

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

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

## Hebrew Roots and the Leaven of Works Salvation – Part One

T. A. McMahon and G. Richard Fisher

*Purge out therefore the old leaven... —1 CORINTHIANS 5:7*

THE APOSTLE PAUL warned about being tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine (Ephesians 4:14). These days, the winds of false doctrine are blowing hard against the church.

Most people who believe in God have the notion that there are certain things we can do that will please Him, thus improving our position with the Almighty and gaining certain benefits for ourselves. There is some truth to this idea, but there are also serious problems that can result, such as a form of works salvation. We must remember that grace is God’s kindness to the undeserving, and it cannot be worked for or earned in any way (Ephesians 2:8-10).

Of course, true salvation will always have works that accompany it (Titus 2:11-13;3:8). That truth is found in the Scriptures. For example, “Jesus answered and said unto him [one of the apostles], If a man love me, *he will keep my words*: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him” (John 14:23). Children are instructed to “*obey your parents* in all things, for this is *well pleasing* unto the Lord” (Colossians 3:20). In Ephesians we are told that honoring one’s father and mother is the “first commandment with promise” (Ephesians 6:1-2). First John states, “Whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, *because we keep his commandments*, and *do those things that are pleasing* in his sight” (1 John 3:22). Obedience to the teachings of the Word of God indeed produces benefits and pleases the Lord (emphasis added to all above). Jesus accepts us as we are but does not leave us as we were. Genuine salvation produces sanctification and good works as we are motivated by the Holy Spirit.

Asking God for something involves more than just making a request. Yes, Jesus said, “If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it” (John 14:14). Scripture, however, further tells us “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts” (James 4:3). God’s response to our requests is often dependent upon our motives, our walk with Him, the desires of our heart in conformity to His desire, His will, His grace, His mercy, and so forth. Such conditions challenge the false teachings of the Word/Faith, Prosperity, and Healing preachers, who try to bend certain verses of Scripture into a system of cause-and-effect laws, which thereby appear to turn God into a genie in a bottle who *must respond* to one’s demands. Supposedly, when a verse is “claimed,” God has no choice but to comply.

Not only is any attempt to interpret the Word of God in such a way that it becomes a system of *spiritual laws* (or methods or techniques) dead wrong, but it is little different from the beliefs and practices of magic, occultism, and witchcraft. At the very least, it generates legalism. For example, the response heard most often by those who have not been healed after following the teaching of the Word/Faith preachers (as well as the response of the preachers themselves) is that the healing could not take place *because there was a lack of faith* on the part of the sick individual.

Legalism results in this system as individuals are coerced into adhering to the particulars of the false teaching (*laws* of their own making) in order to get the expected outcome. Furthermore, all of this is akin to “works salvation,” which will be considered later. Another aspect of legalism is creating unbiblical, man-made rules and practices not found in Scripture (Colossians 2:20-23).

Although the errors of the Word/Faith and Prosperity teachings should be obvious for diligent biblical Christians to discern, there is a growing movement that is related in many ways (although far more subtle and seductive) called the Hebrew Roots Movement.

The Hebrew Roots Movement (HRM) is, in general, an attempt by its adherents to draw closer to God by gleanings things from Judaism that are perceived to be biblically significant and valuable. Though the movement includes Jews who have professed faith in Jesus Christ as their Messiah, for the most part, it comprises non-Jewish professing and true Christians (Gentiles). The HRM technically is not a movement as we would normally define one. There is no national organization or hierarchy of leadership among this group, yet there are leaders and writers from diverse ad hoc organizations, churches, and ministries who favor the trend. Within the subculture, churches may be called synagogues, pastors may be called rabbis, Jesus may be referred to as Yeshua, depending on the whim of the leader or leaders. That make-it-up-as-you-go-along concept was demonstrated when one “Christian Rabbi” wrapped a prosperity teacher in a Torah scroll, called the teacher King, seated him in a chair, and had ushers parade him around on their shoulders.

The attraction for many to the HRM is often motivated by a love for the nation of Israel and its culture and traditions. However, those feelings have taken multitudes *beyond* a biblically acceptable attitude toward things Jewish and into beliefs and practices that are contrary to the teachings of Scripture. For some, the HRM has led them into a gospel of works salvation, which the Apostle Paul warned against and condemned in his Epistle to the Galatians: “O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?” (Galatians 3:1-3)

So there appear to be three different layers within the HRM: (1) Those who see Jewish practices with the accoutrements as a means of salvation, (2) Those who see some kind of a Jewish lifestyle as a means of sanctification and as a more godly spiritual life, and (3) Those who immerse themselves in Judaism as a way to understand the customs and manners of biblical times. Layers 1 and 2 create huge problems for their followers. They also create “levels” of Christians and a divisive elitism, while layer 3 could simply be called Hermeneutics 101. Layers 1 and 2 employ imitation, but the third layer includes those seeking better illumination and insight into the Word. Most exegetes fall into that third category.

Every sincere believer has been born again spiritually by faith in what Jesus Christ accomplished on the Cross. Eternal salvation is the result. The Holy Spirit then takes up residence within that person and becomes his *enabler* for living a life that is fruitful and pleasing to the Lord. This is the *only way* for one to be saved from

everlasting separation from God. Nevertheless, there *is* a certain kind of “salvation” (sometimes referred to as *sanctification*) that a believer *is* to work out by God’s grace (Philippians 2:12-13). But again, as Galatians makes very clear, the born-again Christian began in the Spirit, and his life in Christ can be carried out only by the enabling of the Holy Spirit. The flesh cannot please God (Romans 8:8) and, furthermore, it profits nothing (John 6:63).

Many of those who are attracted to the Hebrew Roots Movement recognize that works play no part in the Gospel. Yet all who hold to the various HRM beliefs and practices have succumbed to a form of works salvation regarding their relationship with the Lord and their hope of drawing nearer to Him. For many, there is a false sense that “Jewishness is next to godliness.” Therefore, they see spiritual efficaciousness in Jewish rituals, dietary laws, paraphernalia, and the like. For a number of followers of the HRM, their affinity for such things may be unintentional when it comes to falling back under the Law to achieve righteousness. Nevertheless, it’s a leaven that rises and leads in that direction. No matter how insignificant that leaven may seem, it is at least a rejection of the grace of our Lord: “I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come[s] by the law, then Christ is dead in vain” (Galatians 2:21).

The false teachings found within various groups of the Hebrew Roots Movement run the gamut—from a clear rejection of Christ’s full payment on the Cross for the sins of mankind *as necessary and complete* for salvation, to the arbitrary guesswork of what laws are to be obeyed, or to a dual-covenant salvation. Within that mix are numerous ideas that are declared to be based upon Scripture but have no biblical basis whatsoever. The HRM, with its Law/works emphasis and inclusion of extra-biblical content, is a major contributor to the last-days apostasy and therefore needs to be exposed and judged biblically. Not every enthusiast holds to all the particular teachings of the HRM, but if the doctrine or activity is unique to the particular HRM group, it is not scriptural.

The following information constitutes much of what is promoted within the HRM. The purpose for its inclusion in this article is to aid in discernment and to offer spiritual protection so that believers might follow the exhortation of the Apostle Paul to the Thessalonians: “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). This is accomplished by being a Berean, i.e., by searching the Scriptures to discern whether or not what’s being taught is consistent with the Word of God (Acts 17:11).

The HRM, however, thwarts that critical exhortation for discernment. Many followers of the movement are taught that the synoptic Gospels were originally written in Hebrew in a version that was supposed to be superior to the Greek texts, containing Hebrew idioms that provided deeper insights. Since no one has ever produced copies of the original Hebrew language version, adherents are told that much of what has been “missing” can be gleaned from rabbinical sources, even the mystical, occult Kabbalah. The obvious fallacy in this is that it points a participant toward the extra-biblical material and speculations of men in order to supposedly explain the inspired Word of God. This greatly undermines dependence upon the work of the Holy Spirit for a believer’s understanding of the Bible, and it does great harm to the belief in the plenary verbal inspiration of Scripture. Furthermore, those who promote the idea of a necessary original Hebrew New Testament disparage the Greek text of Scripture that God chose in which to originally present the New Testament. Not only is that wrong, but it misses the obvious reasons for a Greek New Testament. Greek was the universal language of that day, understood by both Jews and Gentiles. Hebrew was the language specific to the Jews. The Gospel, however, was not for the Jews only, but God’s mandate to the disciples was that they were to preach it to the Gentiles as well (Matthew 28:18-20). To further compound the error, HRM followers are exhorted to learn Hebrew in order to increase their spiritual understanding and become more like the Jewish Jesus.

The Apostles had a knowledge of Jesus from being with Him when He physically ministered here on earth. Yet Paul wrote, “Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer” (2 Corinthians 5:16 - NKJV). The implication is that a believer’s spiritual insight is far more necessary for understanding and growth in Christ than anything obtained through one’s flesh. In spite of that, the HRM majors in things of the flesh that are drawn from customs and traditions having no biblical support and are centuries removed from the time when Jesus walked the earth.

Going back to the Law has been a problem for Christianity down through its history. From Paul’s issues with Peter (Galatians 2:11-14), to the Judaizers of Galatians, to the obligatory dogmas of Roman Catholicism and the Russian and Eastern Orthodox Church, to the legalism of Seventh-day Adventism and other “Christian” cults of today—all teach abiding by the Law. Yet none teach that a person must observe the *whole* Law. All are very selective regarding which laws they choose to obey. The HRM also reworks Old Testament observances that only *seem* to reflect what God ordained. The Passover practiced today, for example, is not the same Passover observed during the Exodus and up until the first century. The contemporary Seder is based on an extra-biblical Jewish tradition that Christians attempt to recreate but that has no meaning for the non-Jew. Those of the HRM however, are not the only people who participate in the Seder. It is widespread among Evangelicals who are attracted to the present-day practice, thinking that it is consistent with Scripture. The biblical Passover celebrated Jewish liberation from Egypt, which does not apply to people who were not delivered from Egypt but from sin. Jesus gave to the Church the Lord’s Supper, not the Passover. Jesus’ death is the fulfillment of the Old Testament practice of Passover (1 Corinthians 5:7). Honoring the Seder ceremony for the sake of witnessing to Jews may be well meaning on the part of Christians who participate but in fact promotes the invented content of the Talmud and sends the message that the Messiah has yet to come.

There is one incontrovertible fact that is ignored by nearly all in the HRM groups. That inescapable fact is that first-century Judaism is not the same Judaism that exists today. In fact, to be correct we would have to refer to *Judaisms*. There are a dozen or more subcultures and divisions within Judaism today. Orthodox, Conservative, Ashkenazic, and Sephardic Judaisms are only the tip of a very large iceberg. The huge question that the HRM has yet to answer is, *Which Judaism?* An arbitrary “take your pick” philosophy simply adds to the confusion and chaos.

The representation of the teachings of the HRM as leaven is fitting, as it has been slowly rising within the churches of our day. But there are indications that the movement may increase like a flood. The names of some of those who promote certain of the teachings and practices of the HRM within Christendom have highly influential organizations or ministries. They include Joseph Farah of *WorldNetDaily*, *Blood Moons* author Mark Biltz, *The Harbinger* author Jonathan Cahn, pastor John Hagee, blogger and cultist Michael Rood, and pastor James Staley (now in prison for fraud).

There is much more that needs to be addressed regarding the Hebrew Roots Movement, which we plan to continue in Part II. It will include the belief in dual-covenant salvation (one for Jews, based upon obedience to the Law, and one for Gentiles, who receive the gift of salvation based upon the finished work of Christ in payment for their sins); it will also focus on Jewish feast days, the Sabbath, denial of the Trinity, the Worldwide Church of God connection, the elitism that is generated by HRM participation, as well as providing further information. **TBC**

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# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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

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**QUESTION: Does “complete unity” in John 17:23 mean unity on the essentials, such as the Trinity, Salvation by Grace Alone, and the Resurrection of Jesus? Or does it speak of unity on “nonessentials” also?**

**RESPONSE:** John 17:23 reads, “I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”

The comparison is that as Jesus is in them and as the Father is in Him, so “they may be made perfect in one.” This clearly involves more than an agreement on “essentials.” Rather, it speaks of a progressive unity that may be reached only when we leave this world (through death or the Rapture). This is the same agreement that the Son has with the Father. In 1 John 3:2, we are told, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

Of that event, 1 Corinthians 15:52 says, “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

We shall be *changed*, and in that changing, we will move beyond the limitations of our life influenced by the “flesh.” The prayer of Jesus will be answered fully in that we shall one day have perfect agreement and unity with every member of the Body of Christ. In the meantime our focus remains on our responsibility: “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph 4:3).

**QUESTION: I hope you can help me: Even though God does not cause evil, is He in control of all that happens, including the circumstances that affect our lives?**

**RESPONSE:** We know from the record of Job that the Lord is sovereign over our circumstances in that He allowed Job to be afflicted by Satan, although limits are placed upon the adversary. Job 1:12 tells us, “And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.”

Psalms 139:1-5 states, “O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.... There is not a word in my tongue, but... thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.”

The word translated “compasses” is an interesting word. In most places of Scripture it is translated “winnow” (or a variation thereof). Winnowing is part of the harvest process during which the wheat or other grain is separated from the chaff. After it is shaken loose or beaten off the stalk, the grain is tossed into the air, where the lighter chaff is blown away and the heavier grain falls back to the ground to be gathered.

This is interesting because it literally means that the Lord “winnows” our paths in life, removing the chaff and preserving the whole grain. From our perspective, we might very well ask, “Lord, you said you removed all the chaff, but I have experienced disappointments, trials, and great loss at times. Aren’t these things chaff?”

The Lord leaves things that will be used to strengthen us. As much as our flesh hates the principle, we know that “tribulation worketh patience” (Rom 5:3). Job confessed, “But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold” (Job 23:10). Paul, when petitioning the Lord to remove his “thorn in

the flesh,” understood that the Lord allowed it for his own good and would not remove it. He writes, “And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness...” and concluded, “Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me” (2 Cor 12:9). Thus we can see that the Lord is in control over the things that come into our lives, and He uses them for our good and for His glory. But He never forces or causes us to act in any certain way, whether for good or for evil.

**QUESTION: I know that soul winning is supposed to be a really important part of the Christian life, but can you explain further about what the Scriptures say on this subject?**

**RESPONSE:** It is certainly true that Proverbs 11:30 tells us, “He that winneth souls is wise.” Further, in Luke 19:10, our Lord declared, “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” In 1 Corinthians 9:16, Paul wrote, “For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!”

The principle of soul winning and its necessity is there. That’s the challenge and admonition our Lord left when He gave the commission in Matthew 28:19, “Go ye therefore, and teach [make disciples of] all nations;...”

What we aren’t given is a “methodology.” We are given examples of the disciples preaching the gospel: “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ” (Acts 5:42).

Consequently, some people don’t seem to believe they are soul winning unless they are preaching publically or house to house. Yet the Lord Jesus had many meetings with people who came to Him to speak. And, while the term “friendship evangelism” is a popular focus today, too often it can be an excuse for never confronting someone with the claims of the gospel. The gospel by its very nature is an offense (1 Cor 1:18).

Also, we need to remember that the Lord uses circumstances and often will bring us to places where the gospel can be shared with individuals. The point is that we are to be ready. “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Pt 3:15).

In Acts 8, Philip was given an opportunity to minister the gospel to the Ethiopian eunuch whom God had prepared. Philip simply had to be ready both to minister and to obey the Lord’s command to “join thyself to this chariot” (v. 29).

Paul always went to the synagogues or places “where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither” (Acts 16:13). He went to these places both to minister to his people and to join with those who clearly were pursuing spiritual things. In short, they were alert to and took advantage of opportunities that presented themselves.

There certainly are good reasons for keeping tracts available to give to people. We may not always be going door to door, but we should prepare by praying and asking the Lord to give us a heart for evangelism and study to know the gospel message. As much as possible, prayerfully seek to build relationships with neighbors, friends, and relatives, and be alert for opportunities. Finally, if no opportunities are readily available, then prayerfully seek to create them as led by the Lord and be content if you only plant a seed, trusting Him to water and give the increase.

# LETTERS

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or e-mail: [editorial@theberean.org](mailto:editorial@theberean.org)

## Hey Folks at Berean Call,

Many thanks for this programme on Seventh-day Adventism. It was very, very interesting. I was saved from Roman Catholicism, as was Mr McMahon, so I know what it's like to be raised in a good works-based cult. As a street evangelist in England, I frequently go to Canterbury to pass out tracts and have sometimes met SDAs. Your programme was a big help to me. The Lord bless you in your ministry. BH (UK)

## Dear Tom McMahon and the Berean Call Team,

I stumbled onto your website about three months ago....The website has helped me to grow in knowing the Lord and His unchanging Truth. I'm thankful for what [Dave Hunt] has done. Because of knowing this Truth, I am planning to write a monthly newsletter in my local Swahili language to reveal the simple truth of the gospel instead of the current...distorted gospel of prosperity, deliverance, etc. I will certainly use some of your materials, since they are so detailed and well written. This is the least I could do to warn [local] Christians...about false teachings. RJ (Tanzania)

## Dear Berean Call

Just a short note to say that I appreciate your ministry and your stand for righteousness and the "old paths." I'm feeling more and more each day like a "stranger" on this earth. It's good to find a few like-minded people. DB (NC)

## Dear Mr. McMahon,

In reference to your article, "TBC's Mission, Damage Control" (06/16), although the writers have written several good books about psychology and the church, it is unfortunate that they have gone into the subject of psychology and missions. Their lack of understanding missions shows. I think it is safe to say that they were never foreign missionaries and have little education and/or experience in the field.

I am a retired pilot and am amazed at what I hear from ignorant people that mean well. We all need to be careful not to try to be an expert in something we know little about. GW (MN)

## Dear Tom

What you wrote in "Mysticism and the Coming World Religion—part 3" on "Spiritual Protection" couldn't have been better said. It was a blessing to the soul of this 84-year-old retired pastor after 40+ years in the ministry.

I'm originally from Ireland, so rejoice, especially, in your being saved out of Romanism, which is the deadliest cult in the world. I am going to pass your article on to a new professing Christian. It is so helpful. Read the Word, pray, and fellowship—a true tripod to place under the Christian's progress. WB (CA)

## Dear TBC Staff,

Greetings to you, Berean Call, in the name of Jesus Christ. I am responding to "the issue at hand," which TBC wrote several [years] ago concerning the idea that "Israel" cannot be "America, for God never made a covenant with America" (see TBC 6/2012; 8/2012). So far I've given this article to other brothers in Christ, and they found it interesting enough to keep it. EB (MI, prisoner)

## TBC NOTES

### A Dave Hunt Story

I love to tell people things I remember about Dave Hunt, my best friend-in-the-Lord for nearly 40 years. When he and Ruth moved to Bend, Oregon, he would often exhort me to pack up Peg and our five children and move there as well. He wanted me to help him start The Berean Call, so he was quite motivated to have us come. My response as a resident of Ventura, California (with its temperature mostly in the 70s year round), was, "But, Dave, doesn't it snow in Bend?"

His immediate reply: "Sure, Tom, we get a light dusting in the morning and it's gone by late afternoon!" That didn't seem too bad, so the seven McMahons moved to Bend.

When late November came around, Mr. Hunt, whom I had since dubbed "Mr. Bend Chamber of Commerce," saw his weather projection played out—sort of. It did snow in the morning. The "light dusting" was two-and-a-half feet. And it did dissipate in the afternoon—in early March! Dave noted that his degree was in math, not meteorology.

I share this with you not only because I love revealing things about Dave, especially his sense of humor, but because we have been experiencing a far worse snow condition than we did in 1992/1993. Roofs are collapsing all over the place. Please pray for our safety and the functioning of TBC.

T. A. McMAHON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## QUOTABLE .....

Whence comes the strength to stand against overwhelming opposition and suffering and to triumph as Christ's faithful disciples? Oddly enough, victory comes not through our strength but through our weakness. When Paul cried out for deliverance from a severe trial, Christ replied that He had allowed that suffering in order to make Paul weak enough so that he would trust only in the Lord, rather than in his great abilities. "My strength is made perfect in [your] weakness," our Lord promised (2 Cor 12:9).

Paul exhorts us, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him" (Col 2:6). Did we not receive Christ in weakness as helpless, hopeless sinners crying out to Him for mercy and grace? That, then, is the way we are to walk this path of triumph in suffering—as sinners saved by grace, weak and helpless in ourselves and trusting totally in Him.

We are earthen vessels, but we contain a great treasure: "that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us" (2 Cor 4:7). Such is the secret of our triumph over the world, the flesh, and the devil. The load is too heavy for us to carry. What a relief to turn it over to Him!

—In *An Urgent Call to a Serious Faith* by Dave Hunt

## SPEAKING SCHEDULE .....

T. A. will be speaking at Calvary Chapel Pearl Harbor, HI, on Sunday, February 12th.

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# NEWSWATCH

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

## COMMISSION: STOP 'CALLOUS' KADUNA KILLINGS

**CHRISTIANHEADLINESS.COM, 1/5/17, "NIGERIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CALLS ON PRESIDENT TO STOP 'CALLOUS' KADUNA KILLINGS" [EXCERPTS]:** The Nigerian National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has called on President Muhammadu Buhari to put an end to the ongoing deadly attacks committed by suspected Fulani herdsmen in Southern Kaduna.

Nigeria's Middle Belt, which includes Kaduna, Nasarawa, Taraba, Benue, and other states, is the scene of attacks on Christian farmers (often called indigenes) by mainly Muslim Hausa-Fulani herdsmen.

"It has become imperative for the security forces 'to act fast to put a stop to these callous acts' with regards to the frequency of the attacks in Southern Kaduna and other parts of the country by suspected herdsmen," urged the NHRC on 28 December.

The attacks, which have claimed hundreds of lives, have affected mainly the "central" States of Plateau, Nasarawa, Taraba and Benue but also the more "northern" State of Kaduna. Southern Kaduna has been particularly targeted, with attacks occurring almost on a weekly, or even daily basis recently. The violence reached a peak over Christmas, prompting local authorities to declare a 24-hour curfew from 22 December in three Local Government Areas: Jema'a, Kaura and Sanga.

The NHRC said "Time has come for the government and security agencies to ensure effective protection of lives and properties of defenceless Nigerians, who are victims of incessant attacks by suspected herdsmen."

(<https://goo.gl/6QEQHR>)

## ONE SMALL STEP FOR DNA, ONE GIANT LEAP

**ANSWERSINGENESIS.ORG, 1/4/17, "ONE SMALL STEP FOR DNA, ONE GIANT LEAP FOR MAN'S BRAIN" [EXCERPTS]:** The human brain is triple the size of a chimpanzee's. If we share a common ancestor, as evolutionists confidently maintain, then how did our brains leap so far ahead in size and capability? Evolutionary scientists believe they have finally found, in our DNA, the springboard for that massive evolutionary step.

Scientists, led by Max Planck Institute's Wieland Huttner, have identified

a gene that triggers a human embryo to grow the vast supply of brain cells that largely forms the foundation for our braininess. The same gene is found in modern humans, Neanderthals, and Denisovans.

Searching for the link between this human gene and the genes of our supposed ape cousins, Marta Florio and colleagues on a team led by Huttner report in *Science Advances* that the nucleotide sequence in human-specific [the gene] ARHGAP11B differs from a similar gene in apes by just one nucleotide.

Huttner's team has learned something about the biological basis for the differences between the human and the chimpanzee brain. But have they discovered how those differences came to be?

Not at all. What they have discovered is an important aspect of the genetic design by which God our Creator used a common design to produce such vastly different creations as apes and humans. According to God's own eyewitness account of our origins, provided in the Bible's book of Genesis, God created both land animals (like apes) and humans (namely, Adam and Eve) on the same day, Day Six of Creation Week. There is simply no room for molecules-to-man or animal-to-human evolution in God's account of our origins.

(<https://goo.gl/s1ST6D>)

## CHILDREN'S MAG FEATURES SAME-SEX-PARENTS

**CHRISTIANPOST.COM, 1/9/17, "CHILDREN'S MAGAZINE HIGHLIGHTS TO FEATURE SAME-SEX PARENTS IN FEBRUARY ISSUE" [EXCERPTS]:** Highlights, one of the longest running children's magazines in the United States, will feature a family with same-sex parents for the first time in February.

The magazine's next issue will carry an illustration that shows two men loading a station wagon for a family trip in an item that invites readers to send letters, according to *The Washington Post*.

On why it decided to feature a same-sex couple, the magazine's editor in chief [said] "We did expect and received a backlash when we committed to becoming more fully reflective to all the different kinds of families out there. We expect this will make some people unhappy. Our focus remains on creating the best possible content for children."

(<https://goo.gl/t4NdGW>)

## 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.

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## NEW! DVD AND GOSPEL TRACTS FROM MARK CAHILL



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**Cahill**—Have you wondered if your witnessing efforts are effective? Have you wanted greater confidence in evangelizing biblically? *Do Your Job* offers unique biblical tools that have the potential to significantly boost your witnessing skills and confidence in engaging the lost. Learn more about the roles of truth, conviction, and repentance in evangelism. Discover what your job *is*—and *isn't*—and how to cut through the works mentality of anyone you encounter. Hear incredible stories of regular people being reached by “regular” Christians with the truth of the gospel. Remember, you have a job to do. It's not your pastor's job, not the folks in your Sunday school's job, not your parents' job, or your kids' job. It is your job to bring great glory to the King of Kings! 1 DVD, 120 min.

DVD357

wt .2 \$20.00



### Mark Cahill Four-Pak Tract Bundle

**Cahill**—These colorful and high-quality tracts are great resources to have on hand wherever you go. Backpacks, briefcases, cars, and

desks are great places to keep them so they are always within reach. They will equip you to strike up a conversation with the lost in any setting that you can imagine. The bundle has 100 each of *The Prize*, *What If?*, *Paradise*, and *Eternity* tracts—for a total of 400 tracts! Get everyone you meet thinking about eternity with these versatile witnessing tools! The tracts feature eye-catching designs and are printed on glossy, high-quality, card stock. Visit our website for a full description of the tracts—including the text printed on the back of each design.

SET174

400 tracts

wt 1.6

\$32.00

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### One Heartbeat Away

**Cahill**—Can you prove there is a God? Doesn't evolution disprove the existence of God? Can you really provide evidence that the Bible is true? What happens after you die? Many exciting stories are presented in a user-friendly style—everything from near-death experiences to what celebrities believe. This book is primarily written to help you to learn how to share with the non-believer, but it will also be good for those of you who want to be armed with answers to the questions that you are likely to get when you are out there sharing and witnessing. BDM Publishing, 240 pp. Audiobook: 1 MP3 CD, 6 hrs.

B66572

wt .7

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MP3161

wt .1

~~\$15.00~~ SALE \$12.00



### The Watchmen

**Cahill**—You've sought answers for life's biggest questions. You've found and believed the truth. You've loved learning the Bible, and now you're fully equipped for something—but what? Do you have a deep desire to do great things for God welling up in your soul? Is there a passion missing from your walk that you can't quite identify? What is the Christian life really all about? From its opening pages, this book captures the essence of living for Christ in fresh and powerful ways. Become a watchman in the good fight for truth, reaping not only the souls of men but also the thrill of finally having the Christian life you've longed for. BDM Publishing, 224 pp.

B10769

wt .6

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### One Thing You Can't Do in Heaven

**Cahill**—As believers, we all know that we should tell others about the Lord, but we often don't know how. This practical audiobook will give you ideas for starting conversations, examples of witnessing situations, and answers to common questions to help encourage, challenge, and equip you to reach both friends and strangers for Jesus! Read by the author, the MP3 disc also includes a bonus track, “It's Not Blind Faith,” an hour-long message giving evidences of the Christian faith. 1 MP3 CD, 4 hrs., plus bonus track.

MP3162

wt .1

~~\$15.00~~ SALE \$12.00



### “Holiness of God” and “Watchman on the Wall”

**Cahill**—What is holiness? How am I supposed to imitate it? Understanding this supreme attribute of God will keep us from sinning, motivate us to witness, and inspire us to praise! The second talk on this DVD is called “Watchman on the Wall.” As this world continues to seemingly spin out of control, are you sounding the trumpet? Are you challenging people to flee the wrath of God that Luke 3 talks about? Watch this message, and start sounding the alarm! 1 DVD, 114 min.

DVD320

wt .2

~~\$17.50~~ SALE \$12.00



### “The Bible: God's Word” and “Hey Stranger...”

**Cahill**—Learn to discern whether what someone is saying is biblical or not. “The Bible: God's Word” provides biblical answers to objections and questions. The second talk is “Hey Stranger...” Did you know that more than 80 percent of the witnessing in the New Testament is to complete strangers? We can't make friends with everybody, but we need to preach the gospel to all creatures. 1 DVD, 102 min.

DVD321

wt .2

~~\$17.50~~ SALE \$12.00



### “Lukewarm No More” and “Stand Out”

**Cahill**—Is it possible that you are going to a lukewarm church? Or could you be lukewarm in your faith? Watching this message will make it very easy for you to figure that out. The second message on the DVD is called “Stand Out.” Mark says, “It was a message that I gave to an audience of youth pastors and youth, but the message will challenge anyone of all ages. It is the challenge to stand for the Lord in our culture no matter whom we are with or where we may be.” 1 DVD, 115 min.

DVD322

wt .2

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SET104

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wt .5

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## TRENDS AFFECTING THE CHURCH PSYCHOBABBLE, "SELF," MATERIALISM



### Four Temperaments, Astrology, and Personality Testing

**M&D Bobgan**—Are personality inventories and tests valid ways of finding out about people? Do personality typologies give true insight into behavior? Can knowing temperament and personality types foster Christian love and maturity? What is the biblical and scientific basis for popular tests? These answers and more with biblical, historical, and research data. EastGate Publishers, 219 pp.

B00070

wt.7 ~~\$12.00~~ SALE \$10.00



### James Dobson's Gospel of Self-Esteem and Psychology

**M&D Bobgan**—In spite of the pluses of his ministry, self-esteem and psychology are two major thrusts that too often supersede sin, salvation, and sanctification in the teachings of psychologist Dr. James Dobson. In fact, contrary to his claims, much of Dobson's work originates from secular psychological theorists whose opinions are based on a godless foundation—which, unfortunately, have become the central focus to Focus on the Family. EastGate Publishers, 247 pp.

B00160

wt.8 ~~\$15.00~~ SALE \$10.00



### The Confusing World of Benny Hinn

**Fisher/Goedelman**—Time and again preachers burst onto the scene attracting attention and followers with what they claim are new insights into Scripture and new powers from God. In time they are exposed as being not only unoriginal but false. This penetrating analysis of Benny Hinn puts him and his teachings under the scrutiny of Scripture and provides thorough documentation regarding how this "healing" evangelist repeatedly departs from sound doctrine and practice. Foreword by Dave Hunt. Personal Freedom Outreach, 386 pp.

B00942

wt.1.1 ~~\$13.00~~ SALE \$10.00



### "Another Jesus" Calling

**Smith**—Inspired by the New Age book *God Calling*, Sarah Young claims to be receiving messages from Jesus, which she compiled into what is now her best-selling book, *Jesus Calling*. Warren Smith carefully documents his concerns about her book, her "Jesus," and the New Age implications contained in many of her messages. He also warns about the danger of contemplative prayer and in elevating spiritual experiences over the Word of God. Mountain Stream Press, 227 pp.

B09336

wt.7 ~~\$14.00~~ SALE \$10.00

## DISCERNMENT CD AND MP3 SETS



### T. A. McMahon with Richard Fisher - 2013

**McMahon/Fisher**—T. A. McMahon's guest G. Richard (Dick) Fisher is a contributing writer to the *Personal Freedom Outreach Quarterly Journal*. Tom and Dick address the questions: "What gives us the right to expose aberrant teachings in the church?" and "Is it possible for the elect to be deceived?" 1 CD, 52 min.

CD1303

wt.2 \$5.00



### T. A. McMahon with Richard Fisher - 2014

**McMahon/Fisher**—Join Tom and his guest G. Richard Fisher, co-author of *The Confusing World of Benny Hinn* and a longtime contributor to the *PFO Quarterly Journal* as they discuss the Hebrew Roots Movement, which is influencing growing numbers within Christendom. 1 CD, 52 min.

CD1409

wt.2 \$5.00



### Psychology vs. The Bible

**McMahon/Bobgan**—A special broadcast of *Search the Scriptures Daily Radio*. All the schools of thought contributing to what we know as psychology were the creation of men who rejected Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. These include Freud, Jung, Skinner, Rogers, Adler, Maslow, et al., leaving a vast difference between biblical theology and psychology. Listen as T. A. McMahon and Martin and Deidre Bobgan thoroughly demonstrate the absolute failure of psychology to fully meet the true need of man. 3 CDs, 150 min.

CD099

wt.2 ~~\$14.75~~ SALE \$5.00



### 12 Steps to Destruction

**McMahon/Bobgan**—This special 2-part audio presentation with T. A. McMahon and Martin and Deidre Bobgan discusses the growing trend in the evangelical church of turning to 12-Step programs to remedy everything from alcohol abuse to sexual perversions. Is this trend compatible with what the Bible teaches? Or does it progressively draw believers away from God's solution for sin? This series will shed much needed light on 12-Step programs in Christendom today. 2 CDs, 112 min.

CD085

wt.2 ~~\$9.75~~ SALE \$5.00

## DVDs UNPACKING PSYCHOLOGY —

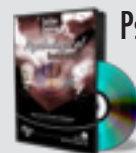


### School of Theology 2008

**The Berean Call**—TBC is pleased to present this 2-disc series of four talks given by Dr. Martin Bobgan at the 33rd annual School of Theology at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London. This exclusive DVD set includes nearly three hours of valuable teaching on the following topics: The Rise and Spread of Psychotherapy (42 min) • Psychotherapy Discredited (42 min) • Against Biblical Counseling: For the Bible! (42 min) • The Biblical Care of Souls (45 min). This set will be a valued addition to your home, church library, or small group study, and is helpful viewing for those presently in the field of Christian counseling and psychotherapy. 2 DVDs, 3 hrs.

DVD178

wt.3 \$12.75



### Psychological Seduction

**The Berean Call**—This 2-part discussion with Martin and Deidre Bobgan explains to viewers how psychotherapy, with its underlying psychologies, is one of the biggest and most demonic deceptions in the church today. 1 DVD, 98 min.

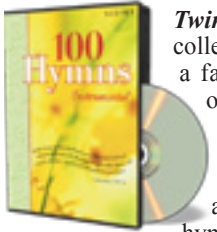
DVD160

wt.2 \$9.75

SET175

wt.5 SALE \$12.75

## 100 INSTRUMENTAL HYMNS — BEAUTIFUL AND ENCOURAGING!



**Twin Sisters Productions**—This collection of hymns has become a favorite of many in the TBC office. The all-instrumental arrangements are pleasant and most are pitched in a singable or “hum”-able key for the average voice. Examples of hymns included: Abide with Me;

Be Still, My Soul; Holy, Holy, Holy; I Know Whom I Have Believed; In the Garden; Jesus Paid It All; Just As I Am; Lead On, O King Eternal; A Mighty Fortress Is Our God; Nearer, My God, to Thee; Nothing But the Blood; O Happy Day!; Open My Eyes That I May See; Rejoice, the Lord Is King; Sweet Hour of Prayer; Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus; Whiter Than Snow, and many more! 3 CDs.

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