

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

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

God's Nonnegotiable Gospel — Part Three

Dave Hunt

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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 11:4

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 (Isa 43:11); For unto us a child [the Messiah] is born...[He is] The mighty God, The everlasting Father... (Isa 9:6); ...thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins (Mat 1:21); ...they that are in the flesh cannot please God (Rom 8:8). For by grace are ye saved... Not of works, lest any man should boast (Eph 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 (Rom 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 (Rom 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” (Jn 10:1) instead of entering through the door (Christ) which God has provided.

Babel may be traced from ancient paganism,

to the “high places” (elevated altars) of heathen worship adopted by Israel (Lev 26:30; 1 Kgs 11:7; 2 Kgs 23:15; Ezek 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” Anglican, Orthodox, Catholic and other denominations. Such pomp turns off many non-Christians who rightly want nothing to do with a “God” who is influenced by fleshly enhancements.

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]” (Heb 9:9-11). God said to Moses, “See to it that thou make all things according to the pattern which I showed to thee on the mount [Sinai]” (Heb 8:5). No such pattern or approval was given by God for any other religious structure.

Protestantism retained some Catholic heresies, such as the error of attaching virtue (or evil) and power to physical objects and rituals. While 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 Spirit”—1 Cor 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” (Jn 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, which is the heart of Roman Catholicism—the belief that liturgy’s form and formulas transmit spiritual power and that salvation comes through the sacraments—too readily creeps into Protestant thinking as well. (Many Protestants still believe that baptism saves, 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, Catholic or Protestant, which 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 [today] 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 which motivates those beliefs is just as obscene, as was the Tower of Babel. Billions continue, in the spirit of Babel, to pursue equally futile do-good and positive-thinking, self-help religious programs to earn their way to heaven.

Norman Vincent Peale’s “positive thinking” and Robert Schuller’s “possibility thinking” replace truth. It doesn’t matter what or in whom one believes, but only that one be positive. Biblical doctrine, Schuller argues, may have communicated to people in the past, but to our generation it seems so “negative” and offensive that it turns people off. What is needed now is a “positive” gospel that everyone can accept.

In a [past] article in *The Orange County Register*, Schuller berated preachers “who spew forth their angry, hate-filled sermons of fire and brimstone.” (Isn’t he judging hearts? Didn’t God create hell? Didn’t Jesus repeatedly warn about hell?) Explaining that the way to “tell the good religion from the bad religion” is whether it is “positive,” Schuller exhorted “religious leaders...*whatever their theology...*to articulate their faith in positive terms.” He then called for a “massive, united effort by leaders of *all religions*” to proclaim “the positive power...of world-community-building religious values.” (Emphasis added) Antichrist himself couldn’t improve on that New Age, one-world-religion doubletalk!

Sadly, for Schuller and Peale, et al., “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,” writes Peale. On an Amway tape, Schuller exults, “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.

Similar to the above is the “positive confession” of Hagin, Copeland, Cho, Hinn, et al., which is embraced by much of the charismatic movement. Kenneth Hagin, Jr. calls God “the greatest Positive Thinker that ever was!” To these “faith teachers,” faith is a mind power which even God uses—a force contained in words and released when one speaks forth “the word of faith.” Cho writes, “By the spoken word 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! On TBN, with Paul and Jan Crouch nodding approval, Copeland declared, “Faith is a force just like electricity

or gravity...we are a class of gods.”

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 have become gods themselves. 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; Rom 1:5; 16:26; 2 Thes 1:8, etc.) brings us into submission to Him as the instruments of His will. Yet Benny Hinn says, “Never, ever, ever, go to the Lord and say, ‘If it be thy will...’ Don’t allow such faith-destroying words to be spoken from your mouth.” Why? Because “man was created on terms of equality with God,” says Hagin. Behold Christianized humanism!

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 which have restored paradise through super technology. Such was the dream (“to join a community of galactic civilizations...[is] our hope in a vast and awesome universe”) which President Carter, a professing Christian, expressed to anticipated extraterrestrial contactees on the gold record carried into space by Voyager in 1977.

Pure 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 (Lev 10:1; Num 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 Georgetown University professor Victor Ferkiss, “starts with the premise that the Universe is God.” Carl Sagan exemplifies today’s scientific paganism. “If we must worship a power greater than ourselves,” intones 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. Lamar Alexander, former governor of Tennessee, was appointed by President Bush as US Secretary of Education. He says the book that most influenced his thinking in the last 10 years was *A God Within* by René Dubos. In it Dubos declares that a “truly ecological view of the world has religious overtones.... Our salvation depends upon our ability to create a religion of nature...suited to the needs and knowledge of modern man.” That’s New Age.

That religion is being purposefully promoted in the public schools through such programs as America 2000, initiated by the [George H. W.] Bush administration. Under [former President] Clinton’s governorship of Arkansas, he initiated a school reform which had little to do

with academic excellence and much to do with remolding the students into planetary citizens alienated from parents. Former students at the “Governor’s School” testify that foul language was encouraged as part of a brainwashing procedure designed to strip students of biblical morals. There was blatant promotion of gay lifestyles, free sex, rebellion, and New Age beliefs and practices, including the worship of self and the universe as God.

Exodus 20:24-26 is a foundational passage which 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 which could only be removed through the shedding of blood (Lev 17:11). Animals were sacrificed upon an altar of earth in anticipation of the Lamb of God who would, “by the sacrifice of himself” (Heb 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 mankind. Those who reject the free gift of eternal life offered by His grace will experience eternal regret.

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” (Mat 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.

TBC

QUOTABLE

Humility is perfect quietness of heart. It is to expect nothing, to wonder at nothing that is done to me, to feel nothing done against me. It is to be at rest when nobody praises me, and when I am blamed or despised. It is to have a blessed home in the Lord, where I can go in and shut the door, and kneel to my Father in secret, and am at peace as in a deep sea of calmness, when all around and above is trouble.

—ANDREW MURRAY

Q&A

QUESTION: What about the growing “spiritual warfare” teaching that by “binding” in the name of the Lord the “territorial spirit” controlling a city Christians can take over that city for God?

RESPONSE: Such an idea has no biblical basis, either by precept or example. Yes, “the prince of the kingdom of Persia” prevented the angel Gabriel for three weeks from coming to Daniel (Dn 10:12-13). Daniel, however, was seeking prophetic insight—not to “bind” the “territorial spirit” over Persia. Nor did Gabriel instruct him to wage such warfare. Gabriel’s mission was to inform Daniel of last-days events affecting Israel (v 14)—information which the “prince of Persia” tried to hinder. There is no hint that “binding” this demon would have delivered Persia from Satanic influence or that Gabriel’s victory over this demon (with the help of Michael the Archangel) had any effect upon the spiritual climate in Persia or aided in the salvation of Persians.

Paul never tried to “bind territorial spirits” in bringing the gospel to the world of his day, so why should we? And although the apostles “turned the world upside down,” there is no hint that a single city was ever “taken for God,” as Wimber, Paulk, Hayford, Frangipane, Lea, and so many others are promising. In Corinth, for example, where Paul spent 18 months, God gave him special protection and

blessing because He had “much people in this city” (Acts 18:9-10). The issue was not to deliver Corinth, but to call a company of believers out of it. Nor did Paul’s success change the destiny of Corinth—or of any other city or nation.

QUESTION: I was very upset by the answer from you about the reason you prefer the KJV.... I need you to *please* send me several examples of what you consider “serious” errors [in modern translations]. I would also be very appreciative of some reading material that the lay person can understand...or names of some sources....

RESPONSE: Thank you for your recent letter challenging me regarding my support of the KJV. This question is too complex to deal with in a brief letter, but let me try once again. You asked for sources.

The best case against “KJV only” is presented by D. A. Carson in *The King James Version Debate: A Plea for Realism*. He points out, in “eight key Christological verses (Jn 1:1,18; Acts 20:28; Rom 9:5; 2 Thes 1:12, Tts 2:13; Heb 1:8; 2 Pet 1:1)...the KJV fails to underscore the deity of Christ in four.” Most modern translations do as well or better. The NIV scores in seven of the eight. Even Thomas M. Strouse, though strongly criticizing Carson, admits these four KJV failures (Jn 1:18; 2 Thes 1:12; Tts 2:13; 2 Pet 1:1) and explains them as “a textual problem (Jn 1:18) and the other three are translational problems.” Even its defenders must admit to some flaws in the KJV.

Critics fault the KJV because it comes from a Greek New Testament which was put together by Erasmus in 1516, later improved by Theodore Beza and Robert Stephanus. The latter’s fourth edition in 1551 is “substantially the *Textus Receptus*,” according to Jasper James Ray, one of its most fervent defenders. Too late in time, say the critics, and too few manuscripts as its source. Yet this was basically the Greek text that had been accepted by the Greek church in the East for centuries (the Roman Catholic Church in the West used the Latin Vulgate), earlier manuscripts from

which the Greek Bible came having been worn out and discarded. Modern translations (some are worse than others, the RSV in particular) come from a Greek text developed by Westcott and Hort (two scholarly heretics) based largely upon *Vaticanus* and *Sinaiticus*, which, though older, are clearly corrupted.

In *God Wrote Only One Bible*, Jasper James Ray cites more than 200 differences between the KJV and “44 new version Bibles”—some minor, some serious. How do we know who is right without learning Greek and poring over thousands of ancient manuscripts? In checking out the differences Ray cites, not only logic but the testimony of the rest of Scripture and the Holy Spirit come down solidly on the side of the KJV. You wanted examples. Here are a few.

In Revelation 1:11, RSV, NAS (and others, but I can’t list them all) leave out “I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last.” Not only is this a key claim to deity stated in a special way to show that Jesus is *Jahweh* (see Is 44:6), but it seems logical that the speaker would immediately identify Himself. It is more likely to have been deleted than added.

In John 9:35 modern translations change “Son of God” to “Son of man,” which not only denigrates Jesus but makes no sense in this context. Yes, Jesus often called Himself “Son of man,” but in His general teaching to the multitude where He used veiled language. Here He is introducing Himself to someone who never heard of Him or heard His teaching, and “Son of man” wouldn’t mean anything.

In Luke 2:33 “Joseph” is changed to “father” and in verse 43 “Joseph and his mother” are changed to “his parents.” All of the above (and others) deny His deity. Though Christ’s deity is clear in other places in most modern translations, these and other verses send the opposite signal, thus causing confusion.

In Colossians 1:14, “through his blood” is left out in RSV, NAS, etc., though they include it in Ephesians 1:7. I don’t think Paul omitted

it. In 1 John 4:3, “Christ is come in the flesh” is missing, though this phrase was a key in combatting gnostic cults and now the New Age. In Luke 4:8, “Get thee behind me, Satan” is omitted, though it seems appropriate. In Luke 4:4, “but by every word of God” is missing, making it an improper quote of Deuteronomy 8:3 and weakening it. In each case deletion seems more likely to have occurred than addition.

There are several cases where direct reference to Old Testament prophecies seems very appropriate yet is left out of RSV, NAS, etc., such as Matthew 27:35, “That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet”; Mark 13:14, “spoken of by Daniel the prophet”; Mark 15:28, “And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith,” etc. Again, the text seems weakened by the loss.

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

QUESTION: Psalm 137:9 is a verse which has bothered me for years: “Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones.” How can Christians oppose abortion, yet believe in a God who encouraged Israel to slaughter infants and to rejoice in doing it? I’ve had non-Christians throw this verse at me and I can’t give them a good answer.

RESPONSE: I, too, puzzled over this verse for years. Then one day I realized what should have been obvious: it was not God’s people who committed this horrible atrocity. Israel never conquered Babylon. It was the Medes and Persians who did so. The psalmist is not condoning such barbarous behavior. He is simply warning Babylon that she will be crushed by invaders—and that just as she rejoiced in destroying Jerusalem, so her conquerors will rejoice in destroying her, including her innocent infants.

NOTE: Our Q&A section is primarily pulled from the Dave Hunt archives. Although some references may be dated, we believe that there is timeless value within the messages.

LETTERS

Dear TBC,

Hello and God bless everyone at The Berean Call. I'm engaging in a bit of overkill since I called the automated subscription line and said that I wanted to keep receiving the newsletter, but just to make sure it heard me correctly, yes, absolutely I would like to continue receiving the newsletter. As a side note, can't tell you how much I've benefited from reading Dave Hunts' books. He was such a great student of the Word and had such a logical mind. Thanks for sending out the newsletter—may God continue to bless all at The Berean Call. DW (email)

Dear TBC,

I watched a religion program on TV last night, the praying of the rosary at Lourdes. The only thing that kept running through my mind was the words of the Lord Jesus Christ: "Do not pray as the heathen, with a multitude of vain repetitions." Even though a portion of the repetitions were actually part of the Lord's prayer, most of it was praying to Mary, and though it was hard to make it out very well, they seemed to be stating that Mary was conceived without sin.

They were not praying to the Father...but rather asking (praying) for Mary to pray for them. It was spooky, and there was no joy among them that I could see; they were merely droning out a repetitive formula. It seemed dead, and merely a rote ceremony, and nothing to indicate our salvation through grace by faith in the sacrifice of the blood atonement of Jesus Christ our Lord. SM (email)

Dear TBC,

I watched one episode of *The Chosen*...I said to my husband this is dangerous and gave him several reasons.... He didn't agree. We watched a second part which made me even more uneasy...that night while praying, every time I said "Jesus" the actor's face came to

mind.... The next evening I told him I won't be watching this again and I told him what happened—that gave him a shock and we never watched it again. Carol Matrisciana did a teaching on images of Jesus...that came to mind afterwards. How many people watch this and then when praying see the actors face? Anon. (email)

Dear TBC,

Thank you very much, The Berean Call, for such a valuable teaching to be able to know and understand the deception that is operating in so many places. You are true watchmen of God, and I ask that God bless you and that you continue to be faithful defenders of the most holy Word of God. Anon. (Translated from Spanish)

Dear TBC,

The eucharist Christ is being pushed by Marian apparitions and the Catholics are eating it up. Also, many half-hearted "evangelicals" are falling for this nonsense. It's so sad...I have been saying for a while now, "The great falling away isn't coming...it IS here." Galatians 1:8-9 is clear: "Let them be accursed who knowingly mislead the people." God bless all the disciples. Jesus dying, and finishing it, on the cross is what takes away sin, not transubstantiation. Scripture IS clear Jesus died once and for all for sin and was raised up to the right hand of God where He IS today. OM (email)

Dear TBC,

I recently remembered Dave Hunt. I used to listen to him all the time when I was in my early 20s. Now I am about 40 and have found him on YouTube, yay! So grateful for these uploads. Maranatha! JG (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

COLLEGE DOING NOTHING ABOUT ANTISEMITISM

FRONTPAGEMAG.COM, 5/23/24, “COLLEGE PRESIDENTS TELL CONGRESS THEY’VE DONE NOTHING ABOUT ANTISEMITISM” [EXCERPTS]: The House held its latest batch of hearings on antisemitism to the frustration of the Democrats because the folks being dragged in front of the cameras, university presidents, shine a light on their party’s hate.

This time around, the focus was on the pro-Hamas encampments and university presidents dodged the issues (this time around they also avoided saying that they weren’t sure if calls to kill all the Jews were wrong) by refusing to discuss actions by faculty and students, and pledging only to have commissions on antisemitism.

The bottom line is that if the KKK had set up encampments on college campuses, they would have been booted not in days or weeks, but hours at the longest.

Instead, pro-Israel faculty members have been more likely to be barred from campuses than pro-Hamas ones.

Administrators claimed that they didn’t want to call the police because it would undermine “student safety,” while allowing harassment and attacks on Jewish students did not threaten anyone’s safety. Or anyone who mattered.

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

DINOSAURS ARE ALMOST CERTAINLY EXTINCT

CREATION.COM, 5/23/24, “DINOSAURS ARE ALMOST CERTAINLY EXTINCT” [EXCERPTS]: Since biblical creationists are already held to a double standard, we should seek to find the best arguments. At the same time, we must be free to allow older, outdated arguments to wither on the vine, when we find them. Science changes,

but the Bible does not. Thus, we deny that the Bible is a scientific textbook, since textbooks always contain mistakes and always become outdated! But when the Bible does touch on scientific aspects, it is always accurate, because the One who inspired it knows all the science that there is to know.

And the Bible has depictions of some fascinating creatures such as the *behemoth* in Job 40:15–18, which seems to fit the description of a sauropod dinosaur, such as *Dreadnoughtus*. No living creature has a tail that could be compared to the cedar, the largest tree in the Middle-East.

The evidence is strong that they lived in the post-Flood era, and there is nothing that categorically tells us they *must* be extinct, so the idea that they might still be alive is tantalizing.

Due to the tension between the verbal reports and the absence of hard evidence, we hesitate to simply throw everything out. But our position is no longer “wait and see.” Instead, it is time to say that *living dinosaurs no longer exist* unless there is *proven* evidence to the contrary....

This does not mean we reject the idea that dinosaurs *previously* lived with man, only that they are extremely unlikely to be living *today*, and there are strong creationist scientific reasons for saying so.

(<https://bit.ly/3RZeT6u>)

THE THING ABOUT JORDAN PETERSON IS...

MIDWESTOUTREACH.ORG, 5/23/24, “THE THING ABOUT JORDAN PETERSON IS...” [EXCERPTS]: Canadian psychologist Jordan Peterson is a favorite among conservatives, Christian and non-Christian alike. He is no-nonsense in his refutation of Wokeism, politically correct, and Progressivism in general. He uses and “teaches” the Bible and, although being a moralist, is not, at least at this point, a Christian.

[Author Larry Taunton] suggested that “Peterson’s belief is of the Jeffersonian à la carte variety: *I’ll take some Jesus as a teacher of ethics and exemplar of self-sacrifice, hold the creation story and resurrection.*”

As would be expected, this shows up in Peterson’s heretical theology. Taunton points out: “Peterson’s theology, as well-known pastor and theologian Doug Wilson put it, sits on a ‘cracked and crooked foundation.’ Like me, Wilson appreciates much of what Peterson has to say. He also knows a thing or two about celebrities who flirt with Christian conversion and readily recognizes that the whole trajectory

of Peterson’s God-talk hits wide of the mark because he rejects the central premise of Christianity: the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Peterson says he finds the possibility of a historic Jesus who was God in the flesh ‘too terrifying a reality to really believe.’ As a result, the theological errors begin early and often.”

Will Jordan Peterson come to the faith? That is anybody’s guess, and we should be praying for his salvation. In the meantime, if we listen with discernment, he has some interesting things to say.

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

TBC NOTES

Are You “Continuing Stedfastly”?

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

—ACTS 2:42

If I were to pick one verse from God’s Word that packs it all in for me, it’s definitely Acts 2:42. I’m exhorted and convicted by practically every word. Here’s the way it challenges me: Am I continuing “stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine”? “Stedfastly” (modern spelling) means that I am recognizing that it’s the Word of God (not the word of men) which the apostles were given by the Holy Spirit and instructed to teach. That’s biblical *doctrine* which I need to know in order to obey!

My favorite time of *fellowship* is primarily participating in Bible studies, whether it’s a Saturday men’s study or a Zoom meeting get-together with the TBC staff four days a week. I consider the *breaking of bread* as having meals with my brothers and sisters in Christ as well as remembering the Lord’s sacrifice, which our church does on a monthly basis.

All the above must be submitted and sustained through prayer (and that “without ceasing”—1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Our Thursday Zoom meeting is dedicated to praying for those who contact us through emails and calls requesting prayers for themselves and others.

T. A. McMAHON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ABANDONING GOD'S TRUTH BOOKLETS BY LIGHTHOUSE TRAILS

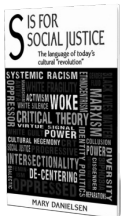


Critical Race Theory

Lighthouse Trails Editors—In June 2019, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) passed Resolution 9: “On Critical Race Theory and Intersectionality.” Critical Race Theory is a political/philosophical-driven ideology that claims to be a solution to ending racism but according to critics actually presents a “solution” that will install Marxism into our society while creating a sentiment leading to escalated conflict and diminished freedom for all. —Lighthouse Trails, 19 pp.

LTP71

wt .1 \$1.95



S is for Social Justice

Danielsen—This booklet takes a look at the “social justice” terms being touted today. The contrast between the social-justice “narrative” and what is written in God’s Word is very apparent. In God’s economy, the terms “justice” and “gospel” are clearly defined in biblical texts. —Lighthouse Trails, 19 pp.

LTP72

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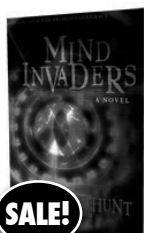
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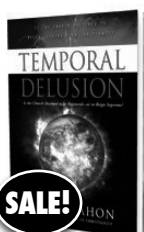
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