

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

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

A Crucial Address to the Overseers — Part Two

T. A. McMahon

IN PART ONE, a number of issues were addressed to those in leadership regarding the spiritual feeding of the sheep that have been placed under their care. Like Peter, they are exhorted by Jesus to demonstrate their love for Him by feeding His sheep.

Central to the spiritual feeding of believers in Christ is their personal relationship with Him. The first three chapters of Revelation contain our Lord’s address to the churches. His first admonition was directed at the believers in Ephesus regarding their personal relationship with Him. That fellowship was doing many good works, but there was a serious issue that Jesus brought to their attention. The Ephesian church had “left thy first love”—Jesus himself (Rev 2:4). It seems that in their zeal to promote good works instead of feeding the sheep, as they had been instructed, Jesus had been left in the background.

The consequences, if that situation were to continue, would not bode well for the Ephesians. Jesus declared: “Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent” (Rev 2:5).

Biblical Christianity separates itself from all religions in many ways, but two things especially stand out to me as a former Roman Catholic. First, biblical Christianity rejects salvation through works, which is the basis of every “religion.” Secondly, biblical Christianity is not a religion but a relationship. It teaches that the believer in Christ is brought into a personal, intimate relationship with God through Jesus, who is God in the flesh.

My life as a Catholic was fabricated upon “works salvation” (being saved by one’s own efforts), which functionally separated me from Christ by the Church, or Rome itself, which claims to be the mediator between God and mankind. It operates through the priests, sacraments, rituals, and canonized saints, especially Mary, the “Mediatrice of All Graces.” The closest thing I had to a personal relationship with divinity was—with Mary! She held first place in my practice of Catholicism, even to the point of disregarding the biblical Mary’s Son.

In school I held the position of Prefect of the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which aimed “at fostering in its members an ardent devotion, reverence, and filial love toward the Blessed Virgin Mary.” Today we are told by Catholic apologists that Catholics did not and do not worship Mary. This is not true, even though they say she’s merely revered as “*hyper-dulia*,” which places her above the reverence of the saints (*dulia*) and below the worship of God (*latría*). Never were there any restrictions or reservations in our honoring of Mary. Most of us considered her our co-redemptrix along with Jesus. We were taught that we needed to go through the mother of Jesus (also referred to blasphemously as “the mother of God”) because He would do whatever his mother wanted! That is a bogus belief, and mine was a bogus relationship.

I recently did an audio recording of an article written by Dave Hunt in 1988, in which he underscored the importance of a personal relationship with Jesus. He wrote, “Christianity is unique because of the uniqueness of Christ our Lord. He alone is both God and man. He alone could by His own death pay the penalty for the sins of the world and thus fully satisfy the demands of divine justice. And in contrast to Buddha or Muhammad or other religious leaders, whose graves contain their decayed remains, the grave of Jesus is uniquely empty. He alone conquered death and promised His disciples, ‘Because I live, ye shall live also’ (Jn 14:19). Everything we have is in Him and Him alone—and thus depends entirely upon our relationship with Him. . . . And it is that *personal* relationship that each Christian has—and must have—with the Lord in order to be a Christian, that constitutes the most wonderful uniqueness of Christianity.”

So shepherds, when you “feed” your sheep Jesus, are you nurturing them in their personal relationship with Him? Are the good works at your fellowship, the programs, the services, the outreach, and the like, causing your sheep’s focus to slip away from the person of Jesus Christ? Hebrews gives us a warning: “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away” (2:1). And what have we heard? Let’s hear Jesus’s words: “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. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love” (Jn 15:9-10). Drifting away from that has serious consequences. Remember the words of Jesus that I quoted at the beginning of this article from Revelation 2:5. If we drift away from our personal relationship with Jesus, whether individually, or collectively as a church, for whatever supposedly good work, that person or church will eventually cease to reflect the light and true love of Christ. Their “candlestick” will be removed. Furthermore, the enabling power of Christ will also be lost to a work of the flesh no matter how good those works appear to be.

Let’s just consider the power of Christ. There have been tremendous abuses by men regarding God’s power within Christendom, from the Word/Faith and Healing and Prosperity heretics to the so-called signs-and-wonders “power evangelism” of C. Peter Wagner and John Wimber. But let’s face it: if the power of Christ is not involved in what we’re doing for Him, then it’s merely a work of the flesh—and Scripture tells us that “the flesh profits nothing” (Jn 6:63). The point is that our being empowered to do what pleases Him, to do what His Word instructs us to do, is related to our walk with Him, e.g., our personal relationship with Him.

Scripture affirms that God will make us complete “in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ” (Heb 13:21). We can know and experience “the power of Christ” that strengthened the Apostle Paul (2 Cor 12:9-10)! The Bible also tells us that when Paul was abandoned by his co-workers at his first defense, “the Lord stood with [him], and strengthened [him]” (2 Tim 4:16-17).

If there’s any verse that reveals a personal relationship with Jesus more than that one, to me it would be this: Acts 23:11. Do you remember what took place when Paul was imprisoned after

nearly being “pulled to pieces” by the religious leaders in Jerusalem? “And the night following, the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.” I love the verses that tell us that Jesus will never leave nor forsake us, which are tremendously encouraging, but to know and have confidence that Jesus will *stand by me* in a terribly difficult situation and might even say to me, “Cheer up, Tom, I’ve got you covered,” or the like, is the epitome of personal relationship wrapped up in amazing grace.

Not only is Jesus there to “cover us,” but He’s also there for our spiritual protection. I’d like to suggest a particular “food” for your sheep, which is crucial, given the difficult times in which we live. What is it? Prophecy! To me, prophecy is extremely important—and perhaps in a way you may not have considered. One of the things I love about prophecy, *besides* it being the best apologetic for proving that the Bible is God’s supernatural revelation of Himself to humanity, is the fact that it’s a “heads-up,” alerting believers to what will take place in the future. God lets us know what will happen in the world and in the church so that we can prepare for and avoid the dire consequences of the conditions that will occur prior to the Lord’s return.

Prophecy is a major part of God’s *spiritual protection plan* for His sheep who abide in His Word. I underscore “spiritual protection” because prophecy also has a history of spiritual *distortions* within Christendom. For example, in the 1800s the early version of Seventh-day Adventism declared that Jesus would return to earth in 1844 to purge the world of its sins. Ellen G. White was their false prophetess. Charles Taze Russell was a part of the Adventists until he left to start his own cult, known as the Watchtower Society, or the Jehovah’s Witnesses, who are infamous for their false prophecies. One of their more bizarre prophecies involved the purchase of a 16-cylinder Cadillac roadster and a 10-bedroom mansion in San Diego in the 1930s to accommodate their claim that Israel’s patriarchs would soon arrive and begin ruling on the earth. Mormonism doesn’t major in prophecy, but it had a couple of prophets who rivaled those of the JWs. Joseph Smith decreed that the moon was inhabited by folks who dressed like Quakers, and Brigham Young said the sun was also inhabited by people (*Journal of Discourses*). Young was prophesied to become president of the United States.

We’ve watched recent prophecy date setters destroy the financial lives of those who sold their homes and other assets and headed for the hills to wait for Jesus or to escape Armageddon. The latest examples have come from the fear-mongering hucksters, such as *WorldNetDaily*, and the *Jim Bakker Show*, who push their survival foods and goods that are supposed to see the recipients through the Great Tribulation, which was to have been started off by the convergence of the Shemitah curse and the blood moons in 2015 (which came and went as a non-event).

Yes, there will be physical events that will take place according to prophecy. But there are no instructions given in Scripture telling believers how to physically survive should some of these last-days “perilous times” (2 Tim 3:1), e.g., “wars and rumors of wars,” “kingdom against kingdom,” “famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes,” take place prior to the Rapture (Mt 24:6-7). The emphasis for believers is on what will take place *spiritually* and how we can be protected from the destructive consequences. And, as you’ll see, the Lord’s prophetic warnings give us an amazingly simple tool for developing discernment, especially when apostasy and confusion abound throughout Christendom.

Did I say “simple”? Yes. Jesus informs us of the problem that lies before us and gives us the biblical solution. Consider Matthew 24: Jesus was asked by His disciples about the End Times and the signs related to His coming. His response began with this heads up: “Take heed that no man deceive you” (v. 4). He warns us about spiritual deception in the Last Days, adding, “For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ, and shall deceive many” (v. 5).

Are we in the Last Days? I know of many highly respected Bible teachers, including my friend, the late Dave Hunt, who taught that we are, indeed. Is there any evidence that spiritual deception and seduction are running rampant? Unless you’ve had your head buried in the sand, you must know that this is the case.

Jesus is warning us that there will be a plague of persuasive deception in the days just prior to His return. Other prophecies warn: “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine” (2 Tim 4:3); “...when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” (Lk 18:8). We have the warning, and we have the condition that we’re being warned about: *spiritual deception will abound*. Sound doctrine and faith will *decrease* exponentially.

In Matthew 24:5, we’re given some specific details: We’re told that there will be a proliferation of false Christs. Do we see this today? Well, there’s the “Jesus Christ” of the Latter-day Saints, and there’s the Catholic “Jesus,” who hangs on a crucifix because he hasn’t fully paid the penalty for sin; there’s the “Jesus” of Seventh-day Adventism, who will decide who gets into heaven through his Investigative Judgment, and the “Jesus” of Calvinism who long ago predestined some to salvation and some to the Lake of Fire and must regenerate the elect before they can believe in Him. Islam has its own “Jesus,” known as Isa, who is not the son of God because Allah has no son, according to the Qur’an. Considering just the followers of the Catholic Jesus and the Muslim Jesus, that’s about four-and-a-half billion followers of false Christs.

Jesus gave us the warning of what’s to come. In briefest terms, apostasy will increase exponentially until the Rapture and beyond, culminating in the religion and kingdom of the Antichrist. Leaders, you must feed your sheep those things that will protect them and enable them to be fruitful as they wait for the Groom, our blessed Hope, to return for His bride. I often remember Paul’s extraordinary warning to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20.

He wrote in verses 28-31: “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. *Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.*”

Verse 28 underscores our responsibility to respond to Christ’s instruction to Peter to feed the church of God. Paul revealed his heart as he exhorted the elders to feed their church at Ephesus. His great concern had to do with their responsibility to keep the Ephesian flock, his spiritual children, from being deceived. Shepherds should understand verse 29 very well. Just as in Paul’s day, when “grievous wolves” could come in among the flock, how much more so in our times, with the overwhelming amount of media to which the sheep have access?

I don’t come even close to having the heart of the Apostle Paul regarding his compassionate concern for the Ephesians and their spiritual protection. After 40 years in ministry, I admit that I have yet to declare what Paul declared: “I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.” It’s likely that very few leaders are at that level, but it’s imperative that we strive to move in that direction. The task of feeding the sheep the importance of biblical discernment is beyond daunting in our day but not beyond God’s grace! Thank you, Jesus, that Your grace is sufficient to feed His flock through Your Word and to encourage His lambs in their personal relationship with Him, as well as helping them to be discerning Bereans in these days of strong delusion. Our prayer is that all those who have been called of the Lord to minister in the body of Christ will take to heart the exhortation of Paul in Colossians 4:17: “And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfill it.”

TBC

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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

or e-mail: editorial@theberean.org

QUESTION: My husband loves to play golf, and he mentioned that a number of his golfing friends are excited about a technique they're learning from their golf pro to improve their game. Parts of it sound okay to him but it does involve "visualization." Should he be concerned for his friends?

RESPONSE: Visualization may or may not be something about which to be concerned. It can be a normal function that almost every person is able to do to some degree. It is the ability to "see" images in your mind. For example, if upon hearing someone talk about a chocolate ice cream cone you were able to picture it in your mind, that would be considered normal visualization. The ability to visualize is a great help to anyone who needs to picture something in his mind before executing or constructing it. Artists, designers, architects, engineers, novelists, screenwriters, are only a few of the occupations that can benefit from "normal" visualization. There is also, however, "occult" visualization.

When a person tries to create or manipulate reality by mental imagery, he or she has become a participant in the realm of the occult. Getting the new car you've always wanted through occult visualization, for example, would involve conjuring a mental image of all the car's desirous details and keeping that image almost continuously in your mind until the physical car actually becomes your own. This goes far beyond being merely a mental motivator that may drive a person to work diligently *within the bounds of reality* in order to obtain what they want. The technique of occult visualization is itself the means of magically *manipulating reality* so that somehow, in some mysterious way, the actual object becomes the property of the visualizer.

Millions of people are naïvely turning to occult visualization techniques to solve their problems, yet few inquire as to what makes the technique work. Though there are many visualization variations, the simplified, central concept is this: the true essence of all things is Mind, which is nonphysical. What some refer to as "God" is actually the impersonal, all-encompassing Mind of the cosmos. Because Mind/God is impersonal it can be manipulated. In fact, it "must" be controlled by the thoughts or mental images of personal intelligences. So visualizing something you desire to have or want to take place is believed to activate the Mind, which must then turn your thoughts or images into reality.

The visualization techniques that have been promoted to increase proficiency in sports are usually a mixture of normal and occult visualization. Since you asked about golf, here is a scenario that shows how visualization can make the transition from normal into the realm of the occult.

The proper technique of swinging a golf club is very complex, featuring a host of physical and mental requirements. Once a player has learned and physically practiced the correct motions of a swing, it's possible to improve his skill level by normal visualization. What that involves is nothing more than "mental practice." In his mind, a player goes through all the motions of what he must do to correctly hit the ball. He sees or visualizes himself addressing the ball, checking his position, starting his backswing, shifting his weight, noting his elbow position, etc., etc., ending with his follow-through. Although there are differing views as to how helpful such mental practice is, most agree that whether mental or physical, practice is the key to improvement. In any case, nothing occult is involved so far. The normal functioning of the mind involves interactions with the body, so there is nothing unusual taking place when, for example, a golfer thinks

about the proper grip and then positions his hands so that they conform to the image he envisioned.

The transition to an occult technique usually takes place when the visualization instruction deals with what happens to the ball after the golfer strikes it. Some teach that visualizing the desired trajectory of the ball has a definite influence on its actual flight. The concept now leaps beyond normal mind/body interaction to include mental influence over an external object. So how does visualizing the ball's flight trajectory influence the actual flight of the ball? That explanation is rarely offered in advance because it's based upon concepts that promote either a metaphysical, mind science, "new" physics, New Age, Eastern mystical, or ancient occult worldview—all of which subscribe to the belief that God is an impersonal Mind/Force.

Two basic dangers face those who get involved in occult techniques: 1) When a person participates in any form of occultism, he will at some point be exposed to and very likely be influenced by its underlying philosophy. If the person is a Christian, he has involved himself in an anti-Christian belief system and practice. 2) Because occult techniques are primarily inducements that seek to validate an antibiblical view of reality, they are sometimes empowered by demons (2 Thes 2:9) in order to deceive and win converts. Therefore, anyone who dabbles in the occult makes himself vulnerable to influence and (in the case of the unsaved) even possession by the demons who are behind occult manifestations.

This explanation has been limited to just one application of occult visualization in the field of sports (basketball, baseball, tennis, and almost all the other ball sports have similar teachings). There are, however, dozens more such occult techniques being promoted in the fields of psychology, medicine, education, politics, and religion (including promotions by evangelical Christians). Bringing about inner peace, world peace, physical healing, inner healing, greater creativity and intelligence, financial prosperity, and help from spirit guides (including Jesus) are just a few of the popular enticements.

As a postscript to what's been written, if you're bothered by the fact that no scriptures have been included, it is not because none are applicable, but rather that the *entire Word of God* is a condemnation of the occultic worldview. From the creation accounts (Genesis) to the personal involvement of a personal God (Genesis through Revelation) with those whom He created, to the repeated prohibitions against turning to false gods and occult methods used in worshiping and contacting them (Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Revelation), to the many cautions related to the imagination (Genesis, Deuteronomy, Jeremiah, Romans, 2 Corinthians), the Scriptures speak categorically and absolutely regarding the spiritual dangers of occultism.

QUESTION: An old article on your site contains what I consider a false statement that could lead many astray: "For [Israel] eternal life came through keeping the Law...." It might be well to publish a correction as this statement could cause confusion.

RESPONSE: My statement should have said that eternal life was *offered* to Israel for keeping the Law. Of course, no one ever attained to it on that basis, because no one could keep the Law. Justification comes as a free gift of God's grace through the finished work of Christ. Nor can one be sanctified (i.e., gain the victory over the practice of sin) by keeping the Law, because of the weakness of human flesh. The good news is that "what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh," God accomplished in "sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin" (Rom:8:3-4).

LETTERS

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Dear Berean Call,

[The resource] *The Pilgrim Church* is just what I have wanted for years. A pastor in my youth was a converted Catholic. I recall a church study which taught the history of the Church and explained that there are/were those who were never “Protestants,” but who were not part of Roman Catholicism. I have tried to pass that truth along; but had nothing to substantiate it to my children. I am 78 and will give this book to my children. Thanks. MS (TX)

Dear TBC,

[Re “Can’t Find a Church?”] Great article! Wonderfully and doctrinally sound. The simple principle that is most often overlooked or disallowed is the first rule of interpretation: Keep it in context. Everything you pointed out about heresy is the result of [people] not following that simple rule. In our circle of Independent Baptist, to which I belong, there is arising a movement of the “Jews First” principle—and that the church is a continuation of the Old Testament church in the wilderness. They are teaching that we are to seek out the Jews before we go to the Gentiles everywhere

we go. Your article is as good as I have seen to date on this, and further work on making this into a book might be of great help. Praying for you. CH (email)

Dear Berean Call,

Just a note to say “thank you” for your ministry—I so appreciate the monthly newsletter and the materials obtainable from you. I’m reading Samuel J. Andrews’ book [*Christianity and Anti-Christianity in Their Final Conflict*] along with [Dave Hunt’s] *Peace, Prosperity, and the Coming Holocaust*. The New Age Movement, its history, and the plans for the future are frightening without the comfort of Scripture: The truth which shall prevail. CW (NE)

Dear T. A. and Staff,

Just wanted to comment on “Finding a Church.” Our church began changing with the 40 Days of Purpose-Driven Life by Rick Warren. Our pastor embraced Rick’s ideas to be “seeker friendly.” Sermons are topical—how to do or not do everything under the sun—all daily living application oriented and filled with our pastor’s opinions and psychology. Doctrinal teaching is out, as are all of the important Biblical words—words like justification, sanctification, redemption. Name an important doctrinal word—gone. In fact, do not use the word “doctrine.” Prophecy? Forget it—avoid at all costs. The music is becoming more like the world every day—special lights all over, sound system. Use of hymnals is almost eliminated although we still have them in the pews, but the large TV screens have the words. Almost gone are the great hymns in the church. Communion is not allowed on Sunday morning—only on some mid-week services. Real teaching of the Bible is essentially gone—God must be very displeased. LP (email)

Shalom,

Concerning [*Search the Scriptures 24/7* radio transcript] “Jews, Gentiles and the Church,” I am happy to read Tom’s words as both a Christian and a Jew. One comment though: It is time for a real reformation of the “church.” And until the “church” is reformed to what Jesus (Yeshua) intended it to be, I believe that the word “church” should be replaced always with the “body of Christ.” Over the last 1800 years or so, the “church” has adopted one false doctrine after another, invented by men and women. The “church” has become religion. And as Dave Hunt said, religion is just another Tower of Babel. VR (email)

QUOTABLE

Praise means to set a high value on God, and to express this value in words. Praise is an essential as well as an initial element in religion. When God converts a soul, He puts in it, as a germinal and organic principle, the spirit of praise. A true conversion is clothed in the garment of praise in exchange for the spirit of heaviness. The presence or absence of praise marks the depth and intensity, or the beggary, of our spiritual life. Prayer and praise are joined as the sun and its light are joined, as the flower and its sweetness are joined. If prayer be the life of religion, praise is the wing by which that life soars to Heaven. Prayer brings God down to the soul and praise lifts the soul up to God. Prayer has much to do with our sins and ourselves and God; praise has much to do with grace, gratitude, and God.

—E. M. BOUNDS

TBC NOTES

Back to the Fundamentals

It’s interesting that sports teams, including those that are at the highest skill level and performance, when they have a bye week during their season (a time off from having to play an opponent), their practices focus on returning to the fundamentals of their sport. The reason for that is because an athlete’s most skilled performance is best attained when his or her fundamentals are correct, and those can slip or diminish throughout a season of competition.

Making sure one’s fundamentals are correct is a good thing in sports, but this is even more important in one’s walk as a biblical Christian. The fundamentals are simply the essential truths and practices that God has communicated to us in His Word, the Bible, to which we must hold fast. The letter to the Hebrews gives us a sober warning: “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip” (2:1). Peter, knowing his death was near, exhorted his brothers and sisters in Christ to keep in mind and in practice what they had been taught: “I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour” (2 Peter 3:1).

Biblical fundamentals not only make clear the simple yet vital truths of Scripture in our day of widespread deception, but they also reveal how profound what Jesus has done on our behalf truly is. Never shrink back from being called a fundamentalist!

T. A. McMAHON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEWSWATCH

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

ISLAMIC STATE: JIHAD AGAINST APOSTATE ARABS

JIHADWATCH.ORG, 4/23/18, "ISLAMIC STATE CALLS FOR JIHAD ATTACKS AGAINST "APOSTATE" ARAB STATES" [EXCERPTS]: The official Islamic State spokesman on [April 22] published a call for the jihadist terror group's adherents to focus their attacks on Arab states, diverging from his previous policy of urging assaults on Western targets.

In an audio-recording that ran for nearly an hour, Abu Hassan al-Muhajir said there was no difference between fighting the Palestinians, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, or Iran and "their American Crusader allies, or the Russians or the Europeans," the New York Times reported along with an English-language translation of some of his comments.

Arab states should be attacked because they are "apostates," Muhajir said, using the terror group's term to describe Sunni Muslims who do not follow its extremist version of the faith.

The Arabs were in fact worse than Western nations, as they were "more fierce and vicious against Islam." He also issued a warning over Iraq's upcoming parliamentary election on May 12, saying "the polling centers and those inside are a target for our swords. So stay away from them and do not walk near them...."

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

WILLOW CREEK ELDERS ADMIT FAILURE

CHRISTIANPOST.COM, 4/23/18, "WILLOW CREEK ELDERS ADMIT FAILURE IN HOLDING BILL HYBELS 'ACCOUNTABLE,' WILL EXAMINE NEW ALLEGATIONS" [EXCERPTS]: The elder board of the storied Willow Creek Community Church in suburban Chicago asked for grace this past weekend as they admitted to failing to hold the church's founder, Bill Hybels, "accountable to specific boundaries" as more women alleged he behaved improperly around them.

Responding to newer allegations that were not previously investigated, the elder board revealed that they have engaged in deep introspection and now realized how they could have responded better as the claims were first made against Hybels.

"Over the last several weeks, we have been in a process of deep learning, seeking clarity, and building a path toward reconciliation. Even though Bill is no longer in his role, our work to resolve any shadow

of doubt in the trustworthiness of Willow Creek Community Church and its Elders is not done," the elders said in a letter to the Willow Creek church community Saturday. "As a board, we unanimously agree there are several areas where we could have served you better."

And holding Hybels more accountable was one of those areas.

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

NEW HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY TEXT

FRONTPAGEMAG.COM, 4/23/18, "NEW AP HISTORY TEXT CATEGORIZES TRUMP SUPPORTERS AS RACIST, QUESTIONS PRESIDENT'S MENTAL FITNESS" [EXCERPTS]: It is sadly common for conservative presidents and political leaders to be portrayed in a less-than-flattering light in the left-leaning textbooks used in public school and college classrooms, but a new volume on American history gives a new spin on the term "rush to judgment." America's sitting president, Donald Trump is already being maligned in the pages of an upcoming high school history text which insinuates that he and his supporters are driven by racism and that he is mentally unfit to serve as our Commander-in-Chief.

Textbooks rarely receive a high profile before their publication, but the new history text *By the People: A History of the United States* written by New York University Professor James W. Fraser and set to be published by the Pearson Education publishing company has already proved controversial for its radical left-leaning and insulting narrative on Donald Trump's election as president. The book's one-sided nature was exposed not by an educator but by high school student Tarra Snyder, a junior and AP History student at Rosemount High School in Minnesota, who was provided with Fraser's book as a sample text that might be used for class instruction next year.

Scott Overland, a spokesman for the Pearson publishing company, told Fox News that the text was "developed by an expert author and underwent rigorous peer review to ensure academic integrity." He further asserted that it was "designed to convey college-level information to high school students" and "aims to promote debate and critical thinking by presenting multiple sides" of the 2016 election.

(<https://goo.gl/JUA6ds>)

THE BEREAN CALL

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Cahill—Looking for a simply worded tract that clarifies the truth about Paradise? These colorful and sturdy cards will catch the attention of everyone you meet. They will want to go to Paradise, but will it be the right one? Visit our website for a full description of the tract—including the text printed on the back of each design. Full-color glossy cardstock, 100 tracts per pack.

TR202 1 pack (100 tracts) wt .6 **\$8.00**



The Prize

Cahill—What is the best prize you could ever win? A million dollars? A trip around the world? Having your debts paid off? Or would erasing your sin debt with God be a better deal than all the wealth on earth? (Matthew 16:26) Let's see! Visit our website for a full description of the tract. Full-color glossy cardstock, 100 tracts per pack.

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What If?

Cahill—People wonder about the “what ifs” in their earthly lives, but are they wondering about what will happen to them in eternity? This tract will get their minds moving in the eternal direction by engaging them with simple questions that lead them to the right answers! Visit our website for a full description of the tract. Full-color glossy cardstock, 100 tracts per pack.

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Infinity

Cahill—The symbol on this tract means “infinity” or “forever” and is a perfect conversation starter about eternal matters! Are there answers for our eternal questions? If there are wrong answers, then there must be right answers that can be found before it's too late! Visit our website for a full description of the tract. Full-color glossy cardstock, 100 tracts per pack.

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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 ~~\$15.00~~ **SALE \$12.00**
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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 ~~\$15.00~~ **SALE \$12.00**



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.

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“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 to come 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.

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SET104

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Nathan—This booklet’s aim is to help you understand and decipher the underlying dangers and deceptions of the martial arts. Includes the testimony of a woman who walked away from a championship career. Lighthouse Trails, 19 pp.
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A "Common Core" for a Global Community

Kjos—In regards to the educational initiative, The Common Core, Berit Kjos writes: "I hope this booklet will help parents, concerned educators, and our children prepare together for the spiritual battlefields ahead." Lighthouse Trails, 19 pp.
LTP23 wt .1 **\$1.95**



Ten Vital Things Parents Can Do to Help Children Keep Their Faith

Kjos—In a world where public schools, television, movies, popular music, the Internet, and more all offer tempting counterfeits of what God promises His people, there is only one safe place for our children: in the loving arms of the Shepherd. The following ten points offer practical and scriptural advice on how to raise your children to know and love the Lord and to continue walking in the faith. Lighthouse Trails, 15 pp.
LTP25 wt .1 **\$1.95**



A Christian Parent's Guide to Pokémon

Putnam—For Pokémon Go gamers, their "Gotta Mantra" is "Gotta Catch 'Em All!"—Pokémon that is. However, a Christian's motto must be: "Gotta Know, Gotta Learn, Gotta Discern, Gotta Go!" And just what it is that we as born again believers gotta know, gotta learn, gotta discern, and gotta go will be the theme of this booklet. Lighthouse Trails, 19 pp.
LTP22 wt .1 **\$1.95**



Five Things You Can Do to Protect Your Kids from Sexual Predators

Crough—This booklet tackles an incredibly important issue every parent and grandparent should be aware of. How can we protect our kids from sexual predators? The Lord desires to protect you and your children. The Bible is so clear about this. This booklet offers concise information that will help your family defend against sexual predators and will encourage you with many passages of scripture. Lighthouse Trails, 15 pp.
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TBC 2017 Conference

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