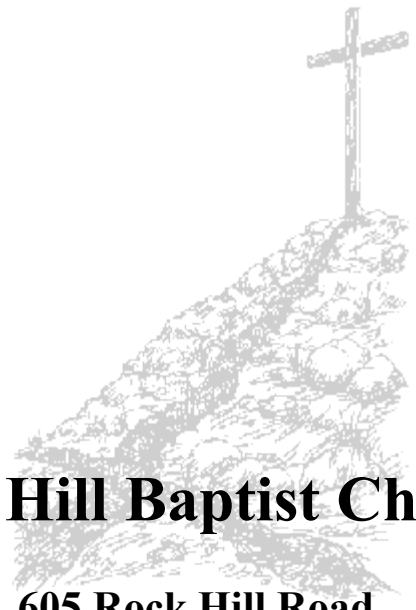


Deflating The DaVinci Code



Rock Hill Baptist Church

605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, Tennessee 38351

Brother David Buffaloe
731-845-6104

online at bibleteacher.org

FOCAL Read Responsively Ephesians 2:19-22^{KJV}

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household¹ of God; (20) And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone]; (21) In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: (22) In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

The Foundation of The Church, and The Foundation of The World

The Bible tells us that the Christian is a person who, because of faith in Jesus Christ, has been *supernaturally transformed* into a son of God. Though we are *in* this world, we are no longer *of* this world. We have become, because of the shed Blood of Christ, *members of God's Kingdom*, of the household of royalty. We are part of a family, the *Great House of God*, that has been built on a **certain foundation**. Our text says:

FOCAL Ephesians 2:20 ... **are built² upon the foundation³ of the apostles and prophets,** Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone];

KJV All texts are King James Version, unless otherwise noted

- 1 G3609, οἰκεῖος, oikēios, *oy-ki'-os*, From G3624; *domestic*, that is, (as noun), a *relative, adherent*: - (those) of the (his own) house (-hold).
- 2 Aorist Passive Participle, G2026, ἐποικοδομῶ, epōikodomēō, *ep-oy-kod-om-eh'-o*, From G1909 and G3618; to *build upon*, that is, (figuratively) to *rear up*: - build thereon (thereupon, on, upon).
- 3 G2310, θεμέλιος, themelios, *them-el'-ee-os*, From a derivative of G5087; something *put down*, that is, a *substruction* (of a building, etc.), (literally or figuratively): - foundation.

The Family of God is built on a *sure substructure*, a foundation that *cannot be tampered with nor be moved*. The Biblical text literally says “having been built once and for all” - this is the sense of the Aorist tense of the verb. The foundation of the Church that Jesus died for is not changeable, malleable, nor movable. It is a *sure foundation*. Remember the parable that our Lord gave us:

Matthew 7:24-27 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: (25) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. (26) And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: (27) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

This Great House of God is not based on human opinion, not based on what mortal man has said, but is based on the *God ordained teachings of the Apostles and Prophets*. The Chief Teacher and Cornerstone of our building is our Lord Jesus Christ:

FOCAL Ephesians 2:20 ... **are built upon the foundation** of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone];**

Jesus Christ is our **Chief Corner Stone**. The unsaved and unbelieving world does not have this foundation – but we do! Our foundation has stood the test of time because our Lord, along with the Apostles and Prophets, laid it. This is not a foundation of sand, but of solid Rock! This **Rock is Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4)**. We no longer have Apostles and Prophets in the Church of Christ because *the foundation has been laid*. **Bob DeWaay** writes⁴:

“A farmer in southern Iowa used to tell story of a man who claimed to have owned a \$3,000 dog. When asked how he knew his dog was worth that much the man answered, “Because I traded it to the neighbor for two \$1,500 cats.” So it goes with the apostles and prophets of the resuscitated Latter Rain movement. They know they are apostles and prophets because they declare each other to be such. How do you know you are an apostle? “A prophet told me.” How do you know he was a prophet? “An apostle told him.” Today there are thousands of individuals telling each other they are apostles and prophets.”

Listen Beloved – there are no more *Prophets*, there are no more *Apostles*. These people over 2000 years ago were moved by God the Holy Spirit:

2 Peter 1:21 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**

4 <http://worldviewweekend.com/secure/cwnetwork/print.php?&ArticleID=696>

Holy Ghost.

The Holy Spirit of God moved in the Old Testament times through the nation Israel, and the Old Testament Scripture was formed. The Holy Spirit of God moved in the early days of the Church, and the New Testament was formed. This foundation **was laid**, and once laid was not to be relaid. The Church, purchased by the Blood of God, composed of men and women *called out of this world*, sits on a sure foundation. It cannot be moved. This foundation has stood the test of time.

But certain *strange and perhaps unsaved people* have attacked this Church, this Family, this Household from the very beginning. In recent days we see the attacks against the Church coming from the **popular fictional author Dan Brown**, and particularly through the selling of the book **The DaVinci Code**. This book

“... has gone on to sell over 40 million copies, and is now poised to release as a major motion picture on May 19. And many people do believe the story; a recent poll showed that 17 percent of Canadians and 13 percent of Americans think its claims are true.”⁵

This has many Christians concerned, others perplexed, and yet others oddly attracted to this work of fiction. I find it disturbing that, even in our Tennessee Baptist Convention newspaper *The Baptist & Reflector* that statements like this are being made:

5 Dr. Jim Garlow, *Dan Brown's Gift To The Church*, <http://www.christianitytoday.com/movies/commentaries/gifttothechurch.html>

“{Baptist Apologist} Mike Licona believes Baptists are making a mistake by not watching the movie, “The Da Vinci Code,” which will be released May 19, or reading the book, The Da Vinci Code. By not being engaged with the cultural phenomenon of The Da Vinci Code, they are missing a great opportunity to witness to the many folks interested in the book and movie, he said. And they are confirming stereotypes of Baptists as narrow-minded and uninformed. “

That is the *biggest load of manure* I have ever read! Here is a supposedly educated man standing up for and promoting that Christians should go and see this movie. Do you not know that by turning out and giving money to the producers of this terrible work that you are *funding further such things*? We make much of *boycotting Ford Motor Company* because they are funding and condoning sexual *alternative lifestyles* – and yet now we suggest that you fund a book and its author so he can produce more such things? My mind boggles at the thought! Let's look at it from this perspective. There are **several thousand Satanists** in the United States according to the website *religioustolerance.org*. Shall we all get together and read the **Satanic Bible**⁶ so that we will not appear to be **narrow minded and uniformed**? In 1990 the **US Army** published a book for the guidance of its chaplains when dealing with a soldier of a non-traditional faith: "*Religious Requirements and Practices of Certain Selected Groups: A Handbook for Chaplains.*" This handbook tells us:

6 The **Satanic Bible**, written by Anton Szander LaVey, published by Yankee Rose

“... Because of the complete autonomy of covens, {the number of witches or adherents to witchcraft} **cannot be determined. There are an estimated 50,000 Wiccans {witches} in the United States.**”

Since there are an estimated 50,000 witches in the United States, don't you feel that we should read some of their literature and validate it – lest we appear *intolerant*? What about Mormonism – should I preach a section out of the **Book of Mormon** every month, just so we can be diverse? Oh My Beloved, what ever happened to good common sense? What ever happened to,

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 **Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? (15) And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? (16) And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (17) Wherefore **come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean [thing]; and I will receive you, (18) And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons****

and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

The Church of Jesus Christ is a family *founded on the Divine Teachings given us through the no longer with us Apostles and Prophets*. The DaVinci Code may have sold 40 million copies, and may have stayed on the *New York Times* bestseller list for many months. But I remind you that the **Holy Bible, the foundation of our faith**, has far out sold these pitiful numbers. In his book, *The Top Ten of Everything*⁷ author Russell Ash states:

"No one really knows how many copies of the Bible have been printed, sold, or distributed. The Bible Society's attempt to calculate the number printed between 1816 and 1975 produced the figure of 2,458,000,000. A more recent survey, for the years up to 1992, put it closer to 6,000,000,000 in more than 2,000 languages and dialects. Whatever the precise figure, the Bible is by far the bestselling book of all time."

Now you never hear that – the Bible has sold more than **six billion copies in over 2000 languages**. Why is that? Why such an immense figure? Because Dan Brown's book is backed by the world, the flesh, and the devil, whereas the Bible is *backed by Almighty God*.

The world, to include Dan Brown's *startling new revelation* (which, by the way, is neither new nor startling. This we will prove shortly), is based on *shifting and ever changing foundations*. Since his teachings in the book the DaVinci Code are not based on the

⁷ 1997 DK Publishing, 1996, pp 112-113.

foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the Chief Cornerstone, his foundation will not stand. Let's address some of the lies found in the DaVinci Code.

The DaVinci Code Exposes Truths That The Church of God Has Hidden For Years

When the Apostle Paul prepared to leave Ephesus, he called all of the pastors of the Church together and said to them:

Acts 20:28 Take heed⁸ therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

The Apostle literally said **keep on paying attention to spiritually feed both yourselves and the Church that God died for.** The Church is to be *fed the words of Christ, fed by God not by anyone else.* The Apostle goes on to say:

Acts 20:29-31 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous⁹ wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. (30)

8 Present Active Imperative G4337, προσέχω, prosechō, *pros-ekh'-o*, From G4314 and G2192; (figuratively) to *hold* the mind (G3563 implied) *towards*, that is, *pay attention to, be cautious about, apply oneself to, adhere to*: - (give) attend (-ance, -ance at, -ance to, unto), beware, be given to, give (take) heed (to, unto) have regard.

9 G926, βαρῦς, barus, *bar-ooce'*, From the same as G922; *weighty*, that is, (figuratively) *burdensome, grave*: - grievous, heavy, weightier.

Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse¹⁰ things, to draw away disciples after them. (31) Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

Powerful **wolves** would enter into the Church. A wolf, by the way, is a good illustration. A wolf will not usually kill just one lamb when it gets into the flock. It will, along with the pack, kill as many lambs as it can – even more than it can eat. Wolves are greedy, voracious, insatiable. The Apostle warned that these wolves would come in and, if allowed by sleepy shepherds, would destroy whole flocks. Further the Apostle warned that **of your own selves men shall arise, speaking perverse or corrupt things.** This is happening today with the so called **Baptist apologists.** This also happened in the early Church.

The *premise of the DaVinci Code* is that God is not the Father, but is instead *the Goddess.* The Goddess is worshiped by free and consensual sexual expression among her followers. Jesus Christ was not the Second Person of the Godhead, God the Son, but was a great teacher, a mere man, who had a following. **“The Da Vinci Code claims that Jesus was not perceived as being divine until the 4th century, that his divinity was an "invention" by the Council of Nicea in 325, done for purely political reasons—and passing by**

10 G1294, διαστρέφω, diastrephō, *dee-as-tref'-o*, From G1223 and G4762; to *distort*, that is, (figuratively) *misinterpret*, or (morally) *corrupt*: - perverse (-rt), turn away.

only" a close vote." ¹¹ Jesus was supposed to have married an ex-prostitute named **Mary Magdalene**, who in turn became one of His apostles. The Bible that we have, according to the characters of Brown's book, is a mere fabrication. The original books of the Bible, the so called *Gnostic texts*, were suppressed at the **Council of Nicea in 325 AD** under the hand of Emperor Constantine.

Matt Kaufman of *Citizen Magazine* ¹²reports:

"Dan Brown doesn't stop at trying to undermine Christianity. He also tries to substitute an alternative spirituality centered on the "sacred feminine"—the notion, seen in goddess-worshiping pagan religions, that female sexuality is a crucial element of the divine. Brown even tries to rehabilitate the ancient rituals of temple prostitutes, presenting the sex act as the way to touch the divine. Pagans had a beautiful thing going, he invites readers to believe, living in harmony with the rhythms of Mother Nature—until (who else?) Christians came along to slander and slaughter them.

Thus, while containing hardly any sex in its pages, The Da Vinci Code tells readers they can devote themselves to sensual self-indulgence and be "spiritual" at the same time. In fact, it tells them they should. Needless to say, this means they can forget about sin, and forget about any need for a Savior—there was no need for God to become man.

Does the DaVinci Code *expose* truths that the Church has hidden for years? No. As a matter of fact, the Apostle Paul's predictions came true. The Church was attacked with *diverse and confusing* pseudopigrapha¹³ that was

11 Dr. Jim Garlow, Dan Brown's Gift To The Church, <http://www.christianitytoday.com/movies/commentaries/gifttothechurch.html>

12 <http://www.family.org/cforum/citizenmag/departments/a0032629.cfm>

13 False scripture, not inspired of God but driven by Satan

neither written by apostles nor prophets, nor endorsed by our Lord Jesus Christ.

More than once in the book, the protagonist, Teabing, makes the claim that the canonical gospels are not the earliest gospels. This is from the book:

Leigh Teabing: **"The Bible is a product of man ... not God. The Bible did not fall magically from the clouds. Man created it as a historical record of tumultuous times, and it has evolved through countless translations, additions, and revisions. History has never had a definitive version of the book."** ¹⁴

Teabing: **"More than eighty gospels were considered for the New Testament and yet only a relative few were chosen for inclusion — Matthew, Mark, Luke and John among them."**

Sophie: **"Who chose which gospels to include?"**

Teabing: **"Aha! ... The fundamental irony of Christianity! The Bible, as we know it today, was collected by the pagan Roman emperor Constantine the Great."**¹⁵

Is this true? Absolutely not! The Bible that we possess today is composed of what we call the *Old Testament* and the *New Testament*. The Old Testament writings were largely accepted into Christianity based on *whether they were part of what Israel considered canon or Scripture*. The following quote is from gotquestions.org:

"In the early centuries of the church, Christians were sometimes put to death for possessing copies of Scripture (in those days books were in individual

14 Da Vinci Code, page 231

15 IBID

scrolls, not bound together in one binding as today). Because of this persecution, the question soon came up, "What books are worth dying for?" Some books may have contained sayings of Jesus, but were they inspired as stated in 2 Timothy 3:16? Church councils played a role in publicly recognizing the "canon" of Scripture, but often an individual church or groups of churches recognized a book as inspired from its writing (e.g. Colossians 4:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:27). **Throughout the early centuries of the church few books were ever disputed and the list was basically settled by A.D. 303.**

When it came to the Old Testament, they had two important facts to consider: 1) Jesus quoted from every Old Testament book but two, and effectively endorsed the Hebrew canon in Matthew 23:35 when He cited one of the first narratives and one of the last in the Scriptures of His day. 2) The Jews were meticulous in preserving the Old Testament Scriptures, and they had few controversies over what parts belong or do not belong. The Roman Catholic Apocrypha¹⁶ did not measure up and fell outside of the definition of Scripture, and have never been accepted by the Jews.

Most questions about what books belong in the Bible dealt with writings from the time of Christ and forward. The early church had some very specific criteria in order for books to be considered as part of the New Testament. These included: Was the book written by someone who was an eyewitness of Jesus

Christ? Did the book pass the "truth test"? (i.e. did it concur with other, already agreed upon Scripture?). The New Testament books they accepted back then have endured the test of time and Christian orthodoxy has embraced these, with little challenge, for centuries."¹⁷

The so called *Gnostic Gospels* were rejected by the Church of God as unfounded, non-apostolic, and non-prophetic. When the canon of Scripture (what we hold in our hands today) was determined by the Church, the Gnostic Gospels were rejected.

In the article *Why The Lost Gospels Were Really Lost*¹⁸ Craig Keener of "Christianity Today" magazine writes:

"Church authorities did not wait until Constantine {in 325 AD} to fish out gospel pretenders. ... Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John differ in kind from the second- and third-century works called "gospels," which reflect little or no apostolic tradition and do not even fit the same genre as the canonical Gospels. ... second-century and later gospels tend to fall into two categories: "sayings-gospels" (favored especially by gnostics) and religious novels (what we usually call the apocryphal gospels). Gnostics belonged to a stream of thought that played down the body (hence Jesus' incarnation, earthly life, and bodily resurrection). Their tastes ran more to secret teachings for an elite—what we find in most gnostic gospels. Irenaeus {an early Church pastor}

¹⁶ Old Testament pseudopigrapha

¹⁷ <http://www.gotquestions.org/canon-of-Scripture.html>

¹⁸ original article located at <http://www.christianitytoday.com> Any emphasis or highlighting added by Bro. David Buffaloe

distinguished the canonical Gospels from gnostic ones with the observation that **the four Gospels focus on Jesus' death and resurrection, and that the writers root their claims about Jesus in references to Hebrew Scripture. Gnostics were not willing to do this.** ... the Jesus of many "gospels" lacks the character of the Jesus in our first-century Gospels. ... in the **Infancy Story of Thomas (not the same as the earlier Gospel of Thomas), Jesus strikes dead a boy who bumped him. When the deceased boy's parents complain to Joseph, Jesus strikes them blind.** When another observer complains because Jesus made clay sparrows on the Sabbath, Jesus claps his hands and the birds fly off.”

The DaVinci Code tells the reader that the Church suppressed the truth Gnostic Scriptures around 325 AD at the Council of Nicea. The truth is, the Church had already discounted the Gnostic Gospels, and formed the completed canon of Scripture by 303 AD. The Gnostic Gospels had been rejected as *unscriptural* by as early as 160 AD. In the article “*Why The "Lost Gospels" Really Lost Out*”, Ben Witherington III states:¹⁹

“... about 180 A.D. Irenaeus, bishop of Lyons, could already speak clearly and definitively about the fourfold Gospel, specifically citing those of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. He does so as he is opposing things he deems heretical. ... Even before Irenaeus, from the middle of the second century, we have the witness of Justin Martyr ... In his *Dialogue with Trypho* (160 A.D.), he calls the canonical Gospels "the

reminiscences" of the apostles and says they were read and used in worship in his day. ... In the end, **the gnostic gospels and other gnostic documents were never even considered for inclusion in the Christian canon. Other, non-gnostic books that did not make it into the canon were debated rather heavily—namely, the Shepherd of Hermas, 1 Clement, the letters of Ignatius, and, most surprisingly, the Wisdom of Solomon. It is noteworthy that not a single document written after about 120 was ever considered for inclusion in the canon,** not least because such documents were not written by people in direct touch with the apostolic tradition, much less with the apostles themselves.”

The Scripture that you have in your hand today was written by the Prophets and the Apostles, and Jesus Christ is the Chief Cornerstone of this writing. Our Bible is not a work of fiction, nor was it *assembled in 325 AD* by a heathen named Constantine.

“**There are four New Testament Gospels, which are named Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Many scholars believe that these were written during the century in which Jesus lived. The Gnostic gospels are generally believed to have been written later – about 100 to 300 years later. ... There are major differences between the New Testament Gospels and the Gnostic gospels. The New Testament Gospels contain details about life in the land of Israel during the first century. They also contain several references to Old Testament passages, prophecies and theological concepts. For Christians, the New Testament presents**

¹⁹ <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2004/006/7.26.html>

itself as a continuation of the Old Testament. In contrast, the Gnostic texts contain very little detail to suggest that their authors had ever been to the land of Israel, or that they were even alive during the first century. And the theological concepts of the Gnostic texts sharply contradict those that are found in the Old Testament. It is for these reasons, and others like them, that the Gnostic texts were rejected by early Christians as being divinely inspired.”²⁰

May I recommend this, dear friends. Instead of going to see the movie *The DaVinci Code* and help support Hollywood and their wolfish ways, let us spend our days remembering the Scripture, reading the Scripture, and praising God for the precious promises that we have. God gave us the Bible, His Holy Word. As J.I. Packer said:

“The church no more gave us the New Testament canon than Sir Isaac Newton gave us the force of gravity. God gave us gravity, by his work of creation, and similarly he gave us the New Testament canon, by inspiring the individual books that make it up.”²¹

The great theologian F.F. Bruce states:

“One thing must be emphatically stated. The New Testament books did not become authoritative for the Church because they were formally included in a canonical list; on the contrary, the Church included them in her canon because she already regarded them as divinely inspired, recognizing their innate worth

20 *The Da Vinci Code - The Hoax Behind The Code* AboutBibleProphecy.com
21 J. I. Packer, *God Speaks To Man*, p. 81

and generally apostolic authority, direct or indirect. The first ecclesiastical councils to classify the canonical books were both held in North Africa-at Hippo Regius in 393 and at Carthage in 397 - but what these councils did was not to impose something new upon the Christian communities but to codify what was already the general practice of these communities. “²²

The Bible that you have is complete, sufficient, supported by God, and is the foundation upon which our faith is laid. People like Dan Brown will always attack the Church and it's people. He is of the world. We however,

FOCAL Ephesians 2:19-22 Now therefore ye **are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; (20) And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone]; (21) In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: (22) In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.**

As a **Holy Temple in the Lord** I beg you, do not waste your time chasing after the things of this world. **Redeem**

22 F. F. Bruce, *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?*, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1960, p. 27

the time, for the days are evil (Ephesians 5:16). Hell is real, God's judgment is real, and it will be poured out on those who leave this life without accepting Jesus Christ as Savior. We do not have the luxury of wasting our time chasing after and answering every foolishness that this world tosses our way. Remember, dear Ones, your commission is to tell others about Jesus. Your commission is to live your life in such a way that others will see Jesus in you. The world will attack us. So what? Instead of being like the world, remember the words of the Apostle:

1 Peter 3:13-16 And who will harm you if you are passionate for what is good? (14) But even if you should suffer for righteousness, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear or be disturbed, (15) but set apart the Messiah as Lord in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. (16) However, do this with gentleness and respect, keeping your conscience clear, so that when you are accused, those who denounce your Christian life will be put to shame.

The Dan Browns of today will be the nobodies of tomorrow - (1 Peter 1:25) But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. May God touch your hearts.



Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, TN 38351

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED