

*For the*  
**WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE**



**ARE NOT**  
**CARNAL**

*but mighty through*  
**GOD**

✠ 1 CORINTHIANS 10:4 ✠

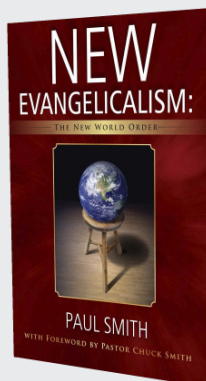
**The**  
**Berean**  
**Call**

JUNE 2011

**THIS IS A WAR BRIEFING**

*by T. A. McMahon*

# NEW! **NEW EVANGELICALISM:** THE NEW WORLD ORDER



## New Evangelicalism: The New World Order

**Paul Smith**—Like cascading dominoes, the intentional departure from the belief that the Bible is inerrant has plunged the church of the 21st century down the treacherous slippery slope of accommodation and compromise.

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• *Why have so many evangelicals identified themselves as “new” evangelicals?*

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• *What is the relationship between Fuller Seminary, the Purpose Driven Church, and the Emergent Church Movement?*

• *How is the Emergent Church’s push for globalization harmonizing with the New World Order in these prophetic last days?*

• *Can the Calvary Chapel Movement, independent churches, and denominations learn any lessons from others’ errors and mistakes?*

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Seven years after publication of the controversial ground-breaking bestseller *The Seduction of Christianity* in 1985, its authors, Dave Hunt and T. A. McMahon, joined forces on another front. They began a ministry for the purpose of encouraging spiritual discernment among those who regarded themselves not just as “evangelicals” but as *biblical* Christians. The primary vehicle for this endeavor was through the publication of the newsletter *The Berean Call*. The ministry and newsletter name is taken from Acts 17:11, in which the writer of Acts commended those in the synagogue of the Greek city of *Berea* for being more fair minded than those in Thessalonica—because not only were they eager to receive the Word, the *Bereans* also checked it against what the Apostle Paul taught them in order to see if his teaching was according to the Scriptures. Through the publishing and multimedia efforts of The Berean Call (TBC) believers are exhorted to get back into the Word of God instead of being “carried about by every wind of doctrine,” and are equipped with materials to help them walk in the truth. TBC’s stated mission is to:

**ALERT** believers in Christ to unbiblical teachings and practices impacting the church

**EXHORT** believers to give greater heed to biblical discernment and truth regarding teachings and practices being currently promoted in the church

**SUPPLY** believers with teaching, information, and materials that will encourage the love of God’s truth, and assist in the development of biblical discernment

**MOBILIZE** believers in Christ to action in obedience to the scriptural command to “earnestly contend for the faith” (Jude 3)

**IMPACT** the church of Jesus Christ with the necessity for trusting the Scriptures as the only rule for faith, practice, and a life pleasing to God

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# THE BEREAN CALL

*"[The Bereans] . . . searched the scriptures daily, [to see] whether those things were so."—Acts 17:11*

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## ***This Is a War Briefing***

*T. A. McMahon*

It is imperative that everyone who follows Jesus Christ understands that we are in a war. It's a war that is spiritual, but it may have physical consequences. If you're not aware that you are in that kind of war, you very likely have already been taken captive. If you are a pacifist in this war, you have been at least effectively neutralized. Neutrality is capitulation. There is no fence-sitting as the battle rages. Jesus said that he who is not with Him is against Him (Matthew 12:30).

So, if we are indeed in a war, what's it all about? It's a war for the hearts of humanity—and the adversaries are God and Satan.

"Tom, are you serious? Are you telling me that God couldn't defeat Satan in a heartbeat—that one of His created beings is a match for Him?" No. I know that God could wipe out Satan in an instant and, for that matter, all the rest of God's created, rebellious beings collectively, should He so desire. He did it once before, save eight.

The war on God's part is not about defeating His adversary. It is a battle over the prize. It's about winning the hearts of mankind. "My son, give me thine heart" (Proverbs 23:26).

This is a theme that runs through the entire Bible. It starts out with the "first and great commandment" (Matthew 22:37-38). We're to love God with *all our heart*. That's what heaven and eternal life are all about. Those who have believed the gospel and have given their hearts to Jesus will spend eternity with Him. This is what God desires, and it is the crux of the battle.

There are some who say there is no free will—that there is no choice on our part—and that God has predestined everything. God certainly knows everything, but if He has determined ahead of time *everything* that would take place, then we're not really *giving* Him our hearts—we've been programmed to do that, or not to do that. If that's the case, then He's the one who's really doing it. The command to love Him with all our heart would depend on *His* keeping that command.

The command then becomes some kind of charade. And the battle—well, there could be no real battle because He's doing all of it. If God has predestined everything, then what would be the point of Scripture verses that exhort us to "fight the good

fight of faith," or "put on the whole armor of God"; or verses that use terms like the "weapons of our warfare," or tell us that we are to be "good soldier[s] of Jesus Christ," and that we are to "wage the good warfare"? If everything was predestined, and if we took those verses seriously, at best, our fight would be like shadow boxing or play-acting. No! We are in a real war—the battle of the ages. It's a war between God and Satan, and the prize is humanity.

Often, before soldiers go into a battle, they attend a briefing where strategies, critical information, and certain objectives are presented. Sometimes they are reminded of the overall game plan of the war. That's the approach I'm taking in this "war briefing," beginning with an overview of God's game plan.

God's goal, according to the Scriptures, is to win the hearts of men and women with whom He desires to spend eternity: "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have [desires] all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:3-4). "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life..." (John 3:36). These, and many, many other verses declare God's wonderful objective.

God's *primary means* for achieving His goal is to *communicate* through His Word. His desire to spend eternity with those whom He created, as well as revealing what He has accomplished for their sakes that would enable them to spend eternity with Him. Without God's revelation to us concerning His unfathomable act of love on our behalf, we could not know it. But He has communicated in His *Word* all that He has done for us and what He requires of us in order to be reconciled to Him and to receive the gift of eternal life: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that [i.e., salvation is] not of yourselves: it is the gift of God..." (Ephesians 2:8).

Since understanding that God's *communication* is key to His goal of winning the hearts of mankind, it's not surprising that *His Word* would be the major target for His enemies. Shutting down, or at least disrupting, communication is the most effective tactic for defeating an enemy. If the troops can't get orders from their leaders, they

are terribly vulnerable. Which brings us to God's main adversary, Satan, and his strategies. Scripture tells us in 2 Corinthians 2:11: "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." Although we're not to major on the deceptions of the devil, we nevertheless must be aware of them.

On the other hand, we look to God and *His* strategy for us: "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6:11-13).

Sounds like a war briefing to me! Satan (which means "adversary") and his troops seem to be the opponents here. And we are not to be ignorant of his devices, or his "wiles." "Wiles" is translated from the Greek word *metho daa a*, meaning his methods, e.g., cunning arts, deceit, craft, trickery. These are all part of his methods—the strategies that the "father of lies" has crafted in the war against God for our hearts.

Satan's master strategy is the same that he has used from the very beginning on humanity, and he has certainly expanded on it throughout the ages: "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Genesis 3:1).

First of all, some people have trouble with a talking serpent. They can't take that as a literal statement, probably because they've never seen a serpent talk or communicate with a person. However, since none of us were there, we can't know for sure whether or not communication with animals was a normal condition before the fall of mankind into sin. The Bible doesn't tell us.

Nevertheless, for those who continue protesting that such a thing is absurd, I wonder why don't they protest against our government and try to get some of their tax money back from the multimillions of dollars the U.S. has spent on research trying to communicate with animals such as gorillas, chimpanzees, and dolphins, or at least curb their "conversations" with their own pets.

If a person claims to be a believer but has trouble believing that Satan literally spoke

through a serpent and needs some further assurance, here are a couple of verses: “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (2 Corinthians 11:3). Furthermore, Peter, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 2:16), confirms another incident in Scripture in which an animal, this time a donkey, literally spoke “with a man’s voice [and] forbad the madness of the prophet” Balaam.

For those who consider the Genesis account of the serpent a myth of Judaism and Christianity, even a cursory search of the pagan religions of the world will reveal an amazing emphasis on serpent worship. India has the hooded cobra of Hinduism; Scandinavia has the Midgard Serpent; the Greeks have the god Python; the Egyptians have Uraeus; the Aztecs have their savior-god Quetzalcoatl, the plumed Serpent; Haitians worship the Great Serpent; American Hopi Indians perform the ceremony of the snake dance, and there are multitudes of others. Even the medical profession has paid homage to Aesculapius, the Greek god who is said to have received a healing herb from the mouth of a serpent. The original Hippocratic oath taken when doctors received their M.D. degrees began, “I swear by Apollo the physician, and Aesculapius and Health, and All-heal, and all the gods and goddesses....”

In all of the pagan religions above and many more, the very lies that the serpent fed to Eve are accepted as truth. The serpent for them is the symbol of perennial wisdom and eternal life—the good guy. This focus on the serpent by many cultures separated by time and distance—cultures that never had contact with one another yet who worship the serpent—is an amazing worldwide development stemming from something that supposedly never happened! But for those who believe the Bible, it’s certainly consistent for one who is called “the god of this world,” “that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world” (2 Corinthians 4:4 and Revelation 12:9).

Serpent worship, however, is neither Satan’s ultimate goal nor his master strategy for deceiving the world. He is intent upon destroying the *communication* between God and His created beings. That strategy began by introducing doubt in the mind of Eve: “And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said...?” God gave a command to Adam. It was an absolute. He told him that he could eat of any tree of the Garden except one—and if he ate of that one, he would die. It was a test of obedience to see if he and Eve loved God. Jesus said in the Gospel of John, chapter 14, that if a man

loves Him (Jesus), he will do what He says. The consequence of disobeying God’s absolute command was death—physical death and separation from God forever.

Separation from God forever is Satan’s end, and he is bent on taking mankind down with him. His strategy for accomplishing this is clear in Genesis 3:1. He is dialoging with Eve for the purpose of breaking down her commitment to what God commanded: “Yea, hath God said?” To begin with, it was a subtle interrogation, probably not unlike the rationalization that goes on in our own minds from time to time, especially if our flesh isn’t thrilled with what God’s Word says. Eve was given something to think about, wrapped up, of course, in a very seductive sales package and delivered with a smooth pitch by Satan: getting her to think that God was withholding that particular fruit from her, causing her to wonder if there might be something special about it, or in it—something that would improve her situation, or even give her god-like powers.

That’s the strategy of the Adversary’s dialogue. But one doesn’t *dialogue* about absolutes. When that happens, something is either being added to or subtracted from the absolute. And that addition or subtraction, whether from Satan or from man, is a “way” (a solution, a path) that may seem appealing, even right, but that will inevitably lead to destruction (Proverbs 14:12). The strategy is designed for disrupting God’s communication—for undermining the authority of God’s Word. In verses 2 and 3 of Genesis 3, we see by Eve’s response that she seems to have added something to God’s command: “neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.” This wasn’t part of the command that God gave to Adam. Although her addition seems to strengthen what God said, it still misrepresents what God actually commanded. You see, when we get into a dialogue over something that we believe to be absolute truth, an adversary’s goal is simply to get us to move from our position—in any direction. That effectively negates its absolute characteristic or quality. Once we’ve moved away from our steadfast position, the slide begins that ultimately ends in destruction.

This tactic, which began in the Garden of Eden, has been used throughout history to get people to change their views—particularly fixed views. It was used effectively by Marxists to convert millions to communism, and it is used extensively today in the socialization process of our government, corporations, and educational system. Its aim is to tear down absolutes, dogmas, fixed ideas, traditional views, individualism, and so forth, in favor of a more social view based upon *consensus*, or what most people think. It’s a technique of getting people to conform

to what the majority says is best and is directed at “nonconformists” such as...well, biblical Christians would fit that definition.

You can trace the serpent’s lies of Genesis 3 all through the history of mankind and find them in nearly all religions, in psychology, in education, in entertainment everywhere—and growing with an intensity that is increasing exponentially in our day. In Satan’s grand strategy to “nullify” God’s communication to mankind, his process involves 3-Ds: Doubt, Denial, and Deceit. Planting Doubt begins the process: “And he [Satan] said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said...?” That’s followed by Denial: “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die...,” which is then followed by Deceit: “For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” Of course, we could also add three more “D”s to describe the consequences for anyone who is seduced by the Adversary’s tactics: Delusion, Destruction, and ultimately Death, which is eternal separation from God.

Peter, in his first Epistle, gives those of us who would “fight the good fight of faith” our marching orders: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in [experienced by] your brethren that are in the world” (1 Peter 5:8-9).

We are to “be sober, be vigilant,” and on our guard to “resist [the devil] stedfast in the faith.” Ephesians 6 tells us that we are to take up the “sword of the Spirit” (God’s Word). It is a defensive posture, that we “*may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*”

As we’ve seen, Satan’s primary objective is to nullify God’s objective communication to mankind through various means: his wiles are to attack it, undermine it, dismiss it, bad-mouth it, distort it, counter it, eradicate it, subsidize it, falsify it, abolish it, denigrate it, and so on and so forth. If he is effectively doing that in any of our lives, he, the father of lies, has cut us off to some degree from God’s truth. If we don’t know the Word of God, we won’t be able to tell what’s from Him and what’s not. For example, if we don’t understand money concepts, we won’t be able to tell when we’re being short-changed. In the same way, we need to have a good idea of what God’s marching orders are. In a war, we need to be able to discern whether or not the orders have been tampered with or corrupted by the enemy. Tragically, that lack of preparedness in this spiritual war has left much of the church terribly vulnerable today. The war is only going to intensify. **TBC**



## Quotable.....

Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide,

In the strife of Truth with Falsehood, for the good or evil side;

Some great cause, God's new Messiah, offering each the bloom or blight,

Parts the goats upon the left hand, and the sheep upon the right,

And the choice goes by forever 'twixt that darkness and that light.

Hast thou chosen, O my people, on whose party thou shalt stand,

Ere the Doom from its worn sandals shakes the dust against our land?

Though the cause of Evil prosper, yet 't is Truth alone is strong,

And, albeit she wander outcast now, I see around her throng

Troops of beautiful, tall angels, to enshield her from all wrong.

Backward look across the ages and the beacon-moments see,

That, like peaks of some sunk continent, jut through Oblivion's sea;

Not an ear in court or market for the low, foreboding cry

Of those Crises, God's stern winnowers, from whose feet earth's chaff must fly;

Never shows the choice momentous till the judgment hath passed by.

Careless seems the great Avenger; history's pages but record

One death-grapple in the darkness 'twixt old systems and the Word;

Truth forever on the scaffold, Wrong forever on the throne,—

Yet that scaffold sways the future, and, behind the dim unknown,

Standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above his own.

We see dimly in the Present what is small and what is great,

Slow of faith how weak an arm may turn the iron helm of fate,

But the soul is still oracular; amid the market's din,

List the ominous stern whisper from the Delphic cave within,—

"They enslave their children's children who make compromise with sin."

James Russell Lowell,

EXCERPT FROM *The Present Crisis*

## Q&A.....

**Question: Are you familiar with Rob Bell's book *Love Wins*? It is subtitled, "a book about heaven, hell, and the fate of every person who ever lived." It seems to teach universalism, although I have seen Bell deny that he is a universalist.**

**RESPONSE:** We first addressed Rob Bell's heresies in a December 2005 *TBC* review of *Velvet Elvis*. Although professing fidelity to Scripture, the content of both *Velvet Elvis* and *Love Wins* clearly denies the sufficiency of Scripture. "This is part of the problem with continually insisting that one of the absolutes of the Christian faith must be a belief that 'Scripture alone' is our guide. It sounds nice, but it is not true" (Bell, *Velvet Elvis*, p. 67). His denial of scriptural authority has turned him from God's specific revelation, and he must therefore look elsewhere for insights that only God can and has provided.

His denial of the biblical doctrine of hell begins with misrepresentation, "A staggering number of people have been taught that a select few Christians will spend forever in a peaceful, joyous place called heaven while the rest of humanity spends forever in torment and punishment in hell," which he then characterizes as "...misguided, toxic, and ultimately subvert[ing] the contagious spread of Jesus' message of love, peace, forgiveness and joy that our world desperately needs to hear" (Bell, *Love Wins: A Book About Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived*, Harper One, 2011, viii).

Bell seems to be blind to the numerous Bible verses that categorically deny his thesis, such as, "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power" (2 Thes 1:7-9). Furthermore, five times in chapter 9 of the Gospel of Mark (vv. 43-48) Jesus repeats that the fires of hell will not be quenched.

Bell seeks to offer a message without offense, but not the biblical gospel. However, the Apostle Paul wrote clearly of the offense of the Cross: "And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased" (Gal. 5:11).

Bell admits that Jesus was "unbelievably exclusive," [our emphasis] with his declaration that "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but through me" (Ibid.). Still, he argues, "He's also fantastically inclusive," pointing to other statements that Jesus made such as "I, if I am lifted up, ... will draw all people to myself" and that there will be a "renewal of all things" [author's emphasis] (Lillian Kwon, "Rob Bell Denies Being a Universalist," *Christian Post*, 3/15/11). Although Christ indeed draws all people to himself, Bell implies that the drawing is unconditional. No! Here is the condition: "He that believeth not shall be damned" (Mk 16:16).

Bell's low view of Scripture was evident during an interview with Pakistani-born Christian journalist Martin Bashir. "I'm asking you, is it irrelevant, as to how you respond to Christ in your life now, to determine your eternal destiny, that is irrelevant? Is it immaterial?" (Bashir, MSNBC Interview, March 15, 2011 transcript). Bell's answer is double-talk at best. "It is terribly relevant and terribly important. How exactly it works out and how it works out in the future, when you die we are in the realm of speculation. And my experience has been a lot of Christians built whole dogmas about what happens when you die and we have to be very careful we don't build whole doctrines and dogmas on what is speculation" (Ibid.).

Speculation? That is what a person is left with when he turns from the Word of God, which is epidemic among many who profess to be evangelical Christians. No doubt we are seeing the prophetic fulfillment of Paul's last day's warning: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine" (2 Tm 4:3).

**QUESTION: Are you familiar with the book *The Girl Who Could Fly*? It is being used in my daughter's class at her Christian school. The plot involves a girl named Piper McCloud, who was born with the power of telekinesis, which gives her the ability to fly. When we discussed this book, my daughter excitedly told me that this was just like Jesus telling the disciples, "whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith" (Mark: 11:23).**

**RESPONSE:** In our opinion, there are a number of problems with using a fictional book in a Christian educational setting that features characters with superpowers. The subject matter may motivate the students to read, normally an ordeal for most visually oriented young people these days, but it has a serious downside.

First of all, it endorses the possibility of a condition that is not consistent with God's creation and a biblical worldview. Second, much of the literature that includes paranormal powers connects the abilities to the occult or witchcraft techniques. It may be "just fantasy" for some, but it is very seductive, especially for young people who might dream of being able to exhibit such powers. Furthermore, the bait here is a "socially redeeming" teaching of tolerance. As found in movies such as the *X-Men* and the Harry Potter series, the heroes and heroines are victims of an intolerant and prejudiced society that only sees their

“gifts” as abnormal or even demonic. That “teaching” may well influence a young person to see the tree of intolerance but be blinded to the forest of occultism.

More serious, however, is the attempt to relate biblical miracles to alleged super powers. That’s like equating the miraculous to magic; the result reduces miracles to techniques that a person can apply by adhering to occult instructions. The example you give is how the so-called faith teachers turn biblical faith into a technique, or method, that supposedly enables a person to perform signs and wonders. That is a terrible distortion of Scripture and has led many to attempt to use God like a genie in a bottle in order to achieve healing, prosperity, or other false signs and wonders. This is both a distortion of biblical faith and a blasphemous mischaracterization of God.

If someone protests that the superpowers of *The Girl Who Could Fly* have no connection to the “faith” teachers other than the exception of this one Christian school, he needs to consider Benny Hinn, who stated that before the Fall, Adam could fly like a bird and swim underwater while breathing like a fish. According to Hinn, Adam even went to the moon and walked on water long before Christ. His conclusion was that Adam was the first superhuman being that ever lived. Either Hinn made all of this up, or the Holy Spirit chose him as a vessel to reveal what was not revealed in the Scriptures. It must be the former at least because although Hinn is extremely popular (even though he has a long track record of false prophecies; see *TBC* 3/97), his alleged insights and teachings are contradictory to the Word of God.

**QUESTION: How can you believe both in God’s foreknowledge and that man has the power of choice? If God knows ahead of time that Mr. A is going to do something, how can Mr. A decide for himself? Isn’t foreknowledge the same as predestination?**

**RESPONSE:** The biblical doctrine of foreknowledge simply states that God knows everything that will happen before it happens—which as God He must know. Prophecy, in which God reveals His foreknowledge, is the major part of Scripture, the great proof that God exists and that the Bible is His Word (Is 42:9; 43:10; 46:9-10; 48:5, etc.). Prophecy is also the foundation of the gospel (Rom 1:1-3; 1 Cor 15:1-4, etc.). Scripture never says or even implies that God knows all beforehand because He has caused it—much less that He must cause it in order to know it. The future is as plain to Him as the past.

The future is part of time, which is part of this physical universe. God is not part

of the universe (which He created out of nothing), but He is separate from it. Perhaps He observes the universe from the outside, including past, present, and future time, seeing it all at once. It is not necessary for us to know how God knows the future, but we know He must.

Scripture makes it clear that God is no passive observer, entirely disinterested in events taking their own course in the universe He has created. He keeps a watchful eye and plays an active part because He has an eternal purpose for all creation. He exerts His influence upon men and events in order to create the future which He desires. He makes no last-minute emergency adjustments but has eternally foreknown whatever He would do to implement His plans: “Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world” (Acts 15:18). Predestination and foreknowledge cannot be the same. God’s foreknowledge doesn’t make things happen. To know something in advance is not the same as predetermining that it will happen. Nor does God need to predestine something in order to know it will happen. Were that the case, God would not be infinite in His knowledge. There is a vast difference between saying that God fully foresees everything that will happen and allows much that is not His perfect will—and saying that God predetermines everything that occurs and it is therefore all just as He would have it. The latter view makes man a mere puppet and God the cause behind all wickedness and sin.

Martin Luther asserts that “God foreknows and wills all things.” He argues that if this is not true, then “how can you believe, trust and rely on His promises?”<sup>1</sup> The answer is, “Quite easily. We rely upon God’s promises because He is God and cannot lie.”

Furthermore, it is neither logically necessary nor biblical that unless God wills all things He cannot make and keep promises. Clearly, what God promises and determines to do He will do regardless of the will or actions of man or nature. That He is able to protect us and bring us to heaven does not require that He must will every event that swirls about us—only that He must have known them and taken them into account in effecting His eternal purpose.

You ask how God’s foreknowledge and man’s free will could both be true. Surely whatever God foreknows will happen, must happen, or His foreknowledge would be wrong. Nothing can prevent what God foreknows from happening, so a person might ask, how can man be a free moral agent? Even though God may be looking in upon time from outside, doesn’t the fact that He knows the future eliminate man’s choice? If the future must happen, as God knows

it will, isn’t everything predetermined? Claiming that the issue of free will was the very heart of the Reformation and of the gospel itself, Luther dogmatically declared that it was impossible for God to foreknow the future and for man at the same time to be a free agent to act as he wills. Believing firmly in God’s foreknowledge, Luther wrote *The Bondage of the Will* to prove that the very idea of man’s free will is a fallacy and an illusion. In fact, *Bondage* is full of fallacies, both logical and biblical, which I point out in *What Love Is This?*, my book in defense of God’s character.

Calvin states no less dogmatically than Luther that foreknowledge leaves no room whatsoever for free will. Period. We are astonished that Calvin repeatedly makes fallacious, unbiblical statements; and doubly astounded that so many leading evangelicals continue to praise him for being so logical and such a great exegete.

If God cannot know by His foreknowledge what every person will think and do by their free will, then He is not God. Moreover, the fact that God is able to allow man freedom of choice while still effecting His eternal purposes unhindered is all the more glorifying to His sovereign wisdom, power, and foreknowledge.

What is future to us may not be future to God: He sees not only our past but our present and future as already having happened. From this understanding, God’s knowledge of what in our experience hasn’t yet happened would have no effect upon its occurrence and therefore would leave us free to choose.

Even Augustine (known as the father of modern Catholicism), whom both Calvin and Luther admired, clearly affirmed that there is no incompatibility between God’s absolute sovereignty and foreknowledge and man’s free will:

Therefore we are by no means compelled, either, retaining the prescience of God to take away the freedom of the will, or, retaining the freedom of the will, to deny that He is prescient of future things, which is impious. But we... faithfully and sincerely confess both.<sup>2</sup>

We don’t accept something just because someone, no matter how great their reputation, says it. The Bible is our authority. We believe that what we have said here is scriptural, but each reader must be a Berean and come to his or her own conclusions on the basis of Scripture alone.

1. Martin Luther, *The Bondage of the Will* (trans. J.D. Packer and O.R. Johnston, Fleming H. Revell, 1957), 83-84.

2. Augustine of Hippo, *The City of God* (n.p.n.d.), V. 10. 1977), 35.



## TBC NewsWatch

### BLACKLIST OF INTELLIGENT DESIGN

**EVOLUTIONNEWS.ORG, 3/28/2011: JERRY COYNE'S BLACKLIST OF ID [INTELLIGENT DESIGN] SCIENTISTS [EXCERPTS]**—Prominent evolutionary biologist Jerry Coyne recently has made this remarkable assertion: "Adherence to ID (which, after all, claims to be a nonreligious theory) should be absolute grounds for not hiring a science professor."

Notwithstanding Coyne's absolute assertion that scientists who "adhere" to ID are unemployable, Coyne actually claims that his professional exclusion of scientists who endorse ID is not anti-religious bigotry: "...I abhor discrimination against hiring simply because of someone's religion...."

Yet Coyne has called for the resignation of Dr. Francis Collins, an esteemed scientist who is the director of the National Institutes of Health and who is an opponent of ID. Coyne demands Collins' resignation merely because Collins has publicly expressed his Christian views.

Coyne: "Collins gets away with this kind of stuff [i.e. speaking publicly about the compatibility between science and his belief in God] only because, in America, Christianity is a socially sanctioned superstition. He's the chief government scientist, but he won't stop conflating science and faith. He had his chance, and he blew it. He should step down."

What "chance" did Collins "blow"? Collins blew his chance to pass the atheist litmus test by keeping his mouth shut about his belief in God. Coyne's religious discrimination is explicit and undeniable.

And Coyne goes further. He asserts that mere adherence to ID, whether held by a scientist with religious views or by a scientist with no religious views, absolutely precludes employment.... Coyne's blacklist extends to all areas of science, not just to evolutionary biology or even to biology [and] would apply to oceanographers and chemists and meteorologists as well.

### MORMON BECKONS BELIEVERS TO ISRAEL

**CBNNEWS.COM, 5/17/2011:** Conservative talk show host Glenn Beck announced plans for a rally in Jerusalem in August, which he's calling "Restore Courage." The Jerusalem rally will take place one year after Beck organized a rally in Washington, D.C., called "Restoring Honor," which drew an estimated 500,000 people.

"Last summer, we set out to restore honor in Washington, D.C. This summer, it's time to restore courage," he said. "It is time for us to courageously stand with Israel."

Beck made the announcement on his radio show on Monday, warning that Jerusalem, the "center of our faith," is in danger. "They are going to attack the center of our faith, our common faith, and that is Jerusalem. And it won't be with

bullets or bombs. It will be with a two-state solution that cuts off Jerusalem, the Old City, to the rest of the world," he said.

Beck then issued a call to action to Christians around the globe: "I ask you to join me... to take this to every corner of the earth.... This is not an American solution. This is a people of faith solution."

*[TBC: We applaud Beck's support of Israel, but we reject his Mormon belief that Joseph Smith was the prophesied son of the Israelite patriarch Joseph.]*

### OBAMA CAUGHT IN FACE-OFF WITH ISRAEL

**USATODAY, 5/20/2011: OBAMA REBUFFED BY NETANYAHU ON LAND-FOR-PEACE DEAL [EXCERPTS]**—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rebuffed President Obama today over using the 1967 Israeli-Palestinian borders as a basis for a peace agreement.

Speaking after an Oval Office meeting that went nearly two hours longer than scheduled, Netanyahu said any deal "cannot go back to the 1967 lines, because these lines are indefensible, because they don't take into account certain changes that have taken place on the ground."

Between 1948 and 1967, Netanyahu said, "These were not the boundaries of peace. They were the boundaries of repeated wars."

His comments represented a setback for Obama, who proposed in a speech Thursday that Israeli-Palestinian peace talks resume with the 1967 lines—plus agreed-upon "swaps"—forming the basis for a deal. Less than 24 hours later, the leader of Israel had rejected the U.S. president's proposal.

"Obviously, there are some differences between us, the precise formulations and language," Obama said. "That's going to happen between friends."

Netanyahu told reporters after nearly 2 1/2 hours of private talks that Obama's vision wouldn't create a lasting peace: "Peace based on illusions will crash eventually on the rocks of Middle Eastern reality," he said.

Netanyahu said [that] three conditions—no 1967 lines, no acceptance of Palestinian refugees and no alignment between Abbas' Fatah party and Hamas—must be met for Israel to move forward with peace talks.

"We don't have a lot of margin for error," the prime minister said. "History will not give the Jewish people another chance."

Obama did get one endorsement for his policy prescription today. The Middle East Quartet—representing the United Nations, European Union and Russia, in addition to the United States—applauded his initiative.

### PCUSA APPROVES "GAY" ORDINATIONS

**NYTIMES.COM, 5/10/2011: PRESBYTERIANS APPROVE ORDINATION OF GAY PEOPLE [EXCERPTS]**—After 33 years of debate, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has voted to change its consti-

tution and allow openly gay people in same-sex relationships to be ordained as ministers, elders and deacons.

The outcome is a reversal from only two years ago, when a majority of the church's regions, known as presbyteries, voted against ordaining openly gay candidates....

"All of us are surprised," said the Rev. Grady Parsons, the church's stated clerk, its highest elected official. He attributed the turnabout in the votes to both the growing acceptance of homosexuality in the larger culture, and to church members simply wearying of the conflict. We've been having this conversation for 33 years, and some people are ready to get to the other side of this decision," he said. "I hope that going forward we can stay together and be faithful witnesses to the gospel of Jesus Christ," he said.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) now joins a growing bloc of historic, mainline Protestant churches that have voted to accept gay clergy members and church leaders—a bloc that includes the United Church of Christ, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Episcopal Church. (The largest mainline Protestant denomination, the United Methodist Church, is still fighting over the issue.)

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has about two million members. The Presbyterian Church in America, a much smaller and more conservative denomination, prohibits the ordination of women and openly gay candidates.

Longtime advocates of gay equality in the Presbyterian Church savored the day. The Rev. Heidi Vardeman, senior minister of Macalaster Plymouth United Church in St. Paul and a spokeswoman for a pro-gay church group called More Light Presbyterians, said in an interview, "Finally, the denomination has seen the error of its ways and it will repent.... I've had young people who have been exemplary, obviously good candidates for the ministry," she said, "but then you have to have this weird conversation in which you say that, umm, because they might be gay or lesbian, it's not going to work. But now we're free! We can endorse and propose and assist and elect those whom God has called."

In the next few months, the denomination will gauge the reaction from its more theologically conservative members, who believe that ordaining sexually active gay people is inconsistent with the Bible. Some have already departed. The Presbyterian News Service estimates that approximately 100 congregations have left the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in the last five years. Several were large congregations, which could help explain why the vote in some presbyteries switched from 2009.

Paul Detterman, executive director of Presbyterians for Renewal, an alliance of conservative Presbyterians, said: "We see this as a bit of a crisis of conscience for us. The book that we hold up as holy is saying one thing, and now the church is behaving differently."

## Speaking Schedule

<b>Aug 12-13</b>	<b>TBC Conference</b>
	Bend, OR (800) 937-6638
<b>Sep 9-10</b>	<b>Calvary Chapel Appleton</b>
(TA)	Appleton, WI (920) 735-1242
<b>Oct 15-16</b>	<b>Cohocton Assembly of God</b>
(TA)	Cohocton, NY (585) 384-9113

### Dear Dave Hunt,

In October 2002, I went to Word of Life for the first time and you spoke there....I had already read three of your books, *A Woman Rides the Beast*, *The Seduction of Christianity*, and the book that was just published, *What Love Is This?* At WoL you opened my eyes and "heart" to what was happening in the world today and gave me a love for the lost, and I haven't been the same since. Thank you! NC (NY)

### TBC,

Thank you for your faithfulness in presenting truth. Your article on *The Hole in Our Gospel* came just as I learned the book was being used for study in a small group in our church. Another example of God's timing. W&MS (OH)

### Dear Mr. Hunt,

I just wanted to drop a small note of appreciation for your book *What Love Is This?* To make a [long] story short, Calvinism was something that I have been struggling with for a little time. I was just like the pastor's wife you mentioned in the beginning of the book. I just assumed it was the truth since fine preachers of the Word taught it. I believe God led me to your book after asking Him if it was true or not. I believe with all my heart that you made the character of God very clear. Thank you very much. God bless. AO (email)

### Dear Berean Call,

I would like to thank you for sending me the monthly newsletter. I so appreciate it, and living here in Zimbabwe...I look forward to [it] tremendously. Please keep me ON your mailing list! I am re-reading all of Mr. Hunt's books again and am at present reading *A Cup of Trembling*. It is incredible to see the things he wrote about coming to pass before our very eyes. Bless you all for the wonderful work you do in bringing God's Truth to us. AV (email)

### Sirs,

I had a different impression of your newsletter when I subscribed. After several issues,

my opinion of your ministry has changed. The need for correction by brothers of brothers is indeed necessary and called for in God's Word. This correction should be done with encouragement, *great* patience, and careful instruction (2 Tim 4:2). I find your entire ministry based on a cold intolerance even in areas where learned men's interpretations vary. Cold intolerance is indeed sometimes necessary, but in general I think correction should be done with love. I think 1 Corinthians describes where a brother's motivation should arise from. Based on this view, I am asking that you remove my name and address from your mailing list, effective immediately. Thank you. RJ (TX, prisoner)

### Dear Friends,

I must take the time to tell you what an inspiration you are to my husband and me. We fight tirelessly to inform individuals and churches...about the great deceptions infiltrating the churches through the emerging church movement. It is a lonely, but extremely rewarding ministry and a high honor to live in these end times and have the certainty of knowing that we are carrying out our mandate for Jesus Christ....Nevertheless, we count it as nothing compared to the joy we find in serving our Lord and looking forward to His soon return.

We were also thrilled to find that in your newsletter you give permission to make copies of your newsletters to give to others, and even give permission to put your articles online—with complete attribution, of course. Your March 2011 newsletter was so important that I was racking my brain to figure out how to get it out to numerous people; then I read the information in your "small print subscription information" section of the newsletter. Just one more blessing from The Berean Call!!

One final note, I love Mark Dinsmore's articles. He is a thinker, not a clone. After giving [his articles] some thought, I almost always end up learning something, taking a new view, and even agreeing with him. He, too, is a blessing. CR (CA)

### Dear Berean Call,

I have enjoyed your newsletter for quite some time....It has always been educational and informative. I am really concerned that more and more so-called Christians are turning to the things of the world and permitting them to enter the church. I am not a legalistic person, but after serving the Lord for twelve years overseas and having been a pastor for quite a few years here in the mainland, I can't help but be very concerned about the church. What happened to all-night prayer meetings? Where is the hunger for God that I see in the early church? What about evangelism, the desire to attend church...?

I have no claims that I am a prophet, but I can see that we are heading into some really tough times and as Christians we need to be as close to the Lord as we can be. Through your newsletter, you help us understand the strategies of the devil and alert us [on] what to watch for. Please keep up informing us and may the Lord bless you and your needed ministry. JH (AR)

### Dear Dave and Tom,

Thank you for the monthly newsletter you send out. I have found it to be a great source of info for revealing the many ways our enemy satan is trying to deceive God's children. You are usually the first to alert and warn of new apostasy in the church and show how quick the world is to receive false teachings by so-called experts in the religious and secular world. There has always been spiritual blindness in the world, but it seems to be spreading more and more even into churches that used to teach God's word, but now seem to care more about pleasing their flock with feel good messages than rebuking their sins. Keep God's truth coming. You are like the "tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season" that is described in Psalm 1. I thank God that we are still in that season. JR (PA)

## TBC Notes

### To Know Him Is to Love Him

We are told in Scripture that "We love Him, because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19). Our loving God, then, has much to do with our understanding of who He is and what He's done for us. Out of that comes an overwhelming appreciation and thankfulness that increases our love for Him.

The process of growing in one's love for God, i.e., with all thy heart, soul, mind, and strength, can only come about by learning about Him, and then living out the things that He says. Jesus said, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" (John 14:23).

The personal intimate relationship with Jesus that I hope we all want to see deepened will happen only as we grow in our knowledge of our Lord by spending time with Him in His Word.

T. A. McMAHON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



# “ALL THINGS...”

by WILLIAM MACDONALD

taken from BELIEVER'S BIBLE COMMENTARY

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: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.... (2 Peter 1:3-10)

Just as [God's] power saves us in the first place, so His power energizes us to live holy lives from then on. The order is — first life, then godliness. The gospel is the power of God to save from the penalty of sin and from its power, from damnation and from defilement. The “all things that pertain unto life and godliness” include the high priestly work of Christ, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the activity of angelic agencies on our behalf, the new life we receive at conversion, and the instruction of the word of God.

The power to live a holy life comes through the knowledge of Him who called us....To know Him is eternal life (Jn 17:3) and progress in knowing Him is progress in holiness. The better we get to know Him, the more we become like Him....

Included among the “all things” which God's power has given to promote a life of holiness are His exceeding great and precious promises in the Word. It is estimated that there are at least 30,000 promises in the Bible. John Bunyan once said, “The pathway of life is strewn so thickly with the promises of God that it is impossible to take one step without treading on one of them.”

Because [God] has given us all that is necessary for the divine life, we must be diligent in cultivating it. God does not make us holy against our will or without our involvement. There must be desire, determination, and discipline on our part.

In the development of the Christian character, Peter assumes *faith*....What is necessary is that faith be supplemented by seven elements of holiness, not adding these one after another, but manifesting all the graces all the time....

The first characteristic is *virtue*. This may mean piety, goodness of life, or moral excellence....It may also be that virtue here means spiritual courage before a hostile world, the strength to stand for what is right....

Courage is to be supplemented with *knowledge*, especially the knowledge of spiritual truth. This emphasizes the importance of studying the Word of God and obeying its sacred precepts....

God calls every Christian to a life of *discipline* [temperance]....the controlling power of the will under the operation of the Spirit of God....in prayer...in Bible study...in the use of time...in curbing bodily appetites...in sacrificial discipline (1 Cor 9:26-27)....

[Temperance] should be supplemented with *perseverance* [patience], that is, patient endurance of persecution and adversity. We need to be constantly reminded that the Christian life is a challenge to endure. It is not enough to start off in a blaze of glory; we

must persevere in spite of difficulties. The idea that Christianity is an unending round of mountaintop experiences is unrealistic. There is the daily routine, the menial task, the disappointing circumstance, the bitter grief, the shattered plan. Perseverance is the art of bearing up and pressing on in the face of all that seems to be against us.

The next virtue is *godliness*. Our lives should be like God, with all that means in the way of practical holiness....that others will know we are children of the heavenly Father....Paul reminds us, “...godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come” (1 Tm 4:8).

*Brotherly kindness* identifies us to the world as Christ's disciples: “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (Jn 13:35).

*Love* of the brethren leads to love [charity] for all mankind. This is not primarily a matter of the emotions but of the will. It is not a sentimental exhilaration to experience but a commandment to obey. In the NT sense, love is supernatural. An unbeliever cannot love as the Bible commands because he does not have divine life. It takes divine life to love one's enemies and to pray for one's executioners. Love manifests itself in giving. For instance, “God so loved the world, that He gave...” (Jn 3:16). “Christ also loved the church and gave...” (Eph 5:25). We can show our love by giving our time, our talents, our treasures, and our lives for others....

These seven graces make a full-orbed Christian character. There is either advance or decline in the pathway of discipleship—no standing still. There is strength and security in moving forward; danger and failure in retreat. Failure to persevere in the development of Christian character leads to barrenness, unfruitfulness, blindness, shortsightedness, and forgetfulness....

*Barrenness*: The guidance of the Holy Spirit eliminates barren activity and insures maximum efficiency. Otherwise, we are shadow-boxing, or sewing without thread.

*Unfruitfulness*: It is possible to have considerable knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and yet to be unfruitful in that knowledge....Inflow without outgo killed the Dead Sea, and it kills productivity in the spiritual realm as well.

*Shortsightedness*....The form of blindness in which man lives for the present rather than the future. He is so occupied with material things that he neglects the spiritual.

*Blindness*: Whoever lacks the seven characteristics listed in verse 5-7 is blind....He lacks discernment of true spiritual values. He lives in a dark world of shadows.

*Forgetfulness*: Finally the man who lacks the seven virtues has forgotten that he was cleansed from old sins. The truth of his redemption has lost its grip on him. He is going back in the direction from which he was once rescued. He is toying with sins that caused the death of God's Son.

Peter exhorts his readers to confirm their call and election....By manifesting the fruit of the Spirit, we can provide unmistakable evidence that we truly belong to Him. A holy life proves the reality of our salvation.

Living a holy life will not keep us from stumbling. It is not a question of falling into eternal perdition; the word of Christ delivers us from that. Rather, it refers to falling into sin, disgrace, or disuse. If we fail to progress in divine things, we are in danger of wrecking our lives. But if we walk in the Spirit, we will be spared from being disqualified for His service. God guards the Christian who moves forward for Him. The peril lies in spiritual idleness and blindness.

# TBC Summer Conference!



**IT'S TIME TO BEGIN** *planning for another exciting Berean Call conference in beautiful Bend, Oregon! We're pleased to announce that there is no cost to attend the meetings (though pre-registration is required).*

This event will once again be at The Riverhouse Convention Center. If you've never had the pleasure of experiencing the beauty of sunny Central Oregon and its stunning view of the Cascade Range, this year would be a wonderful time to vacation and fellowship with Berean-minded believers! If you've been with us before, you already know some of the blessings in store—both inside the meetings as well as outside. Either way, we hope that you will join us for this time of edification and recreation.

We have an exciting lineup of speakers who, in addition to teaching, will be ready to answer your questions during a special Q&A session. You will also be treated to a never-before-released video featuring Dave Hunt!

Our hope and prayer is that the conference will glorify the Lord and be an encouragement to all who are able to attend. Remember, there is no registration fee, but because we will be meeting downstairs in the Exhibit Hall, space is limited—so please give us a call to reserve your seat! You are responsible for making your own transportation, lodging, and dining arrangements. We hope that you can join us for this special time of teaching and fellowship!

## Conference FAQ:

### GENERAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE (Aug. 12-13):

#### Friday Morning

- 8:45-9:00 - Opening
- 9:00-10:00 - T. A. McMahon
- 10:00-10:15 - Break
- 10:15-11:15 - Paul Wilkinson
- 11:15-11:30 - Break
- 11:30-12:30 - Dr. Frank Bolles
- 12:30-2:00 - Lunch Break

#### Friday Afternoon

- 2:00-3:00 - Carl Kerby
- 3:00-3:15 - Break
- 3:15-4:15 - Paul Wilkinson
- 4:15-4:30 - Break
- 4:30-5:30 - T. A. McMahon

#### Friday Evening

- 5:30-7:30 - Dinner Break
- 7:30-8:00 - Music & Worship
- 8:00-9:00: - Dave Hunt Classic Video Premier

#### Saturday Morning

- 8:45-9:00 - Opening
- 9:00-10:00 - Carl Kerby
- 10:00-10:15 - Break
- 10:15-11:15 - Dr. Frank Bolles
- 11:15-11:30 - Break
- 11:30-12:30 - Paul Wilkinson
- 12:30-2:00 - Lunch Break

#### Saturday Afternoon

- 2:00-3:00 - Carl Kerby
- 3:00-3:15 - Break
- 3:15-4:15 - T. A. McMahon
- 4:15-4:30 - Break
- 4:30-5:30 - Q&A
- 5:30-5:45 - Closing

#### Saturday Evening

- 7:00-8:00: Dinner & Fellowship (optional)

### Does the conference cost anything?

*No, the conference will be FREE this year.*

### Do I need to register?

*Yes! Pre-registration is required.*

### Where is the conference going to be?

*It will be at The Riverhouse Convention Center, Bend, Oregon.*

### Where should I stay?

*Check our list of hotels and campsites to get a good idea of where to stay, but reserve your spot a.s.a.p because places will sell out!*

### Are Meals provided?

*No, meals are not provided. An optional dinner ticket can be purchased for Saturday evening.*

### Will Dave Hunt be there?

*Mr. Hunt won't be able to attend the conference, but we will be premiering the latest video from our Dave Hunt Classic Collection.*



# Bend, OR • August 12-13, 2011



## **CARL KERBY:**

Carl's passion is to proclaim the authority and accuracy of the Bible and to engage the minds and hearts of believers and unbelievers so that they may experience the realities of the Word of God in today's culture. Formerly a founding board member of Answers in Genesis, Carl is currently President and Founder of Reasons for Hope, Inc., a ministry that teaches creationism, evangelism, and discernment regarding the influence of the popular media.



## **PAUL WILKINSON:**

Paul's writings feature church history and particularly how developments such as replacement theology have adversely influenced Christians regarding the restoration of Israel and Christ's imminent return. Paul is the Assistant Pastor of Hazel Grove Full Gospel Church in Cheshire, England, and studied at the International School of Holocaust Studies in Jerusalem. He is the author of *For Zion's Sake*, which addresses Christian Zionism, Christian Palestinianism, and the role of John Nelson Darby.



## **DR. FRANK BOLLES:**

Frank Bolles is a medical doctor and international Bible teacher who has led many tours to the Holy Land where he has family members residing. Frank will present an insider's view of Israel and her current state of affairs.



## **T. A. McMAHON:**

Tom started The Berean Call with Dave Hunt and is TBC's executive director and editor-in-chief. Together, Dave and Tom wrote the bestseller *The Seduction of Christianity*.

### **TBC Conference verse:**

*"[The Bereans] ... Searched the scriptures daily [to see] whether those things wer so."*

— ACTS 17:11

### **OPTIONAL DINNER TICKET (FOR SAT):**

*We're planning on having a dinner at the end of the Conference, 7pm Saturday, August 13. Food will be served at (and by) Country Catering, next door to the TBC offices. Dinner tickets are limited, so reserve yours now!*

ADULT DINNER TICKETS: \$17

CHILDREN 5-12 DINNER TICKETS: \$12

*This is your chance to tour the TBC office whether you come to dinner or not.*

### **DINNER MENU INCLUDES:**

- BBQ Tri Tip and Chicken
- Red Rose Potato Salad
- BBQ Baked Beans
- Tossed Green Salad
- Garlic Cheese Bread
- Salsa
- Cookies
- Ice Tea or Lemonade

### **PLACES TO STAY IN BEND:**

- Shilo Inn Bend - [shiloinns.com](http://shiloinns.com) - 541-389-9600 or 800-222-2244 — (next to The Riverhouse)
- Bend Inn and Suites - [www.bendinnsuites.com](http://www.bendinnsuites.com) - 541-388-4114 or 888-678-BEND — (across the street from The Riverhouse)
- Sugarloaf Mountain Motel - [sugarloafmtmotel.com](http://sugarloafmtmotel.com) - 541-330-5998 or 866-499-3971 — (10 minute walk)
- Holiday Inn Express - [hiexpress.com](http://hiexpress.com) - 877-863-4780
- Bend Quality Inn - [bendqualityinn.com](http://bendqualityinn.com) - 541-318-0848
- Fairfield Inn and Suites - [marriott.com](http://marriott.com) - 541-318-1747
- Red Lion Bend North - [redlion.rdln.com](http://redlion.rdln.com) - 541-382-7011

### **PLACES TO CAMP IN BEND:**

- Tumalo State Park is located between Bend and Sisters, about a 15-minute drive from The Riverhouse. More information is available at: [http://www.oregonstateparks.org/park\\_45.php](http://www.oregonstateparks.org/park_45.php)
- Bend/Sisters Garden RV Resort - Formerly the Sisters KOA, Bend/Sisters Garden RV Resort is about a 30 minute drive from The Riverhouse. (541) 549-3021 or Toll Free (888) 503-3588 [www.bendsistersgardenrv.com](http://www.bendsistersgardenrv.com)

## *The* **Riverhouse** HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER



RIVERHOUSE INFO: 3075 N. Business 97, Bend, OR 97701  
Phone: 866-453-4480 or 541-389-3111

**TO REGISTER: Call us at 1-800-937-6638 or visit [www.thebereancall.org](http://www.thebereancall.org)**

# ROOTS OF SEDUCTION

❧ “From this root of delusion the entire tree of sorcery has sprung forth and blossomed.” ❧

ONE CANNOT POSSIBLY INVESTIGATE what is happening in both the world and the church today without becoming convinced that end-time prophecy is being uniquely fulfilled. The lie that will be believed by everyone when that “deluding influence” sweeps the world during the end times is already becoming the “new truth.” Not only is this lie the foundation of the New Age movement, but it is being embraced within the church....

Only a few years ago it was extremely difficult to convince Christians that Mormons hoped to become gods. Anyone who said that was likely to be accused of having it in for Mormons and spreading lies about them. Today many Christians themselves believe not that they are going to *become* gods like the Mormons, but that they *already are* god, like the Hindus, and just need to “realize” it. And they even support this idea with selected Bible verses.... In Psalm 82 God’s judgment was pronounced against the rulers of Israel because they were acting like gods who were a law unto themselves. In verses 6 and 7 God stated: “I said, ‘You are gods.... Nevertheless you will die like men.’”

This Scripture and Jesus’ quotation of it [John 10:34] has given comfort to cultists and occultists and caused confusion among the unlearned. Mormons, for example, point to it as justification for their goal of godhood and support for their teaching that Satan told the truth when he offered godhood to Eve. Clearly that is a false application, for Psalm 82 does not say, “Ye shall *become* gods,” as Mormons hope, but “Ye *are* gods.” So whatever is meant by this statement, it refers to something that humans already *are*, not to some new status that we will eventually *attain*.

There is only one true God. All other gods are false and are demonic beings in rebellion against the true God. Through the fall, man had become like one of these false gods. Not only did Jesus say to the religious leaders of His day, “Ye are gods,” but He also said, “You are of your father the devil” (John 8:44). It was a terrible indictment....

The noted historian Arnold Toynbee, after studying civilizations across the whole span of history, concluded that self-worship was the paramount religion of mankind, although it appeared in various guises. Man (i.e., self) is the “God” of atheistic humanism. Of course he is not God in the classical biblical sense of the Creator who made everything out of nothing and is separate and distinct from His creation. This true God is denied in the religion of Antichrist, as we have already seen, so that self may be enthroned in His place (2 Thessalonians 2:4). In humanism, as in Mormonism, Unity, Religious Science, Hinduism, and other New Age philosophies, man has become god, 1) through an evolutionary process, and 2) by mastering the forces inherent in nature or the cosmos. This was the superman of Nietzsche and Hitler. It is only within the past 25 years, however [as of 1985],

that this obsession has become the popular religion of the masses. Historian Herbert Schlossberg has said:

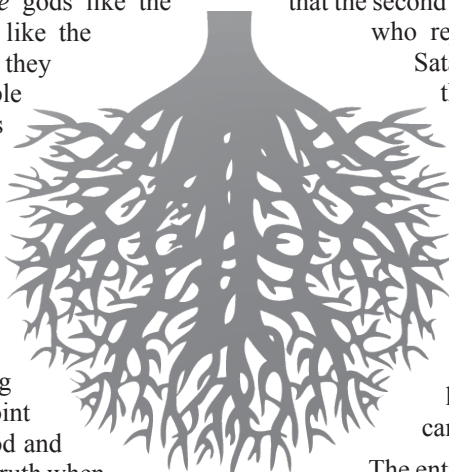
*Exalting mankind to the status of deity therefore dates from the furthest reaches of antiquity, but its development into an ideology embracing the masses is a characteristic of modernity.*

It should be added that “its development into an ideology embracing the masses” and its spreading in the church would seem to be a clear fulfillment of prophecy and a solemn indication that the second coming of Christ could be very near. For those who reject the Positive Confession point of view, Satan cleverly puts the same lie in a package that will appeal to them: the pseudoscientific language of psychology. The magician’s deep silk hat from which Christian intellectuals have been persuaded that they can pull forth magic mind powers is called the subconscious. This supposedly holds the key to miraculous healings of body, soul, spirit, mind, and emotions. Satan reinforces his promise of godhood with the lie that we have all we need within us. If we only know how to get in touch with our true self, then we can tap into this power.

The entire smorgasbord of therapies being encouraged by some Christian leaders is being sampled by Christians in one form or another, either out in the secular world or inside the church. Much of this influence has come into the church through Christian psychology and the pseudopsychologies of inner healing and healing of memories. The common denominator is self. Not everyone would identify with the desire to become a god, but that is the lie that hooked not only Eve but her descendants. And to whatever extent we seek our own will, seek to use God to bring about our will, pander to our self-centered desires, or in any way are afraid or unwilling to surrender wholly to God’s will—to that extent we are exalting ourselves to the position of gods, whether we call it that or not. The teaching is spreading that we don’t *ask* God, but *command* Him to give us all that is our *divine right* to possess and enjoy.

Whatever the label on the package, the product inside is the same old satanic ploy: “The answer is within ourselves.” We can “do it” if we only learn the “laws” and “principles” that apply and put them into operation by “faith.” The goal is always to reward self in some way. Though called by many names, it is still the lie that the Bible prophesies will become the new “truth” upon which Antichrist’s kingdom will be built and which will eventually prove to be a foundation of sand. From this root of delusion the entire tree of sorcery has sprung forth and blossomed, and is now bearing the evil fruit that is so greedily being devoured by this generation.

— DAVE HUNT • T. A. McMAHON,  
*The Seduction of Christianity*, CHAPTER 6.

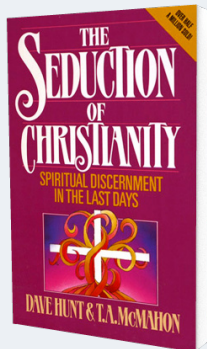




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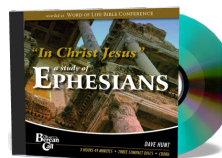
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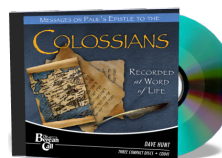
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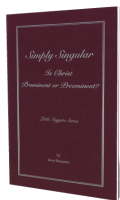
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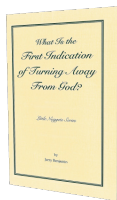


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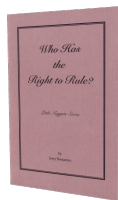
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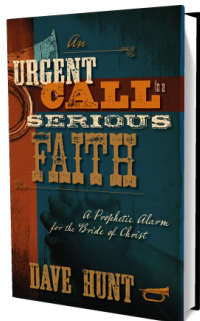
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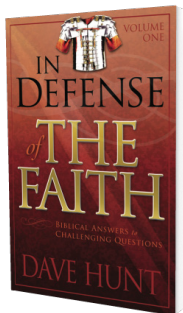


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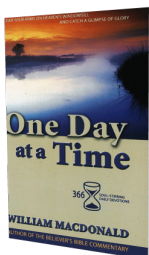
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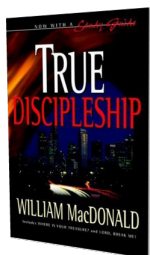


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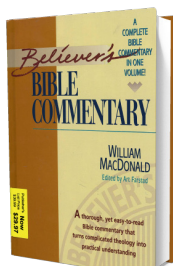


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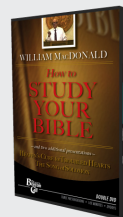
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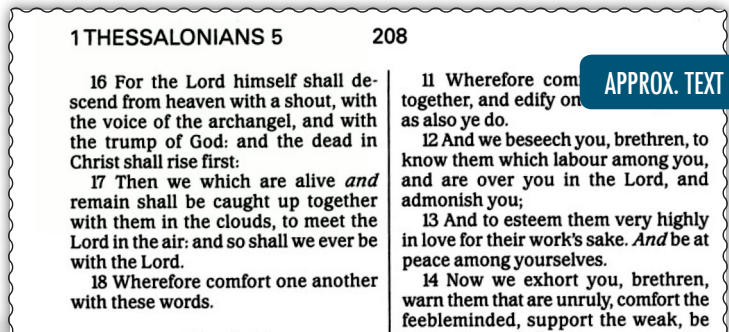
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