

**Complete in Christ
or
Captive to the Culture?**

Colossians 2:1-10

Dr. Patrick Zukeran
Evidence and Answers

Evidence and Answers Radio

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KGU 99.5 FM (Mon.-Fri. 6 PM)

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State of the Church

- Barna's research indicated that "...the leading influencers in American society to be movies, television, the Internet, books, music, public policy and law, and family. The Christian church, his research shows, is not among the top dozen influences these days - a far cry from the way things used to be."
- George Barna, "Barna Responds to Christianity Today Article," 17 September 2002. Barna Research online.



State of the Church

“... as we prepare to enter into a new century of ministry, we must address one inescapable conclusion: Despite the activity and chutzpah emanating from thousands of congregations, the Church in America is losing influence and adherents faster than any other major institution in the nation.”

George Barna, *The Second Coming of the Church*, (Dallas: Word Publishing, 1998), p. 1.



Be Educated in Christ

Colossians 2:1-5

For I want you to know how great a struggle (*agonizomai*) I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, ² that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge

- Col 2:1–3.

Be Educated in Christ

Colossians 2:1-10

- Life Application
 - It is the responsibility of every Christian to study and know the word of God.
 - Have a daily Bible reading program and join a Bible study group.



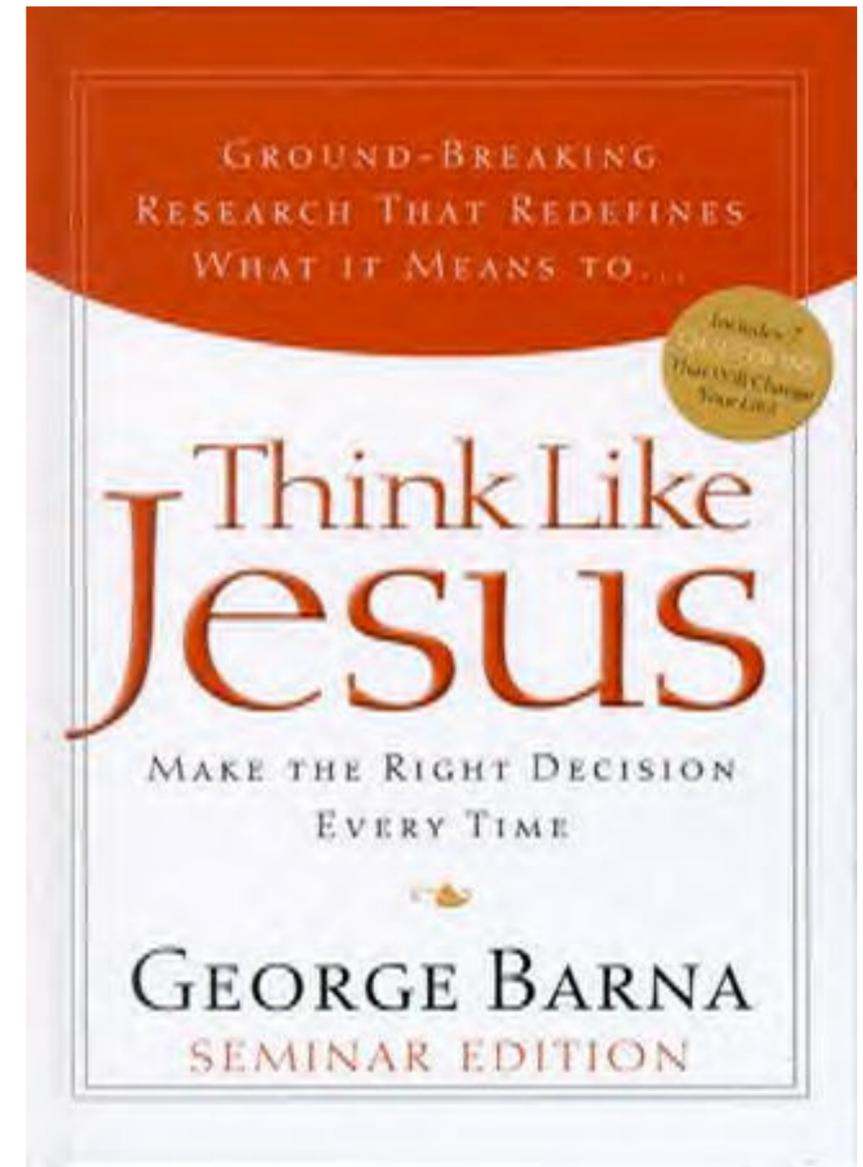
Do Not Be Deceived

Colossians 2:4-5

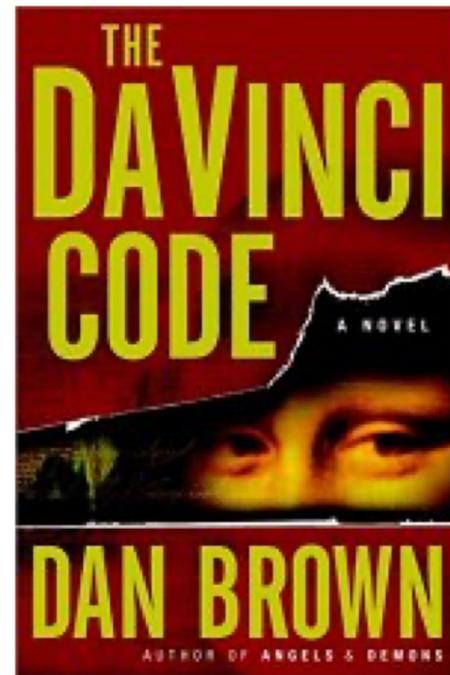
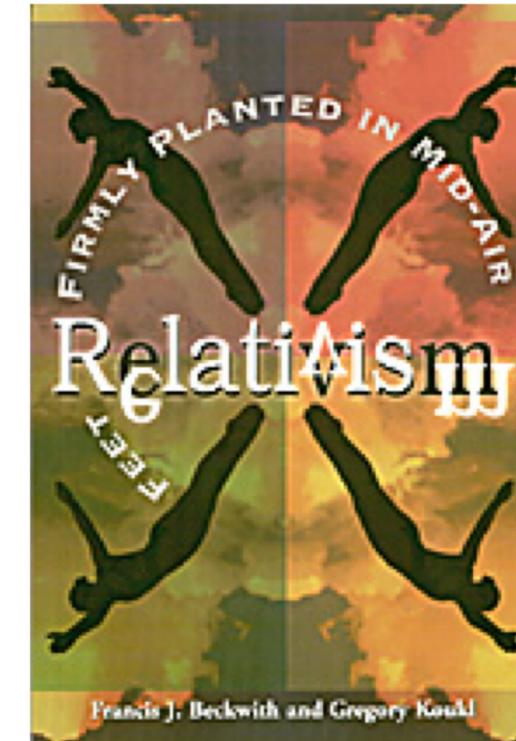
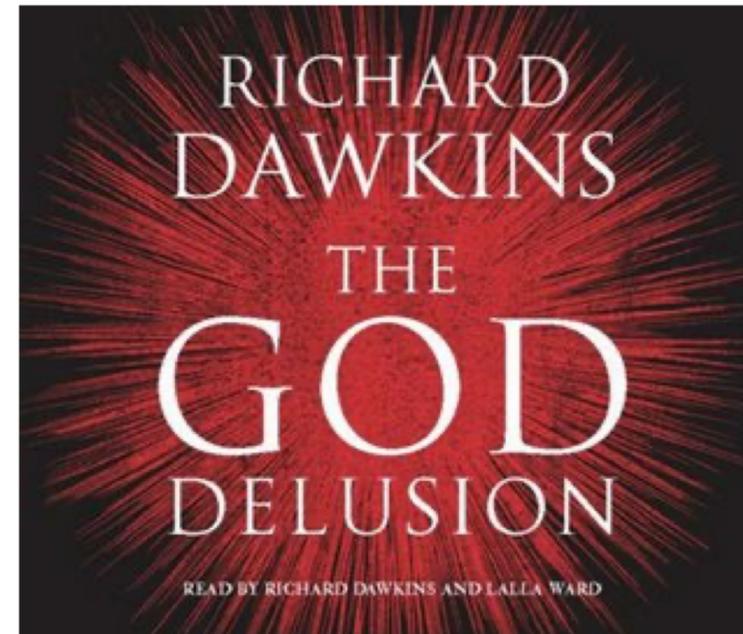
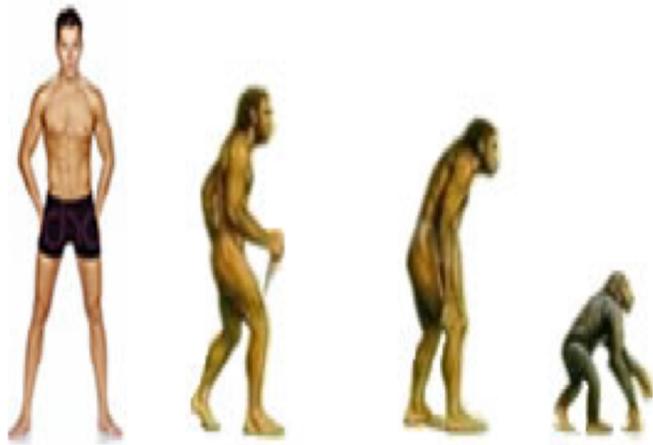
⁴ I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. ⁵ For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

Barna Statistics

- Only 10% of Christians have a Biblical worldview
- Only 2% of Christian teens have a Biblical worldview
- Less than 50% of Pastors have a biblical worldview.
- Why?



Can Your Faith Withstand the Challenges?



Studies Reveal a High Dropout Rate Among Christian Teens

- Southern Baptist surveys show that ***Nine out of ten*** students drop out of church after graduation from high school
- The *Christian Post* reports ***65-94%*** drop out rate.



Do Not Be Deceived

Colossians 2:4-5

- Life Application: Apologetics Defend the Faith
 - But set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give a defense (Apologia) to everyone who asks you the reason (Logos) for the hope that you have, but do this with gentleness and respect.

Be Living for Christ

Colossians 2:6-7

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Be Living for Christ

Colossians 2:6-7

- Life Application
 - Find an accountability group where you can share your struggles and be prayed for.



Do Not be Taken Captive

Colossians 2:8-10

- See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.



DURING EMERGENCY

NO PARKING

NO STOPPING

YAMAHA

S NCO

ROAD WORK AHEAD

George Washington's Farewell Address

- “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports.”
 - Farewell Address



George Washington's Farewell Address

September 19, 1796

- "And let us with caution indulge the supposition, that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."



John Adams

•We have no Government armed with Power capable of contending with human Passions unbridled by morality and Religion. Avarice, Ambition, Revenge or Galantry, would break the strongest Cords of our Constitution as a Whale goes through a Net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious People. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other



Do Not be Taken Captive

Colossian 2:8-10

- Life Application: Apologetics Discern and Dismantle
 - We demolish strongholds and every idea that sets itself up against the knowledge of Christ and we take every thought captive in obedience to Christ.
 - - 2 Corinthians 10:5