

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

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

Reflections on a Reasonable Faith

Dave Hunt — first published in April 2010

A FALSE IDEA exists in both the world and in the church that faith and reason do not go together when, in fact, one cannot exist without the other. When God called out, "Adam, where art thou?" it was not Adam's physical location He was asking about but his moral and spiritual relationship with his Creator. As a bumper sticker says, "When you feel far from God, guess who moved?"

We move on to the prodigal son, who demanded to receive his inheritance before the designated time, which would have been after the death of his parents. Instead of investing his inheritance wisely, he spent it all on harlots and wild living. It could be when those he thought were his friends saw that he had exhausted his resources, they deserted him, leaving him destitute, thus showing what kind of "friends" he had accumulated on his downward path to poverty and shame.

God wants to get our attention. "Come now, and let us reason together," says God to His wayward children. His Word has much to say to us in regard to this exhortation. He wants us to meditate upon it day and night. My earliest memories of my father were of seeing him on his knees with his open Bible. I never had to try to memorize the Bible. I had heard it so many times in our family devotions and had read it so often in my personal study that it became a part of me.

A wedding is coming. It will take place in heaven. As the hymn says, "What a day that will be, when my Jesus I shall see. When He takes me by the hand and leads me through the Promised Land...what a glorious day that will be!" This should be our eager anticipation.

When someone asks, "How soon do you think the Rapture will be?" I often respond, "How soon do you want it to be?" The story is told of a preacher asking his audience, "How many of you want to go to heaven?" All the children raised their hands except one small boy sitting in the front row. When the meeting ended, the preacher sat beside the lad and asked, "Don't you want to go to heaven?"

"Oh, yes, sir," he replied.

"But when I asked all those who wanted to go to heaven to raise their hands, you didn't raise yours."

"Oh, sir, I thought you meant right now."

Of course we want to go to heaven, but there is so much we want to do on earth first that we lose our sense of urgency. We are the Bride of Christ. How tragic if we lack the eagerness of anticipation that the bride ought to have as the day of her wedding draws near! On the one hand, we desire to be with Christ. We know that the Lord loves us, but to think of standing before the I AM is awesome beyond belief. May we all look with renewed longing for His promised coming.

It is amazing that God wants to reason with us, His creatures. The Word speaks much of *understanding*. What does this mean? God may explain why He has done certain things, but He will not consult with us about anything nor debate issues. He does not look to us for advice but delights in our obedience. We are to love

God with our whole heart and love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus said this was the essence of the law and the prophets.

God has no obligation to explain Himself to us. Even so, God says, "Come now, and let us reason together" (Isaiah 1:18). I think this is His way of trying to share His heart with us. I often think of how great God is and marvel that He would desire our fellowship, but such is His heart. With salvation, all things are become new, and that includes the beginning of an intimate relationship as between father and child.

Scripture says, "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding" (Proverbs 4:7). God is not trying to force anything upon us, but he wants us to understand and to delight in the relationship that He desires to have with His children.

Of course, faith is not a leap in the dark and the hope of a soft landing. We must seek to know where God wants us to go and what His will is for our lives. He *wants* us to know. He wants us to understand. He does not wish to treat us as slaves but as dearest friends. How astonishing! How glorious! Abraham was called "the friend of God." Jesus said to His disciples, "Henceforth I call you not servants...but friends" (John 15:15). This is hard to fathom—that we could be God's friends, and not only His friends but the dearest objects of His heart's affection.

How well George Matheson expressed this truth, which came, as he said, "like a dayspring on high":

*Oh, Love that will not let me go!
I rest my weary soul on thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.*

*O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flick-'ring torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.*

*O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.*

*O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there
 blossoms red
Life that shall endless be. Amen.*

We are commanded to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves. This is not a suggestion from God but a command. Jesus said, "When you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him,

or your heavenly Father will not forgive you.” That’s hard for us to face, but the language is clear. Jesus goes on to explain that “If ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:15). This is part of what we know as the “Sermon on the Mount.” It pierces our hearts. I remember a long cab ride when I was trying to explain the gospel to the driver. He claimed that he had never sinned. I quoted the same scripture to him and asked him if he had followed this admonition: “Do you love your neighbor as yourself?”

With a short laugh, he said, “I haven’t done that for one second.”

“Well,” I replied, “the words of Christ are clear: if you hold anything against anyone, you must not expect God to forgive you any of your sins.” Of course, without the new life that Christ’s death imparts, such forgiveness was beyond his ability. What was impossible for the cab driver is incumbent upon us as followers of Christ.

This is difficult to face. What we call “The Lord’s Prayer” is really the prayer that Christ gave to His disciples and to us as well. We can address the Almighty God: “Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.” (Matthew 6:9-13).

I often think how amazing it is that we could have a *personal* relationship with God and that He should call us His friends. This is awesome! I often tell God, “We are such pitiful creatures. You are so great. How can we even dare talk to You? You are without beginning or end; You are infinite in power and wisdom, yet You call us Your friends. What gracious condescension! O give me the ability to respond in like manner!”

The psalmist said, “When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet” (Psalm 8:3-6).

Why should God want us to love Him? What could our love mean to Him? He really doesn’t need anything from us. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit dwelt in perfect harmony, complete in fellowship with one another for all eternity past. There is no question that man was made not only in the image of God but for a unique companionship with Him. That’s too much for us to even begin to understand!

Surely God didn’t *need* a companion in man. It was a special relationship that He desired. That relationship was lost when man sinned and God could no longer have fellowship with him. We don’t understand this loss, but I believe that every human being feels it. How deeply God himself must have felt that loss!

There is an emptiness in every human heart that only God can fill. God and man were meant to dwell in fellowship—in companionship. The angelic beings who did not follow Lucifer in his fall could never have this relationship with God, for as sinless beings, they could never experience the redeemed sinner’s debt of gratitude. Only man could (Luke 7:47).

The breach between God and man affected the entire universe. Romans 8 says that the whole creation groans in travail, waiting “for the manifestation of the sons of God.” I believe every human being knows that something is wrong with this universe that goes

deeper than the headlines about war, murder, rape, robbery, and all of the evils in human society. There is something else behind all of this.

The old writers knew this and tried to express it. Dickens put it into his writings, as did Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, and many others. In contrast, the vast majority of films that Hollywood turns out today are not only repulsively immoral but generally shallow in their expression of what humanness is all about, and fail to reveal the emptiness in man’s heart. Many of our older writers presented the evil of man’s heart and, although they were not Christians, their writings were filled with examples pitting good against evil. That does not come out in the popular novels and movies of today, where God is not honored but often derided. They reflect God’s sad commentary: “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God” (Psalm 14:1; 53:1).

When we present the gospel, we must be prepared to reason. We know that the Word of God is living and powerful, the sword of the Spirit, yet we are given the privilege of sharing it with others. We must share the *reasons* for believing in God: “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 Peter 3:15). This raises a question. Why would anyone ask us for a “reason”? It presumes

that we must have given some occasion to arouse the question—hopefully, the personal witness of our godly life.

We often hesitate to share the gospel because we don’t know how to begin. I think of the illustration my father used. He told of the barber who was shaving a man and raised the open blade above his head and said, “Are you prepared to die?” The man ran out of the barbershop in terror. Obviously, this is not a good opening in presenting the gospel!

I remember a well-dressed, well-coiffed, and obviously wealthy woman sitting next to me on a plane. I tried a couple of times to open a conversation, but she remained aloof. I prayed to the Lord, “I have tried twice to find a way to talk with this woman so that I could present the gospel to her. If anything is going to happen, this woman is going to have to open the door.” I was reading Richard Dawkins’s book, *The Selfish Gene*, and had it in the pocket of the seat in front of me. I pulled it out to read it, and my seat companion looked at it and said, “Who would write a book like that?” That was the opening I was waiting for, and we had a wonderful conversation. She turned out to be a seeking soul.

There are those all around us who are waiting for someone to present the gospel to them. I once sat next to a man who was contemplating suicide. He was certainly ripe for the gospel. If we want to share the Good News with someone, the Lord will open the door. I do not advise trying to force the gospel on anyone. Let the Holy Spirit do His work. We must seek God’s direction if we are to be about His business effectively.

Modern man has no time for God. An old hymn asks, “What will you do with Jesus? Neutral you cannot be. One day your heart will be asking, ‘What will He do with me?’” For all eternity, lost souls will be haunted by the realization that heaven’s door could have been opened to them by the Savior they rejected.

Happily, we can still proclaim that the door remains open and whosoever will may enter in. How much longer this may be the case we cannot tell. While there is still time, every true Christian ought to be alert to eagerly seize every opportunity that presents itself to share the good news of the gospel. It is our Lord’s “reasonable” expectation.

TBC

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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

QUESTION: Is it correct to say that God doesn't choose our leaders but that He can raise up and bring down leaders using circumstances, without affecting their free will, in order to carry out His purposes?

RESPONSE: It is certainly true that in Psalm 75:6-7 we are told that "Promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another." In the process of "putting down" and "setting up," He will use circumstances to accomplish His will without stifling the free will of the individual. To say that God "does not choose our leaders" is a point that certainly will be debated, in view of the fact that His use of circumstances *reveals* His will concerning the leaders who are set up or put down. That choice, however, is not the same as the Calvinist idea of sovereignty would allege.

The Bible teaches (Acts 10:34-35) that God elected to save every soul who "fears God and works righteousness." Before man's creation, God elected that men would be saved "in Christ" (Eph 1:3-4, 7-12). God gave His plan for the redemption of man (Eph 3:10-11). He also granted that man would have free will, which is simply the ability to choose to obey or disobey Him (Gn 3:1-6; Josh 24:15; Mt 11:28). Again, without at least that measure of "free will," as Dave Hunt has noted, Joshua 24:15 becomes meaningless.

So your statement is accurate, although the idea of God "choosing" someone is certainly reflected in His use of circumstances to accomplish His will.

QUESTION: What does the Bible mean in Romans 12 when it says if your enemy treats you unfairly, "Love and feed him, for in doing so you will dump coals of fire on his head?" I regularly interact with someone who acts like my friend one week, then "plays games" with me the next. But I am tired of their games. I thought of retaliating, but I know that is a terrible witness to Christianity.

RESPONSE: The full context of this thought can be seen in Romans 12:17-20: "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head."

As you very correctly note, lashing back at those who have treated us poorly is a terrible witness. Furthermore, verse 18 tells us that "as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." That's what we're called to do—that is, do all that we can. In addition, we are not to give way to wrath, because the Lord states, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay."

The action for us to take, as Paul admonishes, is this: "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head" (Romans 12:20). This utterance by Paul was not new at the time, for He was directly quoting Proverbs 25:21-22.

Further, the admonition parallels what our Lord said. In Matthew 5:44-48, the Lord Jesus declares, "But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.... Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

In short, we are to do good (as much as is possible) to these people, knowing that the Lord will be their judge and, in answer to our prayers, may very well bring them to salvation or at the least change their attitude.

QUESTION: Mary worship? The Catholic Church teaches that to worship any person, place, or thing outside of God is idolatry, including the worship of Mary, which is stupid! For Catholics, Jesus Christ is our Lord, Savior, best friend, and our God. Not Mary. Having said that, if Jesus Christ is not your master, those other titles are just a bunch of words. Apparently, since you spread confusion and division, Jesus Christ is not your master....

RESPONSE: Your argument is not with us. After Pope John Paul II was shot, it was not to God that he prayed nor the name of Jesus upon which he called. Instead, he kept repeating, "Mary, my mother!" Vatican loudspeakers broadcast the prayers of the rosary. After he recovered, he gave Mary all the glory for saving his life. and made a pilgrimage to Fatima to publicly thank her.

In his book, *The Glories of Mary*, Italian Bishop Alphonsus Liguori explained how God gave Mary to mankind as the "Gate of Heaven." He was quoting Saint Bonaventure, "No one can enter Heaven *unless by Mary* (italics added), as though through a door." In his book, Liguori affirms that Mary rules over one-half of the kingdom of God. Consequently, Liguori said that people should pray to Mary as a mediator and look to her as an object of trust for answered prayer. The book goes so far as to say that there is no salvation outside of Mary. In response, some Catholics would argue that these are extreme views and not representative of official Catholic Church teaching. Instead of being declared a heretic, however, Liguori was canonized as a saint, and the Catholic Church declared him to be a "doctor of the Church" (a person whose teachings carry weight and authority). Finally, the book is officially promoted by the Catholic Church, and his teachings apparently have influenced a number of popes.

One of the unrealized goals of John Paul II was to pronounce Mary as "co-redemptrix" with Christ, which, for all practical purposes, acknowledged her as deity. Many Catholics annually present such a petition for this recognition. Pope Benedict XV declared of Mary that "[O]ne can justly say that with Christ, she herself redeemed mankind" (*Encyclical Intersodalicis*, 1918). Pope Pius IX said, "Our salvation is based upon the holy Virgin...so that if there is any hope and spiritual healing for us we receive it solely and uniquely from her" (*Encyclical*, February 2, 1849). On the contrary, the Bible tells us "There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tm 2:5).

Your argument becomes more disingenuous when considering countries that are primarily Catholic. For example, many a Catholic has commented that, "Catholics in Mexico (and throughout Latin America), in their devotion to Mary, do things that we would only do when worshiping God." Official Catholic teaching says that God has exalted Mary in heavenly glory as Queen of Heaven and earth (*Catechism*, 966). Mary is declared worthy of praise with special devotion (*Catechism*, 971, 2675).

There is a growing Marian component to Catholicism that is quite militant about recognizing the fact that "veneration," by definition and in practice, is no different from "worship," which, according to Scripture, is only possible with God. For years, we at TBC received Marian publications (which contributed to our research). Your argument is with them and the huge numbers of like-minded Catholics.

And, sir, regarding your final comment, the confusion and division is already here, and it is honestly and objectively plain.

LETTERS

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

Dear T. A. McMahon,

Although I disagree with some things you write, the January issue with the Ecumenism update is spot on. Really enjoyed it. Even when we disagree, it challenges me. Thanks. JK (IA)

TBC NOTES

Getting Back on Tract

My guess is that most of us have passed out tracts from time to time...or at least one time. This note is to encourage you to get back to doing that or get started doing it! There are all kinds of tracts, most of which simply present the gospel. That's the great thing about the gospel; it's not complex. It can be presented in a paragraph. A child can understand it, and anyone who truly believes it has just received the astounding gift of eternal life—meaning that he or she will spend forever with God.

I've been under conviction about my own failing to pass out tracts, and I hope I can spread that particular conviction along to our readers. It's "particular," because I have been using our 4-MINUTE GOSPEL tract [see product pages], which has been fine, but what I'm sharing now is somewhat different. It has to do with two opportunities I've previously missed. One of them has to do with my *not* thinking and the other with my *wrong* thinking.

Here's my "not-thinking" related situation. Whenever I go out to dinner, I put the tip for the waitress or waiter on my credit card—which is not exactly a personal "thank-you" touch. Now, I put cash in a tract that not only thanks the *person* (whose name I've learned and with whom I've taken every opportunity to chat during the meal), but it presents the gospel as well. Although personally I'd love to know that a soul got saved, I've always received a smile and a "thank you" when I've handed the tract revealing the cash tip to the server.

Now for my "wrong-thinking" situation. This probably has as much to do with changing my bad attitude as it does with performing a good work. To be honest, I'm not thrilled with giving to cardboard-carrying pan handlers, because I've had some bad experiences with them. For some, it's a career. Others, however, may well be in bad straits temporarily, and since I can't tell the difference, I've designed a gospel tract to which I attach a nutrition bar (Clif, Luna, Granola, etc.). Most of those looking for handouts often sit in one place for most of the day, so many will readily accept the tract with the bar attached. I can also add some money to the tract if I feel led to do so (see Mark 14:7).

My prayer for those who receive them is that God's Word, found within the tracts, will find fertile soil and take root. A view of what the tracts look like can be found in our products page.

T. A. McMAHON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tom,

That summary on ecumenism was extremely well done—succinct and so true! You may not recall; we met in Abbotsford several years ago at "Learn to Discern." Keep up the good work. DL (Canada)

Dear Berean Call,

Praise God in Jesus' name—He is good! I've been receiving your newsletter now for I guess 25-plus years. I've always enjoyed it and learned from it. I thank you all for sending it to prisoners and others too. Also, in the past you've assisted me by sending information explaining things I've asked about.

I often save your main two-page articles that come in your newsletter. I do save and use your materials—yes, even various Q&As too. I just wanted you to know that you do not waste time and efforts. Thank you. PB (prisoner, MI)

Hello [edited for brevity],

You need to [know] that I use a Catholic Bible, the first Christian Bible on the scene. I can't help [it] that men took the Bible and took out seven books from it and added other words to it.... I'm not trying to win an earthly argument. I'm just defending the one True Christian Faith. I can't win what's already won and [has] stood the test of time on sacred Holy ground that can't be defeated. Since 33 AD the Roman Catholic Church has been undefeated. Unfortunately, it appears you don't know true scripture, for man has interpreted the Holy Scripture in the Protestant faith. It's true: Catholics hold the truth. N (email)

Dear Berean Call,

The information in your newsletter is much needed by us (ex-Catholics and ex-New Age believers), who have been released from bondage. Please don't ever stop sharing the truth of the Gospel. Your discernment is being used by the Holy Spirit to point out the wiles of the devil to those of us who have been twice-born. Please keep running the race set before you. You will be richly rewarded by our Lord in eternity. MR (email)

QUOTABLE.....

God is ready, waiting to be gracious. All the infinite stores of His grace and power are at the command of His Church and for the glory of His Son. The result of this winter's work will depend on the attitude of His Church. A heaven-sent revival will come when the Church turns away from the frivolous and worldly spirit of entertainment, applies herself with persevering prayer to her real work, rekindles the wasted fires of zeal and faith, clothes herself with sackcloth and ashes over the follies, feebleness, and sins of the past. Then with every divine and quickened energy the Church can assault the strongholds of sin with invincible might, and show God, angels, devils, and men, she is in dead earnest about saving men from sin and from an eternal hell. Her renewed purpose is to point men to holiness, an eternal Heaven, and hasten the coming of her Lord; she no longer intends to dissipate her strength and dishonor her vocation by her shams, shows, frivolities. Then the Church will be visited by such a revival as we have not seen in all these years, and the "*glory of this latter house shall be greater than the former.*" (Haggai 2:9)

—E.M. Bounds

NEWSWATCH

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

CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS: WHY WE NEED FREE SPEECH

INTELLECTUALTAKEOUT.COM, 2/7/19, "CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS ON WHY WE DESPERATELY NEED FREE SPEECH" [EXCERPTS]: One sentence. Five restrictions on the power of the government of the United States. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Great idea, but dead in the water in a majority of nations. Here in the United States some have called for changing or even abandoning the First Amendment. They claim these freedoms, and the Constitution itself, are horse-and-buggy relics in our new age of high-speed technology.

Others have taken it upon themselves to restrict the freedom of speech. On many college campuses, radicals have either banned or shouted down speakers, most of whom are conservatives.

[Atheist] Christopher Hitchens once offered these thoughts on free speech in a controversial lecture: "It is not just the right of the person who speaks to be heard, it is the right of everyone in the audience to listen and to hear, and every time you silence somebody you make yourself a prisoner of your own action because you deny yourself the right to hear something. In other words, your own right to hear and be exposed is as much involved in all these cases as is the right of the other to voice his or her view."

Hitchens ends by saying to his audience, "You are giving away what is most precious in your own society."

Freedom of speech, freedom to practice our religion—Hitchens was an atheist who despised Christianity, indeed all religions, but our First Amendment entitles him to these views. They are the foundation stones of our freedom.

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

HARVEST BIBLE CHAPEL FOUNDER FIRED

CHRISTIANPOST.COM, 2/13/19, "HARVEST BIBLE CHAPEL FOUNDING PASTOR JAMES MACDONALD FIRED; 'SHOCKING' AUDIO REVEALED" [EXCERPTS]: Longtime leader of the Chicago-area megachurch Harvest Bible Chapel James MacDonald has been ousted as senior pastor in light of unsavory

remarks he made on a hot mic that were aired on local media [February 12].

MacDonald's firing comes after the publication of a lengthy investigative piece by Julie Roys in *World* magazine. Her article, "Hard Times at Harvest," which took eight months to complete, documented alleged financial malfeasance, abusive dynamics within the church from the top-down—particularly MacDonald's temper—and a culture of fear and intimidation.

Among the things said in the audio is MacDonald talking about planting child pornography on *Christianity Today* CEO's Harold Smith's computer, crude remarks about Julie Roys—including joking that she had an affair with *CT* Editor-in-Chief Mark Galli—and a vulgar reference to Ed Stetzer, executive director of the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College.

"A church is in shambles. Evangelicals are publicly embarrassed—again. And more men remain in positions of influence who have done reprehensible things," she added, urging Christians to seek God, repent, and pray for revival.

(<https://goo.gl/LB5e76>)

COLLEGE STUDENTS REPARATION FOR SLAVERY

THECOLLEGEFIX.COM, 2/6/19, "GEORGETOWN STUDENTS MAY PAY REPARATIONS FOR SLAVERY WITH NEW STUDENT FEE" [EXCERPTS]: Georgetown University students will vote [in April] on whether they want to tax themselves to benefit the descendants of slaves sold by the university in the 1830s.

Its student government recently authorized a campuswide student referendum on whether to establish a fund for the families of the 272 men, women, and children sold by Georgetown in 1838.

If approved, the semesterly fee would begin to be collected in the fall of 2020 and start at \$27.20 per student "in honor of the 272 people sold by Georgetown," states the student government resolution approving the referendum....

"The proceeds of the GU272 Reconciliation Contributions will be allocated for charitable purposes directly benefiting the descendants of the GU272 and other persons once enslaved by the Maryland Jesuits—with special consideration given to causes and proposals directly benefiting those descendants still residing in proud and underprivileged communities...."

(<https://goo.gl/xfj9To>)

THE BEREAN CALL

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

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

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FREE* URGENT CALL HARBACK! WITH PURCHASE OF RADIO DISCUSSION**An Urgent Call to a Serious Faith**

Hunt—The awesome sense of the greatness of God and the cosmic and eternal proportions of the work that He is doing seems largely absent from Christianity today. Could this be why so many carry the self-imposed burdens of man-made “programs” they are trying to put into effect in order to “live victorious lives” or to “advance the cause of Christ”? When we see that the task is totally beyond our capabilities, then we cease from our striving and begin to allow Him to work in and through us by His mighty

power. This beautiful hardback edition includes the revised and expanded content of *Seeking and Finding God* (Dave’s favorite evangelistic book), which was originally derived from an earlier printing of *An Urgent Call*. This edition is aimed at believers who understand the times and who desire to be equipped from God’s Word to minister effectively today. The Berean Call, 254 pp.

B00339wt 1.1 **\$17.50****An Urgent Call to a Serious Faith - Radio Broadcast**

TBC—This re-mastered series from *Search the Scriptures Daily* radio contains a wealth of information that will encourage you in the faith. Have you ever prayed, “Lord, how can I... deepen and defend my faith? ...know and prove that God’s Word is true? ...share Christ with confidence? ...refute false religions? ...truly love God as He desires? ...fulfill God’s purpose for my life? ‘Rightly divide’ God’s Word? Understand Bible prophecy? Prepare for Christ’s return? Understand and teach Bible doctrine?” Listen as Dave Hunt and T. A. McMahon guide you to God’s Word for the answers! Answer the call of Ephesians 5:14-16: “Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” About 18 hours of audio.

***Get a FREE hard cover copy of An Urgent Call to a Serious Faith with purchase of radio discussion below!**

CD145	14 Compact discs	wt 1.1	SALE \$68.25 \$25.00
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**An Urgent Call to a Serious Faith - DVD**

TBC—Presenting the powerful message of the gospel, Dave shows how understanding the biblical view of God’s plan to save the world will affect the way in which true believers live the Christian life. Recorded at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa. 1 DVD, 107 min.

DVD043wt .2 **\$9.75****An Urgent Call to a Serious Faith - Audiobook**

TBC—Written both for the young disciple as well as the maturing believer, *An Urgent Call to a Serious Faith* will arouse passion, joy, humility, reverence, and awe for the extraordinary love (and corresponding privilege of responsibility) that God has given to us. 8.5 hrs.

CD144 7 CDs wt .6 **SALE \$27.00 \$9.75****MP3144** 1 MP3 disc wt .2 **SALE \$16.50 \$9.75****An Urgent Call to a Serious Faith - Costa Mesa Message**

TBC—Presenting the powerful message of the gospel, Dave shows how understanding the biblical view of God’s plan to save the world will affect the way in which true believers live the Christian life. Recorded at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa. 1 CD, 78 min.

CD067wt .1 **\$5.00****CULT APOLOGETICS RESOURCES EXPOSING MORMON, JW, AND SDA ERRORS****The God Makers**

Decker/Hunt—Mormons claim to follow the same God and the same Jesus as Christians. They also state that their gospel comes from the Bible. But are they telling the truth? *The God Makers*, one of the most powerful books to penetrate the veil of secrecy surrounding the rituals and doctrines of the Mormon Church, reveals the inner workings and beliefs of Mormonism. Through personal interviews and well-documented evidence, you’ll discover the true nature of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its hidden worldwide agenda. Harvest House Publishers, 292 pp.

B04870wt .8 **\$16.50****Captives of a Concept**

Cameron—“You’ll never get sick. You will never grow old. You will never die.” Although the above words come from the movie *Cocoon*, they could have come from the Watchtower Society, because this is the same thing they have been proclaiming for decades as part of “the Creator’s promise of a peaceful and secure new world that is about to replace the present wicked, lawless system of things.” *Captives of a Concept* offers suggestions about how to help Jehovah’s Witnesses and how to show them the truth about their religion. Lulu, 152 pp.

B00103wt 1.0 **\$17.00****Truth about Adventist "Truth"**

Ratzlaff—Many Christians believe the Seventh-day Adventist Church is simply another evangelical church that worships on Saturday. They do not perceive the organization’s cultic nature nor understand the spiritual bondage that results from following Adventist teachings. Topics covered include: Ellen White, the “messenger” who is a “continuing and authoritative source of truth” • The gospel-denying investigative judgment • Sabbath as the “seal of God” and Sunday worship as the “mark of the beast.” LAM Publications, 83 pp.

B00949wt .3 **\$7.50**

NEW! GOSPEL TRACTS WRITTEN BY T. A. McMAHON

Tom recently penned these two Gospel tracts for his personal evangelism efforts, but we're excited to offer them to you Bereans at no cost (customers must pay shipping)! *The Tip Tract* was designed as a simple way to minister to those in the service industry. Leave your waiter more than just a little extra cash but something that offers eternal value! *The Snack Tract* was created for the purpose of ministering to panhandlers. Tom likes to hand out these tracts along with a snack bar—"something to consume and something to consider." ***You can read the full text of each tract below. We're printing these tracts on our Xerox printer at The Berean Call office to keep costs low (so expect a lighter paper stock). Aside from shipping costs, we would appreciate a donation to cover the costs of printing on quantities of 50 or more tracts.***



NEW!

The Tip Tract

McMahon—Thanks for your exceptional service!

Although this \$ tip is of value, I've added some info tips that are better yet. In fact, they're of eternal value.

Let's start with an info tip about God, who is infinitely wise and powerful,

who created everything at the beginning of time...and it was "very good!"

Then a problem arose. The first humans decided to do their own thing in disobedience to their Creator, and that corrupted them and all of creation.

Their sin was passed down through the generations that followed, with the result being that "all have sinned," in other words, all have disobeyed God in some form.

God set the consequences for sin: separation from Him forever.

Humanity is incapable of paying off the penalty for its sins because the penalty is eternal...infinite.

God's perfect justice demands that the penalty must be paid in order for humanity to be forgiven and reconciled to Himself.

What man cannot do, however, God, who is infinite, can...and did.

God, consisting of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, sent the Son (Jesus) who became a man (without ceasing to be God) in order to suffer the eternal punishment for all the sins of mankind.

Jesus paid the penalty completely for the sins of humanity during His crucifixion and death on the cross, thereby satisfying divine justice and providing the way for everyone to be reconciled to God!

Reconciliation with God (also called salvation) is a free gift that can be received only by faith, in other words, by believing in and trusting in Jesus alone and His sacrifice for sin.

These info tips comprise the good news (the gospel) of biblical Christianity. They are not man's ideas but what God has communicated directly to mankind in His Scriptures, the Bible.

Receiving the good news also includes the beginning of an intimate relationship with Jesus our Creator, understanding why we were created, having hope that replaces our former hopelessness, experiencing personally God's love, His loving kindnesses, His tender mercies, and His answers to our prayers.

TR120 10 tracts wt.1 FREE — MUST PAY FOR SHIPPING



NEW!

The Snack Tract

McMahon—"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."

Man did not make up that sentence—God did.

It's found in His direct communication to mankind referred to as the Scriptures, the Bible, or simply, the

Word of God.

Without God, our infinite Creator, revealing information about Himself to His created beings, we would be left with only our finite speculations, opinions, guesses, hunches, and theories about Him.

But He has revealed details about Himself that everyone needs to know.

Let's start with God himself, who is infinitely wise and powerful, who created everything at the beginning of time...and declared that it was "very good!"

Then a problem arose. The first humans decided to do their own thing in disobedience to their Creator, and that corrupted them and all of creation.

Their sin was passed down through the generations that followed, with the result being that "all have sinned," in other words, all have disobeyed God in some form.

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TR119 10 tracts wt.1 FREE — MUST PAY FOR SHIPPING



4 Minute Gospel Tract

McMahon—Have you ever thought about handing out a gospel tract? It's perhaps the simplest way to spread the good news, which all believers have been "commissioned" to do (Mark 16:15). Introducing *The 4 Minute Gospel* tract. Aptly named for taking approximately only 4 minutes to read—this tract is concise but it does not skimp on sharing the Gospel! For a full preview of the tract's text visit: thebereancall.com/products/4-minute-gospel-tract. Dimensions 3.5" x 8.5." Available for free but you must pay for shipping.

Donations are accepted but not required.

TR118 10 tracts wt.1 FREE — MUST PAY FOR SHIPPING

The T. A. McMahon Tract Collection

This set includes 10 each of *The Tip Tract*, *The Snack Tract*, and the *4 Minute Gospel Tract*.

SET191 30 tracts wt.3 FREE — MUST PAY FOR SHIPPING



Biblically Thinking about—Creation

TBC—One of the common false ideas among many people is that those who reject evolution are rejecting science, which would include Bible-believing Christians. That makes

addressing creation vs. evolution a very worthwhile endeavor. It's not a matter of defending a Christian's intelligence but rather challenging the myth that evolution is science. It's been said that it helps to cut down the trees behind which false beliefs are doing their deceitful work. Evolution is a philosophy, a way of thinking about the universe and how it was formed. Although posing as a scientific study, it is, in fact, scientism, a speculative ideology (read "religion") that cannot be verified or falsified by true science. Includes study guide and audio CD. Booklet 42 pp., Study Guide 20 pp., and CD 78 min. **Price includes shipping in the USA!**

BBSET16

wt .3 \$7.00

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