

*"... Hereby know we the Spirit of truth and the Spirit of error"*

The  
**DISCERNER**

REVEREND  
H. S. MURPHY



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# The DISCERNER

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COVER PHOTO: Rev. H. S. Murphy who is featured on the cover-page was introduced to our readers in the previous issue. An article by him appears in this issue. Editor.

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## Common Characteristics of Cults

Prof. John E. Dahlin, Editor

In this issue of the Discerner we are dealing mainly with the techniques or strategy of cultists as well as the underlying reasons for the aggressiveness with which they propagate their teachings. It may not have occurred to you, perhaps, that there are common characteristics or similarities among most of the cultists. While there are numerous variations among these groups, as to their detailed teachings and practices, yet in an over-all manner many of the modern cultists may be identified by their common characteristics. In other words, you might look for certain ear-marks which will enable you to classify them as cults.

These common characteristics seem to fall into two categories, namely, those which pertain to their method of operation, and those which cover their doctrinal position. One must familiarize himself with their teachings and practices in order to fully appreciate the assertion with reference to cultists.

First of all, it is a common practice among cultists, known to

the writer, to stigmatize the older established denominational groups within the domain of Christianity. I have never known any leaders among the cults who have not spoken disparagingly about the well established and respected religious bodies which are designated as denominations. To say the least, this is uncharitable and even unwarranted. In contrast to this, usually leaders among the various denominational bodies refrain from this unwholesome practice which is so common among cultists. Alert and thoughtful people should be able to detect this glaring trait when approached by the cultists. I feel we have a legitimate reason to resent being called "dumb dogs" or some other unsavory phrase heaped upon Christian groups which have had an honorable historical record.

Secondly, cultists generally blame the deplorable world situation prevalent today on the failure of the old established and organized religious bodies in presenting the real truth. In other words, they would like to have people believe, that if only the teachings of

the cultists had been followed and accepted, conditions of society in our time would have been infinitely better. This rather vicious accusation against old historic religious groups becomes good propaganda for ensnaring gullible people who seem to have an affinity for the assertions and claims of cultists.

Moreover, it is generally correct to state, I believe, that the founders or originators of cults have been personalities with a deficient training and knowledge in the Word of God. This certainly has been true of the Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science, Spiritualists and Adventists. (In contrast to this, the Great Reformers were for the most part men who possessed a rich knowledge of Scriptural truth). While these founders of cults doubtlessly possessed some extra-ordinary qualities to attract a hearing and in gaining followers, they have been deficient, nevertheless, in training and knowledge of the Word of God. It is nothing less than pathetic to evaluate this deficiency. Pastor Russell was a man with a meager education, and while claiming superior knowledge, knew no Greek whatsoever. Mrs. Ellen White was for the most part illiterate and neurotic. William Miller of the same movement had a meager education, and with his deficiency in Bible knowledge, he made ridiculous predictions based on completely erroneous chronological deductions. Joseph Smith of the Mormon Church was reared in ignorance and poverty as well as in superstition. He claimed to have had visions and revelations concerning the famous golden plates which allegedly were discovered in 1823. There is an abundance of incontestible evidence that he

stole many of his ideas from Spaulding's unpublished novel, **THE MANUSCRIPT FOUND**. Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy did not have a grasp of the rudiments of grammar. It is no wonder she said in her writings that she was so filled with Science that "grammar was eclipsed." The originators of Spiritualism are Margaret and Kate Fox, who also were completely warped mentally and misguided. But in an age of superstition, they were able to give impetus to spiritism in America. Who could be less qualified to originate a system which was based on certain mysterious rappings?

Another common characteristic, or mark of identification, is that the cultists invariably make claims of special revelation or extra-ordinary divine enlightenment. The cults hold forth that their founders respectively were guided by special revelation. Even Adventists give priority to Mrs. Ellen White's writings, although some of the extreme claims which she made, have caused no little embarrassment to the more enlightened among that group. Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy wrote in the **CHRISTIAN SCIENCE JOURNAL** of January 1901, "It was not myself but the divine power of truth and love infinitely above me, which dictated **Science and Health**." She considered herself as echoing the harmonies of heaven in divine metaphysics. The Mormons exalt their founder who claimed unprecedented visions and revelations.

Cultists seek to impress people consistently that their mission has stemmed out of a miraculous vision or experience. People who ask for no credentials of the cultists are often ensnared by such claims.

Then, in the matter of doctrine, the cults, so far as my knowledge extends, have downgraded the person of Jesus Christ. No matter which one of the cults you may examine, it is uniformly true that Christ is not given the recognition which He deserves. Even the Adventists, who have some things in common with evangelicals, also have taken a disappointing position towards the Son of God. Mrs. White, the mainspring in the movement, during the earlier period said, "In His humanity Christ partook of our sinful nature. If not, then He was not made like unto His brethren . . ." This is completely contradictory to all of the New Testament teachings on the doctrine of Christ.

The Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Christ was a created being, although of the highest rank. In fact, they teach that Christ was the arch-angel Michael, who became man at birth. From their viewpoint, it simply means Christ never co-existed with God from eternity on a basis of equality.

In her **Science and Health**, Mary Baker Eddy seeks to create a cleavage between Jesus and Christ. She says, "Jesus is the name of the man who, more than all other men, has presented Christ. Christ was His divine nature." This distinction between Jesus and Christ is alien to the New Testament. Paul says, "In the name of **Jesus** every knee shall bow . . ." Invariably cultists are ruthless in their handling of the Word of God.

The Mormons have also an extremely degraded view of Jesus Christ. Brigham Young states, "Jesus Christ was a polygamist; Mary and Martha, sisters of Lazarus, were His plural wives."

We might go on right down the

line and no exception will be found among cultists in their reduction of the Scriptural stature of Christ. Not only do they falter and stumble over the doctrine of Christology, but they tend to reject most of the great tenets of the Christian faith. The apostle John makes the incarnation of Christ the supreme test of true faith, however. He ascribes those who reject that Christ came in the flesh as anti-Christian, and he forbids us to have fellowship with these Christ deniers.

Many of the cults also lean heavily on Orientalism, and that point might be pursued in seeking to find the common characteristics among cultists, particularly among the smaller, or splintered groups.

In conclusion, you will find that cultists have a similarity in dynamics, that is, they utilize trained agents and emissaries, an abundance of literature, the personal touch or approach, and they consistently proselyte among people who are already affiliated with established organizations. They spend much less time and effort to gain the totally unchurched people. They concentrate to mislead and beguile people who are already involved in church activity, as ~~they~~ Paul says of the evil one, they transform themselves into an angel of light to deceive and wear down men's normal resistance towards the cultists. Those who are weakly anchored in the Scriptures often become easy victims of these past masters at deception and tragically are swept over the precipice into these unscriptural cults of our time.

# THE DRIVE BEHIND THE CULTS

Rev. H. S. Murphy

What is the compelling force or the impelling drive which motivates the cults as we know them today? There are several considerations in answering this question which in the final analysis must be answered by pointing to "that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world." Revelation 12:9.

Behind every false system of religious doctrine and worship which finds its authority outside of the Word of God, we can see several motivations which work together to produce that which we term cults or isms.

1. *Salvation by Works.* It seems as if man would rather strive and labor after Salvation than reach out by simple faith and take the gift which God so freely offers through simple belief in the Lord Jesus Christ as sin-bearer. Salvation by works or the attainment of moral perfection pleasing to God by the means of self-effort has always been the doctrine of Satan.

This motivating force of salvation by works is the idea that God is waiting to reward with the gift of eternal life those who are faithful in performing certain acts and ceremonies or are very industrious in carrying on a work for Him. Some believe that Salvation is partly by faith and partly by works and that man is free and can by his own will save himself. They feel that in some way they must pay for what God is going to give them, if they ever get it. Therefore, they must work in order to please God and in return He will

reward them.

Perhaps many of them are sincere in what they are doing but their sincerity will never save them. They are wrong for God is not looking for sincerity. God is not looking for a sacrifice on their part. The sacrifice for sin has been offered by God and accepted by God. God is looking for their simple faith in that which He has provided. Ephesians 2:8-9. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

2. *The Appeal of the Flesh.* Closely allied to this idea of working for forgiveness of sins in an attempt to please God is the driving force of the OLD NATURE, sometimes called the flesh, Adamic nature, inborn sin, original sin, or the old man. These terms all refer to that inborn tendency to evil which is present in all mankind. This nature is antagonistic and fully opposed to all of the operations of God. When Adam disobeyed God he fell and through this fall there has been transmitted to every descendant of Adam a sin-nature. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world" Romans 5:12a. Because man has a sin nature he commits acts of sin. Man is not a sinner because he sins, but he sins because he is a sinner. The seed of sin is resident within him.

The appeal of the flesh then, opposed to God, is a tremendous driving force behind the cultists and is a most difficult thing with

which to deal. The words of Paul as recorded in Romans 7:15-25 reveal the working of the flesh. If the great Apostle Paul in his regenerate state, delighting in the law of God after the inward man, found another law (the flesh) warring against him and bringing him into captivity so that he had to cry out, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me?" what then about the cultist in his unregenerate state, with only one nature? The unregenerate man is totally depraved. This means that an inherent corruption extends to every part of his nature and that there is no good thing in him, that is, no good thing in relation to God. There is no victory over the flesh for any individual outside of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the answer and since the cultist does not recognize Him as God not turn to Him as Savior, the flesh has a powerful control in leading him farther from God.

3. *The Persecution Complex.* It is almost impossible to speak of the appeal of the flesh and salvation by works as a drive behind the cults without including the persecution complex.

Many cultists have the idea that the more they are persecuted the more they are doing for God. Persecution becomes another rung in the ladder to a satisfaction and peace with God. Cooperation with a group of people who are of the minority and whose doctrines bring reproach is an outlet for their misguided feelings.

It is true that Peter wrote under the inspiration of the Spirit of God, "For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully . . . when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is ac-

ceptable with God" I Peter 2:19,20. This is wonderful consolation for the true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, but notice that Peter pictures this Christ in the next four verses as a sinless, suffering, dying substitute for the sinner. However, the person who does not put his faith in God the Son who suffered, bled, died and rose again can hardly include himself among the believers to whom Peter writes.

4. *The Offence of the Cross.* The Apostle Paul in writing to the Corinthian believers (I-11:23) and again to the Galatian believers (5:11) speaks of the offence of the cross. Here is one of the main drives behind any false doctrine.

The sufferings of Christ upon the Cross and the pouring forth of his blood as an expiation for sin is truly an offence to the cultist. The offence consists for some in their blindness as to their sin and therefore the cross is unnecessary. To others the shed blood has no connection at all with a sacrifice. Christ's death and suffering are only to be thought of as the death of a martyr. How could it be that a man who was to be a Savior would have to succumb to such a horrible death? It is not their picture of one who rescues and delivers.

The sufferings of Christ and his subsequent death upon the Cross is also an insult to their intelligence. This to them is naive. It becomes foolishness unto them rather than the power of God. "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men" I Corinthians 1:18,25.

Many will accept a "Jesus." Many

will accept a "Christ." But when a person accepts Jesus Christ as LORD, the "foolishness of God" becomes their wisdom, the "weakness of God" becomes their strength. A quotation from I Peter 2:6-8 out of the Berkeley Version of the New Testament by Gerrit Verkuyl epitomizes the cultist and the offence of the Cross. "It is therefore contained in Scripture, 'See, I place in Zion a chosen, honored cornerstone, and he who believes in Him shall never be put to shame.' To you, then, who believe, He is precious, but to the unbelieving, 'The stone which the builders rejected, this has become the main cornerstone,' and 'a stone to stub against and a rock to stumble over.' They stub their toes because they disbelieve the message; they are set that way."

5. *Satanic Energy.* In the final analysis we cannot help pointing to the great enemy of God and man, the personality who is described by the Apostle John in the Revelation as "the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan." John also pictures the final doom and destiny of this fallen angel, "And the Devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone . . . and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." Rev. 20:2,10. In John's other writings, the Gospel (12:31) and his first epistle (5:19), he points out that Satan is the "prince of this world" and "the whole world lieth in the wicked one." The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesians (2:2) describes him as "the prince of the power of the air." In his second letter to the Corinthians (4:4) he speaks of him as "god of this world." Satan's energy and power may be effective today but the day

is coming when God's greater power will be exerted and *finis* will be written to the work and career of our ancient foe.

Satanic power is just as active and present today as it was at the time recorded in Isaiah and Ezekiel when Lucifer the angel of God's creation because of his pride and desire to overthrow God, was cast out from God's presence. Satan since that time has never ceased to exert his power in attempting to defeat God in His plans and purposes.

When Lucifer exalted himself against God he became "Satan." The word "Satan" means adversary. When Lucifer accused God he became the "Devil." The word "Devil" means accuser. Satan's cunning and craftiness exercised in the persistent war he is waging against God is centered in the art of deception and imitation. He is called "a deceiver" in several passages and his imitation of God can be seen again and again.

The very moment Lucifer said, "I will be like the Most High" instead of choosing the will of God, the very moment he chose to follow his own will, then it was that he became guilty of treason and started a rebellion against God that has never ceased and will continue until he is cast into the lake of fire for eternity.

One method of deception employed by Satan is to "blind the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" II Corinthians 4:3,4.

Satan is a master at the art of deception and is very subtle in

his methods. He is well acquainted with the Word of God and the great doctrinal themes are no secret to him. He knows the great value of the basic tenets of the Church of Jesus Christ, such as The Infallibility of Scripture, The Deity of Christ, The Virgin Birth, The Atonement and The Return of Christ. He is too wise to openly attack and so he uses the method of subterfuge and mixes a false doctrine with the true, adulterating and watering down what God has said.

The drive behind the cults then, is Satanic and Devilish. What is the proper attitude of the Spirit-filled believer toward those who have become involved in any false doctrine that leads away from the Person and Work of our Lord? Our lives should be characterized by an attitude of compassion and love toward such individuals. The system we hate and denounce but the in-

dividual we love. Our prayer should be that God will "open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and an inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith" Acts 26:18. God can use us to this end only as we first of all yield to the Spirit of God in a study of the Word of God and then become acquainted with the deviations and errors of those who have been led astray. "For the love of Christ constraineth us . . . and all things are of God who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them: and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation" II Corinthians 5:14, 18,19.



(Continued from p. 12)

But in my utter desperation one night in 1952, I prayed all night long, confessing my sins to God, and begging release from my devotion to an organizational system. I rose from my knees in the morning knowing God had given me victory!

In 1954, 30 years after surrendering my will to the Society, I wrote my first letter exposing this amazing dictatorship. The one way of escape, I told other soul-slaves, is to: banish the poisonous Witness literature, turn directly to the Bible, and ask Jesus Christ for full salvation and assurance of future safety.

To you who are not goose-stepping to Watch Tower orders, let me warn that each book purchase and each study hour of Witness literature is a link in a powerful chain that will tighten imperceptibly around your soul and finally shackle you to one master—the Watch Tower Society. With all my heart, I ask you to let my tragic experience with the Witnesses be a warning to you.

*Taken from POWER magazine by  
permission of Scripture Press,  
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# THIRTY YEARS A WATCHTOWER SLAVE

ADAPTED FROM W. J. SCHNELL'S BOOK OF THE SAME TITLE

The neatly-dressed young man carrying a package of books knocks smartly on the door of the first house in the block of residences. The door is opened by a housewife and he introduces himself pleasantly with the words:

"I represent the Watch Tower. I come to preach the Kingdom Message. I have a book to show you. It can be had for a contribution of fifty cents to defray our publishing expenses."

The lady of the house asks a few questions and hears fascinating answers about a coming "Kingdom" and an escape from the greatest war of all time. Considering herself a friend of religion and aware that a purchase may be the quickest way to send the stranger on his way, she buys a book. In merely buying a book, she becomes a candidate for membership in the fastest growing religious group in the world—Jehovah's Witnesses.

Busy Jehovah's Witnesses can be seen selling books on quiet residential streets, hawking their AWAKE magazine on downtown street corners, and entering numerous meetings in their "Kingdom Halls." Their amazing sales records indicate that many people who consider themselves Christians are buying the literature and starting on the smooth path to becoming a Jehovah's Witness.

I have been such a person. A believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, I entered this religious movement in my youth, labored and planned to expand it, then realized gradually that efficient service to the

Society was replacing my fellowship with Christ. Too late, I discovered that I had become an obedient robot in the control of an organizational monster—the Watch Tower Society, self-appointed "God's Organization" for bringing in the "New World Society."

After 30 years of mental and spiritual slavery to the Society masters, I am fulfilling my promise to God to expose this movement which claims to be Christian and yet:

► Slanders all forms of Christianity as being of the Devil's Organization;

► Opposes military service for its members while deliberately stirring up strife and using brutal tactics when they suit the purpose;

► Struggles unceasingly and noisily for its religious freedom while tyrannically ruling the actions and even thoughts of its members;

► Refers to Christ as Saviour while denying that He is Almighty God and that He saves all who believe in Him to a heavenly life;

► Quotes the Bible glibly and speaks smugly of the Greek meanings in the original Bible text while its training in the Bible is limited—for most Jehovah's Witnesses—to group studies of books published by the Watch Tower Society and to memorization of Greek words printed in the margins of its special "Diaglott" Bible and its New World Translation.

Before God I vow to the truth of these statements in my own experience. Jehovah's Witness officers in their impressive Watch

Tower Society headquarters at 124 Columbia Heights, New York City, may say that they never knew me or that I am a discredited outcast, but they can never erase the facts of their history, which I helped—in a small way—to establish.

I was born in Jersey City, N.J., in 1905, but at the age of nine my parents took me to their native Germany to visit relatives. Before we could return, World War I broke out, and my father, having taken only his first papers as yet for U.S. citizenship, was drafted into the German army.

The war raged around our home near the Russian border, and we didn't hear from my father for a long time. But he did survive the war. Our area was ceded to Poland after the war, and we were not allowed to leave until 1921, when we settled with other refugees in Berlin.

I was 16 then. Two years earlier I had trusted Christ as my Saviour, and I believe that He really came into my heart then. I was growing spiritually along with others of my family when we were visited by a man with books on Bible teaching who called himself a Bible Student. We read the books, then looked up the local Bible Student Ecclesia or fellowship group and promptly joined them.

Along with studying the Bible, we went from house to house, telling people about Christ. I know of 17 who confessed faith in Christ through my witnessing. At this time I was not aware of the Christ-dishonoring doctrines of Charles T. (Pastor) Russell, American founder of the Bible Students, nor of the growing authority of his successor in Brooklyn, Judge Joseph Rutherford.

Rutherford had a world view for the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. He believed it could be accomplished through the earnings and influence of Society pamphlets and books. The salesmen—obedient members—would not be paid for their work and most of them would turn in the sales money to the Society. With such fascinating titles as "Millions Now Living Shall Never Die" and "Fall of Babylon the Great," I myself sold thousands of copies a week outside of my school hours in Berlin.

Because I was an effective salesman, I was brought into the German headquarters at Magdeburg when I was only 19. The excitement of promotion plans, quota sales, and a new World Society captivated me. I neglected Bible reading, prayer, and meditation, and when headquarters sent me to purge the local groups of venerable elders who resisted the growing commands from Brooklyn, I obeyed with only a twinge of conscience.

In the early '20s, the Watch Tower Society purchased printing plants to permit them to cheaply publish a torrent of magazines and books. This material, sold to the public and studied by the Witnesses, became the primary teaching and propagandizing medium for the organization. Every new promotional plan, hallowed by a phrase from Scripture appeared in these publications, to be carried out by faithful members even as they do today.

The increasing regimentation by Brooklyn, reflected by time reports, sales progress charts, and imperious officers, finally repelled me so much that to get free I re-

turned to America in 1927.

I managed to remain out of the movement for six years. But my father and other relatives who also came to America were active members. They and the Society officers urged me to return, and finally I did as a "Pioneer" book salesman in Georgia, New York, New Jersey, and Ohio.

As a reward for my successful selling and for building local "companies" of Witnesses, I was invited to work at headquarters by Judge Rutherford himself in 1937. It was a replica of Magdeburg, Germany, even to the spy system set up to accuse workers who differed with organization thinking. After only a short stay, I restlessly requested another assignment.

Both in Germany and in America, I witnessed the gradual shift of control from local study groups to the officials at headquarters. First came the written reports on work done, then locally elected elders were replaced by Service Directors from headquarters. Sunday Bible lectures gave way to studies from WATCH TOWER magazine, and in 1938 the Society required every company of Jehovah's Witnesses to vote acceptance of all future Society instructions and appointments. With that, the last trace of a personal relationship to Jesus Christ disappeared. The new requirement was absolute obedience to the theocracy in its grand plans to build the New World Society.

This world society is "Jesus' Millennial Kingdom" which began here on earth in 1914, they claim. All who join the Witnesses will escape death in the coming Battle of Armageddon and live peacefully through the Millennium. Witness doctrine decrees that only

144,000 of the faithful will go to heaven to help rule over creation, so at least 556,000 of the present 700,000 baptized membership must be satisfied to be servants on earth to their heavenly superiors in the New World Society.

This doctrine contradicts John 14:3, as well as many other Scriptures. Jehovah's Witnesses also contradict the doctrine of the Trinity, of hell as a place of punishment for sin, of faith in Christ as the guarantee of eternal life. And while blatantly denying the historic Christian faith, the Jehovah's Witnesses loudly insist their strange doctrines are based on the Bible.

Some people are attracted to the Witnesses by their doctrine, but many are subtly drawn into the organization before they know of its bizarre views on Scripture and customs. The Society's diabolical cleverness in gaining members reminds me of the brainwashing tactics of totalitarians, and this is how it works, as I myself have practiced it:

**Step one:** Getting a book or magazine into new hands and homes. Most people, even professed Christians, know their Bibles too sketchily to be alarmed by the Society's strange teachings.

**Step two:** Encouraging the reading and studying of the Society publication by a "back call," or return visit. In these visits the candidate's appetite is whetted by dramatic remarks about world events, sympathetic discussion of personal problems, and confident promises of deliverance through the "Kingdom" faith.

**Step three:** Gaining agreement for a "Home Bible Study," a weekly study of Society publications,

not the Bible, with a Jehovah's Witness. These readings fill the mind of the candidate with Witness phraseology and teachings until he is talking and thinking like the theocratic master-ventriloquists at headquarters.

**Step four:** Joining an area book study, a weekly indoctrination session for a group of interested candidates. Here a Society representative leads a question-and-answer study of a Society book, with members looking up and reading selected Bible verses to "prove" the teaching. Christmas, Easter, and flag saluting are debunked as pagan customs of the Devil's Organization which will all be destroyed at Armageddon. Candidates' pet grievances against the world are encouraged as the natural groaning of their spirit for the "Kingdom," thereby fulfilling Scripture.

**Step five:** Attending WATCHTOWER magazine study in Kingdom Hall on Sunday. Here Witness doctrine is absorbed from the bi-weekly WATCHTOWER, in which printed questions refer the reader to the exact paragraph in the article which provides the answer with primer book simplicity. The leaders emphasize the hope of entering into the "Kingdom" if the candidate will take the sixth step.

**Step six:** Faithfully attending Service Meetings, the training classes for house visitation, back calls, book and magazine sales, and sending detailed reports to headquarters on service done for the "Kingdom." When the candidate loyally puts his training into practice, he is ready for the final step.

**Step seven:** Receiving water bap-

tism signifying entrance into God's Organization, and then being designated an official Kingdom Publisher, a minister of the "Good News of the Kingdom." He now is safe in the "Kingdom"—if he remains faithful to the Society orders. Those who are especially efficient or loyal may be promoted to Company Servant or invited to work at Brooklyn headquarters or attend school at the Watch Tower Bible School of Gilead near Ithaca, N. Y., in preparation for higher service.

The success of this seven-step plan is suggested in the fabulous sale of Witness publications by faithful workers. The 1957 year-book reports distribution of more than 55 million copies of its magazines in 162 countries in just one year! This does not include the magazine sales of a Russellite splinter group, The Dawn Bible Students Movement, which also sponsors the coast-to-coast radio program "Frank and Ernest."

In 1941 I started my own book sales of Bible helps to Witnesses. I needed the extra money and I had begun to read my Bible again without the WATCHTOWER interpretations. Headquarters did not like my independence and applied the pressure of disapproval, then locally of a boycott, close surveillance, insinuated threats, and finally withdrawal of my Pioneer status in 1951.

I found that my mind and emotions had been so intertwined with "Kingdom" ambitions and hopes that the Society condemnation almost killed me. I suffered a heart attack, sought escape in drunkenness, and nearly lost my reason.

(Concluded on p. 8)

# SATAN'S STRATEGY IN HIS WAR OF WORDS

By Rev. Herbert V. Caneday

The written and spoken word is a marvelous tool whereby men can communicate their thoughts to their fellow men. Such can be an instrument for either good or ill depending on whether the words convey thoughts of an uplifting or a degrading nature. Words can clearly set forth truth, or boldly parade falsehood, or they may be made to serve as a clever camouflage to mask some subtle lie.

The Word of God declares that, "no lie is of the truth." It also says that the Devil is a liar and the father of the lie. If words can disguise error and pervert truth in philosophy, politics, international diplomacy, and other areas of thought, we may be sure that they will be used more in the realm of spiritual thought and teaching. When God's Word of truth, light, and life is proclaimed in the power of the Holy Spirit, Satan begins his counter-offensive in the propagation of his message of error, darkness, and death. However, he well knows that to achieve his goal (the doom of the souls of men), his message of deceit must be made to appear to be the truth. Thus it is that words become Satan's tools in his ceaseless war to capture the souls of men. Nowhere is this more obvious than in modern cults.

*Indefinite Words*—One of Satan's effectively clever schemes is to have his "ministers of unrighteousness" proclaim his message of falsehood in orthodox wording that could be construed to be Bible

truth, but which actually serves as a wordy camouflage to temporarily conceal gross error and unbelief. The Devil has master-craftsmen in his service, who have perfected the art of using words of indefinite or diluted nature that may almost satisfy the person looking for kernels of truth, and at the same time may become a palliative to those who have no love for the truth.

A specific case in point is one of the words Satan bitterly hates, namely "resurrection." All of the cults either deny or dilute the Bible truth of the bodily resurrection of all men, for if there is no resurrection there will be no judgment. To consistently embrace such a denial there must be a corresponding denial of the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. But there remains the embarrassing fact that the Bible speaks much of this unpopular truth. The problem is solved by a loose and indefinite use of the word "resurrection" without reference to the physical body, and gradually diverting one's attention to a mystical or non-real resurrection.

Modernism, Liberalism, Neo-Orthodoxy and other left-wing theological schools of thought do a lip service to the "resurrection" of Jesus every Easter Sunday; but it is a tongue-in-cheek use of the word that disguises a flat denial of the resurrection of His physical body. The "resurrection" as taught by Christian Science is the recov-

ery of Jesus from a fainting spell in which He never really died. The "resurrection" in Jehovah's Witness' dogma is purely of a spiritual nature, and it was not the Jesus who died that was raised in spirit.

This indefiniteness of thought is best overcome as we declare our belief in the *bodily* resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. If a synonym or adjective restores meaning to our statement of faith, we would do well to employ such to escape the snare of Satan's war on words.

*Re-defined Words*—Another, and less subtle means by which Satan prostitutes the Word of God to deceive men, is what we may call "re-defining" important words of the Bible. If the word has a particularly offensive meaning, it makes no difference whether that offensive definition has the support of the best Hebrew or Greek scholars of all time, it must be changed to suit the theology of the cult in question.

A notable example of this is the twisting of the meaning of the word "hell." Seventh-Day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christadelphians, and others who teach soul-sleeping re-define "hell" and make it synonymous with "grave." Thereby this offensive truth is deleted from their message, while the word "hell" is still in their vocabulary. When Satan steals the true meaning of a word such as this, we can recapture it by clearly designating our belief in the Bible definitions e.g. "a literal hell of eternal, conscious torment."

Sometimes the Devil accomplishes his purpose of re-defining important words by means of deliberate mis-translations. The word "repentance" in the Douay version is commonly translated "do pen-

ance." Thus the plan of salvation is sabotaged. The whole concept of Universal Reconciliation is dependent upon the arbitrary substitution of the original Greek word "eon" in place of "eternal." To this Greek word is assigned a false definition that makes possible the denial of eternal hell by a means different from that described above.

*Refined Words*—God's Word has foretold the use of a third means whereby words are used to propagate deception. "And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you . . ." (II Peter 2:3). ". . . and their mouth speaketh great swelling words . . ." (Jude 16). These are words of refinement, culture, and sophistication, with a special appeal to the natural man, because with all their refinement they do not convey the message of Christ crucified. Paul declared of himself, "My speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power." (I Cor. 2:4).

Missing from the vocabulary of false teachers are such unrefined words as atonement, wickedness, sin, depravity, sacrifice, the blood of Christ, eternal retribution, Hell, the Lake of Fire, etc. Or if they be occasionally used, they are drained of their true Scriptural meaning and used in emptiness to beguile the unwary.

Some of these refined words were once in good usage with reasonable content of meaning; but having been stretched out of their original definition, they are of little value to teachers of the truth today. An example is the word "divinity." Once it could be used to denote the fact that Jesus

Christ is God; but now "divinity" is an elastic word that is almost meaningless. Jesus is said to be divine in the same sense all men are divine. Only as a man declares his belief in the "deity" of Christ can one be assured of his stand for the truth of the incarnation in the Scriptural sense.

We can praise God that there are words in our vocabulary which are offensive to false teachers, words which still do convey the full message and meaning of the Gospel. There is an increasing need that those who proclaim God's Word should use the language of Scripture and "sound speech that cannot be condemned." There is an equally pressing neces-

sity to listen or read with discrimination and discernment as we are instructed by Paul: "If any man teach otherwise and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to Godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing . . ." (I Tim. 6:3,4).

While we need to be preserved from a caviling spirit that would make people offenders for a word, it is also important to understand that part of Satan's stratagem of deception is the use and abuse of words in preaching his gospel of deceit. "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light" (II Cor. 11:14).



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## *Pertinent Questions and Answers*

By "Pastor Mac" of Spiritual Clinic,  
and Pastor of Powderhorn Park Baptist Church, Minneapolis

*Question*—What should be our Christian attitude toward those who come to our door to give us literature or talk to us about some false ism

*Answer*—The instruction from the Word of God is very clear in this: "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine (that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, verse 7), RECEIVE HIM NOT INTO YOUR HOUSE, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." II John, verses 10, 11. A Christian should never be rude, but you can still be firm and kind.

Simply ask your friend at the door, "What do you think of Jesus Christ—Whose Son is He?" This is in harmony with what Jesus said in Matthew 16:13-18. Let this passage be your guide. This point of doctrine (who is Jesus Christ?) is very important because you have no salvation from heaven if Jesus Christ is not the Son of the Living God!

One other point to keep in mind is this: Many of these friends who are out in your neighborhood talking about their cult receive extra merit for their work if they can get into your home. You see, all cult systems are built on a merit foundation, and that helps to explain why they will invite persecution or try to give you their literature when you refuse to buy it!

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*Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. (II John, verse 9)*