

A
Ministry
of:
**CORNERSTONE
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

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DEBUNKING THE DA VINCI CODE.

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There has been a great deal of hype over the forthcoming movie, The Da Vinci Code (release date May 19), which is based on a book with that title by Dan Brown. The book has sold well over 4.5 million copies. Mr. Brown claims that everything in his book is historically correct. The truth is none of it is factual.

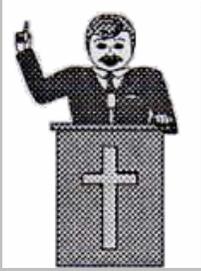
WHAT IS THE BASIS FOR THE DA VINCI CODE? It is supposedly a true account of the Gospel and life of Jesus. Brown states the four Gospels in our Bible were invented two or three hundred years after Christ. He says the true life of Christ is based on the Gnostic gospels, including the gospel of Thomas and the gospel of Philip, which were the original writings, according to him. (Even many liberal scholars do not believe these two "gospels.") History shows that they were not produced until two to three hundred years after the time of Christ. This sort of thing has been hashed and rehashed over the years and is the basis of much of what the infamous "Jesus Seminar" has been espousing the last 20 years. Like many other unbelievers, Dan Brown says that the Bible is the product of man, not God. He stated that "nothing in Christianity is original." He insists that all the references to the Son of God and Jesus being Light were merely taken from existing ancient religions. The truth is just the opposite - the pagan deities, etc. are nothing but perversions of the truth and the true God! He claims, "The New Testament is based on fabrications." He says, "The modern Bible was compiled and edited by men with a political agenda... Constantine commissioned and financed a new Bible..." "Constantine and his male successors successfully converted the world from matriarchal paganism to patriarchal Christianity... that demonized the sacred feminine, obliterating the goddess from modern religion forever."

WHAT IS THIS FALLACIOUS THEORY ALL ABOUT? It is founded largely on the Gnostic gospels which Brown says were the originals. Actually they are later, gross corruptions of the originals. The Gnostics (of which there were several varieties) actually taught that spiritual truths were "secret" and for the initiated only (much like the Masonic Lodge, etc.). Jesus told his disciples to preach the truth from "the house tops" and to go into all the world with His message. Brown says, "Jesus was a mortal prophet...a man...A mortal." This theory says, "Constantine upgraded Jesus' status almost four centuries after Jesus' death." One of the most immoral claims of the book is based on Brown's contention that the gospel of Philip, a gross counterfeit, records that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene, and had at least one child by her. He says that it is a part of the record, but there is no such statement in the false gospel of Philip or anywhere else. Supposedly, after Jesus' death on the cross, Mary migrated to France where some of the "secret codes" were found. Brown says, "The rock on which Jesus built His Church...was not Peter... It was Mary Magdalene." According to Brown, "Early Jews believed that the Holy of Holies in Solomon's Temple housed not only God but also His powerful female equal, Shekinah." Amazing! Brown says the sex act was a part of the worship in ancient religions, including Christianity. It was true of most religions, but you can find nothing in the true Word of God but denunciation of it outside of proper marriage. (Continued on page 3 - "WHAT IS THE TRUTH?")

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DEFINITION OF FAITH. The best definition of faith that I know is this; “Faith is taking God at His Word.” In Hebrews 11:1-3 we read: “**Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of the things which do appear.**” Now, it is not “blind faith” for true Bible faith is not blind; it sees what others cannot see. Indeed, the Bible says unbelievers are blind. The evolutionist has “blind faith” for what he “sees” doesn’t really exist. Because he does not want to believe God, he believes what he wants to believe. One thing is apparent; there is no contradiction in what the Bible says about creation or anything else. There are many contradictions in the theory of evolution. By-the-way, don’t ever forget it; evolution is only a theory; not a fact though many speak as though it is. The Scriptures declare: “**By the word of the Lord were the heavens made...**” Psalm 33:6. You can believe man’s speculation or God’s Revelation! It is all a matter of who or what you want to believe. Personally, I believe God! “**Without faith it impossible to please Him.**” Heb. 11:6.

CHRISTIAN’S RELATIONSHIP TO THE WORLD!

- ◆ Go no place where the Lord does not lead you. Associate with no one that would disrupt your fellowship the Lord and His Church.
- ◆ Have no pleasure that would not be consistent with your testimony as a Christian.
- ◆ Engage in nothing that would not have the Lord’s approval.
- ◆ Listen to no one that would lead you away from the truth of God’s Word.
- ◆ Allow nothing of a mundane nature to keep you from the services of the Church.
- ◆ “Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God!”

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them.

What part of NO is it that you do not understand? Keep on the “straight and narrow” because you will not get lost on a straight road.

Some people’s opinions may have changed, but not the fact that they were always right. God put the church in the world, but He never put the world in the church; that’s the devil’s work.

David Livingstone said: I will go anywhere as long as it is forward. (Too many Christians are going back). The man who walks with God knows where he’s going.

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

WHAT IS THE TRUTH? (from p.1) Quite simply, the truth concerning Jesus Christ is found in the four Gospels, and other books in the Bible. The Gnostic gospels are inaccurate and grossly unspiritual. For example, one primary basis for their understanding of things is the old dualism of Zoroaster, who taught that all that is material is sinful and only that which is spirit is good. Men have tried to prove the Bible to be in error ever since it was first written. The truth is, most of the "new truths" these days are just the same warmed-up leftovers men have been spewing out down through the ages. I remember hearing on the radio many years ago Cyrus Gordon, a world renowned archaeologist (not a Bible believing Christian). Someone said to him, Is it not true that modern discoveries have proved the Bible to be untrue. While I do not remember the exact words, I clearly remember he said something like this: On the contrary, almost every thing we find of Biblical import proves the Bible to be true.

Many have said over the centuries (and I have had it said to me many times) that the Bible was written by men and that it was full of errors. It would be absolutely impossible for men to predict the things foretold in the Bible. Hundreds and hundreds of prophecies dealing with individuals, nations and the entire world have been fulfilled meticulously. I have not had one show me an error yet, though I've asked a number of cavilers to show me one. God says, **"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."** II Peter 1:20,21. The truth is men do not want to believe the Bible because it condemns them and their sin! **"Men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."** John 3:19.

WE SAID IT WOULD HAPPEN! When homosexual "marriages" were first approved, we said it would not be long until polygamists would seek approval for their sin. *Agape Press* stated: "It may be only in the beginning stages, but the 'polyamorist movement' may be grabbing onto the coattails of the increasingly successful homosexual movement...Paul Harris, a New York reporter for the *Observer*, a London newspaper writes: 'Polyamorists are coming out of the closet across America. Several groups have sprung up. In New York, Polyamorous NYC holds monthly meetings, has an e-mail list of 800 and holds a Poly Pride Day each year in Central Park.'"

**BE NOT DECEIVED, GOD IS NOT MOCKED;
FOR WHATSOEVER A MAN SOWETH, THAT
SHALL HE ALSO REAP." Galatians 6:7.**

MORE ON DANGERS OF PSYCHOLOGY! Dr. Tana Dinean, a licensed psychologist, has abandoned her practice and printed a book: *"Manufacturing Victims."* In documenting the growth of psychotherapy, she says, "In the early 1960's, 14% of the U.S. population had received psychological services... By 1995, the American Psychological Society stated that number had gone to 46%." (Ed. I have read that's over 50% today, one in every two persons). Dinean relates in detail how the psychological manufacturing of victims takes place. She says, "The Psychological industry can neither reform itself from within nor should it be allowed to try. It should be stopped from doing what it is doing to people, from manufacturing victims. And while the Psychology Industry is being dismantled, people can boycott psychological treatment, protest the influence the Psychology Industry and resist being manufactured into victims." *TBC Today* (1/11/056)

UNWISE COUNSEL FROM MAX LUCADO. Lucado writes a column, "Upwards from Max Lucado." A recent article says, "Love the overlooked...Jesus works in your office. Pregnant again, she shows up for work late and tired. No one knows the father. According to water-cooler rumors, she doesn't know the father. You've seen her...she's Jesus." Elsewhere, upon the subject of drinking he wrote: "I don't have a strong opinion about Christians and drinking. Some of the people that I really look up to, they drink." Ed. False teachers abound these days. God says, **"Try the spirits whether they are of God."** I John 4:1. See also Acts 20:29-31, I Pet. 2:1, etc. Lucado is a member of a cult, The Disciples of Christ, which teaches salvation by baptism. Yet, the evangelicals love him and some fundamentalists also think that he is all right.

**CHRISTIANS ARE LIKE
an automobile engine;
you know there's something wrong
when they start missing.**

EMPTY SEATS: When Jonathan heard that David was leaving, he observed: "Thou shalt be missed, because thy seat shall be empty." David could have very easily said, "Although I am going, I shall be with you in spirit." But Jonathan knew that his friend's spirit would not fill his vacant chair. Neither will the "spirits" of careless folks fill church pews. Our churches have many on Sundays who are there in "spirit." But some- how the Pastor does not enjoy preaching to "spirits" and the song leader cannot get them to sing, nor do the ushers find that they are very good contributors! "Thou art missed, for thy seat is empty!" -Copied

CHRISTIANS ARE LIKE PIANOS

The following is adapted from an article by a preacher who is also a very good piano player. During years of playing on many pianos, he concluded that pianos are much like Christians.

1. **PRETTY ON THE OUTSIDE BUT SOUND TERRIBLE.** Some people look good at Church, but away from Church, their lives are out of tune with God's Word. They give "an uncertain sound."
2. **ONE NOTE KEEPS SOUNDING AFTER YOU STOPPED PLAYING.** Others are always harping on one particular thing. No matter what the issue, they always come around to their favorite "hobby horse."
3. **CERTAIN NOTES ARE MISSING.** In many believers, some of the notes simply are not there. They do not display some or all of the items listed in Galatians 5:22,23.
4. **HARD TO PLAY – NOT RESPONSIVE.** No matter how hard or devoted the preaching, some Christians simply will not respond as they should.
5. **STRIKE A CERTAIN NOTE AND IT STICKS.** There are those who will say, "Amen" or "Praise the Lord" to all the preacher says until he hits on a certain subject. Then, they become silent and often times immovable.
6. **SUSTAIN PEDAL BROKEN.** How many Christians do you know who don't keep going for Christ and His Church? Now you see them; now you don't! You may see them again, but not for long!
7. **SOUNDS ALL RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE BUT OFF AT THE UPPER END.** Some are not well-balanced.

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SELF ESTEEM GOSPEL

This has become a very popular gospel, promoted by Robert Schuller, Rick Warren and a host of other preachers and a multitude of psychologists, etc. It doesn't take a genius to figure out why. However, it is a false gospel and will only lead to damnation, not salvation. Besides, there is no lack of self esteem in the first place as an article in *Christian View of the News* (3/96) reveals: "A lack of self esteem has become the all-purpose diagnosis, purporting to explain crime, promiscuity, bad grades, marital discord and every kind of maladjustment and personal unhappiness. But do Americans feel bad about themselves? According to a study by David G. Meyers published in the journal of Social Psychology (1993) 90% of business managers rate their performance to be 'superior.' Eighty six percent of employees rate themselves as 'better than average.' Of high school seniors taking the SAT, 70% considered themselves to be 'above average' in leadership ability. When it comes to getting along with others, 60% of the seniors claimed to be in the top 10%. Of the thousands who took SAT, not a single teenager - 0% - considered himself below average. Among divorced couples 90% insist the breakup was their spouse's fault." Too little self esteem? No, far too much! Human nature is self-centered and sinful! It is hard to find any who regard the Biblical injunction, "**Not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think.**" (From 1996 *Cornerstone Challenge*). Sad to say, this false gospel of self-esteem is growing by leaps and bounds. It is a gospel the people want (Isa.30:10), but it is accursed of God - See Galatians 1:8,9.