people.

Fewer and fewer evangelicals today seem to care that all the *feel good* stuff that Francis reflects personally won't save him or anyone else. Neither will the gospel of his Church save anyone — whether it's the new or the old Catholicism. The following quotes in the official Catholic catechism have been a mystery for quite a while. Many within and without the Church have been at a loss as to how to interpret them: "For the Son of God became man so that we might become God....The only-begotten Son of God, wanting to make us sharers in his divinity, assumed our nature, so that he, made man, might make men gods" (CCC paragraph 460). What is now becoming apparent is the way those statements fit perfectly with the foundational objective of mysticism: union with God.

The seeds of mysticism have certainly found fertile soil within legalistic Roman Catholicism, but what of the even more oppressive Sharia law that is foundational to Islam? Are Muslims therefore impervious to mystical beliefs? [To BE CONTINUED] **TBC**

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Submit your own questions to: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708 or e-mail: editorial@thebereancall.org

QUESTION: A recent Berean Call email quoted Samuel Davies, 4th president of Princeton University in "The Things Omitted." It seems that the first eight presidents of Princeton were slave owners—Berean Call "omitted" that fact! See the AP article on Georgetown University repenting of selling slaves in the 1860s and offering acceptance of formerly owned slave descendants as students. Your comments?

RESPONSE: Slavery is (not *was*) an enormous evil and is probably practiced today across the world in far greater numbers than at any other time in history. Political systems such as communism essentially institutionalize *economic* slavery, with the majority being ruled by a tiny group of elites. Increasingly, our culture is dividing those "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" into a small group of elites who rule over those who, in all practicality, are slaves to the state. This certainly is preparing the world for the ultimate tyranny of the Antichrist.

When the founders of this nation included the "unalienable rights" language in our Declaration of Independence, many at the time recognized that what became known as the South's "peculiar institution" was on its way out.

We did not deliberately "omit" listing Davies as a slave owner. What we published was simply a quote, and a very good quote, from a very flawed man—just like you and me. Neither do we omit the following: Paul wrote an epistle to the slave owner Philemon, urging him to receive Onesimus the slave back, "...not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord" (v. 16).

It's almost a cliché to point out that David, whom the Lord considered "a man after mine own heart," was an adulterer and murderer. Do we refrain from quoting the Psalms?

Of the author, however, "Davies, himself a slave owner, made the evangelistic outreach to the slave population a significant priority of his ministry. By 1755, nearly three hundred slaves attended his church services. With the help of friends in England (John and Charles Wesley numbered among them), Davies provided spelling books, catechetical material, and the hymnals of Isaac Watts for the slaves. The slaves especially valued Watts's hymnals. Davies recounted that at times the 'sundry of them were lodged all night in my kitchen; and sometimes, when I have awaked about two or three o'clock in the morning, a torrent of sacred harmony poured into my chamber and carried my mind away to heaven'" (Pilcher 1971:112).

It is well recorded that these slaves had equal access to partake of communion at his services. Davies countenanced no segregation. Although "personally not opposed to slavery, Davies believed that slaves deserved direct access to the word of God the same as their masters" (Richards, Jeffrey H., "Samuel Davies and the Transatlantic Campaign for Slave Literacy in Virginia." *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*. Richmond: Virginia Historical Society, p. 111). Though a flawed man living in a flawed culture, this is a clear indication of the work of the Holy Spirit that reaches the hearts of men no matter the time or setting—even in our arguably more corrupt society today.

Yes, Davies owned slaves. Whatever the motivation in another culture, his subsequent treatment of them (including literacy) was a long step toward emancipation. That's the reason why prior to the Civil War, in some states, teaching a slave to read was against the law, as in 1831 North Carolina.

QUESTION: In your answer to "Were Adam and Eve created perfect? If so, how could they sin?", I would like to have your clarification on the following: you mentioned that it is false to say that God causes all things to happen with regard to Adam's sin. If God did not cause Adam to sin, then it seems that Adam created sin on his own or at least worked with Eve and the serpent to create sin. Is that your stance on this subject? I understand that we all sin because we have a sinful nature. If God created Adam without such a sinful nature, then what made him sin?

RESPONSE: God never caused Adam to sin, but in their creation, He well recognized that fallible man would fail. Lucifer, who dwelt in the presence of God as the "angel [cherub] that covereth" (Ezk 28:14), had already fallen when Adam and Eve were created and placed in the garden. It was not a matter of Adam "creating" sin but of succumbing to what was already in the world in the person of Satan. Certainly God allowed the circumstances that Satan used in his temptation of man, but the Scriptures clearly note the accountability of Adam.

Eve, according to 1 Timothy 2:14 was deceived by Satan. "And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression." Yet Adam sinned with full knowledge of the deception, and Romans 5:12 tells us, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned...."

As to what made Adam sin, there has been much speculation regarding his "love for Eve" and his "loyalty" to her. Yet, though man was created perfect, he did have a free will, which he could and would exercise in making choices. Now, some may argue that Adam's "potential" to sin means that he wasn't perfect, but clearly Adam's relationship with the Lord was indeed perfect until he made the choice to sin.

As Dave Hunt often observed, for love to exist requires the free exercise of the human will. In the process, God's judgment and His mercy are displayed in His response to the fall of mankind. We could never know and experience God's grace unless we needed grace. God's plan before creation for the atonement and redemption of man, whom He knew would fall into sin, demonstrates His grace and mercy. These were revealed through Adam's and mankind's subsequent transgressions in that God did not exercise deserved judgment by destroying man. Instead, His grace and provision were proven by the covering He provided (Gn 3:21). That covering was a foreshadowing of the eternal work of atonement provided by "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rv 13:8).

God's patience and forbearance were later demonstrated as mankind went deeper and deeper into sin. His justice and wrath were seen when He sent the flood, and His grace and mercy shown in saving Noah and his family. Even after His chosen people sinned again and again, God yet preserved a remnant though the whole deserved destruction. "And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall yet again take root downward, and bear fruit upward. For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this" (2 Ki 19:30-31).

God's perfect justice will be absolutely revealed in the future once-for-all judgment of Satan (Rv 20:7-10) and the eternal bliss and joy of a redeemed people.

LETTERS

To connect with TBC, write: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708 or e-mail: editorial@thebereancall.org

Dear TBC,

I don't know why those who don't believe there will be a pretrib rapture say that those who do are using an "escape clause." The timing of the Rapture has never been an exemption from persecution. In John 16:33, Jesus warned, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Paul, who certainly had more than his share of persecution, wrote in 2 Timothy 3:12, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

Consequently, there has been no "escape clause" for believers throughout history. The comparative calm we've enjoyed in the West has been an aberration. The persecution of the Tribulation will be beyond anything this world has ever seen, particularly towards the end. "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matthew 24:22). ES (OR)

Dear TBC,

Not sure if this is the best place for this, but I just wanted to say "thanks." I've come [to your website] before to look through articles, but today, specifically, the Lord used a few of the questions and answers to point out my sin of elevating great men to the level of the authority of Scripture. Your Spirit-filled answers to even some of the more harsh questions have encouraged me and exhorted me to place Scripture back in its rightful place. So thank you for your ministry and your labor!

If you might pray that I would very sincerely and with all my effort make the Scriptures my delight, I would much appreciate that. And on a side note, if you have links to or thoughts on helpful methods of reading and studying the Bible off the top of your head, that would be much appreciated as well! May God continue to bless you, the staff and volunteers, and the ministry of TBC. JS (email)

TBC NOTES

Two Praise Reports

Praise number one is that the Lord answered our prayers regarding the recent TBC Conference. It was our best one to date (and it delights us that we have been able to say that each successive year)! We certainly miss having Dave Hunt as our primary speaker, but in addition to the excellent speakers whom the Lord provided, He orchestrated the entire conference in ways that were above and beyond what we had hoped and prayed for. Thank you, Jesus!

Praise number two: The long-awaited major improvements to our website are in place even as you are reading this. We are truly excited about this! It will greatly improve the ease with which information may be retrieved from our 25-year accumulation of archived resource materials. As we go forward with this, we would greatly appreciate your feedback so that we can fine-tune this new system.

T. A. McMahon Executive Director

Dear Tom,

Before you try to straighten out churches that have been confused by Calvinism, you really need to understand what the Bible teaches on the subject of Sovereign Grace. You and Dave have been so confused with the Arminianism of the past half-centuryplus that you can't think straight. ER (ID)

Dear Friends at TBC,

A short note of encouragement and thanks for continuing to mail to me your timely, instructive, and eye-opening newsletter over the past two decades. After reading, I have used your important work as an outreach ministry by placing the newsletters in public places for others to hopefully "stumble" upon, e.g., doctors' offices, hospitals, parks, bus stops, etc. May our Lord Jesus shower His blessings on your faithfulness! (TC)

Dear Berean Call Folks,

I am overjoyed that you guys are still telling the truth and inspiring others to love Jesus, who is the Truth. Nowadays I appreciate [learning] how to recognize the wiles of the devil because you have helped me to detect his devices. The last church I attended was caught up in "signs and wonders" and were more interested in those things than in knowing and loving Jesus. PW (FL)

Dear TBC,

Thank you so much for your newsletters and your online videos, I can't tell you how much I am blessed by them. KB (N. Ireland)

Dear Friends in Christ,

What a wonderful conference! Thank you for all your hard work. It was our first and hopefully will not be the last, unless, of course, the Lord takes us in the Rapture.

We have all the DVDs thanks to a generous soul....We missed the first day due to tight connecting flights, but at least we were there for Saturday and Sunday morning. I'm not sure when we first started receiving the newsletter, but it has been a blessing all these many years. May God continue to bless you all as you remain watchmen on the wall for the Lord Jesus Christ. We are truly blessed. DH (FL)

Dear TBC & T.A.,

Thank you so much for your faithfulness. I love the newsletters and read them as quickly as I get them. There is so much compromise [in the world]—it's crazy. I've been saved for 7½ years and I love being called a "Bible thumper." According to the dictionary, that's a person who expounds or follows the teachings of the Bible in an aggressively evangelical way. Funny, other so called Christians mock us and call us this, and it is a compliment. NG (OR)

QUOTABLE ······

The child of God must be willing to be a channel through which God's abundant blessings flow. This channel is narrow and shallow at first, yet some of the waters of God's bounty can pass through. If we cheerfully yield ourselves to this purpose, the channel becomes wider and deeper, allowing more of the bounty of God to pass through. We cannot limit the extent to which God may use us as instruments in communicating blessing if we are willing to yield ourselves to Him and careful to give Him all the glory.

-George Müller

NEWSWATCH

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

BRITISH POLICE MAY ALLOW BURKA-UNIFORM

TELEGRAPH.CO.UK, 9/9/16, "BRITISH POLICE FORCE SAYS IT MAY ALLOW FEMALE OFFI-CERS TO WEAR BURKAS AS PART OF UNI-FORM" [EXCERPTS]: A police force could ...allow officers to wear the full-face veil after it launched a recruitment drive to increase diversity.

West Midlands Police said it has "no barriers" relating to the burka as they announced that they would discuss allowing the traditional Islamic dress to become part of a policewoman's uniform.

Chief Constable David Thompson said he would look into employing officers who wear the burka if the issue arose, as the force tries to increase the percentage of black and minority ethnic (BME) officers in the region to 30 percent.

The move was criticised by MPs, including David Davies, who worked as a police officer in London for nine years and told the *Telegraph* he is "horrified" by the suggestion.... "The burka is a symbol of oppression for women and not something that a modern police force should be supporting."

(https://goo.gl/IBOCeJ)

JESUS SAID NOT TO WORRY-THAT INCLUDES POLITICS

CHRISTIANHEADLINES.COM, 8/17/16, "JESUS SAID NOT TO WORRY—THAT INCLUDES POLI-TICS" [EXCERPTS]: It's practically impossible to avoid hearing about the upcoming presidential election these days. Political talk is in the news, on social media, and in day-to-day conversations, and most of it is not very encouraging....

It's easy to think that there has never been a more tumultuous political climate than today's. And while we have certainly seen some unprecedented events in the 2016 election cycle, it may encourage us to remember that Jesus also lived in an incredibly tumultuous political environment.

The Romans were bearing down hard on the Jewish people, and most Jews, instead of recognizing that Jesus was bringing a kingdom not of this world, assumed that he had come to...establish an earthly kingdom.

What Jesus cares infinitely more about than our politics, however, is our hearts.

This point of view—a biblical point of view—actually frees us up to not worry and instead to focus on living out our Christian faith. After all, worry is detrimental to not

only our own faith, but to serving others. Jesus had a lot to say about worry—namely, that we don't need to do it because He cares for His children.

In Matthew 6 Jesus says: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life...." It would be great to have a Christian president, but...even a Christian president will not solve our problems and take away our worry.

We must remind ourselves that this also applies to politics, and specifically to this November's election.

(https://goo.gl/LukQIw)

FOSSIL DNA IN DEEP SEAFLOOR MUD

ICR.org, 8/18/16, "Fossil DNA in Deep SEAFLOOR MUD" [EXCERPTS]: Scientists found DNA in two undersea sediment drill cores from the Bering Sea. The researchers thought the chloroplast DNA (cpDNA) must have come from near-surface lightgathering organisms like diatoms, and not mud-dwelling organisms like bacteria. Discovering cpDNA from dead diatoms near the top of the seafloor presents no challenge, but these researchers found it hundreds of meters down. Long-age believers insist that hundreds of meters of sediment require at least hundreds of thousands of years to deposit. Given that DNA degrades relatively quickly, the team faced the significant challenge of explaining how DNA could persist long enough to get buried beneath that much sediment.

In the journal *Geology*, the three scientists described the DNA samples that came from various depths. Other researchers gave each an assigned age of over a million years. DNA is not supposed to last that long. Not even close.

The Bering Sea DNA they discovered joins prior finds that similarly challenge deep time. The authors briefly described examples of DNA and RNA preservation from sediments thought to be as much as 2.7 million years old. They wrote, "In general, genetic studies of material that predates the Quaternary [i.e., more than 2.6 million years old] are at odds with the current understanding of DNA preservation, especially in wet environments."

Clearly, DNA decays in hundreds of years at Earth-surface temperatures, but scientists find DNA that apparently lasted over a million years. How can this be?

(https://goo.gl/pNEAOU)

THE BEREAN CALL

Founder: Dave Hunt Executive Director: T. A. McMahon

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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

tel: (541) 382-6210 • fax: (541) 385-6025 orders and donations: (800) 937-6638 general inquiries: (541) 382-6210 e-mail: editorial@thebereancall.org website: www.thebereancall.org

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he also refutes many of the so-called contradictions and errors in the Bible. This DVD is a must-see for every Christian who is interested in having a thorough knowledge of God's Word. 1 DVD, 65 min. **DVD350** \$19.00 wt.2



The Return of Christ - How Close Are We?

Kerugma Productions-In a refreshing and compelling look at prophecy, Dave Hunt challenges us to evaluate our lives in light of Christ's promise, "I will come again." The early church believed that Christ could come at any moment. Do we live with the same sense of expectation? This DVD explores

not only the different phases of the second coming but simultaneously focuses on the sure hope of Jesus' soon return; thus kindling within us the fire and passion that such a hope inspires. 1 DVD, 77 min. **DVD351** wt.2 \$19.00



The False "Unity" of Ecumenism

Kerugma Productions-Dave Hunt addresses the issue of unity. Does it mean that people from different Christian denominations, or even from different religions, must gather together to demonstrate their unity, for the sake of addressing certain issues of society? Does it mean that demonstrating that unity

is of greater importance than doctrinal issues? Allow Dave Hunt to explain the character of true unity, according to the Word of God. 1 DVD, 90 min.

DVD352



Deception in the Church - Where Is It Taking Us?

Kerugma Productions-In his own thorough, convincing style. Dave Hunt points out that deception in the church is nothing less than doctrines of devils. He explains the lies that have entered the Protestant evangelical church of our day, namely the denial of the deity of Christ, denial that forgiveness comes

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Occult Invasion of the Church

Kerugma Productions-In this DVD, one of Dave Hunt's excellent presentations is combined with footage shot at the 1999 Parliament of the World's Religions in Cape Town, South Africa. Hunt clearly explains the difference between naturalism and supernaturalism. You will see and hear many of the

phenomena about which he speaks-such as ancestral worshippers, those who worship Mother Earth, and many more. The message on this DVD helps Christians to clearly distinguish truth from lies and explains how to conduct a sound Christian walk amidst the deception in these last days. 1 DVD, 90 min. wt.2 \$19.00

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DVD355

The Rapture - How Close Do We Want to Be?



Kerugma Productions-Dave Hunt shows from Scripture that Jesus Christ is indeed the Son of God who will do what He promised: He will come again to gather His own and take them with Him to heaven. When will He do this? In Luke 17, Jesus said that He will come at a time when no one expects it. We

are living in such a time, as more and more Christians are denying the possibility of the Rapture. We can be sure, then, that the time is near, but the question is, are we ready? 1 DVD, 65 min.

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What Is the Purpose of our Existence?

Kerugma Productions-Where did we come from? Why are we here? Where are we going? Dave Hunt reasons by means of solid evidence why science, evolution, and psychiatry have no answers in this regard. He further looks at the three largest religions (Catholicism, Hinduism, and Islam) who prove

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CA04

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Follow the trail as a bewildered Smith is compelled to come to terms with the nature of good and evil. Mountain Stream Press, 167 pp.

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A "Wonderful" Deception

Smith—This book explains how all the puzzle pieces are in place for the "strong delusion" described in 2 Thessalonians. A "Wonderful" Deception pierces right into the heart of this deception while preparing believers in Jesus

Christ to effectively stand against it. Mountain Stream Press, 243 pp. B88102 wt.8 \$14.00



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Yungen-Most people believe the New Age has been long gone from our society, and, if practiced at all now, it is only by unconventional "fringe" types. This expanded edition of For Many Shall Come in My Name reveals that this is not the case. Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 215 pp.

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A Time of Departing

Yungen—A revealing account of a universal spirituality that has infiltrated much of the church today. This book exposes subtle strategies to compromise the gospel mes-

sage with Eastern mystical concepts cloaked under the wrappings of contemplative prayer and "the silence." Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 242 pp.

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McMahon/Yungen-Tom welcomes author Ray Yungen to discuss the impact of the New Age movement on today's evangelical church. 1 CD, 49 min. CD1411

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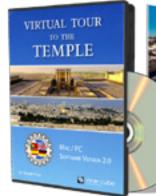


The Berean Call-Ray Yungen's session from the TBC 2016 confence titled: Ecumenism Gone Exponential! Includes Panel Discussion. 2 DVDs

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The Berean Call—Follow Dave Hunt during TBC's 1993 tour to Israel. The three presentations, *In the Garden*, *The God of Prophecy*, and

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Global Peace and the Rise of Antichrist

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Caryl Productions—The final installment in the Caryl Productions series features the hyper-Charismatic and Pentecostal movements represented by a variety

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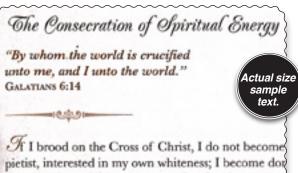
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Chambers-Since its original publication in 1927, countless millions of Christians the world over have trusted the spiritual companionship of Oswald Chambers's classic daily devotional, My Utmost for His Highest. These brief scripture-based readings, by turns comforting and challenging, will draw you into God's presence and form you as a disciple of the Risen Lord. This "classic edition" of the book includes the complete, original text from author Oswald Chambers as well as Scripture and subject indexes-and is bound in beautiful brown bonded

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B03906



The Counselor

Tozer-"When Christ is glorified, the Holy Spirit comes." This powerful statement lays the groundwork for A. W. Tozer's compelling study of the Holy Spirit. Tozer helps readers know

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OCTOBER 2016

Is Halloween just innocent fun and games? This booklet gives a concise and biblical perspective on this popular holiday!



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.

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