

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

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

Heard from God Lately?

T. A. McMahon

LET’S SAY I were to voice the question, “Heard from God lately?” to a very large crowd that had a mix of Christians and non-Christians. Among the crowd would be professing Christians, biblical Christians, cessationist Christians, charismatic Christians, pentecostal Christians, contemplative Christians, progressive Christians, conservative Christians, as well as a few agnostics, skeptics, and atheists.

Their first thoughts related to a response to my question, no doubt, would be as diverse as their religious perspectives. For example, atheists and skeptics would think I was delusionary. Agnostics wouldn’t think much about it nor probably even care. Contemplative Christians would react to my question as supportive of their intuitive feelings-oriented approach to hearing from God. Some of the charismatic and pentecostal Christians might respond in the same way. Conservative Christians and those with a cessationist bent might worry that I had bailed on the written Word of God in favor of personal subjective communication with Jesus. All biblical Christians, I would hope, would restrain themselves from thinking ill of me doctrinally for at least a few minutes. They would give me the opportunity to explain what I meant by my question and then would search the Scriptures to see whether or not it was true.

Let me make a seemingly controversial statement before I start explaining myself. If someone who calls himself a Christian is not hearing from God, he’s in trouble—not potential trouble, but serious trouble—guaranteed. His situation is like that of a man in the middle of a minefield without a map or any device to guide him and keep him out of harm’s way. That said, what do I mean by “hearing from God?”

I need to begin with what I believe is the Lord’s responsibility: God has to communicate with those whom He created. Why? Because there are only a limited number of things we can know about Him without His communicating to us directly. Everyone who recognizes that the universe and everything in it must have had a Creator/Designer would also understand that the Creator must be infinitely intelligent and powerful. That awareness, however, doesn’t supply necessary details about the Creator that only He can provide. Furthermore, He is infinite, and we are finite; our own efforts to figure out an infinite God cannot go beyond mere guesswork. That same ignorance applies to knowledge about ourselves.

Let us reason for a moment. What are some of the things that only God can supply? Well, for one thing, knowledge of who He is! Then there are His characteristics and attributes, as well as His reasons for creating us. What about humanity’s condition right after its creation and its later rebellion and separation from Him? Then we learn of His plan for reconciliation between Himself and those very creatures!

Without God communicating such information to us, we’re left in a quagmire of speculations, conjectures, theories, and unsubstantiated opinions. Therefore, not only must God communicate with us, but He must do it in a way that we finite and fallen beings can understand. This He has already done through

His direct communication to us, which is—His Word. His Scriptures. His Bible!

What then of the question: “Heard from God lately?” If what we’ve heard isn’t grounded in the written Word of God, we’re more than likely in that minefield mentioned earlier. Each step is precarious, even though the first one may not blow our feet off. But as National Park rangers instruct and warn hikers, it’s the first step off the marked trail that leads to their becoming lost.

The Bible is filled with instructions, exhortations, and warnings regarding the necessity of carefully adhering to what it says. Hebrews chapter 2 begins, “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.” Is “slippage” something to be concerned about? Second Timothy 4:3-4 declares, “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.” Jesus, in Matthew 24:4, warns, “Take heed that no man deceive you.” Not earnestly heeding the instructions of God’s written Word is the basis for one’s drifting away, or, as noted, stepping off the “marked trail” that God, in His mercy, has laid out before us.

What the Bible supplies is “sound doctrine,” meaning those teachings that were given to and faithfully recorded by God’s prophets through the Holy Spirit. They are objective teachings from God, bereft of the subjective input of men. They are God’s words, not man’s (Galatians 1:11-12). Yet we are told prophetically that a time will come among professing and true Christians that they will not endure (continue steadfastly) in God’s instructions. False teachers will seduce them through their doctrines. That fact is confirmed in the warning given by Jesus in answer to His disciples concerning the last days prior to His return, which He characterized as being a time of *great deception* (Matthew 24:4,24). Although that time is certainly upon us, the antidote for individual believers is found in the Apostle Paul’s exhortation to Timothy that he “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:2). “Enduring” sound doctrine means reading it, believing it, and living it out.

Going back to the question, “Heard from God lately?”—how lately is “lately”? I’m hoping the response is overwhelmingly “daily!” There is no better habit for the believer in Jesus Christ than to read the Bible daily—at least none of which I am aware. Here are just some of the reasons. Those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ, believing that He paid the full penalty for their sins, have been born again. They have received the free gift of eternal life and have begun a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus their Savior. Of course, that includes loving Him.

For any relationship to develop, an increase in the knowledge that individuals have of one another is key. Everyone knows that’s the way it is when it comes to people with whom they physically interact, whether they be newlyweds, or in a relationship with new friends or new co-workers, etc. What about someone we want to personally befriend but whom we can’t physically be with? We might consider becoming pen pals or “email pals,” which may satisfy the desire to get to know them better.

Well, then what about *developing* a relationship with Jesus? That takes place through the reading of His Word. It’s through the Scriptures that we learn who He is, what He has done for us, what

He wants for our lives, and how much He loves us. We're told, "We love Him, because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19). The more we learn of all He has done for us, the more our relationship with Him grows. That's at the heart of my question, "Heard from God lately?" If we're not hearing from Jesus daily through the reading of His Word (He is the Word! [Revelation 19:13]), our relationship with Him will suffer—at best. The circumstances that occurred with those in the Ephesian church, who, we are told, had "left their first love," Jesus Himself (Revelation 2:4), happened because of their allowance for things—some of them even good—to hinder their love relationship with Him. So, too, will our love for Him be strangled by our own negligence to connect with Him through the Scriptures.

Why does this happen to many believers who are, or should be, aware of the horrendous price He paid in order to save them from their sins? The reasons, among many, include worldly distractions, backsliding, laziness, loving self more than Him, and, for increasing numbers of folks, being deceived regarding *how* we are to communicate with Him.

The first means of growing in our relationship with Jesus *must* be through the written words of Scripture, which is God's objective communication to humanity. This is critical, because our interpretation of the Word *can be tested* on an objective basis, according to principles of hermeneutics. The major deception of our day, which began in the Garden of Eden with Satan's ploy of subtly undermining God's command to Adam and Eve, is to replace what God has indeed said with man's false interpretations. Such interpretations are too often formulated through emotions, impressions, personal sensitivities, intuitions, and so forth. Those who take such an approach rely on their feelings for their understanding. This may also lead to the error of eisegesis, i.e., introducing one's own presuppositions, agendas, or biases *into* and *onto* a biblical text. When the experiential dominates a person's life, God's truth is lost.

Next we are going to look at some of the meanings regarding the question "Heard from God lately?" that are understood in ways that are seriously at odds with what's been presented above in this article. Of late, there has been a rush away from the objective interpretation of Scripture. Now, many insist that they are hearing from God *personally* with little or no regard to His Word at all! This is not new in church history. In the third century AD, the Catholic Desert Fathers were all about hearing from God mystically. That precedent continued into the Catholic monastic and cloistered period and through mystical nuns such as Teresa of Avila and Anne Catherine Emmerich, then into the 20th century via priests and monks such as Thomas Merton and Henri Nouwen. The latter deceased priest has become a particular favorite of many influential evangelicals, including Rick and Kay Warren. Quaker Richard Foster and his Renovaré organization have been instrumental in influencing the Contemplative Movement, with its mystical methods (meditation techniques and spiritual rituals drawn from Eastern mysticism), to spread throughout evangelicalism today.

What has taken place in a greater way among Pentecostals and Charismatics is the very same spiritual subjectivism, albeit cloaked in biblical terminology. Some of their leaders give the impression (intentionally) that they are in a continual conversation with God. One of the false doctrines they conjure up to support their heresies is the teaching that God has two basic but different modes of communication: *logos* and *rhema*. Their belief is that *logos* is God's communication through the written word, and *rhema* is His spoken word. No. In fact, the terms are used interchangeably throughout the New Testament. Moreover, according to this doctrine, God's oral transmission has authority (they call it "new revelation") over His *logos*, which means that the hearers are beyond being corrected by Scripture! Like Satan (Genesis 3:1-4), the leaders in this movement continually add to, undermine, and contradict God's Word, while their followers willingly conform to whatever those over them may claim. All of those connected with the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) and ministries such as the International House of Prayer (IHOP), Bethel Church Redding, and the Elijah List are among those who promote this error.

Hearing from God experientially seems to be an accepted practice among some of the most influential women in ministry today. Even a cursory review of the teachings of Beth Moore, Joyce Meyer, Priscilla Shirer, Sarah Young, and Jennie Allen of the IF:Gathering (and her conference speakers) reveals a preponderance of "conversations with God" and little to no exegesis of the Scriptures. It can't be overstated how dangerous this subjective teaching and pursuit is to millions of Christian women spiritually. Worse than just taking a step off the path of God's Word, it's a step off a cliff with nothing objective (e.g., sound doctrine) in sight to grab onto. Once a believer buys into the "God told me" stories of others, biblical doctrine quickly mixes with and is lost in a jumble of personal experiences. More often than not, the subjective experiences and teachings replace sound doctrine and are accepted as being true to and even supplanting the Scriptures. It then becomes a clear case of adding to God's Word, a practice that the Bible condemns (Proverbs 30:5-6, Revelation 22:18-19).

Are all subjective personal experiences with Jesus likewise condemned? No. Everyone who has believed the gospel began a *personal* intimate relationship with Him. That can't take place without the involvement, to some degree, of one's emotions. It may also include some form of personal communication with Jesus—if He chooses, *how* He chooses, and *when* He chooses. The principle of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit personally interacting with believers is found throughout Scripture. Paul's life in Christ reveals his often-subjective guidance and communication with the Holy Spirit. Subjective? Yes. For example, Paul is forbidden by the Spirit to preach in Bithynia and is redirected to Macedonia (Acts 16:7-10). That communication was subjective, meant only for Paul at that time. Was this an objective command of God, indicating that believers are *never* to go to Bithynia to preach? No! Peter writes to believers in Bithynia, so obviously the gospel was preached and believed there (1 Peter 1:1-2). Three things are demonstrated in those verses and many others: 1) The principle that God communicates to believers is established; 2) He communicates objectively through instructions and commands for all who read His Word, and 3) He communicates personally and subjectively with individual believers.

Should the Lord choose to communicate with a believer on a personal basis, that must neither be received as though it were equal to the Scriptures nor put forth in any way that supplements or supplants God's Word. Furthermore, as with every spiritual experience, it must be tested: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God..." (1 John 4:1). The critical test is whether or not the content of the communication or the experience is a) true to the teachings of Scripture and b) true to the revealed character of the persons of the Godhead.

Books promoting conversations with God such as *God Calling*, *A Course in Miracles*, *Conversations with God*, and *Jesus Calling*, to name but a few, have become best sellers within Christendom, mostly because few Christians seem interested in applying biblical discernment, which is in direct disobedience to Paul's exhortation to Timothy: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). The two women who channeled "Jesus" in *God Calling* said they felt highly privileged for being "selected" to be personally taught by him, and indicated that they were more comfortable not having to rely on written words. Who wouldn't want to be personally spoon fed by Jesus and be convinced that His teaching content was at a higher level than what has been written down in the Bible? That's an incredibly powerful seduction and one that is deceiving millions in Christendom today.

Pray for those who have been drawn in by those who "speak not according to [God's] word" (Isaiah 8:20); and pray for the shepherds who are not shielding their sheep by warning them in solemn words that "Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him. Add thou not unto His words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar" (Proverbs 30:5-6).

TBC

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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

or e-mail: editorial@thebereanall.org

QUESTION: I have a question please: Does Satan tempt us with evil thoughts?

RESPONSE: The pattern of temptation and sin, according to James 1:13-15 is as follows: “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

Nevertheless, it is certainly true that during the temptation the adversary does influence our thoughts, as scripture testifies. For example, when King Ahab was planning to go to battle at Ramoth-gilead, where the Lord had determined he would be killed (1 Kings 22:20-23), we are given a glimpse behind the scenes at how the adversary and his demons influence man: “And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee.”

Satan is an adversary to God and to humanity, and, as a consequence, will do anything he can to tempt individuals and turn them away from the Lord. We can see, therefore, that at times Satan may give individuals evil thoughts. We are also given examples in the Bible of people, such as Judas, who betrayed Jesus to His enemies. At that time, the Bible tells us, “Satan entered Judas” (Luke 22:3). Was Judas thus not responsible for what he did next? There is no room for quoting the old comedy line, “The devil made me do it.” In his own greed, Judas willingly accepted the money he was offered to reveal where Jesus could be found, thus betraying the Lord. And in fact, John 12:6 tells us that Judas was (already) a thief. Yes, Satan influenced his sinful desires, but Judas proceeded with that which was already in his heart.

QUESTION: I’ve heard several speakers lately say that Jesus was afraid that Satan would kill Him prematurely in the Garden of Gethsemane before He could get to the cross, and that’s why He cried out, “O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me,” the “cup” being a premature death in the Garden. Is that true?

Response: Hardly. Dying on the cross as the sacrifice for sin was the culmination of Christ’s purpose in being born into this world. The prophets had foretold it, and Christ himself had confirmed it (Matthew 16:21, John 12:32-33). Nothing and no one could have killed Him or otherwise prevented the fulfillment of His mission.

Jesus is God. Neither man nor Satan could take His life. He declared, “I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again” (John 10:17-18). Christ is also perfect, sinless man—the one-and-only God-man. As man, He would not for a moment have been in fear of Satan slaying Him, for He was walking in perfect obedience to and under the complete care of His Father. To suggest such a fear indicts Christ with the rankest unbelief.

Remember, also, that after asking if the cup might pass from Him, Christ said, “nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done”

(Luke 22:42). If the “cup” that He wanted to escape was death in the Garden, then by saying, “nevertheless...thy will be done,” Christ was suggesting that it might be the Father’s will for Him to die in the Garden at the hands of Satan rather than to pay for our sins upon the cross, which is unthinkable.

Nor was the “cup” the physical pain of being crucified. Many had bravely endured crucifixion, and Jesus was no coward. The “cup” from which He shrank was the awful separation from God that His justice required as the penalty for sin: that His holy soul would be made “an offering for sin” (Isaiah 53:10). In other words, He would literally be “made [to be] sin for us” (2 Corinthians 5:21). His prayer, therefore, was an earnest request from Son to Father: “Might there not be some other possible means of saving sinners?” The Father’s answer was “No.” We know, therefore, that Christ’s death upon the cross as our sin-bearer was and is the only means of salvation. Horrible beyond comprehension, what He endured we will never know. He fully paid that penalty for us.

QUESTION: Is there scripture in the Bible that restricts God (Jesus) from personally revealing Himself (one-on-one) to an individual living in a Godless tribe in darkest Africa or anywhere else? Please state your scripture reference in your answer.

Response: There is no specific scripture that forbids the Lord appearing to and communicating with anyone, regardless of their spiritual state. In Genesis 20, when Abimelech had taken Abraham’s wife, Sarah, into his household, we are told that “God came to Abimelech in a dream by night...” (Genesis 20:3). In Daniel 4, Nebuchadnezzar also received a dream from the Lord, which Daniel interpreted. When King Nebuchadnezzar failed to hearken to the warning and spoke out in pride, the scripture states, “While the word was in the king’s mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee” (Daniel 4:31). There are other examples as well.

That being said, we know that the Lord has also chosen to use His creation to reveal Himself to all: “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard” (Psalm 19:1-3). Furthermore, we have Paul’s inspired statement in Romans, “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?...so then faith cometh by *hearing*, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:14-17; emphasis added).

This is instructive, as seen in the testimony of a Liberian African 14-year-old boy named Samuel Kaboo Morris. He was held captive by another tribe who beat him daily, but his testimony told that one night, during his beating, there was a flash of light, his ropes fell off and his weakened body gained strength to stand.

A voice told him to flee. He ran into the jungle, surviving by eating snails and mangos. Some time later, he came to a coffee plantation owned by a former slave, who also was a Christian. He eventually arrived in Monrovia, where he heard a missionary speak of the Apostle Paul’s salvation and recognized similarities to his own life.

We see that the Lord brought Morris to a place where he *heard* the gospel from a Christian. First Corinthians 1:21 tells us, “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of *preaching* to save them that believe” (emphasis added). Thus we see God’s chosen method in Scripture.

LETTERS

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

Dear Brother in Christ Jesus,

I have received the newsletter since the 1980s. Unfortunately...I have found that you all distort the Holy Scriptures, either wittingly, or unwittingly, altering and/or changing the meanings of words given by our Lord, in order for you to accommodate the "Pre-trib Rapture theory." These errors continue on, spreading through publicizing them and teaching them as if they were the truth. Your organization has boasted in "...rightly dividing the word of truth."...In rightly dividing the word of truth, certain endtime prophecies and the chronology of endtime events will only be revealed in the "time [singular] of the end." FP (VA)

TBC NOTES

A Berean's Modus Operandi

Being a Berean is a good thing, which is why Luke, in writing the Book of Acts, commended the Jews in the Greek city of Berea. He noted that they had listened to the Apostle Paul's teachings about Jesus as their long-awaited Messiah, and then they searched the Old Testament prophecies to see what the true Messiah must fulfill.

Here at TBC, we encourage believers to do as the Bereans did with regard to what they are being taught (regardless of who's teaching them!). "Give me chapter and verse" is the refrain that should be continually heard among believers. That is of critical importance, as these times in which we live reveal that many are turning away from sound doctrine (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

Another aspect of how we're to go about ministering as Bereans involves our demeanor. "Bereans" can sometimes "minister," all the while displaying characteristics that are a reproach to what they claim to stand for. We may, at times, reflect self-righteousness, hypocrisy, be mean-spirited, engage in hair splitting over doctrinal issues, and too often seem to be devoid of the love of Christ, a love that should be one of the first things that others notice.

Some verses that I believe should be memorized and practiced by every believer when they perceive that their brothers and sisters in Christ are believing or teaching false doctrines can be found in 2 Timothy 2:16-18: "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."

I need to continually remind myself of the words "servant," "not strive [not be strident]," "gentle," "patient," and "meekness." In the cases where some of those things were not found in my ministering, I can assure you—I was *not* used of the Lord.

T. A. McMAHON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello, TBC!

Thank you as always for the info you send out. I am praying for you—and our—leaders. Sometimes it's easy to begin to be "impressed" by the "power" that the occult claims it has. But I remember that it is the Lord who appoints people to lead countries, and it is His will and plans that prevail always. In the past, my mother has had a lot of teaching about "control" and how evil it is, and this has led her to question that the Lord is in control. I am so glad that He is! KS (UK)

Dear TBC,

Some have criticized you for selling Christian books in the past. I, for one, am very glad you do this. My copy of *The Believer's Bible Commentary* by William MacDonald is one I'm enjoying immensely at this time. May God bless you richly. JF (OK)

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Berean Call,

Due to failing eyesight, we asked you to discontinue the mail delivery of *The Berean Call*. But now we can listen to the letter online! Please continue that service, as we greatly appreciate hearing Tom. We also love the radio broadcast. Grow in grace! WR (email)

Dear Berean Call,

I wanted to thank The Berean Call for the kindness you have shown me with your gift of your newsletters. I cannot help but be humbled when such kindness within the body of Christ is shown to others. Your October newsletter was certainly a gift in itself, speaking of "returning to your first love," the biblical Jesus. I have done what you asked in sharing the copies of the newsletters with others in here, that they may also be encouraged to seek the truth of the Jesus of Scripture. RB (prisoner, UK)

Dear T.A. and Staff,

In your December newsletter you put in perspective the importance of seeking first the kingdom of God—and the need to examine our hearts and consider whether there are things we want to accomplish, places we want to go, or even victories we want to win for God ahead of a real desire to see the Lord's imminent return. That surely should cause folks to see the seriousness of their attitudes and motives at this time. Again, thanks for the exhortation. (NY)

QUOTABLE.....

When we belong to the Lord and seek to live for Him, we'll see that our own provision isn't limited to earthly means. Who, reading this, has ever faced an impossible situation and could see no solution, when suddenly, the problem was solved in ways that couldn't have been imagined? It was God doing that, not "just a coincidence"! Who but God could take His people from under the whip of the taskmaster and, on the way out of town, see that they were given the taskmaster's treasures to take with them?

Do you question the love of God? Even though we may face impossible situations, God isn't bound by natural ways of providing for us! He is Jehovah Jireh, "The Lord Will Provide," and He will do so in many ways that will astound us. He is the Champion of the chosen. Let us go out today in faith, realizing that He knows our trials and our needs, and He is always faithful in His time.

—Barry Stagner,
Beside Still Waters (see product pages)

NEWSWATCH

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

JERUSALEM SYNAGOGUE DESECRATED

WORLDISRAELNEWS.COM, 1/29/19, "JERUSALEM SYNAGOGUE DESECRATED: 'RECALLS DARK PERIODS OF JEWISH HISTORY'" [EXCERPTS]: A synagogue serving the French community in Kiryat Yoel, a neighborhood in southwest Jerusalem, was vandalized [January 28]. The synagogue's Torah ark was smashed and the Torah scrolls thrown on the ground.

Police have already set up a special investigation team and the synagogue was closed this morning to allow forensic investigators to work, Israel's Channel 20 reports. The neighborhood has a history of friction between religious and secular Jews, according to Israel Hayom.

Bezalel Smotrich, recently appointed head of the religious-Zionist National Union party, said: "These harsh scenes remind us of the dark periods in the history of our people ... I call on the enforcement authorities to do everything necessary to locate the perpetrators immediately and put them on trial."

The synagogue is named after Rabbi Yonatan Sandler, who was killed together with two of his children on March 19, 2012, in a terrorist attack in Toulouse, France.

The Jerusalem vandalism follows another that was discovered in the seaside city of Netanya on Sunday. A house of worship was struck by vandals who scrawled praise for "Satan" and burned holy books. A pentagram was also spray painted on a wall.

(<https://goo.gl/pf3fbq>)

DINOSAURS WITH OR WITHOUT FEATHERS?

ICR.ORG, 12/28/18, "DID DINOSAURS COME WITH OR WITHOUT FEATHERS?" [EXCERPTS]: Many secular scientists consider so-called "feathered dinosaurs" to be evidence of dinosaurs evolving into birds. Clearly defined anatomy-based categories exist for both "bird" and "dinosaur," but evolution requires a bird-to-dinosaur transition. In living creatures, only birds—not mammals or reptiles—have feathers. Furthermore, with a few controversial exceptions, all extinct feathered animals are acknowledged as birds. Even bird-feather proteins called keratins are unique.

The use of feathers to fly "affects virtually every aspect of feather design and construction." A flight feather has a long, slender central shaft called a rachis.

From this extend the barbs, and from these extend the even smaller barbules. The barbules on one side of the barb are smooth, but, like Velcro, they link to tiny hook-shaped barbules on the opposite side.

Assuming hypothetical feathers on dinosaurs functioned as modern feathers do, they must consist of all the required working parts. Even the angle, thickness, shape, and construction of the parts must all exist and be assembled within narrow tolerances. So far, Darwinists have only impressions of "protofeathers" they assume were structures on the way to becoming modern feathers. But until they became functional feathers, it appears they would have decreased a creature's fitness, making them less likely to persist in future generations.

A biblical creation worldview rejects the supposition that protofeathers were structures on the way to evolving into flight feathers. So, what were they? Possibly skin collagen fibers, not feathers. Some resemble fossil preparation marks, which are caused by tools used to uncover and excavate fossils. For these reasons, many researchers are "skeptical of inferring feathers when there are no feathers preserved" with bonafide dinosaurs in the fossil record.

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

WE CAN KILL OUR CHILDREN AT NINE MONTHS

CHRISTIANHEADLINES.COM, 1/23/19, "THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE: WE CAN KILL OUR CHILDREN AT NINE MONTHS" [EXCERPTS]: The so-called Reproductive Health Act in New York passed with thunderous applause in the state Senate chamber.

I could not believe what I was reading: People actually applauded the slaughtering of children. Was I having a dream ... a nightmare? Was this real?

Some time ago, I sat speechless as I listened to a man recount his trip to a Holocaust museum with his young daughter. As they walked by photos of the death camps and gas chambers, his daughter silently contemplated the horrors that were unfolding before her eyes.

When the tour ended, they drove home without saying a word. The father wondered if she truly understood the significance of the event....His questions were answered nearly two hours later when his daughter finally spoke. She looked at her father and asked, "Daddy, why didn't someone do something?" —Shane Idleman

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

THE BEREAN CALL

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

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NEW! BIBLICAL COUNSELING REVIEWS BY THE BOBGANS**Biblical Counseling Reviews**

Martin & Deidre Bobgan—This book reviews the biblical counseling of Dr. Jay Adams, Dr. David Powlison, Dr. Heath Lambert, Dr. John Street, Dr. Jim Newheiser, Dr. Paul Tripp, and Pastor Randy Patten and reveals that the best examples of biblical counseling done by some of the foremost leaders of the biblical counseling movement have grave biblical errors. The undoing of the biblical counseling movement does not primarily come from their teachings but from their practices and presentations of actual counseling when examined with the Bible. This book is an exposé of what seven of the recognized leaders and teachers of biblical counseling actually do in counseling and why believers should shun their counseling conversations. EastGate Publishers, 268 pp.

B00111wt .9 **\$16.00****Martin & Deidre Bobgan STS 24/7 - "Is Psychological Counseling Biblical?"**

Martin & Deidre Bobgan—T. A. McMahon welcomes Dr. Martin and Deidre Bobgan to discuss the enlightening topic: "Is Psychological Counseling Biblical?"

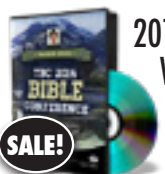
Part 1 and Part 2. Originally aired September 30 and October 7, 2016. 1 CD, 50 min.

CD1639wt .2 **\$5.00****Martin & Deidre Bobgan STS 24/7 - "Psychologizing Missionaries?"**

Martin & Deidre Bobgan—T. A. McMahon and guests Dr. Martin and Deidre Bobgan discuss "Psychologizing Missionaries?" Part 1 and Part 2. 1 CD, 52 min.

CD1645wt .2 **\$5.00****"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. Mountain Stream Press, 227 pp.

B09336 wt .7 **~~\$14.00~~ SALE \$10.00****2014 Conference DVD - Warren Smith**

TBC—Watch Warren Smith at the 2014 TBC Conference in Bend, Oregon, as he delivers the following talks: "Another Jesus" Calling, A "Wonderful" Deception, and Truth - The Whole Truth. Each message is concluded with a Q&A. 3 DVDs, 240 min.

DVD260 wt .3 **~~\$20.25~~ SALE \$10.00****A Time of Departing**

Yungen—A revealing account of a universal spirituality that has infiltrated the church today. This book exposes subtle strategies to compromise the gospel message with Eastern mystical concepts cloaked under the wrappings of contemplative prayer and altered states of conscience known as "the silence." Lighthouse Trails, 245 pp.

B01206 wt .8 **~~\$12.00~~ SALE \$10.00****The New Age Implications of Jesus Calling**

Smith—There are many New Age implications—both direct and indirect—in Sarah Young's best selling book *Jesus Calling*. In this booklet, the author, former New Ager Warren Smith, presents ten examples of those New Age implications. Lighthouse Trails, 19 pp.

LTP16 wt .1 **\$1.95****Beth Moore & Priscilla Shirer - Their History of Contemplative Prayer**

Lanagan—Contemplative prayer, which Priscilla Shirer refers to as her "brand new way," and which Beth Moore says is essential for really knowing God, is an ancient prayer practice that is essentially the same as Eastern meditation. This booklet is a concise report on these two individuals. Lighthouse Trails, 19 pp.

LTP02 wt .1 **\$1.95****Psychology and the Church**

Hunt/McMahon—The purpose of this book is not to attack or condemn evangelicals who are practicing psychotherapists or those who have been helped by what is commonly called "Christian Psychology." Rather, this volume acknowledges the value of believers bearing one another's burdens through prayer, fellowship, and the Word of God. The Berean Call, 415 pp.

B60613 (Includes DVD) wt 1.3 **\$20.75****SEEKING AND FINDING GOD BOOK AND DVD SALE****Seeking and Finding God**

Hunt—It is astonishing how many millions of otherwise seemingly intelligent people are willing to risk their eternal destiny upon less evidence than they would require for buying a car or even a low-carb food item—yet the belief of so many, particularly in the area of religion, has no rational or factual foundation. With well-researched arguments and compelling proof, this book demonstrates that the issue of where

one will spend eternity is not a matter of preference (like joining the Elks instead of the Lions). In fact, there is overwhelming evidence that we are eternal beings who will spend eternity somewhere. But where will it be? And how can we know? There is no more important question to be faced—and answered. The Berean Call, 159 pp.

B04425 wt .4 **\$10.50****Seeking and Finding God - DVD**

TBC—Filmed in the radio studio of *Search the Scriptures Daily*, Dave Hunt and T. A. McMahon review Hunt's popular book *Seeking and Finding God*. Viewers will appreciate the "live" discussion and unique perspectives from Dave's evangelistic book, of which he liked to say, "I wrote it for myself...to give away to people that I meet." Viewers will be encouraged

and equipped to share the gospel in this edifying video presentation. 3 DVDs, 7.5 hrs.

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B05232

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The Knowledge of the Holy

Tozer—Tozer’s *The Knowledge of the Holy* is a thorough but easy-to-understand examination of the attributes of God. Each chapter, although brief, contains much to ponder as we consider the Love of God, the Immutability of God, and other attributes that together make up the very nature of God. Tozer’s simple but well-thought-out style is biblical and written with clarity. HarperCollins, 120 pp.

B84129

wt .3 ~~\$12.00~~ SALE \$9.00



God’s Pursuit of Man

Tozer—*God’s Pursuit of Man* speaks fervently of God’s desire for man to be saved and the action He takes as He “invades” the human soul. Tozer explains how it is through the power of the Holy Spirit that we can understand the mystery of the Triune God. Moody, 141 pp.

B07049

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Our God Is Wonderful

MacDonal—What a tragedy it would be to go through life hugging the commonplace and missing the beautiful, majoring in the mundane and missing the majestic! So let’s stop and smell the roses and also admire God’s works in the universe. *Our God is Wonderful* is a journey through creation, providence, and redemption—proving again that our God is wonderful. Gospel Folio Press, 154 pp.

B00607

wt .4 \$11.00



Life in the Spirit

Tozer—One of the twentieth century’s most beloved devotional writers, A. W. Tozer extends a personal invitation for you to meet and know the Holy Spirit. This single volume combines the two classic titles *How to Be Filled with the Holy Spirit* and *The Counselor*. Author of *The Knowledge of the Holy*, Tozer’s writings always reveal the true character of God and challenge readers to encounter Him in all His power and glory. Hendrickson Publishers, HB, 172 pp.

B63344

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God Still Speaks

MacDonal—In this highly readable book, the author tells more than 30 remarkable stories in which the Lord has spoken to people through Scripture. An encouraging and impacting book both for the new and seasoned believer to read. Gospel Folio Press, 160 pp.

B34100

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The Pursuit of God

Tozer—“As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God” (Psalm 42:1). For the person thirsting for the things of God without distracting embellishments, this book will become a faithful companion. Moody, 131 pp.

B93663

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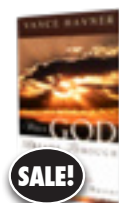


The Green Letters

Stanford—*The Green Letters* emphasizes both the doctrinal and experiential aspects of maturing in Christian living. The book is grounded in Scripture and enlivened by quotations from noted authors. “Not I, but Christ” is its theme. Beauty of character can be developed only through years of reflection and experience in the Word of God as the life of Christ is increasingly lived by faith. Zondervan, 91 pp.

B30011

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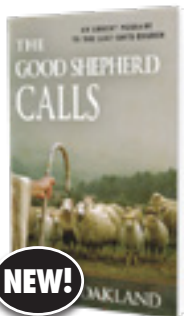


When God Breaks Through: Sermons on Revival

Havner—Vance Havner was a popular revivalist known for his homespun storytelling and memorable wordplay, he boldly proclaimed the Word of God for seventy-three years. In this collection of ten revival sermons, Havner’s hard-hitting words proclaim the biblical message of heaven, hell, sin, repentance, sacrifice, holiness, prayer, and the lordship of Christ. Kregel, 142 pp.

B28739

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The Good Shepherd Calls

Oakland—Since the turn of the millennium, in particular since September 11, 2001 when America was attacked by terrorists triggering a global-wide spiritual paradigm shift, Christianity as we have known it has experienced a major meltdown. While many are saying Christianity

is on the brink of a great revival and even a new reformation, in reality we are witnessing the greatest apostasy in modern-day history. This latter-day deception has impacted every evangelical and Protestant denomination to one degree or another, and it is worldwide. The sheep have been led astray by shepherds who have neglected what they have been called to do protect the sheep. *The Good Shepherd Calls* brings clarity to what this delusion looks like, why it is happening, where it is headed, and what can still be done to warn believers and unbelievers alike. Lighthouse Trails, 282 pp.

B00463

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