

# CHRISTIAN? PSYCHOLOGY



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APRIL 2006

*PSYCHOLOGY IN PROPHECY*

*by T.A. McMAHON*

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ABOUT THE COVER: Unsuspecting Christian students, many with hearts eager for knowledge and truth, are increasingly brought to the altar of education and taught that modern, secular psychology has necessary wisdom and illumination not contained in the Bible (which alone is our true spiritual food).

# THE BEREAN CALL

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

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## Psychology In Prophecy

T. A. McMahon

I recently gave the title of this article as the topic for one of my messages to an individual who was putting together a prophecy conference. An obvious pause on his end of the phone line told me that he was trying to imagine how psychology might possibly fit in with the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple, the Great Tribulation, the Battle of Armageddon, the Antichrist and the False Prophet, and other events and individuals that are common subjects at prophecy conferences. When his lack of response began to approach that awkward stage, I slowly and deliberately quoted 2 Timothy 3:1,2: *"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves...."*

"Go for it!" was his immediate response.

Although the conference organizer didn't know exactly how I was going to treat the subject, he immediately recognized the fit from the phrases: "the last days...perilous times...lovers of their own selves." It's very disturbing (yet understandable, as we will see) that most evangelicals (especially pastors) have missed the Apostle Paul's very clear, even strident, warning about the perils of self-love and its connection to psychology in the last days.

To better understand what Paul's concerns were, we need to start with a definition of the term "self." It simply means the person himself. It's *me*—and all that comprises me. Being a lover of my own self, then, means that I love me, first and foremost. Self fills up my heart, my mind, my will, my consciousness. Self, prior to salvation in Christ, is an autonomous being doing its own thing in rebellion against God. For believers in Jesus who are new creatures in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17), self should be in submission to Him. A true believer denies himself daily, takes up his cross, is crucified with Christ—and yet he lives, with his life being *in Christ* by faith (Matthew 16:24; Galatians 2:20).

Why did Paul put such an emphasis on *self* as an issue of critical concern in "the last days"? Hasn't "self" been mankind's common problem ever since the first act of disobedience against God in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3)? Wasn't Satan's seduction of Eve a lying appeal to enhance her "self"? Satan: *"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"* (3:5). And didn't Eve fall for his lies of *self-gratification* and *self-deification*? And wasn't *self-preservation* an obvious product of Adam and Eve's sin as they shifted the blame away from themselves? Adam: *"The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree...."* Eve: *"The serpent beguiled me..."* (3:12, 13). Obviously, *self* took center stage in the life of mankind from the first act of sin on earth and thereafter!

Yet Paul indicates a special emphasis on self in the "last days." Although self-seeking and self-serving have been dominant characteristics of mankind as far back as the Fall, it has only been *since the rise of modern psychology* that self has been proclaimed as *the solution* to all of our mental,

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THE HEART IS DECEITFUL ABOVE ALL THINGS, AND DESPERATELY WICKED: WHO CAN KNOW IT? I THE LORD SEARCH THE HEART...

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—JEREMIAH 17:9-10

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emotional, and behavioral ills. This was a new development of the 19th century that became inevitable as Darwinian "scientists" began promoting their own theory of man's origin. Why inevitable? Well, as God "lost" His position as mankind's Creator, He eventually was replaced altogether. Evolutionary theory eliminated any necessity for God, since all life, we were told, came about through *natural* processes. Taking God out of the picture of life left us with only "self" (or "Self"), resulting in *humanity* becoming the measure of all things. That, however, has left evolutionists/humanists with a dilemma.

On the one hand, man has been "relieved" of his accountability to his Creator; on the other hand, he's left by himself to solve all of his problems. This evolutionary and humanistic belief posits that within man is the ultimate and necessary potential for coming up with these solutions. *The Humanist Manifesto I* declares, "Man is at last becoming aware that he alone is responsible for the realization of the world of his dreams, that he has within himself the power for its achievement." If the solutions are not within self, then godless mankind has nowhere else to turn, and, consequently, humanity has no hope. But we are assured by today's psychotherapists that the cures for humanity's

ills are indeed found within mankind. Thus, Paul's prophetic warning regarding the "last days" being "perilous times" and characterized primarily by men being "lovers of their own selves" is more fitting to our time than any other period in history.

Replacing God with self leads to the central dogma of the religion of psychology: mankind is innately good. Psychotherapy is an exercise in futility unless innate goodness resides within man at his very core. Here's why: if man has an evil nature, as the Bible teaches, then it's impossible for him to change himself. In other words, if I'm innately evil, I will *always* be evil because there is nothing within me to *enable me to change*. But if I'm *good* within but am experiencing problems of living, then through various psychological methods or techniques, I should be able to tap into, utilize, or realize that goodness and thus remedy the adversities I experience. All the psychotherapeutic selfisms, from self-love to self-esteem to self-image to self-actualization to self-realization—and ultimately to self-deification—are predicated upon the innate goodness of one's nature.

Humanistic psychology—to which *all* psychotherapies are related—is the pseudo-scientific belief system of the Antichrist, who is the personification of human evil. The basics of his religion were introduced to mankind by Satan in his seduction of Eve (turning her away from obedience to God and toward her own self-interests, even godhood—Genesis 3) and culminate in a man, the Antichrist, setting himself up in the temple of God to be worshiped as God (2 Thessalonians 2:4). It's all about the worship of self.

This Humanist/Selfist religion of the Antichrist does not just suddenly appear on the scene when the Antichrist is revealed. As noted, the religion of selfism has been in development since the Garden of Eden. Moreover, it can be seen in the Tower of Babel and the idolatry of the Gentiles throughout the Old Testament and is prevalent in all the religions of the world today.

Only biblical Christianity stands against the exaltation of self that ties all other religions together. The Bible declares self to be evil and hopeless and says that man's salvation can come only from God as it is received by faith in Jesus alone, who satisfied divine justice by His full payment for the sins of mankind, according to the Scriptures. All other religions look to self to obtain salvation, ultimately through one's own efforts, whether by rituals, sacraments, meditation, liturgies, good works, and so forth. Human

achievement versus Divine accomplishment—this is the critical difference between man's way of salvation and God's way.

The Apostle Paul's caveat about the "last days" is directed at believers, warning them and indicating the peril that will follow the practice of loving themselves. Therefore, it's rather shocking to witness the humanistic "self" concepts of the apostate religion of the Antichrist taking hold in unprecedented fashion within evangelical Christianity. Last month we quoted a well-known Christian psychologist who credited humanistic psychologists and New Agers Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow for helping evangelicals to recognize their "need for self-love and self-esteem." That certainly cannot be derived from the writers of Scripture! Nevertheless, there have been many influential professing Christians who have wittingly or unwittingly sown the seeds of the humanistic self-love teachings so far and wide and for so long among Christians that the heresies have taken root and their deadly fruit has been eagerly consumed throughout the church.

Norman Vincent Peale is widely recognized as the one who pioneered the merger of theology and psychology that became known as "Christian psychology." Consistent with his humanistic beliefs, which he spread through his nationally broadcast radio sermons and his highly popular *Guideposts* magazine, he explained that people "are inherently good; the bad reactions [sin?] aren't basic." Robert Schuller, whose "Possibility Thinking" reflected (his mentor) Peale's "Positive Thinking," both of which mirror the teachings of the Mind Science cults, sent 250,000 copies of his book, *Self-Esteem: The New Reformation*, to pastors all around the U.S. Schuller's "Hour of Power" is the world's most popular religious television program. Yet to millions, his humanistic views presented under the guise of Christianity are not recognized for their blasphemy: "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. And the cross will sanctify the ego trip!"<sup>1</sup> Could the Antichrist himself add anything more unbiblical?!

Sadly, many conservative evangelical preachers and teachers of note such as Chuck Swindoll, Charles Stanley, Josh McDowell, Anthony Hoekema, Norm Geisler, and others, bought into, taught, Christianized, and further popularized the concepts of self-love, self-esteem, self-worth, and self-image. It is the "new priesthood" of Christian psychologists, however, with credentials that falsely imply the anointing of science, that has convinced both shepherds and sheep of the legitimacy of the theories and methods of humanistic psychology. Among the

swelling numbers of highly regarded, degreed professionals who teach the church what they have gleaned from "the counsel of the ungodly" is Dr. James Dobson, who, no doubt, is and has been the most influential individual among evangelicals for the last quarter-century. Concerning self-love and self-esteem he writes:

In a real sense, the health of an entire society depends on the ease with which its individual members can gain personal acceptance. Thus, whenever the keys to self-esteem are seemingly out of reach for a large percentage of the people, as in twentieth-century America, then widespread "mental illness," neuroticism, hatred, alcoholism, drug abuse, violence, and social disorder will certainly occur....<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup>

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FOR ALL SEEK THEIR OWN, NOT THE THINGS WHICH ARE JESUS CHRIST'S.

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—PHILIPPIANS 2:21

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Right behind Dobson in terms of his influence in the church today is Rick Warren. Although he has distanced himself of late from one of his early mentors, Robert Schuller (Warren was a frequent speaker in the nineties at the Robert Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership), his article in *Ladies' Home Journal* titled "Learn to Love Yourself" (see *TBC* 4/05) is classic Schuller—and *pure humanistic psychology*. Warren lists "five truths," none of which is either a "truth" or biblical: 1) Accept yourself; 2) Love yourself; 3) Be true to yourself; 4) Forgive yourself; and 5) Believe in yourself. Yet these humanistic, antibiblical doctrines have been taught so often from so many pulpits that most Christians, when presented with what the Bible actually teaches about self and the selfisms, are either shocked that they've been misled or bitterly resent hearing the truth.

Although I could not adequately cover in this brief article the details of how terribly subversive and destructive humanistic psychology (especially as championed in "Christian" psychology) is to Bible-believing Christians, here are a few concerns that we all need to seriously and prayerfully consider: *One*, humanistic psychology's theories came from the atheistic, anti-Christian founders of psychotherapy, whose concepts qualify for what the Scriptures condemn

as "the counsel of the ungodly" (Psalm 1:1); *Two*, the humanistic emphasis upon loving and esteeming self rejects the biblical commandment to "deny self," which Jesus admonished us to do in Matthew 16:24; *Three*, the increasing focus on esteeming one's self gradually distorts a believer's understanding of the truth regarding the sinful nature of man and hides *conviction of sin* in a morass of humanistic rationalizations; *Four*, the subjective *feelings* orientation of humanistic psychology undermines the absolutes of God's objective truth; and *Five*, as the leaven of humanism grows in the mind of a believer, his interpretation of the Scriptures gradually shifts from what God has indeed said (Genesis 3:1) to "a way which seemeth right unto a man..." (Proverbs 14:12). Scripture tells us that man's ways, i.e., all his self and humanistic teachings, "are the ways of death," a death that separates a believer from the truth and robs him of his faith and fruitfulness.

How "perilous" will all of this become in these "last days"? Consider the following and, should the Lord tarry, weep for your children. Generally, evangelical youth recognize the pseudo-science and myths of evolution, thanks to the instruction of organizations such as the Institute for Creation Research and Answers In Genesis, as well as numerous other apologetic ministries, creation scientists, gifted teachers, and so forth. Although the battle continues to rage in this area, not many evangelical young people go off to college intent on becoming "evolutionists."

Yet what of the *pseudo-science* and *myths* of psychology? Who is teaching our children about *that*? Certainly not the rapidly growing, 50,000-member American Association of Christian Counselors, whose main goal is the "integration" of psychotherapy and Christianity. How serious is this ignorance of the evil of psychology for our young people? The prestigious *Princeton Review* reports that psychology is the number two career choice for all those attending college. It's even *more* popular in professing Christian universities, from Liberty University on the East coast to Fuller Theological Seminary on the West coast and nearly all that reside between.

Who is telling the truth to our children? Not Dr. James Dobson of Focus on the Family, who ironically advises, "Christian psychology is a worthy profession for a young believer, *provided his faith is strong enough to withstand the humanistic concepts to which he will be exposed...* [emphasis added]"<sup>4</sup> Weep and pray for our next generation of evangelicals who are being led into the humanistic priesthood of what is tragically and deceptively called Christian psychology. —TBC



## Quotable .....

*The following writers were personal friends of Dave and Ruth Hunt before being martyred by the Auca Indians. Ed McCully was Dave's best friend:*

Ah, tolerant generation, who pays the prophets and fondles them who are sent unto you...woe. Cursed be your Judas embrace. Damned be your friendliness... it lays shattering condemnation on your prophets....Damned be this cool tepidity.... Father, make of me a crisis man. Bring those I contact to decision. Make me a fork [in the road], that men must turn one way or another on facing Christ in me.

—Jim Elliot

I stood by the bed of an 18-year-old Indian boy in the eastern jungle. I watched him vomit blood and...die. As I stood looking at his lifeless form lying on bamboo sticks on the dirt floor of the hut, I was to realize more fully what Paul meant in 1st Thessalonians five: "Ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." I will not forget the screaming-chanting wail of these heathen folk as they beat their breasts and mourned for two days and nights. It was a pathetic picture of "no hope." Tonight I pray...that God will spare the lives of these Indians until He enables us to bring them the message of hope, of eternal life, of salvation in their own language.

—Ed McCully

I am longing now to reach the Aucas if God gives me the honor of proclaiming the NAME among them....I would gladly give my life for that tribe if only to see an assembly of those proud, clever, smart people gathering around a table to honor the Son—gladly, gladly, gladly! What more could be given to life?

—Pete Fleming

## Q&A .....

**QUESTION:** Having served my last tour in the international political arena in the D.C. area, I completely concur with your answer re the Tribulation in *TBC* Jan. '06—up to the last sentence, which says: "I believe that the Great Tribulation under Antichrist...will begin immediately after the Rapture." However, does not the signing of a 7-year security treaty with Israel mark the actual start of the "Great Tribulation" period (Daniel 9:27)? Considering the chaos which ensues from the Rapture, it would seem that the Antichrist...will need several days (maybe even weeks or a few months) to consolidate his power and convince Israel and her enemies to sign the

7-year covenant with him—or else. Thus... it would seem prudent to assume that some time will elapse between the Rapture and the 7-year Tribulation.

**ANSWER:** What you say sounds reasonable. The common teaching today is that it could take years, for which I find no basis in Scripture. This idea reduces the Rapture almost to a non-event for earthlings. However, the Hebrew in Daniel 9 says that the Antichrist will *impose* the seven-year covenant upon the "many" (i.e., not just upon Israel but the world). He will not merely "confirm" it, as the KJV says. According to 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8, the only hindrance to Antichrist being "revealed" is the presence of the Holy Spirit indwelling the members of the body of Christ here upon earth. We can't even imagine the terror at every level of society and government caused by the mass disappearance of millions—nor the incredible satanic power and seduction immediately displayed.

Since it is the worldwide crisis of a *mass disappearance, terror, and his satanic power* that will catapult Antichrist into world dictatorship, I believe that his takeover will be within a few hours at the most—not days or weeks.

**QUESTION:** I'm a member of a would-be megachurch that follows Rick Warren's ideas in order to become the largest church in my town. The pastor quotes *The Message* and the *NLT*. Vineyard songs are our "old hymns." The issue, of course, is whether we are becoming apostate by trying to be "seeker-friendly" on Sunday....Would you please do an article on the nature of sin...? The user-friendly churches...appealing to people who don't feel particularly guilty, define sin as having self on the throne..., rather than being "fully devoted disciples...." The Reformation targeted guilt-driven Roman Catholics. It told them to quit trusting...sacraments and indulgences and instead to trust only in the Lord's sacrifice as their remedy for guilt and fear of hell. It emphasized that He...took upon Himself the sin nature of the world... and was punished by separation from the Father. His divine Nature overcame the sin nature and separation.... [My church] emphasizes that the sin which Christ died for was...failure to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and your neighbor as yourself. So their motto is "Loving God, Loving People." Repentance is defined as changing your paradigm from self-preservation to living for and being all about Jesus....[So they] preach repentance from sin as "step into a new relationship with the Lord which will transform you...." This illustrates why I believe that megachurch apostasy has to

do with a misconception of the nature of sin and why I would like to see *TBC* do an article on sin. Is sin who you are or just how you behave; is weeping over one's sins an essential step to salvation, or does it just come later?

**ANSWER:** Thank you. I agree that conviction of sin and repentance are scarcely preached today. Of course, Christ did not take "upon himself the *sin nature* of the world" but "the *sin* of the world" (Jn 1:29). Nor was it His "*divine nature* [that] overcame the *sin nature* and separation...." It was His payment of the penalty for sin that saves us. To tell the sinner that he can "step into a new relationship with the Lord which will transform [him]" is not the gospel Paul preached and by which his hearers were saved through believing the good news that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and resurrected "according to the scriptures" (1 Cor 15:2-4).

If one is not convinced that one is under God's judgment because of sin, one cannot be saved: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..." (1 Tm 1:15). Christ himself made it clear: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36). I agree that the "gospel" preached today in many "evangelical" pulpits is more an improve-your-life message than passing from death to life and being delivered from eternal punishment through Christ's payment for sin (Jn 5:24).

This false gospel could bring many new members into seeker-friendly churches who think they're on their way to heaven but are not. That is a tragedy. As you imply, sin is what I am, not just what I do—the latter results from the former. It is good to be so repentant as to weep over one's sins—but nowhere does the Bible require weeping in order to be saved.

**QUESTION:** In the Dec '05 issue of *TBC* there is an important, if not intentional, misrepresentation of fact which merits rectification. The statement that John Calvin taught that Infant Baptism saves betrays a regrettable ignorance of Calvin's beliefs. Here is what he really taught, quoting from the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Commenting on 1 Peter 3:21..., Calvin declares, "For he [Peter] did not mean to intimate that our ablution and salvation are perfected by water, or that water possesses in itself the virtue of purifying, regenerating, and renewing: nor does he mean that it is the cause of salvation, but only that the knowledge and certainty of such gifts are perceived in this sacrament," Vol. 2, page 513. Again: "We acknowledge, therefore, that at that time [speaking of one baptized as an infant] baptism profited us

nothing, since in us the offered promise [of forgiveness of sin which baptism signifies] lay neglected. Now when, by the grace of God, we begin to repent, we accuse our blindness and hardness of heart of having been so long ungrateful for his great goodness" (Vol. 2, p. 522).

From these statements, it is made obvious that although John Calvin practiced infant baptism, as did John Wesley [et al.], he can no more be justly accused of teaching baptismal regeneration than they....Let me close with a final quote from Calvin's *Institutes*: "For what is a sacrament received without faith, but most certain destruction to the church? For seeing that nothing is to be expected beyond the promise, and the promise no less denounces wrath to the unbeliever than offers grace to the believer, it is an error to suppose that anything is conferred by the sacraments than is offered by the word of God and obtained by true faith. From this another thing follows—viz., that assurance of salvation does not depend on participation in the sacraments, as if justification existed in it. This, which is treasured up in Christ alone, we know to be communicated, not less by the preaching of the gospel than by the seal of the sacrament, and may be completely enjoyed without this seal" (Vol. 2, p. 501). For the sake of manly fairness and Christian honesty, I request you publish this clarification of our Protestant, Reformed position.

**ANSWER:** In his *Institutes*, Calvin contradicted himself, and you have only quoted him selectively. Your first quote comes close to a denial of what I said, which was, "If all one believes is that infant baptism saves, as Calvin taught...one is certainly not saved. If a person believes that he was saved through infant baptism, how is it possible for him, without relinquishing that false belief, to truly be saved by believing the gospel? He has no need of the true gospel, having already been forgiven his sins and made a child of God through infant baptism...." Your second (p. 522) only says that infants don't *understand the value* of baptism, not that it has no value.

Your third quote merely says that salvation is possible by believing the gospel without the sacraments, not that baptism cannot or does not save. Now let me quote Calvin: "...at whatever time we are baptised, we are washed and purified once for the whole life... we must...recall our baptism...so as to feel certain and secure of the remission of sins...it wipes and washes away all our defilements" (IV: xv, 3). Again: "God in baptism promises the remission of sins, and will undoubtedly perform what he has promised to all believers.

That promise was offered to us in baptism, let us therefore embrace it in faith" (IV: xxv, 17). And, "We have...a similar promise given to the fathers in circumcision, similar to that which is given to us in baptism...the forgiveness of sins and the mortification of the flesh.... We deny...that...the power of God cannot regenerate infants.... Let God, then, be demanded why he ordered circumcision to be performed on the bodies of infants...by baptism we are ingrafted into the body of Christ (1 Cor xii.13). [Therefore] infants...are to be baptised..." (IV: xv, 22; xvi, 3, 4, 8, 10, 17-32). I give these quotes in *What Love Is This?* on pp. 41, 388, 430, among others, and I hold Calvin to these statements. This is a Catholic dogma, yet it was carried over into many "reformed" churches and remains there today.

Furthermore, Calvin never tells of the moment that he renounced the false gospel of Catholicism and believed the true gospel. He extols the sacraments, says they can be performed only by the clergy (including Roman Catholic), and accepts infant baptism by a Catholic priest as efficacious. If he ever renounced Catholicism's false gospel, when did this occur? And how could he have, considering that he banned from Geneva (1537) and persecuted the Anabaptists who, though raised Catholics, believed the biblical gospel and as a result were born again and baptized as believers?

The fact that Calvin was only baptized once—as an infant—and that he persecuted as heretics those who were baptized as believers, contradicts entirely what you think the quotations you cite mean. Moreover, one of the two charges (brought to the court by Calvin himself) for which Servetus was burned at the stake was his rejection of infant baptism for salvation. Calvin goes into great detail justifying this charge against Servetus and repeatedly scolding Servetus for rejecting the efficacy of infant baptism for salvation. Please read again pages 79-85 of *What Love Is This?* where I cover the subject thoroughly.

#### **QUESTION: Why didn't the disciples recognize Jesus after the Resurrection?**

**ANSWER:** The disciples' unbelief (He was the last person they expected to see) was no doubt a large factor. Moreover, the scripture explains that "their eyes were holden [prevented from seeing]..." (Lk 24:16). We are also told that he "appeared in another form..." (Mk 16:12). His resurrection body was a transformation from the one they had known before. It was glorious, but He was veiling that glory. His resurrection body had amazing qualities. Consider John's description of Jesus in Revelation 1—but that was only one aspect. In Revelation 5, the angel calls him "the Lion of the tribe of Juda[h],"

but when John turns to see this "Lion," he sees a "Lamb as it had been slain." God's throne is eternally "the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Rv 22:1). It is all quite beyond our comprehension or explanation.

## **News Alert .....**

**The Wall Street Journal, 3/9/06: ON EBAY, AN ATHEIST PUTS HIS OWN SOUL ON THE AUCTION BLOCK [Excerpts]:** A few weeks ago, Hemant Mehta posted an unusual item for sale on eBay: a chance to save his soul. The DePaul University graduate student promised the winner that for each \$10 of the final bid, he would attend an hour of church services. The 23-year-old Mr. Mehta is an atheist, but he says he suspected he had been missing out on something.

Evangelists bid, eager to save a sinner. Atheists bid, hoping to keep Mr. Mehta in their fold. When the auction stopped on Feb. 3 after 41 bids, the buyer was Jim Henderson, a former [Vineyard pastor] from Seattle, whose \$504 bid prevailed.

Mr. Henderson is part of a small but growing branch of the evangelical world that disagrees with the majority's conservative political agenda. [He] asked that Mr. Mehta attend 10 to 15 services of Mr. Henderson's choosing and then write about it. "I'm not trying to convert you," Mr. Henderson said [as they met]. "You're going there almost like a critic.... If you happen to get converted, that's off the clock."

For Mr. Mehta's first service, the two attended noon Mass at Old St. Patrick's, a Catholic church.

Mr. Mehta was born in Chicago and raised in Jainism, an ancient Indian faith whose followers vow to harm no living thing, not even microbes in the air. He praises famous atheists, but has also read parts of the Bible, loves watching televangelists like Benny Hinn and Joel Osteen, and admires their appeal.... Mr. Mehta says he's no closer to believing in God, although he does admire churches for the communities they create.

[TBC: An earlier ebay spiritual endeavor was a Virgin Mary-image-bearing grilled cheese sandwich that sold for \$28,000.]

## **End Notes .....**

1 Schuller, Robert, *Living Positively One Day at a Time*, Revell, 1981, 201; *Self-Esteem, the New Reformation*, Word Books, 1982, 14-15.

2 Dobson, James, *Hide or Seek*, Revell Pub., 1974, 12-13.

3 Dobson, James, *What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew about Women*, Tyndale House, 1975, 60.

4 Dobson, James, *Dr. Dobson Answers Your Questions*, Tyndale, Wheaton, IL, 1989, 497.

## Dave & T.A.'s Itinerary

<b>Apr 21-23</b> (TA)	<b>Calvary Chapel Yakima Valley</b> Yakima WA (509)249-1464
<b>May 12-28</b> (Dave)	<b>Prophetic Witness Ministries</b> UK Tour 01772 452846 <a href="http://www.pwmi.org/">http://www.pwmi.org/</a>
<b>Jun 16-18</b> (Dave)	<b>Calvary Chapel Rome</b> Rome Italy <a href="http://www.calvarychapelrome.org">www.calvarychapelrome.org</a>
<b>Jul 1-8</b> (Dave)	<b>Word of Life</b> Schroon Lake NY (518)494-6000 <a href="http://www.wol.org">www.wol.org</a>
<b>Jul 10-13</b> (Dave/staff)	<b>Christian Booksellers Assoc. Conv</b> Denver CO
<b>Aug 4-6</b> (Dave)	<b>Hope for Today Conference</b> Chino Hills CA (800)752-4253 <a href="http://www.davidhocking.org">www.davidhocking.org</a>
<b>Sep 8-10</b> (Dave & TA)	<b>Great Lakes Prophecy Conference</b> Appleton WI (920)735-1242

## Letters .....

**Mr. Hunt,**

I cannot thank you enough for your diligence in researching all the deceptions that are occurring in "Christendom." Sometimes the widespread deception is overwhelming. Over the past couple of years I have spoken to other "believers" about what I have seen and what you have exposed. At the present time, I have no close friends because of it....I became a Catholic at sixteen because I was to marry a Catholic man. At eighteen, we were married and were in the Catholic Church for 10 years....Having been raised in a Protestant church, after ten years in the Catholic Church I returned to the reading of the Word and began seeing many disturbing things within the church....Later [my husband] trusted Christ and we left the church together....My husband has been preaching for more than ten years now.... After leaving the church, my husband felt a sense of betrayal that the Church had taught him all the lies that he learned in Catholic education. All of this to say that we are astonished at how many believers are beginning to believe that Catholicism is just another Christian denomination. When we tell them what we know, they don't want to believe us....If our Christianity is based on current popular opinion instead of biblical truth, it is easy to see why so many people in the Protestant church are being led astray. We attend a New Testament assembly. It is dying out, the people are elderly and the younger ones want all the programs, hype,

and entertainment of the modern church and either attend other denominational churches or do not attend at all.... GW (WA)

**Dear TBC,**

I think T.A. McMahon was kind and fair in his appraisal of *The Purpose-Driven Life*. Personally, to those pastors who are "good Christians," if people stop coming to your church—close up and start a Bible study in your home. We don't need to water down the gospel in any way. Go out on the streets witnessing. Most people are not saved in America, and they never will be until they face the truth that they need to be and that Jesus Christ is the only provision God has made. TA (CA)

**Dear Brother Hunt,**

I had hopes for you, as I know you must love God, but it appears the lifelong dispensational drivel you have been indoctrinated with is just too strong to allow the truth of God's Torah to break through. I will continue to pray for you and T.A., but in the meantime, please cancel my subscription to your newsletter. You might also change the name from *The Berean Call* to *The Hunt-McMahon Version of the Bible*. May YHVH forgive you in love. RP (OR)

**Dear Brother Hunt,**

Now and then I join with a few friends who, like myself, came out of the Roman Catholic Church. The very first thing said at this last get-together was, "Did you read the recent article 'Earnestly Contend' by Hunt? Another good piece of interesting, informative reading! I have the revised 2000 edition of *Halley's Bible Handbook*. It was given to me as a gift. And upon comparing it to my older edition, I find it disgusting. As you mentioned, it "eliminated references to the RCC's heresies and the millions of evangelical Christians slaughtered by Rome." And the departure from the true gospel by very well known evangelicals is very disappointing and baffling. Yes, let's "earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints." GC (IL)

**Good Afternoon,**

I am thankful for the book, *The Seduction of Christianity*....I belonged to a...sales company and was one of the top one percent in leadership, but I always felt uncomfortable with their "positive confessions," visualization, etc....I became very discouraged and prayed for direction....After attending a Bible study that showed me that these were occultic activities, I resigned. I said goodbye to a big paycheck....I am still unemployed, but I know I've done the right thing, especially after reading only the first couple of chapters of *Seduction*. BZ (email)

**CLARIFICATION:** A few of our readers misunderstood a reference to Josh McDowell, David Jeremiah, and James Dobson (TBC, 1/06 Q&A) as stating that they were connected to the signing of ECT, when the statement actually linked them to following the teachings of psychology. We apologize for the confusion.

**Dear Brethren,**

Your December 2005 issue was great, especially the article, "Wonderful Love." I, too, grieve over the shallowness of today's "worship" songs. [Someone] taught me as a young Christian the definition of worship: "Lord, save my soul" is prayer; "Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul" is praise; "Thank you, Lord for what Thou art" is worship. HP (NY)

**Hi Dave,**

I'm sending out your "Shameful Ironies" [Feb. '06] masterpiece to as many Protestant and Lutheran churches in the city as I can. I wish that all [who] got your newsletter would do this.... BA (NE)

**Dear Dave,**

Thanks for your book, *What Love Is This?* I read it as a Calvinist when it came out because I wanted to see what all the hub-bub was about. I wanted to see if you were as incompetent as all the Calvinists claimed you were. In short, I ended up realizing what a leaky boat I was in and promptly got out. Your book is dangerous to any open-minded Calvinist! JB (email)

## TBC Notes

### Thank you for your prayers

Many of you have been asking about our daughter Janna and her fight with cancer. She is actually feeling much better. The cancer markers are down and the doctor has allowed her to forego chemotherapy for a time. Your continued prayers are so very much appreciated.

—Dave and Ruth Hunt

### T.A.'s Thru-the-Bible Update:

He's completed the New Testament and the Pentateuch as of March 31. Go Tom! Go the rest of you!

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. (4/06)

## DEFENDER OF THE FAITH—A TRIBUTE TO THE TESTIMONY OF HENRY M. MORRIS

*There are many unsung heroes of the Christian faith—dear departed saints who have toiled in humble obscurity for the Lord on earth but will receive their reward in heaven. Dr. Henry M. Morris, credited as “the father of modern scientific creationism” and founder of the Institute for Creation Research, was certainly not unknown during his lifetime of service; however, there are few similar godly role models today whose teaching and example, like that of Dr. Morris, have helped thousands upon thousands to rely upon God’s Word as divinely authoritative, scientifically accurate, historically proven, and spiritually sufficient. Dr. Morris never sought to “draw away disciples” after himself but instead poured out his life in service and devotion to our Lord. The devotional below was printed in the flyer from Henry Morris’s memorial and was noted as being pasted in the flyleaf of his personal Bible. We reproduce it here as a humbling reminder of our place in the Lord’s service—to Him, to the Body of Christ, and to the world.*

### OTHERS MAY—YOU CANNOT

If God has called you to be really like Jesus, He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility, and put upon you such demands of obedience, that you will not be able to measure yourself by other Christians; and in many ways, He will seem to let to let other good people do things which He will never let you do.

Other Christians and ministers, who seem very religious and useful, can push themselves, pull wires and work schemes to carry out their Christian goals, but these things you simply cannot do. Others may boast of their work or their writings or their success, but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing, and if you ever try it, He will lead you into some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works.

Others may be allowed to succeed in making money, but most likely God will keep you poor, because He want you to have something far better than gold, namely, a helpless dependence on Him and the joy of seeing Him supply your needs day by day out of an unseen Treasury.

The Lord may let others be honored and keep you hidden and unappreciated because He wants to produce some choice, fragrant fruit for His coming glory, which can only be produced in the shade. He may let others do a work for Him and get the credit for it, but He will make you work on and on without others knowing how much you are doing; and then, to make your work still more precious, He may let others get the credit for the work which you have done, and thus make your reward ten times greater when Jesus comes.

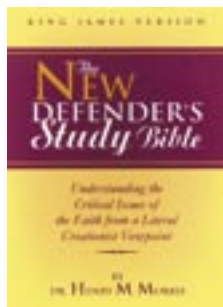
The Holy Spirit will rebuke you for little words or deeds or even feelings, or for wasting your time, which other Christians never seem to be concerned about, but you must make up your mind that God is an infinite Sovereign and He has a right to do whatever He pleases with His own. He may not explain to you a thousand things which puzzle your reason in the way He deals with you, but if you will just submit yourself to Him in all things, He will wrap you up in a jealous love and bestow upon you many blessing which come only to those who are very near to His heart.

Settle it then, that He is to have the privilege of tying your tongue, or chaining your hand, or closing your eyes, in ways that He does not seem to use with others. Now, when you are so possessed with the living God that your secret heart becomes pleased and delighted with this peculiar, personal, private, jealous guardianship and management of the Holy Spirit over your life, then you will have entered the very vestibule of heaven itself.

—G.D. Watson (1845-1924)



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27 <sup>18</sup>That they should seek the Lord, <sup>19</sup>in every where to repent:

17:24 *Lord of heaven and earth.* This message to the pagan intellectual considered as typical of Paul's method with people who did not already know the Scriptures, just as his message in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch typical of his approach to those who did (13:16-41). In the one case, he witnesses in creation, in the other with Scriptures; in both cases, he ends with the resurrection, urging his hearers to believe.

17:24 *temples made with hands.* Athens was filled with beautiful temples and images, but to Paul they were merely depressing symbols of the city's

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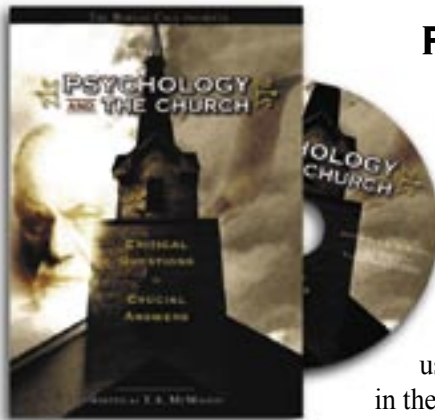
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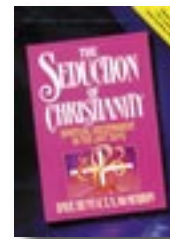
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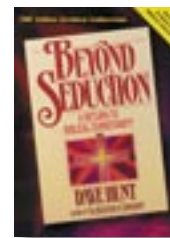


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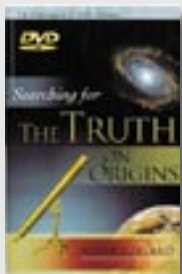
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