

# TAKING THE **WHOLE WORD** TO THE **WHOLE WORLD**

**WONDERING WHY YOU FEEL  
DISCONNECTED FROM GOD?**

**IT'S YOUR PRIDE.  
CONFESS YOU NEED HIM,  
AND RETURN TO HIM RIGHT AWAY.**

J. VERNON MCGEE



**THRU** the **BIBLE**



# WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD



## WHAT'S KEEPING YOU FROM GOD?

Dr. J. Vernon McGee

*“The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who dwell in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; you who say in your heart, ‘Who will bring me down to the ground?’” –Obadiah 3*

*Pride.* I am confident this takes the wind out of the sails of many readers who say, “Is that *all*? Pride is bad, but it’s not that bad, is it?” Actually, pride makes very little impression on us today, because we have lost our sense of the proportion of sin.

We think pride is a nice, polite sin. Good people indulge in this. You do not have to get down in the gutter to be filled with pride. Or do you?

I say to you, pride is the sin of sins! Pride of heart is deeper and darker than any other sin you can mention. We do not condemn it, but *God* does! God says He resists the proud, but He is always on the side of the humble. “The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate” (Proverbs



Download your free copy of “The ‘Not So Bad’ Sin” [here.](#)

8:13). John tells us that “the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world” (1 John 2:16). Where does the pride of life come from? If there is anything that comes from the devil, that is it.

A great many saints today have pride of race, pride of face, and even pride of grace—they are proud they have been saved by grace! My friend, your salvation ought not to make you proud; it is not even something to brag about. It is something about which to glorify God. It should *humble* you. Aren’t you ashamed of yourself that you have to be saved by grace because you are such a miserable sinner? I wish I had something to offer God for salvation, but I have nothing. Therefore, I must be saved by grace, and I cannot even boast of that. There are too many folk boasting of the fact that they have been sinners. God gives grace to the *humble*. Paul writes, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5). What kind of mind did He have? Lowliness of mind. He said, “Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle [meek] and lowly in heart...” (Matthew 11:29).

Pride is destroying the testimony of many Christians and has made them ineffective for God. They go in for show, but they are building nothing more than a big haystack. They are not building on the foundation of Christ with gold and silver and precious stones. (See 1 Corinthians 3:11-15.) Pride has a great many saints pinned to the mat by the shoulders, down for the count of ten.

Pride was the sin of Satan. He said, “I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...I will be like the Most High” (Isaiah 14:13, 14).

Pride was also the root of Nebuchadnezzar’s insanity. He strutted like a peacock in the palace of his kingdom of Babylon (Daniel 4:30). And what happened to Nebuchadnezzar? “While the word was still in the king’s mouth, a voice fell from heaven: ‘King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the



field ...” (Daniel 4:31, 32). That was no accident, my friend. This man did not know who he was, and he went out and acted like an animal of the field. Why? Because when a man is lifted up with pride, he’s not lifted up but has come down to the level of beasts.

**What is pride? Pride of heart is the attitude of a life that declares its ability to live without God.**

Esau lived in the rock-hewn city of Petra. Have you seen it? It’s protected by a very narrow entryway, and is easily defended. Many nations deposited vast sums of gold and silver there because they felt the city could never be taken.

But the Edomites lived in a false security. Pride of heart had lifted up this nation of Edom just like Esau who despised his birthright. Even though there was plenty to eat in Isaac’s home, Esau liked that bowl of soup more than he liked his birthright. In despising that birthright, he despised God. And now Esau had become a great nation that in its abundance and pride declared its ability to live without God. They signed a declaration of independence; they seceded from the government of God; they revolted and rebelled against Him.

Friend, when a little creature down here gets to the place where he says, “I don’t need God,” God says, “That’s what I hate.”

## » MY TURN

**Open God’s Word in front of you and quiet yourself before Him**

- Read in your own Bible the verses Dr. McGee references about pride and humility, plus a few more. Here are some to get you started:
  - Proverbs 6:16-19; 11:2; 27:2; 29:23
  - Matthew 11:29
  - Romans 12:3, 16
  - Galatians 6:1-4
  - Philippians 2:3-5
  - 1 Corinthians 13:4
  - James 4:6, 10
  - 1 Peter 5:5
- Ask God to show you how pride is keeping you from your best relationship with Him. When He shows you, confess it as sin and repent of it, and turn your attitude around. God promises to be near the humble; He will help you.



# HOPE IS IN THE AIR IN QUEBEC

A report from Eric Perron, *Aujourd'hui l'Espoir*



For 15 years, TWR-Canada has been working with *Aujourd'hui l'Espoir* ("Today's Hope," a French radio and television station), reaching out to the people of Quebec with a message of hope in Jesus Christ.

The ministry in Quebec is not easy, but we have seen how media can play a role in sharing the gospel in a non-confrontational way. Many people will not walk through the door of a church, but they will listen to a radio program or download a Christian program off the internet because it can all be done in privacy. This has opened a door, making media a very effective tool for communicating to people who have a spiritual void in their lives, but don't know how to fill that void.

The media approach has proven to be effective in multiple formats. The number of programs downloaded from *Aujourd'hui l'Espoir's* websites increases every year. *Thru the Bible* has been downloaded 118,000 times. We continue to broadcast to southern Quebec through radio, and through pastors in our local church networks across the province, we have the privilege of doing many personal visits which are resulting in people committing their lives to Christ.

*Aujourd'hui l'Espoir* has applied to the CRTC for an FM transmitter license for a 24-hour web radio station, with 100 repeater stations across Quebec. The motion was denied due to technicalities and

has been resubmitted. Fourteen churches in Quebec have agreed to host repeater stations for their communities. Join us in praying for favor from the CRTC and the local community so that the truth of God and His Word would be proclaimed through the radio in Quebec.



Radio Espoir leadership:  
**Eric & Annabelle Perron** and **Tim Wright**



## À TRAVERS la BIBLE

The new *Thru the Bible— Canadian French* website is now ready for distribution on most platforms.



"I was curious about the Bible but couldn't understand it. I was becoming a bit frustrated until I found your programs in French. Your teachings are a rich feast for a hungry soul. I learned about what Jesus has offered me through His death on the cross. I called your office for more explanation. I was surprised to talk with someone who prayed with me on the phone. Now I am completely satisfied. Wherever I find myself, I am content and at peace. Knowing God and understanding His Word has made all the difference. Those closest to me have recognized this change. It is my pleasure to tell them about Jesus and direct them to *Thru the Bible*."

### PLEASE PRAY:

- Pray for the people of Quebec, that they would accept the truth of God.
- Pray for the resubmission to the CRTC of the FM transmitter license to be accepted.
- Pray for the pastors and church workers across Quebec who are connecting with and visiting listeners in their homes.
- Pray as the Holy Spirit moves that more French Canadians recognize their spiritual hunger and ultimately come by faith to belief in Jesus Christ.



## PRAYING ONE TRANSFORMED LIFE WILL LEAD TO A TRANSFORMED FAMILY

Second class citizens, that's how many experts describe Christians in Pakistan. This is especially true of women and girls, who can be victims of rape and forced to marry Muslim men.

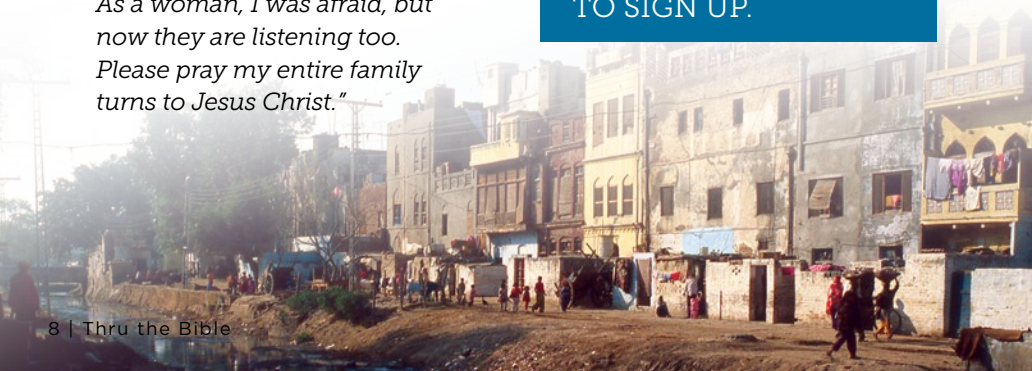
As we travel through this land of tall peaks, lush valleys, and distinct heritage, we praise God for listeners like this one:

*"I have been converted by your teaching. Through your programs I have learned so much about God and the gospel of Jesus Christ. Because of my transformation, my family has been interested. As a woman, I was afraid, but now they are listening too. Please pray my entire family turns to Jesus Christ."*

Pray for this family and others who hear God's Word on *Thru the Bible* in the languages of Urdu, Pashto, and Arabic. Praise God His Word is accomplishing His purpose in His time.

This is an example of the email our World Prayer Team receives every weekday. Together, we are traveling the world on our knees, interceding for one country at a time. We invite you to join us in covering the entire earth with prayer every year.

GO TO [TTB.ORG/PRAY](http://TTB.ORG/PRAY)  
TO SIGN UP.



# What's Happening at THRU the BIBLE



## HAVE YOU HEARD DR. MCGEE'S STORY ABOUT THE "PRODIGAL PIG"?

*If not, get on the Bible Bus on Wednesday, May 13.*

**Don Regier**, professor at Dallas Theological Seminary, shares:

J. Vernon McGee inspired me in the fall of 1965. I had just enrolled in Dallas Theological Seminary, and Dr. McGee came to campus as a visiting Bible lecturer.

For the next 50 years, what Dr. McGee said about "the prodigal pig" stuck in my mind. Gradually a story for kids of all ages began to emerge about the pig farm where the prodigal son "would fain have filled his belly with the husks."

Finally, the McSwine family came to life in my e-book, *Prodigal Pig Tale*, a story about forgiveness, and a claymation movie that explores sin ("diagnosis"), lostness ("prognosis"), remedy ("prescription"), and promise ("restoration").

### PLOTLINE

Hamlet McSwine wants to leave the farm to become rich and famous, like Sir Francis Bacon; to express his inner pig, like Pablo Picasso; to boldly go where no pig has gone before, like Captain Pigcard. When he follows his dream, his older brother, Decker McSwine, becomes furious.

**Will Decker be able to forgive his brother, or will he become mean and nasty and pig-headed?**

For more on this creative adaptation, go to [prodigalpig.com](http://prodigalpig.com).



FAITHFUL TO THE TASK

"Direction and traction." The TTB staff will tell you this is what I say to encourage them when they're faced with a task that feels too big.

**Direction:** Are you doing what God has asked you to do?

**Traction:** Are you making headway (even baby steps)?

Perhaps this is a good word for you today. When your heart is inclined to faithfulness, let God reward you in the process. Your job is to be obedient in what and with what God has given you to do. Throw off the pressure to perform or achieve or succeed, and entrust the outcome to God—the One responsible for the outcome. He calls you to faithfulness.

That's the message we remind our TTB family of when the task feels too big, the obstacles too hard, or the days too long. We're on a mission to take the whole Word to the whole world; we need His perspective and provision.

Praise God we're in this together. And praise God He provides for how He guides.

*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.* -1 Thessalonians 5:23, 24

In Christ we go forward,

Gregg Harris  
President, Thru the Bible



WHY STUDY JONAH?

Join in the studies on *Thru the Bible* MAY 26 – JUNE 9 or anytime online, by podcast, or by mobile app.

Does the Old Testament book of Jonah belong in the Bible? Did that whole thing with the whale really happen? Did Jonah actually die? These questions and more revolve around the tiny book some scholars call "the perfect little narrative."

**JONAH IS A PROPHET DURING THE REIGN OF KING JEROBOAM II**—that's after the prophet Elijah, but before Amos and Hosea. God calls Jonah to preach to the wicked people of Nineveh who have been cruel to Israel. Jonah doesn't want to, so he runs in the opposite direction to Tarshish (near Spain). But God had another idea ... *because God is in the business of saving sinners.*

*"God didn't ask you to love the lost before you go to them. He said, 'I love the lost, and I want you to go to them.' That is what He is saying to Jonah: 'Jonah, I love the Ninevites.'"*  
-Dr. J. Vernon McGee

**JESUS COMPARES HIMSELF TO JONAH**—saying just as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, He also would be a sign to His generation in His resurrection from the dead. (See Matthew 12:38-41.)

LESSONS FROM JONAH:

- You can't run away from God.
- Disobedience will create turmoil in your life.
- God's mercy is a mystery.
- With repentance comes obedience to God's Word.
- God's plan to show grace won't be frustrated.

WHAT IS THIS LITTLE STORY ABOUT?

- Is it about Jonah's rebellion?
- Is it about Nineveh's revival?
- Is it about the fish?
- Is it about the gourd?
- Is it about us?

IT'S REALLY ABOUT GOD AND HIS:

- Love for all people
- Compassion for the lost, especially Gentiles
- Kindness that leads to repentance
- Missionary heart for the world
- Promise of Jesus' resurrection

# I Love to Tell *the Story*

**Do you know about the ministry,**  **The Voice of the Martyrs?**

One of their leaders, Brother Ami, has been with us on the Bible Bus for decades ...

“When I was a young man, I heard for the first time good stories about Jesus [on Trans World Radio], and as a good Muslim I wrote down the address and sent them letters trying to convince them they were wrong. They sent me back a letter, and I found in it a copy of the Gospel of Luke. That copy of the Gospel was designed to look like a normal letter so they could send it to Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Algeria. I opened the Gospel of Luke and I started reading, as if something was happening inside me, as if I was thirsty and this was the kind of water I was looking for.

“I said, ‘OK, I will show this Christian that their Bible is falsified.’ I started to write something, but at the end of the homework I found that this Bible is the truth. How could a false Bible encourage me to love my enemy? I said, ‘For us in the Koran, we are exalted to fight back, to take revenge. But Jesus here is encouraging us to love our enemies.’

“I started comparing the two teachings, and at the end of the road I found I had to make a decision: Which is from heaven, and which is earthly? Which is from another source? I remember I was listening to *Thru the Bible*. It was in Arabic at the time, and the presenter invited the listeners to give their lives to Jesus. It was in October 1989. I was a teenager, and I knelt down and I prayed after him the prayer of salvation. This is how I came to know the Lord.”



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