

"... Hereby know we the spirit of truth and the spirit of error"

The
DISCERNER

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AN INTRODUCTION TO THIS ISSUE

Prof. John E. Dahlin, Editor

First of all, I wish to acquaint you with the writers whose articles appear in this issue of *The Discerner*. "Taking the Offensive against the Cults" is the subject treated, and it is of great importance, I believe, in our over-all work which is designed to combat the activities of cultists. Dr. Stanley Toussaint of Northwestern College, who is a thorough student of the Scriptures, brings a wholesome, as well as a timely emphasis to the need of incorporating more Bible doctrine in our whole evangelical church program, particularly now when there is such a dearth of sound doctrinal teaching.

Rev. Leroy Gager, formerly head of Religion Analysis Service Inc., and now Principal of The Vancouver Bible Institute in British Col., discusses taking the offensive against the cults by means of Christian literature. He uses some very fine examples which set forth the effectiveness of this method in dealing with false teachings. Some of these heartening episodes stating how the Lord has undertaken to bring deliverance to various people, are voluntarily sent in to our office. Dr. Edward Simpson of The Bible Institute of Buffalo, New York, who also has served for several years as President of The National Sunday School Association, gives a stimulating presentation of Christian Education as a positive ap-

proach to the whole problem of cults. In other words, it is far better, he thinks, that we seek to prevent the inroads of cultists, rather than to attempt to cure those who already have been poisoned by these unscriptural teachings and delusions.

Our regular contributor, Rev. Herbert Caneday, in this issue gives us a review of an important pamphlet assembled by Roy W. Johnson, entitled, "Another Gospel" from writings of William J. Schnell. The author points out that Mr. Schnell speaks with authority since he was identified with the Jehovah's Witnesses for 30 years, until marvelously delivered. On the back cover-page "Pastor Mac" follows the regular plan of featuring some pertinent questions involving false teachings along with his effective answers to those who are genuinely perplexed. The wide experience he has gained through his conducting of the Pastor's Clinic Radio program, has provided him with considerable insight in dealing with problems which arise out of false teachings.

Let me suggest that you order a number of copies of this issue of *The Discerner* and distribute them to your acquaintances. The present issue takes the positive approach to the whole problem of cults and isms. We are encouraged to believe many of our readers will find some of these suggestions very helpful.

TAKING THE OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE CULTS BY A RETURN TO BASIC DOCTRINAL PREACHING

Dr. Stanley D. Toussaint

If a person should ask the average fundamental or conservative pastor if he preached the Word, the pastor would be quick to reply with an indignant, "Of course I do!" This universal reply among fundamental preachers creates a bit of an enigma. If the fundamental preachers are proclaiming the Word, why are so many church members going into the cults? It must be conceded that despite the claim to the proclamation of God's Word, one reason for the loss of church members to the cults and sects is the lack of doctrinal preaching in the pulpits of America today.

There are several reasons for the de-emphasis on doctrinal preaching. One of these is the divorce of worship from instruction. Pastors feel the Sunday School is for instruction and the church service is for worship; therefore, their sermons have been primarily devotional. There has been much application without interpretation. Another reason for the de-emphasis on doctrinal preaching is the pragmatic approach of most Americans. To the average church leader the preaching of doctrine is too impractical for daily life and is certainly too dry to hold the attention of an audience. There is a third reason for a decline in doctrinal preaching. Some preachers have set a poor example by "hobby-horse doctrines" which they have ridden to death. In addition, doctrinal preaching is inevitably controversial and many pastors of an irenic disposition do not care to intringe on areas of dispute. Finally, doctrinal preaching is not common simply because many pastors do not

realize they are not preaching the Word of God. The content of God's Word is doctrine pure and simple, and it must be affirmed that what many preachers mean by "preaching the Word" is not a declaration of the *content* of God's Word at all.

The name of this article infers that the church has been on the defense in the matter of cults. That is, the church has not preached a particular doctrine until a cult or a sect has perverted it. This discussion is dedicated to the premise that sound basic *Biblical* doctrinal preaching is the only means whereby the church can assume the offensive against the cults. If the average believer in Jesus Christ were ingrained with the convictions of a well-rounded system of doctrine grounded in the Bible, in the great majority of cases the cults would be put on the defense instead of the church defending itself against the cults.

A Definition of Doctrinal Preaching

In its root meaning doctrine simply means instruction or teaching. When one refers to Bible doctrine he is speaking of what the Bible teaches in any particular realm. Simply put, doctrinal preaching is the exposition of God's Word as it pertains to a certain subject. Doctrinal preaching is to be distinguished from topical preaching. Topical preaching may deal with any topic, such as the hands of Christ or the compassion of Christ, whereas doctrinal preaching is the exposition of what the Bible teaches pertaining to definite subjects such as faith, Israel's future, law, and grace.

The Importance of Doctrine

Doctrine is imperative. John wrote, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (3 John 4). He does not say his joy is found in their walk alone; it must be a walk in the truth. Just how strongly the Apostle John felt about doctrine is seen in such passages as 1 John 4:1-3 and 2 John 10. Of course John's viewpoint is shared by Paul (1 Timothy 4:13, 16; 6:3-4; Titus 2:1; Galatians 1:6-9). Doctrine is important if for no other reason than the stress which the apostles placed on it.

Doctrine is important from a practical standpoint. Practice is always the fruit of doctrine. What a person believes determines how he acts. It will be observed that in the epistles doctrine is discussed before the practical aspects of life are considered. This is especially seen in such epistles as Ephesians and Romans. Christ said, "By their fruits ye shall know them" because a person's life bears testimony to the doctrine he believes. Doctrine is important because it determines practice.

In addition, people who are solidly grounded in the doctrines of the Bible simply do not slip into heretical cults. Paul insists on the carrying out of the ministry for the perfecting of the saints with the express purpose that they may be no longer children, tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine (Ephesians 4:12-14). He commands Timothy to abide in sound doctrine and to preach the Word because of heretical and deceiving teachers. The point is obvious. Biblical doctrine fortifies believers against the cults. In fact, the leaders of the local churches should be so grounded in the truth that they may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to convict gainsayers (Titus 1:9).

Perhaps the most important result of teaching the Bible is that it builds up believers for service. This principle is clearly seen in 2 Timothy 2:2, "And the things which thou hast heard from me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." Doctrine properly taught to the proper believers will equip them to teach others. Thus the Word of God is spread from believer to believer. If one thing would put the church on the offensive against cults, this is it!

Commonly Perverted Doctrines

Actually a pastor should be careful to preach the whole counsel of God. This means his doctrinal preaching will present a well-rounded system of doctrine. However, there are certain doctrines which seem to be the special objects of heretical deviations.

One of these is the doctrine of the Bible which in theological circles is called Bibliology. Many cults, in order to round out their systems or to fortify their error, employ extra-Biblical writings. Usually they will not disclaim the verbal plenary inspiration of Scripture, but they will intrude other writings as inspired. The Mormons with their *Book of Mormon*, the Christian Scientists with *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, the Seventh Day Adventists in their use of the writings of Ellen G. White, and the cult of British-Israelism in their use of the Great Pyramid are but a few illustrations of this. Actually these cults do a great dishonor to the Bible, for they betray their belief in the insufficiency of God's Word by their "inspired" writings. A believer who has been taught the doctrines of inspiration and of the canon would not be duped by these cults.

The doctrine of the person and work of Christ is often perverted by the proponents of false doctrines. Usually His person is attacked with the result that His work is depreciated. Often the person of Christ is misrepresented because of a false concept of the Trinity. To say the least, these are the basic doctrines of the basic, and yet cults which deny the Biblical doctrines of the Trinity, the person of Christ, and the sufficiency of Christ's work on the cross are thriving. This is a sad evidence of the lack of doctrinal preaching today.

The marvelous and rich doctrine of grace is terribly corrupted by the cults. Heresies grow because they appeal to the works of the flesh, but whatever appeals to the flesh is not of grace. The cults teach that it is necessary to abstain from certain foods, observe days, keep the law, and perform other duties which are absolutely contrary to God's Word (1 Tim. 4:3; Col. 2:16-23; Rom. 7:1-6; Gal. 3:1-3; 2 Cor. 3:7-11; 1 Tim. 1:5-7). Grace is perverted both as a way of salvation and as a rule of life for believers. How detrimental this is, is seen when one considers that the doctrine of grace is the core of the message concerning Jesus Christ (Jn. 1:17; Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 3:4; Gal. 1:6-9).

Another area of doctrine which is perverted is eschatology. Strictly speaking, eschatology deals not only with prophecy but also with what happens after death. People are naturally concerned about the hereafter; therefore the cults make a special appeal with their unscriptural assertions of conditional immortality, soul sleep, and misinterpretations of prophecy. Their deviations from the obvious assertions of Scripture should make the average person aware of their errors. The amazing fact remains: pastors have

neglected the teaching of Bible doctrine with the resultant decadence in the dissemination of the Truth and the increase in cultism.

If these are the doctrines which are commonly perverted by the cults, then it certainly seems to be the better part of wisdom to emphasize these doctrines in the pulpits of America today. This is not to say fundamental pastors are to overemphasize certain pet doctrines. They must proclaim the whole counsel of God lest they, too, lose their balance and perspective of God's Truth. Nevertheless, if the church is to assume the offensive against the cults, the average believer needs to be fortified in those areas of doctrine which the cults corrupt.

Perhaps a practical hint is in order here. In preaching doctrine it is usually better to preach on the specifics of a doctrine. For instance, one should not preach ambiguously on grace, but rather he should consider grace in its relationship to salvation, grace and the Sabbath, or grace and the believer's relationship to the law. This makes the doctrine vital in the believer's experience and keeps the cults from corrupting it.

The words of Paul penned to an understudy almost two thousand years ago are still relevant and vital in the proclamation of the Truth today. "I charge thee in the sight of God, and of Christ Jesus, who shall judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables" (2 Timothy 4:1-4).

WITNESSING TO JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Rev. Herbert V. Caneday

Far too long there has been a crying need for a piece of good literature which could either assist Christians in answering the errors of the Jehovah's Witnesses, or which, if put into the hands of adherents of the cult, could capture their interest and respect and challenge their thinking with sound logic and Scriptural refutation. Such a pamphlet now exists, and is available from our office. Bearing the title, "Another Gospel," this thirty-two page pamphlet is compiled from the writings of William J. Schnell, the author of "Thirty Years a Watch Tower Slave."

This convert from the snare of Jehovah's Witnesses has given the Christian world a far better understanding of the mechanics of that cult, and of the thinking of its adherents than any other has done to our knowledge. As one who was once himself enslaved in that system; as one who was once spurned and renounced by Christians; as one who once thought in the twisted pattern of that cult, he is ideally suited to present to the witnessing Christians of the world the Scriptural approach to his former companions in darkness.

Rightly branding this system as "Another Gospel" according to Galatians 1:6-9, Mr. Schnell devotes eleven pages to laying bare the false

foundations of this system as it began under "Pastor" Russell, changed its method and message under Rutherford, and has now developed into one of the major cults of our day.

Mr. Schnell emphasizes the fact that argument will never win these people to the truth; then he fortifies his readers with materials that can be used in patient and kind witnessing as the opportunity arises. He points out some of the most vulnerable points in their teaching on which they may be challenged with the Scripture and with sound logic that will pull them up short to face the fact of the error in their message of falsehood. We believe that his method prayerfully pursued in dependence upon the Holy Spirit to do His convicting work, will result in the liberation and salvation of many of the enslaved followers of this system.

This booklet, "Another Gospel," is a powerful weapon either when used as a guide to witnessing, or when put into the hands of Jehovah's Witnesses for their own careful reading. It should be in the hands of every Pastor, Evangelist, Christian worker, and church member. It is available from our office at 10c per copy, or 15 for \$1.00, plus a mailing charge of ten per cent. Order yours today.

OTHER MATERIAL AVAILABLE:

- THIRTY YEARS A WATCHTOWER SLAVE.** An entrancing revelation, by Wm. J. Schnell. Price \$3.10, postpaid.
- JEHOVAH OF THE WATCHTOWER.** New Revised Edition, by Martin and Klann, 220 pp. Cloth \$2.50; paper \$1.50.
- WHAT'S WRONG WITH JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES?** Enlarged Edition; by Dr. Talbot. 55c postpaid.
- RUSSELLISM UNVEILED.** The Man, His Doctrines and Methods. By Wm. E. Biederwolf. 43c postpaid.

THE PLACE OF EVANGELICAL LITERATURE IN THE BATTLE AGAINST THE CULTS

Rev. LeRoy Gager

"Beneath the rule of men entirely great, the pen is mightier than the sword." These famous words from Bulwer Lytton's play "Richelieu" have been demonstrated on many occasions throughout history. The pen is indeed mightier than the sword whether in the hand of Communist or Christian. Ben Franklin once said, "Give me twenty-six lead soldiers and I'll conquer the world." Great forces are battling today for the control of the mind of man. The cults are feeding their great presses with propaganda and turning out tons of literature to help spread their false doctrines. According to Walter Martin in his book "Jehovah of the Watchtower" this great cult which has spread itself like an octopus over the world has produced approximately one and one-half billion pieces of literature since its inauguration in 1928.

Recently a young Catholic layman, in doing a survey of the literature possibilities in West Africa, said, "We have twenty-five trained writers, pressmen, photographers ready to come out in this area to begin production with the very best of printing equipment." Japan has an insatiable appetite for literature of all kinds. Book stalls are as plentiful in Japan as bars are in America. The hitherto underprivileged areas of the earth have had a rebirth of literacy and the appetite of an awakened giant. The outcome of the battle for the mind of man rests in the hands of the ideology with the most powerful propaganda machine, and the most attractive literature.

The pen and the sword combined is the mightiest weapon in the world. Christian literature combines

the power of the pen plus the power of the Sword of the Spirit, into a force that can truly overturn the world. "No other agency can penetrate so deeply, abide so persistently, witness so daringly, and influence so irresistibly as the printed page."—Charles R. Watson.

When William Carey went to India he realized full well the power of printed material such as tracts and Bible portions and sent for a printing press to help him win the battle for India and to publish the good news to the lost of that great land.

The phrase "it is written" sounds throughout the Word like the tolling of a great bell. Its counterstroke is the alternate expression "Have ye not read?" "It is written . . . have ye not read?" The power of the printed Word of God and Christian literature is illustrated in the complaint of a Moslem censor who wrote, "The trouble with these books (Christian literature) is not in any special passage, hut that every one who reads them wants to become a Christian."

The Religion Analysis Service, though small in its operation in terms of literature printed and distributed as compared with some of the great Bible and Tract Societies, stands faithfully in its place as a God-ordained ministry. The following testimonies have been gleaned from the many letters which come to the office of R.A.S. and indicate something of the effectiveness of our ministry.

The first three testimonies are from members of cults or individuals who were studying the literature of a cult, but who through the

help of materials sent them, were delivered.

"Sometime ago a lovely young Christian went straight from the altar to Unity. Nothing her friends could say would change her mind. . . . I sent you a request for several pamphlets on different cults and isms including Unity. It worked. . . . I hear she has renounced all of Unity and is living and seeking a richer, deeper life in Christ. Now I fear a pen-pal of mine is falling into Adventism without realizing it. Please send her whatever you can . . ." Mrs. A. G., Houston, Texas.

"I tell you these things because it was through your organization that I received Mrs. Cheeseman's tract on the I AM cult which played a great part in bringing me out of spiritism and demon possession about ten years ago to find Christ as my Saviour . . ." Mrs. L. P. Dillsburg, Penn.

"Greetings in Christ's precious name! Oh how grateful I am for your organization! I was almost deluded into the Seventh Day Adventist faith. Praise God for your ministry!" P.T., New Sarum, Ontario, Canada.

Indeed, ours is the ministry of broken chains, the story of souls set free.

The second great area of our ministry is that of identifying cults. It is an error-exposing service. A consecrated corps of workers have dedicated themselves to discerning between truth and error. This is the command of God's word, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits, whether they be of God . . ." (I John 4:1). The following two testimonies illustrate some of the help given in this area:

"Thank you for your letter and the Discerner with the article on the Cooneyites. The article describes the two preachers to the T. . . . As

I have been listening to them preach, I find that they misinterpret the Scripture very often or take the Scripture out of its context. Please pray with us that the Lord will give me wisdom to deal with the people who have been listening to them, so that they too may be able to discern the truth. Thank you again for your help, and I know the Lord will come out on top." H. F. Pitt, Minn.

"A family in our church is about to be broken up. The wife has become possessed by the contents of a booklet . . . 'As a Man Thinketh' by James Allen. Please analyze, name and refute this cult for us." This request from an Iowa pastor was answered with the desired information.

A third great area of our ministry is that of fortifying Christians against the inroads of the cults. It is a matter of common knowledge that all of the major cults are strong in their proselyting, sheep-stealing tactics. Much help has been given and more could be used in this area of the battle-front, as indicated by the following testimonies:

"I have been reading over the material that I ordered concerning the Jehovah's Witnesses and I want to take this time out to thank you and let you know that it not only has revealed to me their false doctrine but also has strengthened my faith as well. I found the Discerner of special interest. Thanks again for the blessings I have received from God through your committee's work. May He inspire you always." H. B., Springville, N. Y.

"Your little publication has been such a wonderful help to me in my personal evangelism and spiritual youth counselling work. . . . I get so many inquiries about Peale in my spiritual counselling. I am so glad you had this article in the Dis-

cerner." Mrs. H. B., Grand Rapids, Michigan.

"I would like to point out that a good share of my questions have been helped greatly toward answers by the little booklet you carry 'Soul and Spirit, and Soul Force Versus Spirit Force.' It brings home some valuable answers to one of my previous questions . . . May the Lord guide and sustain your work." W. G. T., Wichita, Kansas.

"Recently I came into possession of one of your books on Adventism and enjoyed reading it very much. Since doing so I would like to read others that you have written on the same subject. . . . I have been an Adventist for six years but since hearing the Evangelist Billy Graham preach I have realized that there is a most vital something in the Christian life which I have missed. However, since indoctrinated with the Adventist beliefs it seems almost impossible to stop believing them. . . . To which denomination will I turn? . . . I will love to be evangelical." (Through the guidance received in answer to her letter Miss E. D. found herself at home in the People's Church in Toronto.)

Much has been done by this small but valiant organization known as the Religion Analysis Service. However, that which they have accom-

plished is so small in the face of the tremendous need of our day. Much more should be done in terms of analyzing the cults, refuting their errors, printing such findings in acceptable form, and in its distribution. Certainly the first need is that of getting the Bible into every home. It has been said that there are in America today over seven and one-half million homes without a Bible.

The literature exposing the cults should be placed within the reach of every Christian worker. May we suggest that you invite representatives of R.A.S. to present its ministry, to display available literature and to institute such a program in your church.

Every pastor, Sunday school superintendent, youth worker and all leaders should have a catalogue of our available literature. The excellent materials in the past issues of the Discerner should be reprinted and inexpensively bound into handy size volumes. Much prayer and every encouragement should be given the officers and writers of R.A.S. in order that they may continue their sacrificial and important work. "And He that supplieth seed to the sower for bread for food shall supply and multiply your seed for sowing, and increase the fruits of your righteousness." (II Cor. 9:10.)

"Pastor Mac" continued from page 16

to Philip in Acts 8:29 and then when his task was finished caught him away to another field of service (Acts 8:39). Only a person could carry out such a program. The Spirit gave special instructions to Cornelius concerning the coming of Peter (Acts 10:19). The same Spirit gave instructions to Peter to go to Cornelius (Acts 11:12). Only an intelligent person could convey definite thoughts and give specific instructions as the Spirit did.

The Holy Spirit of God revealed to David the plans for the building of the Temple. Such complicated details could only be revealed and such instructions could only be given by One who had a great mind and infinite knowledge (I Chronicles 28:12). The Spirit instructed Ezekiel concerning

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"TAKING THE OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE CULTS— BY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING"

Dr. Edward D. Simpson

When a missile explodes seconds after count-down, it is painfully obvious that error has been committed. Immediately, command is given to begin the tedious task of discovering WHAT went wrong. On one of these intricate giants to make that discovery is like looking for a needle in a haystack. Ignorance is no excuse, but it certainly accounts for many an error.

Error Thrives on Ignorance

Inasmuch as space-scientists are pioneering into the unknown vastness of the universe, they perhaps cannot be blamed for ignorance. But God has not so left us to grope our way through the realm of the spiritual. He has cast the floodlight of His revelation upon our path, that we might walk as children of light (1 John 1:6, 7). Scientific discovery, by the very nature of the case, is subject to the problem of trial-and-error. But in the spiritual realm we have been provided with a very adequate and reliable guide book and Teacher (Holy Spirit), so there is no excuse for error due to ignorance.

Cults Thrive on Spiritual Ignorance

It is undoubtedly true that ignorance of spiritual truth causes more people to slip into false cults than any other single factor. If God had not given such a precise and full revelation of Himself in the Bible and in the person of Jesus Christ, or if He had not given us the power of a sound mind (1 Tim. 1:7) with which to discern and interpret truth, perhaps we would be excusable. But the Father of Lies is probably justified in assuming that most Christians sadly lack an adequate grasp of

the Scriptures, and are therefore easy to lead astray. Cultists rely upon the ignorance of their victims, whether the superstition of the savage or the spiritual vacuum of many Christians.

Christian Education Dispels Ignorance

To define the problem is to hint at its solution. If ignorance in the realm of the spiritual is a great cause of so many falling into error, then full knowledge is a great weapon of defense. In fact, fully experiencing the truth can put the believer in a position of offense, which, after all, is the best defense. By analogy, if the best defense is a strong offense, then the best defense against error is the offense of truth. Or, to make a final application, the best defense against the errors of the cults is a full-orbed knowledge of Christian truth! This is the business of Christian education and training. If it is the spiritually untaught and untrained who are victimized by the cult, then the best remedy is teaching and training in the truth of the Word of God. This is the objective of Christian education.

Christian Education Establishes The Believer

Most of the objectives of the local church can be classified under four headings:

- Worshipping—to know and adore Him
- Teaching—to discern the truth (Bible)
- Training—to become skilled in the use of the Word
- Serving—to do battle for God.

The order of this cycle is important. Only after he has come to know, love and adore Christ as Savior can the believer grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. And only after he has been taught and trained can he be looked upon as being prepared to serve. To use Paul's figure (Eph. 6:15), only after the believer has "firm footing on the gospel of peace" can he do battle for God. It is flirting with disaster to send men into battle without proper protection and weapons. It is fatal to do so in spiritual warfare!

Christian Education Trains Effective Witnesses

The right combination of theory and practice is unbeatable. After the contribution of Christian education in dispelling spiritual ignorance and establishing spiritual growth into maturity, there is need for the development of skill in using the Word of God as the Sword of the Spirit in a counter-offensive against the cults. This, Christian education purposes to do, not alone, but teamed up with basic doctrinal preaching, positive evangelical literature and pastoral counseling. Into the fray it throws all the efforts of such agencies as the Sunday school, weekday released time class, vacation Bible school, week-night adult Bible class, child evangelism, youth clubs, rallies, Christian day schools, Bible colleges, theological seminaries, training unions, weekday activities (such as Christian Service Bri-

gade and Pioneer Girls) and a host of other groups, for the purpose of teaching and training the believer in preparation for his spiritual warfare.

During the last war much was made of the "man behind the man behind the gun." It was variously estimated that for every man on the front line there were from 18 to 25 men in rear ranks, supplying him and equipping him for his duty. Christian education is not an end in itself. But it has been used mightily of God in the preparation of men and women through the ages to fight the good fight of faith.

"Continue thou in the things which thou hast *learned* and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast *learned* them; and that from a child thou hast *known* the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee *wise* unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for:

doctrine (Could that be "basic doctrinal preaching"?)

reproof (Could that be "pastoral counseling"?)

correction (Could that be "positive evangelical literature"?)

instruction (Could that be "Christian education and training"?)

in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (II Tim. 3:14-17).

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his mission to Israel (Ezek. 2:2, 3). He also instructed Ezekiel to go to his own house and to remain silent (Ezek. 3:24-27). You have to admit that such conversations, counsel and advice could come only from a blessed Person with supreme authority, infinite knowledge and wonderful power.

The Holy Spirit joins with the believer in his ministry (I Pet. 1:12). The Holy Spirit joins with the believer in his witnessing (John 15:26, 27).

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EASTER MORNING

By Winnie C. Saunders

*A reverent throng was waiting by the shore,
The red sun lifting from the darkened bay
At touch of dawn, a path of rippling light
Across the waves, and it was Easter day.
And then that breathless silence—eager, rapt—
Was broken by a chorus, lifting, strong,
In gratitude that the dear Christ had risen;
Singing their joy to Heaven in vibrant song!*

*It must have been, in fact, so like this day,
Birds waking, flower fragrance in the air,
When Mary and the others walked in grief
And found, to their dismay, He was not there.
The very thing that stunned and pricked their hearts
Became the glorious hope of all mankind.
The world sings out its joy this Easter morn
Because their precious Christ they did not find.*

—From S.S. Times

Now ^aupon the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, ^bbringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain *others* with them. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. 3 ^cAnd they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Je'sus. 4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, ^dbehold, two men stood by them in shining garments: 5. And as they were afraid, and bowed down *their* faces to the earth, they said unto them. Why seek ye ^ethe living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but is risen: ^fremember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Gal'i-lee, 7 Saying. The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. Luke 24:1-7

"Pastor Mac" concluded from page 11

The Holy Spirit selects workers by His own personal intervention and claim (Acts 13:2). An "influence" or an "idea" could not possibly speak such words as these, nor make a definite request, nor call men by name. Only the blessed Person of the Holy Spirit could do this.

The Spirit leads the believer in his walk (Gal. 5:18). The Holy Spirit prays for the believer with groanings (Romans 8:26). The Spirit bears witness concerning the saved condition of the child of God (Rom. 8:16). None but a Person could do these things. I think this is enough to show you from the Word that the Spirit of God, who is also called the "Spirit of Christ" and the "Spirit of life" is a real PERSON, occupying a place in the God-head equal to the Father and to the Son. You have plenty of positive teaching in the Bible with which to blow to "bits" the ignorance of this poor pastor if he is willing to listen!

TAKING THE OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE CULTS

Prof. John E. Dahlin

Our Agency, Religion Analysis Service Inc., obviously must study the many cults and isms of our time with the purpose of exposing the glaring errors and false teachings which are inter-woven with these various systems. Necessarily, much of the work must be in the direction of warning people against many present-day heresies; in other words, alerting people for the purpose of enabling them to come to a clearer discernment between truth and spurious teachings. These analyses and expositions are extremely important phases of the work done through our organization. We don't criticize because we have an axe to grind, or because we desire to find fault with groups, rather we criticize and attempt to evaluate with discernment, those groups which we believe are false.

In this issue of *The Discerner*, however, the articles written provide a positive approach to the problem of cults. This is also one of the major objectives of Religion Analysis Service Inc. We are convinced that all evangelical groups need to take the offensive against cultists. It must be admitted that nearly all of the cultists of our time believe in taking the offensive against the evangelical bodies. They seek through all means which are available to them to gain new adherents by discrediting the established religious groups. Sometimes they put the evangelicals to shame by the great amount of zeal and enthusiasm which they display in promoting their teachings. Truly, one may learn certain techniques and strategy from the opponents. By this, I do not imply that we who are evangelical should ever use

questionable methods or any kind of expedience in order to counter-act cultists. But there are certain procedures or effective ways which they use, which might also stand us in good stead in presenting the truth. We must not use the bombastic ways or follow the cultists in their utilization of vocal and written invectives which they use to discredit the well established Christian bodies.

Some one has aptly said, "The best way to counter-act an evil book and its influence is to write a better one." That suggestion should be followed through with regard to evangelical books and publications. In other words, a positive position is needful in this time when cult activities have taken on increased dimension. If possible, we need to do a better job than the cultists in the dissemination of effective materials through the many channels which are open to us. As Bible believing people we are falling short in many of the areas involved. If we take, e.g., the printed page, the evangelicals do not begin to match the Jehovah's Witnesses, who print over 2½ million copies of their Watchtower magazine. Each issue comes out in that quantity. Moreover, they distribute their literature much more widely than any evangelical agency is doing in our time. The Gideon organization has done an effective job, however, in the distribution of the Bible in wide areas. Some other organizations are doing a commendable work in the same general direction. The need of our time is for positive, simple, and yet effective literature which presents what the Bible teaches.

One good method in combating

cults is for Christian Churches in a given community to conduct a series of meetings at which time some capable and well-informed person is invited to present in a series of lectures the utter deficiencies of these cults when measured by the cardinal tenets of the Christian faith. Certain officers of Religion Analysis Service Inc. have been and are willing to assume that responsibility whenever time permits. And we are in a position to recommend men who have that qualification to conduct such meetings. The time has come when we must openly expose these new-fangled charlatans and quacks under the searchlight of God's Word. So far as my knowledge extends every one of the cults which we expose are wrong on the deity of our Lord and His redemption wrought on Calvary. We need to point out specifically where these cultists err as measured by the yardstick of the Holy Scriptures. Such big meetings held in various sections of the country would go a long way in this offensive movement against cultists. This may further be implemented by work of able pastors and Bible teachers in the local churches, and in adult classes for men and women. As a Bible teacher and lecturer I have held many of such series of lectures before groups, all of which seem to have been most profitable and informative to the people concerned. I have literally put into the hands of people all across the country in conferences and meetings held, several thousand pieces of literature. They have been made available in practically every community which I have visited where services have been held. Our evangelical people need to be informed and indoctrinated on the great doctrinal truths. And in conjunction with this, we must unceasingly expose all devia-

tion from the fundamentals of our Christian faith, in any and all systems of religion. We have, I think, satisfied ourselves with defending our position against cultists. Let us take the Pauline exhortation, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds, casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." II Cor. 10:4-5. This is indeed an exhortation to offensive action against all who are enslaved by the devil's deceptions.

The key-word in our time is tolerance. And at times well known figures within the conservative or evangelical domain seek to give their hand of fellowship to certain groups even though they have incorporated much error and unscriptural teachings. Some years ago a book came out by one who was known to be an authority on cults, with the title, "These Others also Believe." The author seems very sympathetic to many of these cults in his writing. This is the worst possible approach which can be taken. The slogan of tolerance is robbing the Christian forces of effective weapons which can be used to counter-act cults and false teachings of our times. One need not be unbrotherly or vicious, but rather a firm and convincing stand should be taken in presenting the whole council of God, and in the unveiling of these modern deceptions. One simply cannot be neutral or silent when cultists are making inroads in practically every area of the U.S. Remember the parable of the tares, "While men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat."

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When Christians are well taught and fortified through the teachings of the Word, cultists can make very little inroads. But our time is a favorable one for spurious groups to operate because faith is becoming

increasingly scarce on earth. It was when Luther moved against the citadels of ecclesiastical evils that a new epoch was ushered in. It is high time that we take the offensive against the present-day cults.

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PERTINENT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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

QUESTION—*In our small town we have a minister who says that the Holy Spirit is the power or the influence of God, and he laughs at anyone who believes that the Holy Spirit is a Person. Does he have any ground to stand on?*

ANSWER—NO! Only by twisting Scripture he may think that he has some ground for his teaching. What he has done is to set up his conclusion and then by using little "bits" of Scripture reason his way to his conclusion. This is the same logic followed by all the cults. Ask yourself, "Does the Bible teach that the Holy Spirit is a Person?"

Both the Old and the New Testament refer to the Holy Spirit as a Person. He is to be distinguished from the Father and the Son. He exercises the powers of a person because He loves (Rom. 15:10); He curses (Isa. 40:7); He guides (John 16:13); He teaches (John 14:26); He hinders (Acts 16:6). He may be grieved (Eph. 4:30); He may be quenched (I Thess. 5:19). We may pray to Him and have fellowship with Him (Luke 10:2; II Cor. 13:14).

He is a Person because He is referred to by personal pronouns. Christ said, "When HE is come HE will guide you into all Truth" (John 16:13). Christ also said, "I will send HIM unto you" (John 16:7). Again, He said, "Ye know HIM" (John 14:17). Another time, Jesus said, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost whom the Father will send in my name, HE shall teach you all things" (John 14:26).

We read about the love of the Spirit in Romans 15:30 and love comes only from a person. We read about the comfort of the Spirit in Acts 9:31 and comfort comes from a loving heart. We read about the fellowship of the Spirit (Phil. 2:1) and we have fellowship only with those with whom we may have interchange of thoughts and affections. No one but a person would have this.

The Spirit of God reveals the things of God to human hearts (I Cor. 2:11). The gracious Spirit gives gifts to men according to His good pleasure and only an intelligent Being could do this. The Spirit gave instructions

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