

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

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

Tragedy Compounded

T. A. McMahon

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves...."

—2 TIMOTHY 3:1-2

THE ABOVE SCRIPTURE is a prophecy. It's one that can be clearly documented as being fulfilled in our days, which are undoubtedly the "last days" prior to the return of Jesus Christ. "Perilous times" have indeed entered the religious and secular arena of our day. Biblical discernment has been all but abandoned in the church. Hatred among those who are normally civil now seems unrestrained. Political viciousness across party lines is unprecedented. Pro-abortion legislation is being cheered. Yet those are just a few of the "perilous" effects of loving "their own selves." Second Timothy chapter 3 verses 2 through 13 give us more: "...covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof...these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith...[these] evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." One cannot separate those sins from the aggressive implementation of self-love; they are the inevitable consequence.

The love of self has always been at the heart of sin. We're first made aware of it in heaven. Lucifer declared, "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High" (Isaiah 14:14). He then promoted that self-deification to Eve: "...ye shall be as gods" (Genesis 3:5). Since self-love has been at the root of mankind's sin problems from the beginning, why then does the Word of God make a specific issue of it in the "last days"? I have a thought or two about that.

In my three-quarters of a century of life, the winds of change have blown furiously. The prevailing attitude in my early years was that selfishness was never regarded as an endearing social quality or a beneficial trait. Rarely did anyone enjoy the company of those who were all about themselves. Fast-forward to the 1960s. My contemporaries in my late teenage years transformed the culture in the US seemingly overnight, going from regarding selflessness as a virtue to being dubbed the "The Me Decade" by writer Tom Wolfe, and the "culture of narcissism" as observed by historian Christopher Lasch. This became obvious to nearly everyone.

How could such a drastic change in culture take place so quickly? The contributions are many, from a prosperous middle class that nurtured self-indulgent offspring to spiritual self-seekers trying to discover their "true selves" (mostly through mind-altering drugs). Eastern mysticism seemed to legitimize their spiritual quest, and the homogenized Western version known as the New Age Movement made it all the more popular. Yet the foundation (although of sand) for its astounding growth was the pseudo-science of psychotherapy, commonly referred to as psychological counseling. Furthermore, the relationship of psychotherapy to Eastern religions

was noted decades ago by *Psychology Today*, which stated that Eastern spiritual beliefs "...seem to be making gradual headway as psychologies, not as religions." Religious scholar Jacob Needleman concurred: "A large and growing number of psychotherapists are now convinced that the Eastern religions offer an understanding of the mind far more complete than anything yet envisaged by Western science." He added that the gurus who have invaded the West are communicating their spiritual concepts in the language of modern psychology.

The extraordinary emphasis on *self* is the common denominator. Eastern mysticism and psychology are two peas in the same pod of self. The supreme goal of Hinduism, Buddhism, and other variants of Eastern mysticism is *self-realization*, i.e., to realize one's ultimate destiny, which is godhood. *Self-actualization* is psychology's counterpart, having as its goal "self-fulfillment," i.e., realizing one's self-potential, which leads to self-deification. Neither is scientific; both are *religious* aspirations.

Psychotherapy, like Buddhism, is atheistic, and most of its practitioners are atheists as well. The rejection of God leaves the counselors with only one option in order to fix their clients' numerous problems of living: *self* itself. The secular counselor's fundamental belief is that self is innately good and therefore contains what is needed to resolve the issues that trouble mankind. Is self inherently good? If it's not, then self can't fix itself. As the saying goes, a leopard can't change its spots. Likewise, if evil is within the makeup of self, it cannot deliver itself from it.

The Word of God, on the other hand, reveals the true nature of man: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings" (Jeremiah 17:9-10). "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies" (Matthew 15:19).

Only God knows the heart. Moreover, as our Creator, *He alone* can change a person's heart. That change can come about only through an individual's new birth, i.e., being born again (John 3:3-12). "Even when we were dead in sins, [God] hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved)..." (Ephesians 2:5).

The belief that psychotherapy can remedy the behavioral problems of mankind is a terrible delusion. In practice it is utterly destructive. Why? Because the problems are all related to *sin*! Clinical psychologists can't go there, even if some may acknowledge sin's relevance. Besides the fact that they are helpless to do anything about sin, psychologists' counseling licenses frequently prohibit them from adding the recognition of that trait to their practice. So they are stuck with the impossibility of trying to make *self* the *solution* for their clients.

What then of "Christian psychologists"? Anyone who takes that title and practices with that mindset is actually steeped in and is a purveyor of utter contradictions. The so-called wisdom of man cannot be reconciled with God's Word. "The flesh profiteth nothing" (John 6:63). Introducing psychotherapeutic concepts from the perverted minds of men (if in doubt, read their biographies!) such as Freud, Jung, Rogers, Maslow, and the like, is akin to adding cyanide to a pure drinking well. That's what "Christian"

psychology is. It has nothing to offer other than the corruption of biblical truth mixed with the false theories of the “professionals.” Furthermore, to add the designation “Christian” to psychology borders on blasphemy; it is a blatant distortion of what the God of the Bible has declared, and especially the *sufficiency* of Scripture: “According as his divine power hath given unto us *all things* that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue” (2 Peter 1:3).

Of all the leaven that Christian psychologists have induced Christians to accept, the most spiritually destructive, I believe, is the core teaching of psychology: *self*. During the 1970s and ’80s, numerous books written by Christian psychological counselors flooded the church. Influential evangelical preachers quickly echoed their teachings, many believing that the “doctors” of psychology were speaking from science. Although they may not have known that psychotherapy comprises completely subjective theories that have nothing to do with science, they nevertheless failed to be Bereans by not comparing the teachings of the “professionals” with Scripture.

What has ensued are new doctrines in Christendom that are being fulfilled in our day as the prophecy of 2 Timothy 3:1-2 indicates. What are these new and well accepted doctrines? Self-love, self-esteem, self-worth, self-image, self-acceptance, etc., etc. Two of the leading advocates of the self-heresies in the ’70s and ’80s were Dr. James Dobson and Robert Schuller. Schuller wrote *Self-Esteem: The New Reformation*, which was sent out gratis to 250,000 pastors throughout the US. In that book, he declared, “Sin is any act or thought that robs myself or another human being of his or her self-esteem” (p.14). He further clarified his blasphemous example of self-esteem in *Living Positively One Day at a Time*: “Jesus knew his worth; his success fed his self-esteem.... He suffered the cross to sanctify his self-esteem. And he bore the cross to sanctify your self-esteem” (p. 201). Dr. Dobson, holding true to the cornerstone of his degree in psychology, sees self as the solution to humanity’s behavioral problems: “If I could write a prescription for the women of the world, it would provide each one of them with a healthy dose of self-esteem and personal worth (taken three times a day until the symptoms disappear). I have no doubt that this is their greatest need” (*What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew about Women*, p. 35). Those views of self are diametrically opposed to what the Bible teaches, and, tragically, they are widely accepted today throughout Christendom.

Of late, the tragedy has been compounded. Heartbreaking events have taken place, which have persuaded those who have been deeply affected by the incidents to turn to the mental health community for solutions. The incidents I’m referring to are suicides. I have no personal experience with anyone close to me committing suicide. I do, however, have a great deal of experience regarding the functioning of mental health practitioners. My father was a psychiatrist and the head of a mental hospital. A number of my relatives held various positions in psychiatric institutions. I grew up in the mental health community. I need to mention my experience in this because it has given me a great deal of compassion for those suffering from mental disorders, which includes not only people in general—but the practitioners themselves. Concerning the latter, psychiatrists have six times the number of suicides compared with the general populace. The proverb, “Physician, heal thyself” comes to mind, but the practitioners can neither heal themselves nor others. Psychotherapeutic “self” concepts exacerbate the mental problems of the counselees rather than solving them.

I’m thankful for the words of comfort from Greg Laurie for the grieving family and friends of his counseling pastor Jarrid Wilson, the young man who recently committed suicide. Laurie noted that it’s not the last thing Jarrid did before he died that determined his salvation but what Jesus did. That’s the assurance

that I’m sure ministered to Jarrid’s wife, Juli, and their two young children. It’s the biblical assurance that we all have if we have believed on our Lord and only Savior who paid the full penalty for everyone’s sin—past, present, and future.

Why, then, would I call what took place a tragedy, and how is it compounded? Suicide is a tragic act. It’s not necessarily tragic for the one who takes his own life but for the sorrow and heart-break it causes those loved ones left behind. Whatever drives one to it neither excuses nor lessens the emotional pain it causes others. It’s *compounded* by those who endorse the psychological way as the solution or supplementary help for healing mental and emotional problems of living. That has been the response by Rick and Kay Warren following the heartbreaking suicide of their son in 2013. Jarrid Wilson, as a counseling pastor of Greg Laurie’s Harvest Christian Fellowship, was a strong advocate of seeking help for depression from mental health professionals. What has compounded the tragedy of the deaths of the two young men is that two of the most influential pastors in America have wittingly or possibly unwittingly encouraged Christians to seek mental help where only the *delusion* of help exists.

How can I responsibly say that? Not only do I know about the so-called solutions that the professionals offer, but I also know that their “solutions” are diametrically opposed to what the Word of God teaches. If our Creator, who alone knows the hearts and minds of His created beings, has left the solution for mankind’s problems of living to fallen humanity’s “wisdom,” then there is no hope for anyone.

As believers, we not only have hope, but we’ve been given instructions as well: “Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings [instructions] of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock” (Matthew 7:24-25). “For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counselor?” (Romans 11:34)

Furthermore, God has also supplied the *ability* to carry out His instructions by His Holy Spirit: “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost” (Romans 15:13).

Regrettably, an all-too-common response is, “Well, I tried going by the Bible, but it didn’t work for me.” If that’s the case for all, then God has deceived us. We can’t really purge out the leaven that is contrary to what the Bible teaches. Moreover, the Word of God must not be truly sufficient, as it claims to be (Acts 20:20, 27; 2 Corinthians 9:8; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; James 1:2-4; 2 Peter 1:2-4). If its instructions are not really viable—do we turn elsewhere?

Wilson’s decision to take his own life was not prevented by the psychological counseling he sought and that others are now recommending. It is indeed tragic that Warren, Laurie, and many other shepherds are feeding and/or condoning a mixture of the Bible and psychology that will spiritually malnourish them at best and will ultimately undermine their trust in Scripture at worst. This is in direct disobedience to our Lord’s command to Peter regarding feeding His lambs, His sheep (John 21:15-17). That food is the only true nourishment. It is provided to us from “every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). Those who have been called to be shepherds by the Lord are accountable to protect God’s flock from the dangers of man-derived, man-centered psychological theories and other self-oriented therapies that comprise the world’s failed attempts at alleviating mental and emotional problems. They are also to exhort those in their fellowship to minister to one another according to Galatians 6:1-2. Verse 2 says “Bear ye one another’s burdens....” “Ye” is plural, indicating that ministry to one another is a function of *the entire body* by means of God’s Word and enabled by His Holy Spirit. It is not for a designated individual.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

Jarrid Wilson's suicide should be a wakeup call for the church. We need to abide by "the faith once delivered to the saints," whereby believers have found an even closer, more powerful walk with the Lord as they turn to Him, trusting Him through the painful circumstances and emotions that occur in life. Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). How can looking elsewhere benefit a believer's life in Christ? "They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections [emotions] and lusts [desires]" (Galatians 5:24). "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your *hearts and minds* through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7). "[W]e have the *mind of Christ*" (1 Corinthians 2:16). "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving" (Colossians 2:6-7).

Are what those verses offer attainable? Aren't believers *new creatures in Christ* (2 Corinthians 5:17)? How about "Casting down *imaginations*" and "bringing into captivity *every thought* to the *obedience* of Christ" (*italics added*)? That constitutes the only true mental health. If they are beyond the reach of any believers, then *biblical* Christianity is a fraud, and we have no hope.

On the contrary, I believe that what is written in God's Word comes with a guarantee: If we will do things *God's* way, although struggles with our flesh will likely ensue, conditions nevertheless *will* work out to His glory and our blessing, even though in different ways than we might have imagined. Doing things the *world's* way guarantees failure. Furthermore, the tragedy is compounded as others who desire to follow Jesus may also be deceived.

TBC

LETTERS

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

Dear Berean Call,

Dave Hunt was instrumental in my salvation. Years ago I used to watch him on the *John Ankerberg Show* debating all the cults or false religions during the time in my life when I was searching for the Truth.

I read lots of stuff, but *The Berean Call* is my favorite. Everyone seems to be afraid to defend the faith when people's eternal souls can be at risk. Never stop pointing out "wolves in sheep's clothing," naming them and their false religions. I've noticed that many believers seem very weak in the area of deception, which Jesus warned us was the biggest thing to look out for in these Last Days. Keep up the good work. RB (CA)

Dear Friends,

I started reading the Bible with Genesis and then on to Exodus. It was interesting until I got to the part with all the instructions in the Law. I wasn't learning how God was working in people's lives. Then a fellow Christian brother in another cell told me about you guys and lent me the article "Hebrew Roots and the Leaven of Works Salvation, part 2," and I felt some relief.

I read the part where it said "a follower of Christ when trying to live by the Law is in error" (or something like that). Basically, the whole second paragraph made sense to me. That was God, I believe, talking to me. He saw that I had started reading and learning His Word and knew that I was a little discouraged and struggling with the Old Testament Laws, and then He brought me your guys's newsletter. Talk about perfect timing! RN (CA, prisoner)

Dear TBC,

Thank you for your faithfulness and for your straightforward way of dealing with questions and heresies. We appreciate so much the newsletter and articles. We read it from front to back, and we also look up things on your website [www.thebereanall.org]. DW (WA)

Dear Berean Call,

Keep your "spiritual Gorilla Tape" handy. Either the Left is exceedingly loud and appears more threatening than they are, or the noise is coming from the avalanche that is starting. Thank you for your work and the help it is. JS (ID)

TBC NOTES

Finding Comfort in Tragedy

The comforting words of Scripture are not just feel-good sayings. "This is my comfort in my affliction: for *thy word hath quickened me*" (Psalm 19:50, *emphasis added*). They are loving words of true comfort from God who provides the means for those who believe and take to heart what He says. The psalmist tells of being grieved in his heart and confused in his mind but later declares, "My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever." As Job realized at the end of his sufferings and as the psalmist confirms, "But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works" (Psalm 73:21, 26, 28). Drawing near to the "God of all comfort," to Jesus himself, is how our sorrows are lessened. That's how God wants his loved ones to deal with the sufferings and heartaches of their temporal lives.

T. A. McMAHON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

QUOTABLE.....

"Rejoice in the Lord!" Circumstances may at times be anything but conducive to either peace or gladness, yet the trusting soul can always look above the fitful scenes of earth to the throne where Christ sits exalted as Lord at God's right hand. He is over all. There are no second causes with Him.... Knowing that "all things work together for good to those who love God, who are the called according to his purpose," why should the believer either doubt or fear? Waves may roll high, stormy winds may beat tempestuously, all to which the heart had clung may seem to be swept away, but Christ abides unchanged and unchangeable, the everlasting portion of those who trust His grace.

We read on one occasion how David, when the people spoke of stoning him because of a calamitous event for which they held him largely reponsible, "encouraged himself in the LORD his God." "The joy of the LORD is your strength," Nehemiah reminded the remnant of Israel. Before returning to the Father's house from which He came, the Lord Jesus imparted His joy to the trembling company of His disciples. Therefore, it is not only the Christian's privilege, but we may even say his duty, to constantly rejoice in the Lord. Holiness and happiness are intimately linked together. It is well that we should frequently be exhorted to "rejoice in the Lord."

—H. A. IRONSIDE

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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

or e-mail: editorial@thebereanall.org

QUESTION: I believe in divine healing but am extremely cautious of word-faith and other movements and their claims of divine power. What is your opinion of how to interpret and act upon Jesus's assertion in John 14:12?

RESPONSE: John 14:12 reads, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."

In context, Jesus was saying that He would be physically leaving the earth. The "works" He was performing personally in His physical body on the earth would "cease" with His ascension into heaven. Nevertheless, His followers, empowered by the Holy Spirit, would remain on the earth and in great numbers.

It's not a case of the works being performed by those "who believeth on me" being greater or "superior" to the works of Christ. Rather, the Lord would use believers to accomplish the greater (i.e., more numerous) works on the earth. The Book of Acts documents the miracles the Lord performed through His disciples in those early years. We see them performing miracles that Jesus had previously done. None of them were "greater" (i.e., more spectacular or more astounding) than those of Jesus. His miracles had previously been observed by the Old Testament prophets: healing the sick (Genesis 20:17), raising the dead (1 Kings 17:17-24), defying natural laws, e.g., walking on water (Job 9:8), making an axe head float (2 Kings 6:5-6), et al.

The Word Faith/New Apostolic Reformation/Latter Rain movements promise "miracles" the world hasn't yet seen. In their efforts to "produce the goods," they err and actually open the way for fraud, deception, and fakery.

Regarding how we *act* upon what Jesus himself spoke of in John 14:12, these works are performed at the time and place of the Lord's direction. The gifts of the Spirit are not given for self-aggrandizement but rather at the prompting of the Lord, in His timing. In short, all believers must respond to the Lord's leading.

Finally, the primary purpose of the gifts is for the edification of believers and the building of the Kingdom of God (See 1 Corinthians 14:3 and 12; and 1 Corinthians 14:26).

QUESTION: So many people are coming up with ideas about the Rapture and how the disappearance of so many people is going to be explained by the world. I remember Dave Hunt once put out the figure of 100,000,000 saved Christians in the world. Is it possible the number could be much smaller than that? Is it also possible that the apostasy in the church is pushing Christians into home churches and leaving mostly goats, and in the Rapture, there will be few taken from church congregations and these vanishings won't be easily linked to a Christian event at all?

RESPONSE: We can't know the exact total of those who will be taken in the Rapture. Furthermore, we see the growing number of Christians in Third World Nations who have exerted influence upon the increasingly corrupt Western denominations. Recently, the United Methodist Church in the US upheld their ban on gay clergy, homosexual "marriage," and transgenderism. Those in Third World Nations exerted their influence to keep the biblical position on these issues. This highlights the growing number of believers in these other countries. As far as the Rapture not being a big event in the eyes of the world, it is clear that the apostate would welcome such a disappearance. With the removal of the

church, the way would be cleared for the burgeoning of the religion based on the satanic deception of the Antichrist.

Dave Hunt noted, "You know, if suddenly we all disappeared, and you were the only one left in a church, sitting there alone, I don't think you would believe it was the Rapture. You'd have some other explanation, and you'd be given a strong delusion to believe the lie—and there are a number of lies, explanations...for most people who are left behind."

QUESTION: I've heard it said that 2 Peter 3:10-12 gives proof that the Bible is scientifically infallible, contrary to what the Roman Catholic Church teaches. All I want to know is how those verses give that proof.

RESPONSE: Second Peter 3:10-12 reads, "...[T]he day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?"

These verses refer to the destruction of this present universe in order to create a "new heavens and new earth." The means of destruction is described specifically as the universe being "dissolved" in a "fervent heat" that will burn up the very elements. The English word "dissolved" is translated from the Greek *luo*, which is found 46 times in 40 verses in the New Testament. Taken together, these 46 usages consistently indicate that the meaning of this word is a loosing, a letting go, or the undoing of something that otherwise is held together or in place—a scientifically accurate description of the loosing of the force that holds the nucleus of the atom together.

All matter is made of atoms, which consist of negatively charged electrons orbiting around a nucleus composed of positively charged protons and neutrally charged neutrons. The negatively charged electrons are held in orbit by the positively charged protons because of the electro-magnetic attraction between positive and negative charges. But since like charges repel one another, what holds the nucleus together, since it is composed of positively charged protons?

Physicists have hypothesized what they call the "strong force" that overcomes the electromagnetic repulsion that otherwise would push the protons apart and destroy the nucleus of the atom. Without this mysterious force, the entire universe would dissolve in one giant ball of fire—exactly what Peter describes. Colossians 1:17 says that everything consists in Christ and is held together by His power (i.e., "strong force"). If He lets go of the atom, the present universe will cease to exist. The Greek word that Peter uses describes the way science indicates the universe would be destroyed—by loosing the protons from the force that binds them together and thus dissolving the atom itself. It may be going too far to suggest that these verses in themselves offer proof of the scientific validity of the Bible, but when one puts them together with many other verses we certainly do have that proof.

The greatest proof, of course, is prophecy fulfilled. This is what God himself points to as proof of His existence and that the Bible is His Word (Isaiah 46:9-10, etc.), and that Jesus Christ, the *Living* Word of God, is the true Messiah and only Savior of the world. The theories and explanations of science change, but God's Word never changes—and prophecy fulfilled is an objective fact that cannot be denied.

NEWSWATCH

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

ADAPTATION FROM AN ENGINEERING PERSPECTIVE

ICR.ORG, 10/29/19, "EXPLORING ADAPTATION FROM AN ENGINEERING PERSPECTIVE"
[EXCERPTS]: For more than a century, biologists have appealed to Darwinian natural selection to explain how living organisms adapt to different environments. But research over the last several decades has consistently dethroned Darwin's view of natural selection. Rather than corroborating the concept that environments mold creatures through "survival of the fittest," the research supports the astonishing idea that to a great extent creatures actively sense their environments and adapt accordingly.

Recent discoveries indicate that something radical and impressive is happening. Adaptation is a result of brilliant biological engineering rather than trial-and-error death and survival, which flips the mechanism of adaptation completely on its head. This approach views biological adaptation as primarily occurring through internal mechanisms (the ability to actively sense the environment and adapt) rather than external influence [natural selection].

Here are just two examples of what studies have shown:

1) Darwin's famous finches rapidly adapted their beak shapes by sensing the environment rather than strictly through inherited genetic changes. 2) Clutches of eggs for various reptiles sense environmental temperature and sand content and produce different ratios of male and female. The changes occur after the eggs are laid and are not a result of mutations. Specific sensors for this process were discovered in 2015.

(<http://bit.ly/2q7dYa4>)

SURRENDERING TO THE STATE

WORLD MAG.COM, 10/24/19, "SURRENDERING TO THE STATE" [EXCERPTS]: When state officials demanded U.S. foster agencies place children with same-sex couples, Catholic agencies refused. Bethany Christian Services, an evangelical organization with offices in 35 states, did not.

Finding homes isn't always easy, and state and local governments often contract with private agencies, including Christian groups, to recruit foster care families.

But earlier this year, the Christian groups faced a government ultimatum: accept applications from same-sex couples for foster care and foster care adoption or

lose the legal right to conduct foster care in Michigan. The Catholic group refused. Bethany complied.

St. Vincent fought the Michigan mandate, citing the Catholic group's religious beliefs.... On Sept. 26, a Michigan court ruled in the agency's favor:

Will Thompson, who had served on the [Mississippi] Bethany board for years, said.... "Our whole point was that we're not going to be defined by the culture," he said. "We're going to be defined by what we feel are Biblical principles having to do with family, marriage, and child-rearing."

Other local board members agreed, and they unanimously decided they didn't want to continue an official affiliation with Bethany. Officials from the national headquarters in Michigan agreed to release the Mississippi branch.

(<http://bit.ly/2WtxPwa>)

WMA: EUTHANASIA ISN'T ETHICAL HEALTHCARE

ONE NEWS NOW.COM, 10/31/19, "WMA: EUTHANASIA ISN'T ETHICAL HEALTHCARE"
[EXCERPTS]: Some medical groups are unhappy with the World Medical Association and its position on doctor-assisted suicide, and the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition says the subsequent split is probably for the best.

In spite of intense pressure, the WMA has reaffirmed its position against medical professionals helping patients kill themselves. Alex Schadenberg of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition is pleased with the development.

The document also protects the conscience rights of physicians who object to the practice, which is important because doctors are being pressured into participating. Still, not all doctor groups are pleased.

"The Dutch Medical Association and the Canadian Medical Associations have both left the World Medical Association because they feel that the World Medical Association doesn't represent them," the Coalition head tells OneNewsNow. "Maybe the best thing for the World Medical Association is to have these groups leave because they were only pressuring them to do something which was wrong."

The American Medical Association this year likewise reaffirmed its position against doctors helping their patients kill themselves, in spite of heavy pressure to change their policy."

(<http://bit.ly/2pl4tnS>)

THE BEREAN CALL

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

TBC ONLINE

To receive The Berean Call by email or to access our online archives, please go to www.thebereancall.org

To order items from this newsletter or to see additional resources, visit www.thebereancall.com

DONATIONS

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

CONTACTING US

tel: (541) 382-6210 • fax: (541) 385-6025
orders and donations: (800) 937-6638 or
(541) 382-6210

e-mail: tbcoffice@thebereancall.org

website: www.thebereancall.org

online store: store.thebereancall.org

The Berean Call is a nonprofit 501 [c] [3], tax-exempt corporation registered in the State of Oregon. It is overseen by an independent board which has full and final authority over all corporate assets, personnel, and affairs. (12/19)

SHIPPING RATES & OPTIONS

\$3 - DISCOUNT SHIPPING (US)

Your items will be shipped by the cheapest method, delivers in 7 - 21 days.

\$7 - FASTER SHIPPING (US)

Your items will be shipped by USPS First Class Mail or faster, delivers in 3 - 7 days. (Street address required.)

If you require a specific shipping method, or want FedEx expedited shipping, we will charge you the actual shipping cost. Customers who buy at wholesale or ministry discounted pricing also pay actual shipping cost. Please provide a street address to get the lowest shipping cost.

FOR INTERNATIONAL ORDERS ONLY:

Please use the calculation below to estimate your shipping costs. If actual shipping costs are less, we will adjust what we charge you. If shipping charges are more, we will contact you.

First pound is \$15, each additional pound is \$5

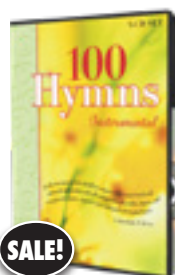
Example: a 10-pound package is \$15 (first pound) + \$45 (9 additional pounds) = \$60

We will use International Priority Flat Rate Boxes whenever possible to reduce postage costs.

If you pay with a credit card, we will charge the actual amount of shipping. If you pay by check or cash, we prefer to refund you with store credit. You may also choose to receive a refund by check or specify that the difference be used as a donation.

NEW! AMAZING GRACE 366 INSPIRING HYMN STORIES FOR DAILY DEVOTIONS**Amazing Grace**

Osebeck—For centuries, great hymns have anchored the Christian faith. Now with a new cover, this inspiring daily devotional presents the stories behind 366 of the church's timeless songs of worship. Each daily devotional contains a portion of the hymn itself along with suggested Scripture readings, meditations, and practical applications. The stories surrounding the hymns of the faith foster appreciation of the hymns and move Christians toward a new depth of worship and devotion. Personal or family devotion times will be enhanced by the challenging and inspiring thoughts contained in this timeless collection of classic and contemporary hymn stories. Kregal Publications, 394 pp.

B87998wt 1.2 **\$19.00****100 Instrumental Hymns**

Twin Sisters—This collection of hymns has become a favorite of many in the TBC office. The all-instrumental arrangements are pleasant and most are pitched in a singable or "hum"-able key for the average voice. Examples of hymns include: Abide with Me; Be Still, My Soul; Holy, Holy, Holy; I Know Whom I Have Believed; In the Garden; Jesus Paid It All; Just As I Am; Lead On, O King Eternal; A Mighty Fortress Is Our God; Nearer, My God, to Thee; Nothing but the Blood; O Happy Day!; Open My Eyes That I May See; Rejoice, the Lord Is King; Sweet Hour of Prayer; 'Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus; Whiter Than Snow, and many more! 3 CDs.

SALE!

O King Eternal; A Mighty Fortress Is Our God; Nearer, My God, to Thee; Nothing but the Blood; O Happy Day!; Open My Eyes That I May See; Rejoice, the Lord Is King; Sweet Hour of Prayer; 'Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus; Whiter Than Snow, and many more! 3 CDs.

CD133wt .3 **\$14.00 SALE \$10.00****DEVOTIONAL SALE! SAVE UP TO 20% ON THESE DEVOTIONAL READINGS****Beside Still Waters**

Stagner—Devotional books are a wonderful way to connect with the Word of God on a daily basis. However, many 365-day offerings provide little more than 60-second sound bites to sustain readers for brief reflection. So if you've been searching for a devotional reader that takes a deeper dive into the book of Psalms, then you've got a trustworthy guide in your hands. Journey into this fascinating book of the Bible with Pastor Barry Stagner. The Truth About God Publishing, 491 pp.

B05232wt 2.0 **\$22.00****God's Pursuit of Man**

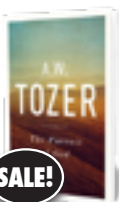
Tozer—Although written two years after the publication of *The Pursuit of God*, A. W. Tozer's *God's Pursuit of Man* sets forth the biblical truth that before man can pursue God, God must first pursue man. A "prequel" of sorts, *God's Pursuit of Man* speaks fervently of God's desire for man to be saved and the action He takes as He "invades" the human soul. Tozer then explains how it is through the power and promise of the Holy Spirit that we can truly understand the mystery of the Triune God. Moody Publishers, 141 pp.

B07049wt .4 **\$12.00****One Day at a Time**

MacDonald—There's no better way to start the day than with an encouraging portion from God's Word. Each daily meditation is just a page long, but each scripture is presented in a fresh way as William MacDonald stirs the heart to practical devotedness to the Lord. These invigorating meditations on the Scriptures from the crisp, Christ-exalting writings of William MacDonald are not intended to replace the daily reading of the Word, but to stimulate your thinking in Scripture. Available in hardback and paperback. Gospel Folio Press, 384 pp.

B08007 Hardback wt 2.2 **\$24.00****B00490** Paperback - low qty wt 1.3 **\$15.00****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.

B84129wt .3 **\$12.00 SALE \$9.00****The Pursuit of God**

Tozer—While all of Tozer's writings are well received, *The Pursuit of God* continues to be the most popular. Perhaps the continued usefulness of this book can be attributed to the writer's great spiritual discovery that to seek God does not narrow one's life, but brings it, rather, to the level of highest possible fulfillment. Moody Publishers, 131 pp.

B93663wt .4 **\$12.00 SALE \$9.00****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.

B63344wt .8 **\$12.00****God Still Speaks**

MacDonald—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.

B34100wt .5 **\$12.00****The Counselor**

Tozer—"When Christ is glorified, the Holy Spirit comes." This powerful statement lays the groundwork for A. W. Tozer's compelling study of the Holy Spirit. Tozer helps readers know God more fully and to embrace the complexity of His Spirit. Moody Publishers, 181 pp.

B05364 wt .6 **\$12.00 SALE \$9.00****Our God Is Wonderful**

MacDonald—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.

B00607wt .4 **\$11.00**

BIOGRAPHY SALE STORIES OF THOSE WHO WERE COURAGEOUS FOR THE GOSPEL**Adventures of Missionary Heroism**

Lambert—Among the annals of missionary service around the world are countless true stories of intrepid men and women. They braved innumerable dangers, toils, tragedies, and triumphs and made important discoveries. These accounts should be read and passed on to future generations—not in order to praise these brave men and women, but to give glory to the name of Jesus Christ. It was for Him that their lives were dedicated and often sacrificed. May these stories of those who have gone before inspire and encourage the current and future ranks of Christians. Master Books, 361 pp.

B25802 Ages 12+ wt .8 ~~\$15.50~~**The Gospel in Bonds**

Vins—Pastor Georgi Vins spent eight years in the gulags. But in the pages of this book, you won't read about a man who felt sorry for himself. Rather, you will hear the true stories of believers whose faith in Jesus Christ took preeminence in their lives and who allowed nothing, not even Communism, to take away their faith and their hope. Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 211 pp.

B09367 wt .7 ~~\$13.00~~ **SALE \$11.00****William Tyndale: A Biography**

Daniell—This major biography traces the dramatic life of William Tyndale, the first person to translate the Bible into English from the original Greek and Hebrew, and discusses the profound religious, literary, intellectual, and social implications of his immense achievement. Tyndale's Bible formed the basis of all English Bibles and made significant and lasting contributions to the English language. Yale University Press, 429 pp.

B08808 wt .9 ~~\$18.00~~ **SALE \$15.00****Forty Years in the Amazon Jungle**

Kim—Here is the story of the first missionary, Sung Joon Kim, from South Korea to the unreached tribesmen of the vast Amazon Jungle. Motivated by a clear calling from God and directed by Divine guidance, he overcame obstacles of nature and of men who opposed his mission. Loved by the Indians he reached, and hated by the anthropologists who opposed his efforts, he and his wife Jae Sun have invested forty years of their lives in obscurity. Sung Joon would say that being in the center of God's will is of itself a great reward. SOF Publications, 253 pp.

B75070 wt .7 ~~\$12.50~~ **SALE \$11.00****By Searching**

Kuhn—Isobel Miller gave up God for worldly pursuits, but as graduation approached and her wedding engagement was broken, she questioned her decision. "If You will prove to me that You are, and if You will give me peace, I will give You my whole life." God heard Isobel's prayers and responded. He reached out to her and equipped her for decades of fruitful missionary service with her husband, John Kuhn, in China. Moody Publishers, 160 pp.

B00536 wt .3 ~~\$6.50~~ **SALE \$5.00****Death of a Guru**

Hunt/Maharaj—Rabi R. Maharaj came from a long line of Brahmin priests and gurus and trained as a yogi. He meditated for many hours each day, but gradually disillusionment set in. He describes Hindu life and custom, vividly and honestly tracing his difficult search for meaning and his struggle to choose between Hinduism and Christianity. At a time when Eastern mysticism, religion, and philosophy fascinate many in the West, Maharaj offers fresh and important insights from the perspective of his own experience. Harvest House, 208 pp.

B04341 wt .5 ~~\$11.00~~ **SALE \$9.00****NEW! CLASSIC STORIES FOR CHILDREN****The Little Woodman and Other Stories**

Sherwood/Shaw—One little boy is lost in the woods with only his dog for company. How will he survive? Two little girls have been cut off by the tide. How will they get to safety? One young man is caught in a storm. Will he be saved or will he perish in the waves? A strong, fearless captain ignores advice and tries to outrun the hurricane. But will he outrun his Creator? In this book there are two writers but lots of stories. They focus on tales of land and sea and the memories of those people who have had excitement, adventure as well as great friendship with God. Behind each story is the Lord Jesus Christ, the one who made the woods that the little boy is lost in and who calmed the storms that lash against the shores. Christian Focus, 119 pp.

B19549 Ages 7-12 wt .2 ~~\$7.50~~**Prayers and Promises**

Bevan—A courageous young calvary officer returns from the Battle of Waterloo to fall in love with a beautiful noble woman, but who will win his heart and soul? A mother struggles to keep her children warm. She wonders, will praying to God do her any good at all? A missionary travels through the heat and dangers of the Middle-east, but distance and danger mean nothing to God who is in control of all circumstances. Our faithful God is the one we can rely on when there is nothing and no one left to cling to. *Prayer and Promises* is a fascinating collection of stories that thrill today just as much as they did yesterday. See God at work as He provides for people in need and as He brings people to himself. Christian Focus, 125 pp.

B21382 Ages 7-12 wt .2 ~~\$7.50~~**Bright Sunset**

Wilson—William Easton was enthusiastic about everything. School, friends, and especially sports. Physically strong and robust, on the football field he was known for his skill and boundless energy. However none of this lasted very long. A tragic accident at sixteen years of age confined the young boy to his bed. Family and friends looked on, helpless, as there was nothing they could do. What everyone thought was just an accident turned out to be something far more serious and life threatening. Young William's life seems to be in ruins...but what he and others discover is that in the middle of ruins, you can find treasure. This is the story of a great life given to God. Christian Focus, 141 pp.

B20143 Ages 7-12 wt .2 ~~\$7.50~~**SET195**

Set includes all three classic stories for children — Save \$4.50

wt .5 **SALE \$18.00**



Apples of Gold - Daily Devotional

TBC—Words “Fitly Spoken” from The Berean Call is a perpetual daily devotional, now in an easy-to-read paperback format with larger type size. Drawn

from years of replies to reader inquiries, this handy “prescription” of Apples each day is strong medicine for protecting against “discernmentitis” (a diminished ability to test and prove all things according to God’s Word). Whether you’re at home or on the go, this daily reader begins to work exactly when and where you need—and can be used to mark each day of the month for any year to come! Printed in two sizes—“Large” and “Extra Large” print. Great for gift giving! The Berean Call, 366 pp.

B60736 6 x 6 (Large print) wt 1.0 **\$9.00**

B60729 6 x 7.5 (XL print) wt 1.2 **\$12.00**

• TBC ORDER FORM — PLEASE SUBMIT ENTIRE PAGE •

① ORDERED BY: ☐ address correction or change below

Account No. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

② CONTACT INFO: In case we need to contact you regarding your order

Phone Number (_____) _____

E-Mail _____

To sign up for automatic e-mail news, please visit our website: www.thebereancall.org and click on “subscribe” to create a user name and to see the newsletter options.

⑤ ORDER RESOURCES: Please print all information clearly and use catalog item codes

Item Code	Title/Product Description	Price	Weight (Int'l Only)	Quantity Ordered	Total Weight (Int'l Only)	Total Price

★ **SHIPPING NOTE:** U.S. CUSTOMERS MUST CHOOSE \$3 SLOWER SHIPPING OR \$7 FASTER SHIPPING. INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMERS SEE PAGE 5 FOR SHIPPING RATES.

⑥ **WEIGHT:** _____ (Int'l only) ⑦ **TOTAL ORDER:** Product Total _____ Shipping Fees _____ Donation _____ Total Enclosed _____

☐ IF MY FUNDS EXCEED PRODUCT AND SHIPPING COSTS, PLEASE KEEP BALANCE AS A GIFT **Thank You!**