

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

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

More on Being a Berean

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And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

—2 TIMOTHY 3:15

THE NUMBER OF FALSE BELIEFS being promoted and enthusiastically received among evangelicals is staggering and growing rapidly. Take for example a new book, *Lonely No More*, by Karen Mains of *The Chapel of the Air*. In it she tells of acquiring a personal spirit guide and making contact, through visualization, with what Carl Jung called “the idiot child within,” whom she identifies as “Jesus Christ”! The depth and variety of delusions which evangelicals will embrace seem unlimited, especially if cloaked in psychological jargon.

The only protection against the accelerating apostasy is an intimate knowledge of and obedience to God’s Word on the part of each individual. Being a Berean who daily searches the Scripture (Acts 17:11) to “prove all things” (1 Thessalonians 5:21) is the surest yet most neglected antidote to error. This ministry exists not merely to point out false and foolish teachings but to call individuals to a passionate love of God’s Word as the all-sufficient guide for knowing and loving God as well as living and witnessing for Him.

As false doctrines gain a following and become the distinctive beliefs of particular groups, cults are born. To maintain its peculiarities each cult denies individuals the right to

understand the Bible for themselves by insisting that its leadership alone may interpret the Bible and that each member must accept its interpretation and edicts as a condition for salvation. Next comes the claim that the cult has another source of revelation from God in addition to Scripture: “inspired” utterances from the cult leaders, or extrabiblical writings and traditions peculiar to the cult.

Unchallengeable and mandatory teaching comes from cult headquarters, whether it be the Jehovah’s Witnesses’ Watchtower Bible & Tract Society in New York, Mormonism’s First Presidency in Salt Lake City, the Christian Science Mother Church in Boston, or the Catholic pope and bishops in Rome. Yes, the Roman Catholic Church, like any cult, denies its members the right to know and understand the Bible for themselves. No Catholic may be a Berean! Nor is this something which Rome tries to hide.

For example, Vatican II dogmatically declares that “the task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God . . . has been entrusted to the living teaching office of the Church alone.” Catholic apologist Karl Keating writes, “The Catholic believes in inspiration [of Scripture] because the Church tells him so—and that same Church has the [sole] authority to interpret the inspired text.” The *Convert’s Catechism of Catholic Doctrine* explains:

When he has once mastered this principle of divine authority [residing in the Church], the inquirer is prepared to accept whatever the divine Church teaches on faith, morals and the means of grace.

Roman Catholic apologists are holding seminars and debates around the country to

deny that anyone may be a Berean. Typical are the following remarks at one such conference by a priest, Enrique Rueda: “The outlook of Roman Catholicism is diametrically... opposed to that of fundamentalists... because as Roman Catholics we do not start with the Bible...we start with the Church....” Augustine reportedly said, “I would not believe in the gospel if the authority of the Catholic Church did not move me to do so.”

As Bereans, we know immediately that Augustine was deceived. Paul wrote, “[T]he gospel...is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth” (Romans 1:16), and he never suggested that its power came from the backing of some church body! The gospel stands on its own without any reference to a church, and it carries such convicting power that it turned the world upside down (Acts 17:6). To the Thessalonians, Paul wrote, “[O]ur gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance...and ye became followers of us, and of the Lord...” (1 Thessalonians 1:5-6).

Three thousand souls were saved on the day of Pentecost without Peter saying one word about any Church. We find no attempt on the part of the early Christians, who “went every where preaching the word” (Acts 8:4), to prove that an infallible Church existed which endorsed what they preached. We are told what Philip preached in Samaria and what Paul preached in many places where multitudes believed. Not once was there any reference to the gospel being vouched for by some church in Corinth, Rome, or elsewhere.

God’s Word is “[alive], and powerful... sharper than any two-edged sword” (Hebrews 4:12). As for the claim that the Catholic

Church gave us the Bible, it obviously didn’t give us the Old Testament. Romans 3:2 tells us clearly that “unto [the Jews] were committed the oracles of God.” The inspired writings were immediately recognized and accepted as such by Israel and became available as they were written. We know Daniel was studying Jeremiah (Daniel 9:2).

The prophets knew that they were inspired of God. Scores of times the prophets declared, “Hear ye the word of the LORD,” or “thus saith the LORD,” or “the word of the LORD came unto me saying” (Isaiah 1:10; Jeremiah 5:14; 13:12; 19:3; Ezekiel 3:16; 6:3; 25:3; Hosea 4:1, etc.). And by the leading of the same Holy Spirit, those who heard them knew the prophets were inspired—not because a group of rabbis decided it was so. By the same Spirit, we know today that Scripture is inspired of God.

The Old Testament is full of references to God’s Word being known and loved by ordinary people. Parents in Old Testament times loved God’s Word, taught it to their children, wrote it on the doorposts of their houses and meditated upon it “day and night” (Deuteronomy 6:6-9; 8:3; Psalms 1:2; 19:7-11; 119:97-105; Proverbs 30:5; Jeremiah 15:16, etc.). Clearly it was commonly known which books were inspired, and they must have been readily available. That a “young man” could understand God’s Word and be cleansed by it (Psalms 119:9) is proof that it speaks to common people and that no religious hierarchy was ever needed to authenticate or interpret it.

Timothy studied the Old Testament as a child, and he learned it not from some rabbis but from his godly mother and grandmother. Christ rebuked the two on the road to Emmaus for not believing “all that the prophets have spoken”

FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS QUICK, AND POWERFUL, AND SHARPER THAN ANY TWOEDGED SWORD, PIERCING EVEN TO THE DIVIDING ASUNDER OF SOUL AND SPIRIT, AND OF THE JOINTS AND MARROW, AND IS A DISCERNER OF THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTS OF THE HEART.

—*HEBREWS 4:12*

(Luke 24:25). He would not have rebuked them had the Scriptures not been commonly known and available to all. Then it says, “he expounded unto them in *all* the scriptures the things concerning himself” (v 27, emphasis added), indicating again that *all* of the Old Testament canon was known and available at that time.

Roman Catholicism claims that the church councils decided which books should be in the Bible. That certainly was not the way the books of the Old Testament were recognized as inspired. Moreover, it was not until AD 397 at the Third Council of Carthage that we have the first conciliar listing of the 27 books of the New Testament. By Catholic reasoning, no one could use the Bible at all until then, for the church hadn’t yet decided what it contained. On the contrary, the New Testament canon had been accepted by consensus at least 300 years before 397. Earlier councils had quoted the books of the New Testament in arguments over doctrine without any council ever having pronounced what books were included in the canon.

How did the early Christians know which books were inspired of God? They knew in exactly the same way the Old Testament writings were recognized as inspired. Paul explains how Scripture was recognized: “If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 14:37). In other words, any spiritual person (i.e., one who is indwelt by and led of the Holy Spirit) will by the Spirit recognize Scripture without any church endorsing it. That is the way it was in the Old Testament, in the early years of the church, and it is the same for us today.

Job 32:8 reminds us, “But there is a spirit

in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.” Romans 1 and 2 declare that God’s revelation of Himself through creation and conscience has come to all men. God spoke to Adam, to Noah, to Joseph, Gideon and David, et al. without any church existing. It is on the basis of the inspiration of God and the conviction of the Holy Spirit, who is able to convince the world of sin, righteousness and judgment to come (John 16:8-11), that all mankind knows the gospel is true. Christ is “the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world” (John 1:9)—and He does so without the help of any allegedly infallible Church whose dogmas must be accepted by all! John speaks of individuals being guided by the anointing they have from God (1 John 2:27). Never in all of God’s Word is there an appeal to some corporate body of leaders to make an infallible declaration of what is true. Never! In Acts 15, Paul did not appeal to an infallible group in Jerusalem whose word was law. He went there to discuss with and correct the elders if necessary, even

rebuking Peter (Galatians 2:1-14).

In 2 Timothy 3:16-17 Paul indicates that the Bible contains all the doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness that the man or woman of God needs to be everything God wants them to be. But Catholic apologists debating across the country insist that Paul’s “all scripture” meant only the Old Testament because that was all Timothy had.

How does a Berean respond? When the Bible says, “All scripture,” it means *all* Scripture, not merely what had been written to that time. Moreover, this is Paul’s *Second* Epistle to him, so Timothy had at least two epistles

BUT THE ANOINTING WHICH YE HAVE RECEIVED OF HIM ABIDETH IN YOU, AND YE NEED NOT THAT ANY MAN TEACH YOU: BUT AS THE SAME ANOINTING TEACHETH YOU OF ALL THINGS, AND IS TRUTH, AND IS NO LIE, AND EVEN AS IT HATH TAUGHT YOU, YE SHALL ABIDE IN HIM.

AND NOW, LITTLE CHILDREN, ABIDE IN HIM...

—1 JOHN 2:27-28

from Paul. Furthermore, Paul says, “the time of my departure is at hand” (2 Timothy 4:6) so he is about to die. Thus *all* of Paul’s epistles must have been written!

Ah, but they weren’t yet recognized as Scripture, says the Catholic apologist, because the Third Council of Carthage hadn’t yet met. Nonsense! A Berean will note that Peter refers to Paul’s epistles as Scripture (2 Peter 3:15-16), so they must have been accepted and in circulation. He uses the phrase “the other scriptures” without having to name them, proving that the canon was agreed upon and well known as it was being written—at least 330 years before any council listed the 27 books of the New Testament.

Roman Catholicism destroys the Berean spirit. The result has been the suppression of truth; the torture, sword, and flame of the inquisitions; and the rejection of freedom of conscience and press wherever and whenever Catholicism was in power. It was the Vatican which put Mussolini in office with its 1929 *Concordat*. In exchange, Catholicism was made the official religion of Italy and it became a crime to say anything against the Roman Catholic Church. The Vatican also backed Hitler and was handsomely rewarded financially. Pope Pius XI and his cardinals praised both Hitler and Mussolini as God’s men of the hour and German and Italian Catholics were forbidden to politically oppose them. The rejection of the individual’s right to be a Berean has brought terrible consequences!

Christ said, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” and “a stranger will they not follow” (John 10:27, 5). He also said, “He that is of God heareth God’s words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God” (John 8:47). He said to Pilate, “Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice” (John 18:37). Paul said that the church

congregation was to judge the words of the prophet to decide whether they were of God (1 Corinthians 14:29-31). We need to be men and women of God who know God’s Word and will not be deceived by false teachings no matter what their source.

Let us weep for and seek to win with the gospel not only those trapped in the well-known cults, but the 980 million Roman Catholics held in the grip of a false gospel that sends them to hell. They’ve been told they can’t be Bereans who understand the Bible for themselves. Challenge Catholics to compare what the Bible says with what they are being taught. Nor is it Catholics alone who need such an awakening. Protestants by the thousands blindly go along with all manner of error without knowing the Bible for themselves. Let us also challenge them.

SEE THEN THAT YE WALK
CIRCUMSPECTLY, NOT AS
FOOLS, BUT AS WISE,
REDEEMING THE TIME,
BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE
EVIL.

—EPHESIANS 5:15-16

It is amazing how influential one false teacher can be. For example, much of the aberrant theology of Hagin, Copeland, Hinn, et al. can be traced to one man, Finis Dake. *Dake’s Annotated Reference Bible* presents, among other errors, the idea that God the Father has a physical body similar to man’s; that

He eats, wears clothes, and lives on a planet called heaven; that Adam and Eve flew back and forth to the moon; that Christians will continue to have children throughout eternity; and even that there will be segregation between races in heaven. Who could believe such antibiblical nonsense? Multitudes. And they accept it from the notes in a “reference” Bible which sold 30,000 copies in 1992!

Let us commit ourselves once again to be lovers of God’s truth. May we say with the psalmist, “O, how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day” (Psalms 119:97)! And let us by word and example challenge others to be Bereans as well.

TBC

QUOTABLE

O God, I have tasted Thy goodness, and it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more. I am painfully conscious of my need for further grace. I am ashamed of my lack of desire. O God, the Triune God, I want to want Thee; I long to be filled with longing; I thirst to be made more thirsty still. Show me Thy glory, I pray Thee, so that I may know Thee indeed. Begin in mercy a new work of love within me. Say to my soul, "Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away." Then give me grace to rise and follow Thee up from this misty lowland where I have wandered so long.

—A. W. TOZER

Q&A

QUESTION (COMPOSITE OF SEVERAL): **Should we be wary of the Scofield Bible? I've heard Christian conference speakers warn against it. YouTuber Ian Carroll says that the Scofield Bible includes "...all of these new interpretations of the text...with Jewish influence" and that "...that's where Judeo-Christianity kind of came from...[and that] Christianity got kind of Jewified." John Rich, on the Tucker Carlson show, said that Darby came up with the Secret Rapture Theory and that Scofield publicized it, both funded by the Rothschild family. Carlson responds that he suspected the Scofield Bible is deceptive and that it has had massive implications on domestic and foreign policy that have been very negative and resulted in the deaths of lots of people.**

RESPONSE: The Scofield Reference Bible is known for its literal and historical system of biblical interpretation. Like Tucker Carlson, C. I. Scofield was a self-described "nominal Episcopalian" until Scofield gave his life to the Lord Jesus Christ in 1879 at age 36. Thirty years later, Oxford University Press published his first edition of the Scofield Study Bible.

The most obvious flaw in the Scofield Bible

is that Scofield embraced the Gap Theory, a doctrine developed to accommodate the great ages demanded by evolutionary geologists. The Gap Theory takes a planet full of evidence for a global cataclysm and attributes it to a never-elsewhere-mentioned pre-creation destruction.

The Gap Theory, however, is not why the Scofield Bible has received criticism in the church and in political circles. The Scofield Bible is dismissed because its literal, historical view of the Bible includes the nation and people of Israel having ongoing significance, and because its literal, historical view of the Bible indicates a pre-tribulation rapture of the church.

The Scofield Bible was first published in 1909 by Oxford University Press. It was not a new version of the Bible, as some have stated; rather, it used the King James Version of the Bible as its text and included notes from C. I. Scofield. Today's most popular versions of the Old Scofield Study Bible are based on the updated 1917 version, which improved the font and incorporated Ussher's chronology (approximate dates on every page for every book of the Bible except the Psalms).

Antisemitism seems to be the basis of much of the anger directed at the Scofield Bible. While the individuals attacking are not necessarily antisemitic, Satan has tried to destroy the Jewish people since the days of Jacob (See *Judgment Day!* Chapter 2; August 1988 TBC newsletter "Anti-Semitism"; September 1988 TBC newsletter "The Kingdom of God"; April 1991 TBC newsletter "Israel—Some Historical Reminders"; etc.).

God, on the other hand, has declared, "Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they

have done, saith the LORD” (Jer 31:35-37).

Many of the political attacks against Israel are focused on the massive outlay of foreign aid by the United States of America despite a \$36 trillion national debt. Israel’s case is unique. Six million Jews were killed in the Holocaust simply for being Jewish. There is no other people or nation on earth where the goal of its enemies is the total annihilation of every living member of the race. Even from a pragmatic view, it is logical to support the only free nation in the tinderbox that is the Middle East.

The other main reason for the attacks on the Scofield Bible is based on its embrace of the doctrine of a pre-Tribulation Rapture. The Rapture and the Second Coming cannot logically be the same event. The Rapture occurs during a time of peace and prosperity, when the world does not expect God’s judgment (1 Thes 5:1-3; Mat 24:37-39): the Second Coming occurs in the midst of the worst war in history (Mat 24:21-22; Zec 12:3; Rev 6:8-17; 9:15, 16:3-21). At the Rapture, the Lord is coming *for* His saints to meet them in the air (1 Thes 4:16-17). At the Lord’s Second Coming, He comes *with* His church to reign on earth (Zec 14:3-9; Rev 19:11-20:6).

Critics will say that those of us who believe in a pre-Tribulation Rapture are escapists, that we just want to avoid the trials that Christians throughout history have faced. It is true that, since the beginning of the church, millions of Christians have been slaughtered in Rome, Spain, France, England, Germany, Sudan, Syria, Nigeria...throughout the world—and that many may suffer before our Lord’s return. The Great Tribulation, however, is different: it is not the wrath of this world and the enemy of our souls poured out on the church, it is the wrath of a patient God poured out on a rebellious world, even as He poured out His wrath at the time of the Flood when a few were saved on the ark.

Finally, C. I. Scofield was not operating without godly counsel. He counted among his friends and collaborators D. L. Moody, Hudson Taylor, Arno Gaebelein, and A. T. Pierson. The Scofield Bible was also the Bible carried by J. Vernon

McGee, Chuck Smith, and Dave Hunt throughout their lives. As with any writings, including ours at The Berean Call, you should test it against the Scriptures. You can find concerns with any non-scriptural writings, especially those as exhaustive as the Scofield Study Bible, but many Bible students find it a helpful tool.

QUESTION: I see the term “journaling” in several of your articles. Just what is meant by that?

RESPONSE: Some would refer to the daily exercise of keeping a diary as “journaling.” That’s not what we’re speaking of. Rather, too commonly today, “journaling” refers to the mystic practice of emptying one’s mind and calling upon a “spirit guide,” who is the one “channeling” their thoughts through our mind and guiding the hand recording these same ideas.

More than three decades ago, Dave Hunt wrote about The Way International former cult member Mark Virkler, who found his way into charismatic circles. He has since become a popular speaker.

“Virkler teaches seminars designed to ‘open one up to two-way communication with Almighty God,’ which...‘is going to change the nation....’ (Sadly enough, not just Virkler’s seminar but the growing use of visualization may indeed ‘change the nation.’) The secret is in two divination techniques (divination is forbidden by the Bible in any form): ‘journaling’ and ‘visualization.’ What Virkler calls ‘the breakthrough’ into two-way dialogue with God came through information gained at a seminar conducted by Dennis and Matthew Linn, Jesuit priests who teach the visualization of Mary and Joseph for inner healing. Virkler teaches visualization of a ‘Jesus’ who can be conjured up at will in the imagination but then begins to move and speak on his own. Clearly contact has been made with some spirit entity independent of the visualizer’s imagination, but it is not our Lord Jesus Christ, for He cannot be called from the right hand of the Father on high to appear before us as our private guru any time we please.”

LETTERS

Dear TBC,

Many pagan beliefs and traditions have also been integrated into the Christian faith, which is troubling. Some “Christians” today reject the Bible outright, because they choose to be led by the spirit”—dangerous ground! Others profess to believe in the Bible, but do not try to reconcile the New Testament with the Old Testament, thus miss the deeper meaning, especially when it comes to Christ’s sacrifice and prophecy (as much of the book of Revelation is used with language from Old Testament prophets). Another concern is our limited English language, which also fails to convey the true meaning of certain words like “love” and “hell.”

That said, the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. It is a light to my feet and a lamp to my path. It is our only safeguard against the deceptions of our day. Let’s praise God for preserving His Word so we need not be deceived! DO (email)

Dear TBC,

There are far too many unanswered scenarios in the “post-Trib” view.... If all the saved are raptured when Christ returns (Second Coming) there would be NO MORTALS left on earth to go into the MILLENNIUM! The millennium could not take place! Also IF THERE IS A POST-TRIBULATION RAPTURE, there would not be the judgment of the nations in Matthew 25:31-36 that has to take place for Christ to set up His kingdom. The post-view simply won’t work! DM (email)

Dear TBC,

Faithful, obedient, Bible-believing Christians, who submit to the authority of God, and have a loving, saving relationship with the One who created them and also died to save

them—Jesus Christ. Because of their obedience, they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and Christ Himself abides in them, and the fruits of His character are manifest in them, as they grow in grace. MM (email)

Dear TBC,

Thank you, TBC. True Biblical Christianity is becoming a rare thing in this world and people are led astray easily by the subtle and cunning methods that sound so right to the human ear. We have to stay in the Word (the Bible) to avoid being misled. Your ministry is much appreciated. God bless and keep you safe. DH (email)

Dear Tom,

I already commented on your FB pages, but seeing it here on YouTube is making me sad again. I am happy for you, brother, and the well-deserved time off you need to spend these precious days with your family. I love you and Dave Hunt so much, and trust me, if I hear anything coming from this ministry after you retire that is not totally biblically based, I will be paying you a visit via an email or something, LOL. I know this ministry will be in blessed hands with men and women of God you trust to carry on the legacy of you and Dave Hunt where the Word of God will continue to be preached worldwide/spreading the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Anon. (email)

Dear TBC,

“For I testify unto every man that hears the words of the prophecy of this book, if ANY MAN shall ADD unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book. And if ANY MAN shall TAKE AWAY from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the Book of Life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book” (Rev 22:18-19). It seems not only the Mormons, the Jehovah’s Witnesses, and other cults are guilty of adding to and taking away from the

Truth of God’s Word, but the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy has also wandered down that crooked trail that leads to hell and perdition.

I think the RCC lifts up Christ as the virgin-born, sinless Savior of the world crucified for sin, but it’s what it ADDS to that Truth that creates the devil in the details. So much so, they have created ANOTHER gospel, which Scripture clearly pronounces God’s curse upon and damnation (Gal 1:8-9). AM (email)

Dear TBC,

Thank you for writing and responding to my comments. I don’t know if there was prayer for me by your brethren at the Berean Call, but I was delivered recently from the Catholic System of Religion. I don’t consider Catholicism a “cult,” but it clearly is a false religion, no doubt. The Catholics still in there need our prayers and support. EW (Canada)

Dear Tom,

Thank you so much for your service! I think my first encounter with TBC was at least 25 years ago. I was a State Trooper and had found the Calvary Satellite Network on FM radio. After some years of not following the Lord it was just what I needed to help me get to know our Lord. I would listen in my patrol car. I always looked forward to TBC on that station at about 10 PM. I subscribed to the newsletter and always read it front to back. I have several of Dave’s books and was just thinking recently that I should reread *A Woman Rides the Beast*. I am retired now, but I have the app and I am subscribed on YouTube. Dave once mentioned that he was going to be at a Christian Booksellers convention in Denver on a particular date and he invited listeners to stop by. I did and got to meet him. I am going to continue to follow the ministry, but I will miss your timely wisdom. Thank you. JA (email)

Dear TBC,

When I was a young Christian in 1985 coming out of prosperity error, I “found” *Seduction of Christianity* at a Christian bookstore by

chance. That book gave me understanding of the enemy traps and got me into apologetics and deeper thinking of subjects. Praise God for TBC, and you and your families, and your continuing work. AS (email)

NOTE: Our purpose in this section is to simply show what kind of feedback we receive. We may respond to some of them in private whether or not we agree with their views.

NEWSWATCH

JUPITER: THE MIGHTY GUARDIAN OF EARTH

ICR.ORG, 3/13/25, “JUPITER: THE MIGHTY GUARDIAN OF EARTH” [EXCERPTS]: NASA’s *Juno* spacecraft recently unveiled breathtaking images of Jupiter during its 66th flyby of the colossal planet. *Juno* has been exploring Jupiter and its surroundings, including its rings and numerous moons, to uncover the planet’s secrets. According to a NASA statement, understanding Jupiter could provide valuable insights into understanding the entire solar system.

Did you know that Jupiter plays a significant role in making life on Earth possible? This massive gas giant, sometimes called the “protector of Earth,” has a profound influence on our planet. Let’s dive into the ways Jupiter helps us live safely and thrive.

One of Jupiter’s most important jobs is to act as a cosmic shield. Because of its massive size and strong gravity, Jupiter can pull in or deflect many asteroids and comets that might otherwise collide with Earth. Imagine Jupiter as a giant vacuum cleaner sucking up debris that could cause catastrophic effects on our planet.

Jupiter also plays a crucial role in influencing the asteroid belt located between Mars and Jupiter. This region contains numerous rocky bodies that could potentially be a danger to Earth. Jupiter’s strong gravitational field helps to keep many of these asteroids in their place,

preventing them from drifting into the inner solar system where they could pose a threat to Earth.

Jupiter's gravity doesn't just protect us from space debris; it also helps keep the solar system stable. The giant planet's gravitational pull affects the orbits of other planets, including Earth's. This gravitational influence helps maintain the relatively stable orbits that we observe, which is essential for a stable climate on our planet. Accordingly, a stable climate means Earth can support diverse ecosystems and, thus, life.

Another vital role Jupiter plays is in protecting Earth's atmosphere. When comets and asteroids are deflected by Jupiter, they are often flung out of the solar system or into the sun rather than colliding with Earth. This protection helps preserve our atmosphere. A stable atmosphere is critical for maintaining the conditions necessary for life, such as an optimal temperature and protection from harmful space radiation.

(<https://bit.ly/43pJ5OQ>)

HOW MIDDLE EAST CONFLICTS CHALLENGE INTERNATIONAL LAW

JPost.com, 12/5/24, "STATEHOOD AND SOVEREIGNTY: HOW MIDDLE EAST CONFLICTS CHALLENGE INTERNATIONAL LAW—COMMENT" [EXCERPTS]: One of the favorite claims of the UN rapporteur for human rights in the Palestinian territories, Francesca Albanese, is that, according to her reading of international law, Israel has no right to self-defense against Hamas since Hamas is a non-state actor and international law permits "orderly" states the right to self-defense only when attacked by other "orderly" states.

The same envoy who just two years ago

implored Hamas leaders, "You have the right to resist," is now spreading the doctrine that Israel has no right to self-defense against Hamas. In other words, Hamas should attack, and Israel should never have the right to retaliate.

Even if we do not follow Albanese's distorted approach, which calls on the aggressor to kill and decrees that the attacked must remain silent, it is clear that the so-called "international law" falls short of providing legal tools to deal with a situation like Israel's, and more broadly, of all law-abiding states in the West (since most non-democratic countries do not follow international law anyway).

(<https://bit.ly/426eGUt>)

BIOLOGICAL SEX IS "NATURAL REALITY"

THECOLLEGEFIX.COM, 12/4/24, "BIOLOGICAL SEX IS 'NATURAL REALITY' SCHOLARS TELL SUPREME COURT" [EXCERPTS]: The Supreme Court should allow states to protect minors from transgender drugs and surgeries, a group of scholars said.

[On December 6], the Court [heard] arguments in *U.S. v. Skrmetti*, a case concerning Tennessee's and Kentucky's prohibitions on minors receiving drugs and surgeries to change their physical appearance to look like the opposite sex.

Current and former professors, many of whom are known to readers of *The College Fix*, argued that sex is a "natural reality," in an amicus brief.

They drew on their experience as scholars of science, theology, history, and philosophy, to make their argument.

(<https://bit.ly/4iur1at>)

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

THE GOSPEL of GOD

EXCERPTED FROM *THE NONNEGOTIABLE GOSPEL* • PP 1-30 • BY DAVE HUNT

Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel... for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth [it].

—MARK 16:15, ROMANS 1:16

WHAT IS the “good news” of *the* gospel—and from what does it save us?

In order to answer that question, we must begin in the Garden, for it was there, in the most perfect environment that God’s heart of love and His creative power could design, that sin had its awful beginning.

Surrounded by beauty, satisfied by abundance, and enjoying the fellowship of their Creator Friend, our first parents nevertheless fell to the seductive lies of the Serpent. “Ye shall be as gods” was Satan’s promise, while Adam, in loyalty to Eve, whom he loved more than God Himself, joined in her disobedience and ate of the forbidden fruit (1 Timothy 2:14). Thus, “by [this] one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12).

Death not only ends this short earthly life; it separates the sinner from God forever. In His infinite foreknowledge, wisdom, and love, however, God had already planned how He would restore life and reunite mankind with Himself. Without ceasing to be God, He would become a man through a virgin birth. Only God could be the Savior (Isaiah 43:11; 45:21, etc.), thus the Messiah had to be God (Isaiah 9:6; Isaiah 45:15; Titus 1:3, 4, etc.). He would die for our sins to pay the penalty demanded by His justice: “’Tis mystery all, the *immortal* dies!” hymn writer Charles Wesley declared. Then He would rise from the dead to live in those who would believe in and receive Him as their Lord and Savior. Forgiveness of sins and eternal life would be theirs as a *free gift of His grace*.

Centuries before His incarnation, God inspired the Old Testament prophets to declare His eternal and unchangeable plan of salvation. Definitive criteria were provided by which the coming Savior would be identified. Jesus and His apostles did not invent a “new religion.” Christianity fulfills scores of specific prophecies and is therefore provable from Scripture!

So it was not a new gospel that Paul the apostle preached, but “the gospel of God (which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) concerning his Son Jesus Christ...” (Romans 1:1-3). Thus the Bereans could check Paul’s message against the Old Testament (Acts 17:11); and he could use the Hebrew prophets, which were read in the synagogue each sabbath, to show that Jesus was the promised Messiah (vv. 2-3). Not Buddha, not Muhammad, not anyone else—only Christ has the required credentials! The fulfillment of scores of specific prophecies in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth should be absolute proof that He is the true and only Savior.

In Hebrews 2:3, the vital question is asked, “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?” The answer is so starkly plain; there is no escape. The Bible makes that solemn fact abundantly clear. To reject, add to, take from, or otherwise pervert or embrace a *substitute* for “the gospel of God” is to perpetuate the rebellion begun by Adam and Eve and to leave one eternally separated from God and His proffered salvation.

No wonder Paul wrote, “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...” (2 Corinthians 5:11). So must we, too, persuade men through the gospel!

The “gospel of your salvation” (Ephesians 1:13) “wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved” (1 Corinthians 15:1-2) is simple and precise, leaving

no room for misunderstanding or negotiation: “that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day...” (vv. 3-4).

This “everlasting gospel” (Revelation 14:6) was promised “before the world began” (2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 1:2) and cannot change with time or culture. There is no other hope for mankind, no other way to be forgiven and brought back to God except through this “strait gate and narrow way” (Matthew 7:13-14). Any broader road leads to destruction.

The Gospel’s Three Elements

The one true “gospel of God’s grace,” which God offers as our *only* salvation, has three basic elements: 1) who Christ is—fully God and perfect, sinless man in one Person (were He less, He could not be our Savior); 2) who we are—hopeless sinners already condemned to eternal death (or we wouldn’t need to be saved); and 3) what Christ’s death accomplished—the payment of the full penalty for our sins (any attempt by us to pay *in any way* rejects the Cross).

Christ has commanded us to “preach the gospel [good news!] to every creature [person]” (Mark 16:15). What response is required? Both the desperate question and uncomplicated answer are given to us: “What must I do to be saved?... *Believe* on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:30-31). Neither religion, ritual, nor good works will avail. God calls us to simply *believe*. “For by grace are ye saved through *faith*” (Ephesians 2:8)—whosoever *believes* in him will not perish, but has eternal life (John 3:16).

It is the *gospel* alone that saves those who *believe* it. Nothing else will save. Therefore we must preach the gospel. Paul said, “Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel” (1 Corinthians 9:16). Sentimental appeals to “come to Jesus” or “make a decision for Christ” avail nothing if the gospel is not clearly explained and believed.

Many are attracted to Christ because of His admirable character, noble martyrdom, or

because He changes lives. Such converts have not believed the *gospel* and thus are not saved. This is the solemn teaching of Scripture (John 3:36)!

Paul said that “the gospel of Christ...is the power of God *unto salvation* to every one that believeth” (Romans 1:16). He also called it “the gospel... by which also *ye are saved*” (1 Corinthians 15:1-2); and “the gospel of *your salvation*” (Ephesians 1:13). Clearly, from these and other scriptures, salvation comes *only* through *believing the gospel*. Christ told His disciples to go into “all the world, and preach the gospel” (Mark 16:15), a gospel which the Bible precisely defines.

Salvation comes on God’s terms and by His grace, and we negotiate the gospel neither with God nor with one another. “The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world” (1 John 4:14). Salvation is a work of God and His Son. We either believe it or reject it. We don’t “dialogue” about it.

It is also called the “gospel of Christ” (Mark 1:1; Romans 1:16; 15:19; 1 Corinthians 9:12, 18; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 9:13; 10:14; Galatians 1:7; Philippians 1:27; 1 Thessalonians 3:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:8). He is the Savior, and salvation is His work, not ours, as the angels said: “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11).

Paul specifies the gospel that saves: “that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). “I am the door,” said Christ: “by *me* if any man enter in, he shall be saved” (John 10:9).

The gospel contains nothing about baptism, church membership or attendance, tithing, sacraments or rituals, diet or clothing. If we add *anything* to the gospel, we have perverted it and thus come under Paul’s anathema in Galatians 1:8-9!

The gospel is all about what Christ has done. It says nothing about what Christ must yet do because the work of our redemption is finished. “Christ *died* for our sins.” His was a past act, never to be repeated, for Christ triumphantly declared, “It is *finished*” (John 19:30)!

Nor does it say anything about what *we* must do, because we can do nothing. “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us” (Titus 3:5); “for by grace are ye saved through faith...the gift of God (is) not of works, lest any man should boast...” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Instead of works, the gospel requires faith. It is the power of God unto salvation to those who *believe*. “But to him that *worketh not*, but *believeth* on him that justifieth the ungodly, his *faith* is counted for righteousness” (Romans 4:5)...“that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

The gospel is a two-edged sword. It declares, “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life.” The same verse also says, “and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36).

The Difficult Part

Right here we come to the most difficult part of the gospel to accept—that those who do not believe it are eternally lost, no matter what good works they do.

The reasons for that fact are grounded in both God’s love and His justice. God’s justice requires that the infinite penalty for sin must be paid. In payment we would be separated from God forever, so He became a man through the virgin birth to pay the penalty for us. No one can complain against God. He has proved His love by doing all He could for our salvation. He has Himself paid the penalty and on that basis can be both “just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus” (Romans 3:26).

Christ pleaded in the Garden, “if it be possible [i.e., if there is any other way mankind can be saved], let this cup pass from me” (Matthew 26:39). We know that there is no other way or God would not have required His beloved Son to bear the full brunt of His wrath against sin. The fact that men nailed Christ to the cross would only condemn us. But on the cross, when

man was doing his worst to his Creator, Christ paid the penalty for our sins in full.

Only if we accept that payment on our behalf can we be saved. “[T]here is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we *must* be saved” (Acts 4:12); “what *must* I do to be saved?... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:30, 31).

To “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ” includes *who He is* and *what He has done*.

Jesus said, “...Ye are from beneath; I am from above...if ye believe not that I AM [this is God’s name, Yahweh], ye shall die in your sins” (John 8:23, 24). Jesus Himself says we must believe that He is God, for He is; and no one less than God could save us. We must believe that the sinless One “died for our sins,” and was buried; and that He rose bodily from the grave. Only by believing this gospel are we saved. So says God’s Word.

Why could not even a Mother Teresa get to heaven by good works? Because we are all sinners; and because once we have broken one of God’s commandments, we “[are] guilty of all” (James 2:10); and “by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight” (Romans 3:20). Keeping the law perfectly from now on could never make up for having already broken it.

For God to grant salvation by any other means than faith in Christ alone would be an insult to the One whom the Father insisted had to endure His wrath as the sacrifice for sin. Furthermore, God would be breaking His own code of justice and going back on His Word. No, even God Himself could not save earth’s most notable “saint.” Christ’s blood avails only for repentant sinners.

Oswald Chambers warned lest, in our zeal to get people to accept the gospel, we manufacture a gospel acceptable to people and produce “converts” who are not saved. Today’s most popular perversion is the “positive” gospel, which is designed to offend no one with truth. One of our most popular televangelists, for example, has

said that it is demeaning to call anyone a sinner and that Christ died to restore human dignity and self-esteem. He claims to win many to Christ with that seductive message—but such a gospel does not *save sinners*.

Evangelistic appeals are often made to “come to Christ” for the wrong reasons: in order to be healthy, happy, successful, to restore a marriage, or to handle stress. Others preach a gospel that is so diluted or perverted that it deceives many into thinking they are saved. No fraud could be worse, for the consequences are eternal!

Religion, not atheism, is Satan’s main weapon. “The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ...should shine unto them” (2 Corinthians 4:4). To combat “the gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 20:24), the great deceiver has many false gospels, but they all have two subtle rejections of grace in common: ritual and/or self-effort.

Ritual makes redemption an ongoing process performed by a special priesthood; and self-effort gives man a part to play in earning his salvation. The one denies the finality of the Cross. The other denies its sufficiency. Either one robs God of the uniqueness of the gift He wishes to bestow upon fallen man: “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

MERCY vs. WORKS

*An altar of earth thou shalt make unto me...
And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone,
thou shalt not build it of hewn stone: for if
thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted
it. Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine
altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered
thereon.*

—EXODUS 20:24-26

*...[L]et us build us a city and a tower [of
Babel], whose top may reach unto heaven...*

—GENESIS II:4

No two tenets of faith could be more opposed to one another than those presented above.

On the one hand, we have God’s rejection of any human effort to buy salvation or His favor. If man is to come to God, it must be solely by His grace and His provision, not by any human work.

On the other hand, we see man’s flagrant repudiation of God’s prohibition against self-effort, and his arrogant attempt to build a tower that would enable him to climb by steps of his own making into heaven itself.

God’s instructions were explicit. If the ground was too rocky to gather up a mound of earth for an altar, stones could be heaped together—but they could not be cut, fashioned, or polished with a tool. Nor could the altar be elevated. Not one step must be climbed to reach it. There must be no illusion that man could contribute anything by his own efforts to his salvation. God Himself is the only One who can save man, and salvation must be a gift of His grace. Such is the gospel consistently presented from Genesis to Revelation. Consider the following:

I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is *no saviour* (Isaiah 43:11); For unto us a child [the Messiah] is born...[He is] The mighty God, The everlasting Father (Isaiah 9:6).... thou shalt call his name JESUS: for *he shall save his people from their sins* (Matthew 1:21)....*they that are in the flesh cannot please God* (Romans 8:8). For by grace are ye saved....*not of works*, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8, 9); *Not by works* of righteousness which we have done, but according to his *mercy* he saved us (Titus 3:5); Being justified freely *by his grace* through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (Romans 3:24); And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work (Romans 11:6).

It was the incredible act of rebellion in Eden against the Almighty that separated man from

his Creator. No less astonishing is the fact that man continues his defiance in his very attempts to be reconciled to God—and so persists in his self-righteous resolve to contribute *something* toward his salvation.

Thus, amazingly, man’s rebellion against God is seen most clearly in his religions, all of which are but mirror images of Babel—ingenious and persistent attempts to “climb up some other way” instead of entering through the door that God has provided in His Son (John 10:1).

Babel may be traced from ancient paganism to the “high places” (elevated altars) of heathen worship adopted by Israel (Leviticus 26:30; 1 Kings 11:7; 2 Kings 23:15; Ezekiel 16:24-39, etc.) and on to every religion on earth today. The ornate temples or mosques and elaborate ceremonies found in Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Mormonism, and other cults and the occult are obvious continuations of Babel. So are the magnificent cathedrals, lofty steeples, exalted and gilded altars, luxurious vestments and impressive rituals of today’s “high church” denominations.

Such pomp turns off many non-Christians who rightly want nothing to do with a God who is influenced by fleshly enhancements.

But was not Solomon’s temple most magnificent? Yes, but it was uniquely designed and commanded by God. Both the tabernacle in the wilderness and the temple which succeeded it were “a figure [picture]...of good things to come [i.e., of Christ and heaven]” (Hebrews 9:9-11). God said to Moses, “See...that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount [Sinai]” (Hebrews 8:5).

No such pattern or approval was given by God for any other religious structure. Although Protestants reject relics, statues and icons, they often refer to their places of worship as “sanctuaries,” as though God dwells there. In fact, God inhabits the Christian’s body (“your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost” —1 Corinthians 3:17; 6:19), which is therefore to be kept holy. Paul reminded the Athenians:

God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men’s hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;... (Acts 17:24-25).

Jesus explained that God does, indeed, desire our worship—but it must be “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:23-24). Affectations, whether in physical adornments, props or ceremonies, appeal to the flesh and, far from enhancing worship, deny both the truth and the Spirit, by which it alone can be offered to the God who created and redeemed us. Sacramentalism—the belief that liturgy’s form and formulas transmit spiritual power and that salvation comes through the sacraments—too readily creeps into even Protestant thinking. In fact, some still believe that baptism saves and that taking the bread and cup brings life, etc.

Alas, we are all Eve’s children by nature and still prone to follow the ways of Cain and Babel. Every place of worship that has been adorned for the purpose of hallowing it or gaining God’s favor or making worship more acceptable violates Exodus 20:24-26 as well as the rest of Scripture. All such “sanctuaries” are monuments to man’s rebellion and his proud and perverted religion of self-effort.

Unfortunately, it is all too easy to fall into the error of imagining that belonging to a church and periodically “worshiping” in its “sanctuary” makes one a Christian and compensates for one’s lack of consistent, personal holiness.

Of course, no one in this day and age is under the illusion that one can climb a physical tower to heaven. Yet the folly of today’s religions is every bit as monumental, and the anarchy against God that motivates those beliefs is just as evil as was the Tower of Babel. Billions continue, in the spirit of Babel, to pursue equally futile, self-oriented religious programs, hoping to earn their way to heaven. In the process, *truth* and *doctrine* are relegated to a secondary role, or none.

Faith is Not a "Power"

Sadly, for many, faith is a power of the *mind*, and God is merely a placebo that helps one "believe" and thereby activate this mind power. "Prayer is communicating with the deep unconscious.... Your unconscious mind...[has a] power that turns wishes into realities," says a popular writer. He says further, "You don't know the power you have within you!... You make the world into anything you choose." It is Babel again in a more sophisticated form. The power of "thinking" becomes the magic stairway that leads to the paradise where all one's wishes can be fulfilled.

For others, faith is a mind power that even God uses—a force contained in words and released when one speaks forth "the word of faith." "By the spoken word," declares one of their leaders, "we create our universe...you create the presence of Jesus with your mouth...through visualization and dreaming you can incubate your future and hatch the results." Here we have an evangelical form of Christian Science or Science of Mind!

Many Christians have unwittingly believed a similar lie. They imagine that faith is believing that what they are praying for will happen. Of course, if *believing* something will happen *causes* it to happen, then who needs God? Men themselves have become gods. The power of belief becomes one's tower of Babel, the magic steps by which one climbs to that "state of mind called heaven."

Biblical faith, however, is believing that *God* will answer one's prayer. That changes everything! I could never truly believe a prayer would be answered—nor would I want it to be—unless I were certain it was God's will. Faith is not a magic power we aim at God to get Him to bless our plans, but "the *obedience* of faith" (Acts 6:7; Romans 1:5; 16:26; 2 Thessalonians 1:8, etc.) brings us into submission to Him as the instruments of His will.

Humanists also have their Babel-like,

do-it-yourself religion. They call it science. It, too, reflects man's continued rebellion. Modern man hopes to conquer the atom, space, and all disease and thus to become immortal master of the universe. The materialist's "heaven" is a peaceful cosmos populated by highly evolved, space-traveling civilizations that have restored paradise through supertechnology.

Such was the dream ("to join a community of galactic civilizations...[is] our hope in a vast and awesome universe") that President Carter, a professing Christian, expressed to anticipated extraterrestrial contactees on the gold record carried into space by Voyager in 1977.

Rank materialism leaves the soul empty, but adding a touch of religion to science seems to fill the void while keeping faith "rational." There is no more deadly delusion than a scientific religion. It is the delusion of Babel all over again, with advancing knowledge building the steps that both lead man to "heaven" and open to him the very powers of God.

One of Christian psychology's major appeals to evangelicals is its false claim to being scientific. It fails, however, the litmus test of Exodus 20:24-26. Its altars are built of the cut and polished stones of human wisdom; its rituals are not found in Scripture; and self rather than God is the object of worship. Moreover, on its altars burns the strange fire (Leviticus 10:1; Nahum 3:4) of humanistic theories unacceptable to God.

Religious science is a major element in the environmental movement, where the earth is increasingly viewed as sacred. Ecotheology, says a Georgetown University professor, "starts with the premise that the Universe is God." Carl Sagan exemplified today's scientific paganism. "If we must worship a power greater than ourselves," intoned this high priest of cosmos worship, "does it not make sense to revere the Sun and stars?" Here we go again! To draw closer to, and thus better observe and worship, the heavenly bodies was a major purpose of the Tower of Babel.

The environmental movement is a humanistic attempt to restore the lost paradise of

Eden without repenting of rebellion against the Creator.

Such is the message that is being seductively presented to America's children in the public schools.

New Age is being purposefully promoted in the public schools through such programs as *America 2000*. As governor of Arkansas, [former president] Bill Clinton initiated a school reform that had much to do with remolding the students into planetary citizens alienated from parents, including the worship of self and the universe as God.

Exodus 20:24-26 is a foundational passage that makes it clear that the earth is neither to be honored nor worshiped but to be used as an altar. Sin brought a curse upon the earth, a curse that could only be removed through the shedding of blood (Leviticus 17:11). Animals were sacrificed upon an altar of earth in anticipation of the Lamb of God, who would, "by the sacrifice of himself" (Hebrews 9:26), once and for all obtain "eternal redemption for us" (v. 12).

It is for man's own good that God visits sin with death. How horrible it would be for mankind to continue forever in its state of rebellion, thus perpetuating ever-increasing evil, sickness, suffering, sorrow, and death. Only out of death in payment of the full penalty for sin comes resurrection (not reincarnation's amoral recycling of evil) and a whole new universe into which sin

and suffering can never enter.

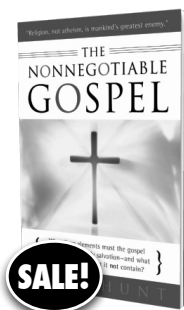
Such is God's desire and provision for all man-kind. Those who reject the free gift of eternal life offered by His grace will experience eternal regret.

There are peripheral issues on which Christians may differ, such as diet, dress, mode of baptism, honoring certain days, how and how often to keep the Lord's supper, etc. Salvation, however, is the central issue on which all must agree. Paul cursed those who taught that one must believe the gospel *and keep the law* in order to be saved (Galatians 1:6-12). Such a slight addition destroyed the gospel. No one believing that message could be saved! Nor is anyone a Christian who believes one of today's popular diluted gospels.

The "gospel of God," as we have seen, is very specific and must be believed for one to be saved. "[S]trait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:14). That "narrow-minded" statement was not the invention of some dogmatic fundamentalist but came from our Lord Himself.

"The faith" for which we must "earnestly contend" (Jude 3) has definite moral and doctrinal content and must be believed for salvation. All else is Babel.

[TO BE CONTINUED]



THE NONNEGOTIABLE GOSPEL

Hunt—Many are attracted to Christ because of His admirable character, noble martyrdom, or because He changes lives. Sadly, such converts have not believed the gospel—and thus are not saved; this is the solemn teaching of Scripture (John 3:36). As this plain-speaking booklet shows, Salvation comes on God's terms and by His grace, and we negotiate the gospel neither with God nor with one another...we either believe it or reject it. Most people are surprised to learn that the gospel contains nothing about baptism, church membership or attendance, tithing, sacraments or rituals, diet or clothing. In fact, if we add anything to the gospel, we have perverted it. This evangelistic booklet reveals the gem of the gospel in every clear-cut facet for anyone desiring a precise biblical definition of the gospel. —The Berean Call, 44 pp.

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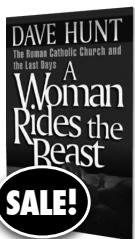


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THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE



A Woman Rides the Beast

Hunt—Are you missing half the story about the last days? Virtually all attention these days is focused on the coming Antichrist—but he is only half the story. Many are amazed to discover in Revelation 17 that there is also another mysterious character at the heart of prophecy—a woman who rides the beast. Who is this woman? In *A Woman Rides the Beast*, prophecy expert Dave Hunt sifts through biblical truth and global events to present a well-defined portrait of the woman and her powerful place in the Antichrist’s future empire. Eight remarkable clues in Revelation 17 and 18 prove the woman’s identity beyond any reasonable doubt. —Harvest House Publishers, 549 pp.

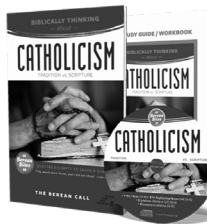
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Oakland—When Christians speak of evangelism, they are usually referring to efforts to fulfill the Great Commission. Unfortunately, Satan has always had an agenda to complicate the Gospel or confound people into believing in something less or something more than what the Gospel message teaches. Not everything labeled the gospel is the true Gospel. In this booklet, we will be dealing with The New Evangelization, a program currently being promoted by the Catholic Church and designed to win the world to Christ—the Eucharistic Christ. —Lighthouse Trails, 18 pp.

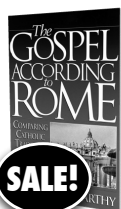
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McCarthy—*The Gospel According to Rome* is a powerful and insightful examination of the Catholic Church that provides a side-by-side comparison of Scripture with the Catholic catechism. —Harvest House Publishers, 397 pp.

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Hunt—Much attention has been given to the Iron and Bamboo Curtains of communism. Recent events are causing the world to take notice at last of the even worse Islamic Curtain. Freedom of the press, of speech, and of assembly, along with freedom of religion and the import of Bibles and Christian literature, have been denied behind the Islamic Curtain even more strictly than behind the Iron Curtain....

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Islam and the Gospel

Hunt—The Islamic Curtain separating Muslim countries from the rest of the world is every bit as impenetrable as the Iron Curtain ever was, but who hears a word of it in the media? In Saudi Arabia, for example, which Americans died to protect, there is a total blackout on anything Christian; one cannot carry a Bible on the street or have a Bible study in the privacy of one’s own home.

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Why?

Hunt—Most parents have been frustrated (or amused) by a small child’s persistent question, “Why?” repeated almost endlessly. Even young children recognize that there must be a reason for everything. The relentless “Why?” reflects the instinctive search for an ultimate answer beyond which there are no more questions. For some, this natural curiosity begins a search for God (Jer 29:13)....

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God Is Love

Hunt—Today, exactly as the Bible prophesied, man grows ever bolder in his defiance of God. One basic element common to the rejection of Christ in the world and contempt for sound doctrine in the church is the lack of musing, i.e., thinking and reasoning carefully, especially about God, His Word, and His will. Instead, the chief pursuit of the world—and, sadly, of many Christians—is amusement.

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