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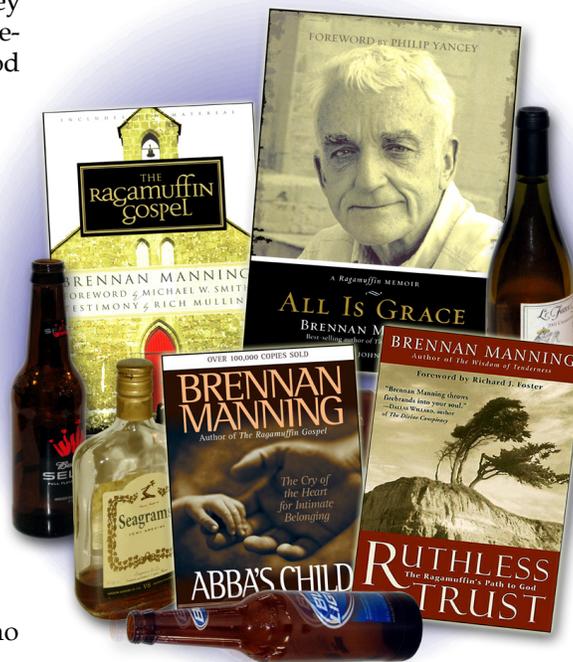
## When Grace Is No Longer Amazing The Tragic Life and Legacy of Brennan Manning

The Apostle Paul instructed his convert and helper, Titus: "They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work" (Titus 1:16).

Brennan Manning was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on April 24, 1934. He was baptized into the Roman Catholic Church as Richard Francis Xavier Manning. He says he was a disappointment to his mother, who wanted a girl. He continued in his adult life to hold onto and be driven by that unhealthy impression. Manning was ordained a Franciscan priest in 1963. He emerged as a very prolific writer, but to many he was an enigma. He has lived a long and tortured life, the agony of which was brought on mainly by no one but himself.

Manning's writings are popular because he writes well and can turn a phrase, but over the years many have criticized his aberrant views.<sup>1</sup> But not all within the evangelical camp express caution about Manning. For example, popular author and speaker

by G. Richard Fisher



Beth Moore tells her followers that Manning "minister[s] to us out of his wealth of experience" and that "What God has used Manning to bring to the mixed bag of our generation of believers may be a gift without parallel."<sup>2</sup>

Manning often seems indifferent about gross sins and too often comes across as a lone ranger. He may have written well, but he has lived horribly and sinfully with no apparent concern for his shameful conduct.

He is now a defunct Roman Catholic priest who also had a broken marriage which ended in divorce. As an ex-priest he has a love/hate relationship with the Catholic Church. It can be added to all that a lifetime of admitted alcohol addiction, wildly skewed beliefs, and his distorted understanding of

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