



# Books in Review

## THE MANY FACES OF BENNY HINN, VERSION 2.0

by The Door Magazine

4½-hour, 2-DVD set, \$29.95

It's not the sequel, but the original made much better. Its forerunner, a three-hour videotape version released in 2000, has been updated, expanded, and enhanced as a set of digital video discs.

For many years, the folks at the Trinity Foundation (publishers of *The Door Magazine*) have picked up the debris of wrecked lives of people who have been financially, emotionally, and spiritually abused by televangelists. Atop their list of abusers during the past decade has been faith healer Benny Hinn. This Dallas-based watchdog group has worked with news organizations to expose the corruption of various television ministers, including Hinn.

For more than a decade, Hinn has been dogged by investigations by *Inside Edition*, *60 Minutes* (Australia), *Dateline*, HBO, and others. These reports — many spearheaded by the Trinity Foundation — make up the bulk of this DVD set and show Hinn at his worst, including his power-wielding control, opulent lifestyle, bogus healings, lies and deception, heretical theology, and much more. A single report should make anyone question the integrity of this man; viewing several hours of investigations should leave no doubt.

The presentation also includes segments from Hinn's broadcasts that have not been shown in news reports. These include his stage antics, absurd theological statements, and false prophecies. Wife Suzanne's infamous "Holy Ghost enema" diatribe is also included.

The discs' interactive menu enhances use and study of the reports. Users can locate and view specific segments at the touch of the DVD player's remote control. All of the material has been digitally remastered, providing the highest quality of video images.

This work reveals things Hinn doesn't want his flock to know. Reading Hinn's statements in a book like *The Confusing World of Benny Hinn* causes alarm. Seeing him in "living color" making these statements — in his

arrogant and conceited temperament — brings that emotion to another level. *The Many Faces of Benny Hinn, Version 2.0* is one of the best resources to expose the false, self-serving ministry of today's most popular faith healer.

—MKG

## JESUS CHRIST: SELF-DENIAL OR SELF-ESTEEM?

by David M. Tyler

Timeless Texts, \$9.95, 114 pages

Like a bad penny that just keeps turning up, so too the dynamics of self-esteem theology continue to plague an already undiscerning Church in various forms. With the publications of self-esteem and self-love advocates abounding in one fashion or another, it is disheartening to see just how few biblical responses have been made against this persuasive and selfish philosophy. In the past two decades, books such as Paul Brownback's *The Danger of Self-Love* and Jay Adams' *The Biblical View of Self-Esteem, Self-Love, and Self-Image* are too few and too far between.

Christians are now able to add to this scarce reserve a volume by PFO director David Tyler. *Jesus Christ: Self-Denial or Self-Esteem?* takes on the unbiblical notion of the worthiness of man by examining "The Words of Jesus Christ," "The Miracles of Jesus Christ," and "The Parables of Jesus Christ." His study unequivocally shows "that the claims made by Christian self-theorists are incompatible with the teachings of Jesus" (pg. 9). The life and teachings of Christ always demonstrate an "other-oriented way of life," as opposed to the self-oriented leanings of sinful man.

Tyler, in his Introduction, names names. The roster of secular theorists (such as Carl Rogers, Erich Fromm, and Thomas Harris), along with the established "Christian" self-esteem authors (such as Norman Vincent Peale, Robert Schuller, and James Dobson) are provided. However, a name or two, such as apologist Josh McDowell, might surprise some.

Tyler's argument that "The Lord wants to produce in the believer an *indifference to self*, a spirit and attitude that does not take offense easily, retaliate, defend, or avenge

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did not look anything like she had looked in her earthly physical body. As soon as she said that to me, she went dancing and whirling away. The whole thing lasted only a few seconds. But I KNEW that what I [had] seen and heard was REAL. God, in His great mercy, had given me a brief glimpse of my mother in her glorified body. ... Interestingly, my sister-in-law did not hear or see anything."

First, Brown shows the fallacy of her tale by saying that her mother possessed a "wonderful new body ... her glorified body." The receiving of a glorified body is the final act in a believer's redemption. It does not occur at death, but will transpire at the return of Jesus Christ when those who have died in Him (and those alive on earth at His coming) will receive a perfect resurrection body like His. Scripture couldn't be more clear on this matter (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 15:12-58; Romans 8:17, 23). Brown exhibits her ignorance of Scripture.

Secondly, Brown's purported episode with her mother is nothing short of outright necromancy. At the very heart of spiritism is the notion that the dead are able to communicate with the living here on earth. This is firmly condemned in Scripture (Leviticus 19:26, 31; Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Isaiah 8:19). Yet Brown, who claims the mantle of being a foremost expert on spiritual warfare, tantalizes her followers with the very practices which Scripture denounces.

Brown and Yoder continue to operate in a world of fantasy and occultism. They are unable to refute the

evidence against them, and therefore respond with defamation. They continue to condemn themselves with their own words. While their susceptible followers may swallow these hollow tales, those willing to examine the facts will find plenty of proof of the couple's sordid doctrines and practices.

—MKG

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oneself for injury or wrong that is done to us" (pg. 24), speaks to the very heart of the issue. His conclusions that "self-love was responsible for the fall" and "Self-esteem is always in defiance of God" (pg. 25) should make any grounded Christian vigorously oppose the self-esteem teaching.

Moreover, Tyler notes that self-denial doesn't come at the expense of an abundant life — rather just the opposite. "The believer's satisfaction, joy, and peace come as by-products of faithful and fruitful Christian living," he writes (pg. 106).

This volume is a quick read and to the point. It is loaded with biblical wisdom and solid exegesis. It is a great work to encourage believers to understand and imitate the self-denial of Jesus Christ.

—MKG

## PERSONAL FREEDOM OUTREACH — STATEMENT OF BELIEF

- I. THE BIBLE AS THE DIVINELY INSPIRED, INERRANT WORD OF GOD: IT IS IN ITS ENTIRETY THE SOLE AUTHORITY FOR ALL MATTERS OF CHRISTIAN BELIEF AND PRACTICE.
- II. THE ONE TRUE GOD. IN THE ONE TRUE GOD THERE EXIST THREE PERSONS, BEING: THE FATHER, THE SON JESUS CHRIST, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- III. JESUS CHRIST: HIS DEITY, HUMANITY, VIRGIN BIRTH, SINLESSNESS, DEATH AND BODILY RESURRECTION; WHO WILL PERSONALLY AND VISIBLY RETURN AGAIN TO EARTH.
- IV. THE PERSONALITY AND DEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- V. THE EXISTENCE AND PERSONALITY OF SATAN, HIS TOTAL OPPOSITION TO GOD, AND HIS POWER OVER THE UNREGENERATE.
- VI. THE COMPLETE AND TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF ALL MEN WHICH MAKES THEM HOPELESSLY LOST WITHOUT THE NEW BIRTH OBTAINABLE THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.
- VII. THE FINAL ESTATE OF MAN: FOR THE SAVED, EVERLASTING LIFE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND FOR THE UNSAVED, EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT BECAUSE OF THEIR UNBELIEF.
- VIII. THE GOSPEL BY WHICH WE ARE SAVED BEING SUMMED IN THE DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.
- IX. THE CHURCH BEING THE BODY OF CHRIST, UNITED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, CONSISTING OF THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR. A LOCAL CHURCH IS AN ORGANIZED ASSEMBLY OF BELIEVERS UNITED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING OUT THE GREAT COMMISSION OF CHRIST.
- X. THE GREAT COMMISSION OF CHRIST BEING TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO ALL MEN, BAPTIZING AND DISCIPLINING THOSE WHO HAVE BELIEVED.