

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

The
DISCERNER

AN
INTERDENOMINATIONAL
HERESY-EXPOSING
QUARTERLY

Vol. X

No. 11

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July-September 1982

The DISCERNER

Published Quarterly
Price \$2.00 for 4 issues.
50 cents a copy, for foreign
subscriptions add 20 cents a copy.
Copyright 1982 by Religion Analysis Service, Inc.
2708 E. Lake St., Suite 231
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406
Printed in the United States

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ESCAPE FROM THE TRUTH

By Rev. H. V. Caneday
Taylors Falls, MN

1982

Herbert V. Caneday, whose excellent article is herewith presented to the readers, provides an important contribution on the subject: "Escape From The Truth." This article first appeared in a leading publication as a prize-winning exposition. It is partly condensed by him for *The Discerner*. The writer is a thinker and a fine expositor of the Word. I am certain that his illuminating article will be appreciated. Rev. Caneday is the only member of the Board of Religion Analysis Service who has served continually since its inception in 1946. His ministry largely has been in eastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin. The article may become available later as a pamphlet.

John E. Dahlin, Editor

Consideration of the factors that draw people into the false cults will show that they fall into four major groups. Some unfortunate persons have been born into cultic families. Some are duped into embracing error. Others may have chosen to turn from revealed truth to accept falsehood. A fourth group is comprised of those who rejecting the truth in favor of the lie, have wilfully conceived, given birth to, and organized systems of religious falsehood and then propagated their heresies to others. Excluding the first group, there is a common bond between the latter three that finds its full

expression in the fourth class.

On peripheral teachings there is a wide variation of thought across the cultic spectrum; but there is one lowest common denominator on which they all agree, namely: the denial of a literal hell of conscious, eternal, bodily torment for the wicked. This unpleasant thought and all Biblical doctrine supportive of it must be denied or reinterpreted by them so as to eviscerate it of any credulity.

Like alcoholics or drug addicts, these seek escape from the stern realities of Divine truth by repeated infusions of the lie. The French infidel, Mirabeau when dying is said to have begged his nurse, "Give me more laudanum (tincture of opium) that I may not think of eternity." For those who "... received not the love of the truth ..." Satan has developed a vast assortment of spiritual opiates to deaden the souls of wilful unbelievers to the Bible's clear warnings of eternal judgment. If his current stock of cult-lies is unattractive to some persons, he is quick to create new ones, "tailor-made" to suit discriminating tastes.

I. The Wish is Father to the Thought

This no-hell wish is the hard-core around which a vast range of false doctrines have been developed by the various cults for the purpose of making that wish an easy thought to believe. It then becomes an escape mechanism for those whose pleasure in unrighteousness makes God's Word an offensive Book to them.

One such person was Charles Taze Russell whose exposure to the Gospel did not draw him to the truth. After turning briefly to oriental religions, he came back to the Bible, professing to have found that it teaches that hell is the grave—not a place of torment. With that wishful thought as his basic premise, he went on to build the supportive superstructure of his heretical theology. Beginning with a no-hell wish, it became an escape mechanism for the millions who now call themselves Jehovah's Witnesses. This pattern is repeated with variations in the origin and growth of all false cults.

The writer remembers going with a pastor to call on a member of his church, who was close to embracing the error of Universal Reconciliationism. When the fundamental doctrines pertinent to salvation were rehearsed to her, she declared, "I do believe each of them." She was then told that this system denies every one of those salvation truths. We were shocked to hear her say, "But I've always wanted to believe that God had some other way to save the lost." Her wish had almost led her to embrace the lie. Her wish became father to the thought because she knew her husband died in his sin, and her son was far from God. Her love and concern for them nearly

overcame her love for the truth. Sadly, many do not turn back at that point, but proceed in unbelief.

II. The Thought Leads to the Delusion

Tracing the steps of a person offended by the Word, we can see how his wish to escape from the truth leads him to accept the lie. As he explores the perimeter of a heretical teaching, he tries to compare it with what he once believed, and shortly discovers that he must "unlearn" the latter. Whereas he first wished, then thought, he now rapidly slides into the quagmires of delusion because this "new wine" of error is too heady and alluring to resist. Still holding to his no-hell wish, he flounders in a succession of pitfalls.

The first of those pitfalls is a denial of the inspiration and infallibility of the Bible. Some cults make a bold frontal attack upon the Word of God. Others in a subtle manner add to the Bible the words and books of men by which they vitiate the Sacred Word. Still others take away from the Scriptures by attacks upon its authenticity or validity for our time, or by quoting abridged portions suited to their purpose without regard for contextual truth. Most subtle of all, and more deadly, is the use of special translations that supposedly validate the error being propagated. This clever method has a special appeal to studious, inquiring persons who would be uncomfortable without the facade of a "Bible" that seems to substantiate their views. Cases in point are: "The New World Translation" by the Jehovah's Witnesses; the "Concordant Version" of the Universal Reconciliationists; and the "Inspired Bible" of the Mormons.

By the above means the authority

of the Bible is canceled, adulterated, or shifted to the hands of men so that the one in pursuit of his no-hell wish is liberated to proceed to the other denials which he must embrace to be consistent with his original desire to escape from the truth. More than being liberated to embrace error, he will now find "Biblical" support for his necessary rejection of truth.

Pitfall number two is the denial of the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, which all the false cult systems do without exception. This unanimous agreement is not accidental, but a necessary step in the pursuit of their no-hell wish. The logic of it is: that the death of God the Son is a price far too high to pay for the salvation of sinners from a hell that does not exist. Conversely, if Jesus Christ is Infinite Deity, then His death is eloquent testimony that He has purchased salvation from an infinite, eternal, real punishment. Logic demands these values be kept in balance. Those who accept the no-hell wish must deny Christ's deity; while conversely, belief in His Deity is wholly compatible with the fact of a literal hell.

Other pitfalls involve the cult adherents in weak, wrong, and inadequate views of man's sin and a corresponding adulteration of one's views of the holiness of God. This tactic elevates man above his depraved, sinful state, and lowers God from the high and lofty perfection of His holy nature. With the gap between God and man thus narrowed, there is no necessity for an infinite, divine Savior. With a little effort man can save himself.

One more pitfall demands our specific attention. Again the agreement within the cults is not acciden-

tal, but of sheer necessity they must all deny the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The key word is "bodily." They know their professed belief in a "spiritual resurrection" is meaningless. They dare not believe in His physical resurrection because that is an admission that God can, and probably will, bring all men before Himself in judgment by the same route. Paul bore testimony to this fact saying, "He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead" (Acts 17:31). Since Christ's resurrection guarantees the same for all, and the judging of all men, it must be denied as incompatible with the no-hell wish. If the Judge remains dead, it would eliminate the day of judgment.

III. The Delusion Becomes the Deception

Somewhere in the process of being infused with the lie, the cultist will pass beyond the point of no return. Up to that critical point he has tried to embrace the error; but now the error embraces him! He is "hooked," and a willing captive of the lie. He has experienced a spiritual inversion, that is, the Satanic counterfeit of Biblical conversion. Even the cultic defenders know this, as Marley Cole admits in his book, *Jehovah's Witnesses*, page 15: ". . . It is as if the Witnesses had hit upon the formula that religion as we know it has everything in reverse. To get true worship straightened out (you could almost accuse them of reasoning), you adopt the opposite of what you hear in church."

When a sinner is regenerated by the Holy Spirit, he passes from darkness to light and from blindness to spiritual sight. In the cultic counterfeit, one departs from light to pass into darkness, and from intellectual sight into total spiritual blindness. Moreover, the damning subtlety of this inversion is that the deluded person now believes he sees for the first time. This is an insidious counterfeit of Biblical conversion. Since from the beginning, "They received not the love of the truth that they might be saved" (II Thess. 2:10b), the topsyturvy world of the cultist has inverted truth to make it become the "believable" lie. "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter" (Isa. 5:20).

The writer had a long counseling session with one who had passed this spiritual point of no return. The subject of discussion was the absolute deity of Christ. After consideration of a series of Scriptures, he was asked to state his conclusions, to which he replied, "It looks as though the Bible teaches it; but I don't believe it anyway." He was not just deluded, he was deceived, and had gone through this inversion process. To him truth was error, and error was truth.

Lest we leave the impression that such persons are beyond hope and unreachable even by our Savior, listen to the experience of one known to the writer. This young woman went headlong into the Jehovah's Witnesses system to become one of their prize converts and a staunch worker, going from house to house spreading the lie. Over an extended time, the

testimonies of relatives got through to her so she became miserably convicted. In that state she worked even harder to convince herself; but with increasing apprehension. Once she prayed that she should find peace even if it meant going back to her former Catholicism. Still no rest! Then, one day in utter desperation she fell to her knees in her kitchen and cried to God that if necessary He should blot out of her mind all she had learned in her cult so that she might be able to embrace the truth and find peace and salvation. God heard that prayer. Her deep and desperate desire for truth, at all costs, was the human factor in her transformed life. Her apprehensions were gone. Peace filled her soul. The next morning she tried to recall what books had taught about certain Bible statements. Her mind was a blank. She couldn't remember. God had done for her what she had asked! Looking into the books again, she was revulsed at what she had once believed. Her books went at once into the furnace. The soul that will honestly, earnestly ask God to give him "the love for the truth that they might be saved" can be assured of God's merciful response.

Those who persist in the pursuit of that no-hell wish do not now find themselves deceived because of ignorance, nor because truth is not available. They flee from the truth! They prefer the lie because it satisfies their need for a spiritual opiate so they can both live in sin, and in spiritual euphoria until the day they discover that:

IV. The Deception Leads to Damnation

As Satan's slaves, ". . . taken captive by him at his will" (II Tim. 2:26),

these persons may be morally upright, respectable, kind, loving, even church members, and of the socially elite. But persistence in seeking to escape from the truth will bring them to the terrifying reality that the hell they feared and denied, is a place of conscious, eternal torment. There they “. . . shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation . . . and they have no rest day nor night . . .” (Rev. 14:10, 11). In tender tones of pleading love, the Savior calls, “As I live, said the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: Turn ye, Turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?” (Ezek. 33:11). Of those who will neither heed nor hear God’s warnings, He says, “. . . yea, they have chosen their own ways and their soul delighteth in their abominations. I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer: when I spake, they did not hear” (Isa. 66:3, 4).

Created in the image of God to worship and fellowship with His Creator, man is by nature, incurably religious. The God-shaped vacuum within man’s soul is meant to be occupied by the One who died to redeem sinners. When that Savior is denied admittance to one’s life, something or someone else will occupy the throne in one’s soul. Either Jesus Christ, who is “Truth” must be

Lord, or the lie will reign supreme, and ultimately Satan will be seen to be one’s master. Life or death hangs in the balance of choice.

Many years ago a man advertised himself as “the human fly” in California papers. He boasted that on a given day and hour he would be at a given point in a certain city to probe his ability to scale the side of a certain building without the aid of equipment. The day and hour arrived, and he was there together with a throng of spectators. He began to climb on the slight protrusions of the building’s masonry. Up and up he went, and was approaching the top when he was seen to hesitate, looking to the right, then left for his next hold. Then he saw it! It was just above him, and nearly at his finger tips. With a slight spring he grasped it; but fell to his death. A blanket was thrown over his crushed body; and the hand that had reached up lay exposed. In his finger’s grasp was a spider’s web that he had mistaken for firm masonry. He had staked his life upon a spider’s web and lost!

He was no more a fool than the one who spurns the rock-ribbed truth of God’s Holy Word to trust in the lies of men. God says, “they hatch cockatrice eggs, and weave the spider’s web . . . their webs shall not become garments, neither shall they cover themselves with their works” (Isa. 59:5, 6). “They received not the love of the truth that they might be saved” (II Thess. 2:10).

'HOW PRECISELY MUST WE DEFINE THE GOSPEL?'

By Dr. Roy E. Knuteson
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The Greek word for Gospel is *euangelion* from which we have derived our word "evangelism." It means basically "good news." But, according to the Bible there is more than one "good news," and in several instances the "good news" turns out to be "bad news." In Galatians 1:6-8, Paul states:

"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ, and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all . . . But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preach to you, let him be eternally condemned!" (NIV)

In 2 Corinthians 11:4, he warns of "a different gospel from the one you accepted." What is this "different gospel" and how does it differ from the true gospel?

The Three Marks of the True Gospel

In Galatians 1:11-12, we learn that the true gospel is by *divine revelation*. There are many man-made gospels, but there is only one heavenly-revealed gospel. It is the one in your Bible.

In Galatians 2:1-5, Paul declares that the true gospel is the *one universal belief* held by all the apostles. The Bible teaches one simple gospel message.

This one true gospel is *totally a gift of grace* on God's part. There is no room for human effort whatever.

"I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be

gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!" (Galatians 2:21 NIV)

The Galatian Errors

The Christians at Galatia were being corrupted in two ways by false teachers and cultists of their day. They were being told that (1) salvation was dependent upon faith, *plus* human effort. In short, they were to keep the Old Testament laws of God as their part in the salvation contract. Likewise they were being taught (2) that the retention of their salvation was also dependent upon keeping the laws of God. This is why Paul asks in Galatians 3:3 these questions:

"Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?" (NIV)

Grace cannot be diluted. Human effort of the smallest proportion immediately makes it a "different gospel." Few people seem to really understand the "gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24), and they don't realize how precisely and carefully this must be defined and guarded. The answer will surprise you.

What Makes a Different Gospel?

First, it is not an unscriptural belief about Jesus. Of course, if anyone denies the deity of our Lord he is unsaved and is a heretic (2 Peter 2:1). If you are wrong on this vital subject, you are wrong everywhere. But a person can be perfectly orthodox about the person and work of Christ and still preach a "different gospel."

He can believe in the virgin birth, the vicarious atonement, and the physical resurrection of Jesus and still fall under the condemnation of Galatians 1:8!

Secondly, it is *not* a denial of the need to accept Christ as personal Savior. There are many churches who speak of "Jesus as the only Savior," yet they preach a "different gospel" than the "gospel of the grace of God," and they will go to hell because of it.

The people of Galatia were being told by these false teachers that "It is all right to believe on Jesus Christ as their personal Savior." In fact they said it was a "divine must." The subtle error however, was the demand for circumcision, Sabbath observances, and law keeping as necessary ingredients for salvation and its retention. Paul said (if it's true) "Christ is no value to you at all" (Gal. 5:2). "You have fallen away from grace" (Gal. 5:4).

The moment a person dilutes the gospel he pollutes it. It becomes a work system instead of a grace system.

"And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace" (Romans 11:6 NIV).

You can't have it both ways. Either it is all of "grace" or it is of "works." Since "grace" means you receive something you don't deserve, or "unmerited favor," it by its very nature permits no added ingredients of human effort.

Multitudes of people thought they believed the true gospel and were saved, but in actuality, they professed a "different gospel" and were hell-bound. When the question was raised in the First Century: "What must I do to be saved?" the Judaizers respond-

ed by saying: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ *and* be circumcised," or "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ *and* keep the Law."

The 'Different Gospel' Today

Today we may not be asked to go through the rites of circumcision, or be required to keep certain religious holidays and Old Testament Laws as essentials for salvation. However there are many disastrous ingredients being introduced by different groups at this very moment, that fall under the condemnation of God.

There are many churches that speak of the so-called, "sacraments" as a "means of grace": This is unscriptural! Infant baptism, or adult baptism is a human effort and if viewed as essential to salvation falls under judgment of Scripture. When Paul wrote: "If you let yourself be circumcised, Christ will be of no more value to you at all" (Gal. 4:2 NIV). He could also have written: "If you be baptized as a baby for salvation, Christ will be of no value to you." Indeed, there are many churches that view infant baptism as the successor rite to circumcision. Millions of people are being deluded by this heresy right now!

Many others teach that "communion" somehow keeps you saved. This is one reason why some people are very punctual on "Communion Sunday," even if its only one time a year. It is the Galatian error all over again. If partaking (or not partaking) of the communion elements had something to do with salvation and its retention, then the very effort of doing it would be "works" and that's condemned in the Bible.

The list goes on. Religious leaders have added church membership; catechism classes; confirmation; and human morality as conditions and

conclusions for salvation. If you doubt that, take a door to door survey of your neighborhood and ask people what they are trusting in to take them to heaven. The results will astound you.

We can add absolutely nothing to the finished work of Christ or we "set aside the grace of God" (Gal. 2:21). We can no longer sing "Jesus paid it all." We must add a second verse that says: "I have to do something," or "I must do my part." That's heresy!

It is time to quit saying: "There are saved people in every group." We must stop approving churches and whole denominations that may have

a correct doctrinal statement but pervert the gospel through their rites of baptism and communion. Instead, we need to reach out to all the atheists, agnostics, unbelievers, *plus* those who through ignorance have polluted the gospel of grace and therefore have no gospel at all.

The gospel must be precisely defined. It must be scriptural. It must be of grace.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and that is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not of works so that no one can boast" (Eph. 2:8, 9 NIV).

BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY VERSUS SECULAR HUMANISM

By Homer Duncan

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Not since the days of the Civil War has the American nation been so torn by opposing ideologies. The battle is being waged in the halls of Congress, in the courts of the land and in the public schools. The battle has already been lost in many of our colleges and universities and in many of our churches. Since there is so much confusion, many Americans do not know who or what to believe. This article is published to help clarify the issues. Investigate the facts and then decide and act accordingly.

Both sides think they are in the right.

Both sides claim that the Founding Fathers held to their particular philosophy.

Both sides claim to be people of the American way.

Both sides claim to be tolerant and that the opposition is intolerant.

Both sides claim to be in the majority.

Both sides say that the other side wants to take over the schools.

Both sides blame the other side for epidemic pregnancies and VD.

Both sides claim that the media is controlled by the opposition.

Both sides say, "We must stop them at all costs. Otherwise, disaster will be the result."

Tempers are flaring on both sides; charges and counter-charges are being hurled; both sides are engaged in massive money raising campaigns.

**The Major Issues that Divide Us Are:
I. Our Attitude Toward God**

All Christians believe in the God of the Bible. They are not all in the

same political party; some are liberal, some are conservative, some are Catholics, some are Protestants, but they all believe in God.

On the other side we have atheists, agnostics, rationalists, non-theists and those who have a god of their own imagination and invention.

II. Our Attitude Toward the Lord Jesus Christ

Christians believe that Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh.

Most humanists recognize Christ as a great man and as a great teacher, but they do not believe He is the virgin-born son of God; they do not believe He died an atoning death for the sins of the world; they do not believe He was raised from the dead.

III. Our Attitude Toward the Bible

Christians believe the Bible is the Word of the only true and living God. They believe that the Bible is a supernatural Book inspired by the Holy Spirit. All Christians do not interpret the Bible in the same way; they do not all go to the same church; many of them disdain using the name "fundamentalists." Some are "High Church," some are "Low Church," and some are no church, but they do believe the Bible is the Word of God, and they believe that this nation was founded on principles based on the Bible.

Our attitude toward the Bible is the watershed that divides Biblical Christianity from Secular Humanism. Our attitude toward the Bible is the basic factor that is dividing the American nation at this time.

Those who believe the Bible base their thinking on the great truths that are revealed in this God-given Book. They find no conflict between science and the Bible. They believe

that the Bible and science are in perfect harmony since God is the author of both. (The only conflict comes from theories about the Bible and theories of science.)

People who do not believe the Bible to be the authoritative Word of God usually say something like this:

"The Bible offers moral and spiritual guidance, but it is not necessarily the truth."

"It stands as a collection of fables, legends and deceptions."

"It cannot be trusted in matters of science and history."

IV. Our Attitude Toward Moral Values

Since Christians believe the Bible is the Word of God, they use it as a standard for measuring values, for determining what is right and what is wrong. "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20).

Since humanists believe the Bible is nothing more than a compilation of pagan myths and Hebrew folktales, written by a prescientific people, they must arrive at some other way of determining moral values. Their most popular method is "situation ethics," which has given us the new morality, or as others have accurately stated, "The new morality is nothing but the old immorality."

Anyone who does not know that the practice of situational ethics has resulted in wholesale moral debauchery in America, does not know much. And what is worse, we have the same thing, using the name "Values Clarification" being taught in the public schools all over America. Most teachers deny they are teaching humanism. There are few, if any, courses that are actually called

“Secular Humanism.” But, when teachers substitute the values used in Values Clarification for values taught in the Word of God, they are teaching humanism. Just as simply as two plus two equals four!

Humanism denies the absolutes taught in the Bible. Christians believe that God is a holy God, a sin-hating God. They believe that murder is always wrong, that sexual sins such as adultery, fornication and homosexuality are always wrong. They believe that Christians should always act in accordance with the revealed character of God.

Humanists choose a permissive philosophy. They do not want to be bound by straitjackets. They want to be free to do what they want to do.

V. Our Attitude Toward Eternity

Christians believe this life is a preparation for a greater and more wonderful life to come. Since humanists reject what the Bible teaches about heaven and hell, they choose to live for the here and now.

VI. Our Attitude Toward Creation

Christians believe that God is the great Creator, the Designer of the universe, that God had a purpose in making all things. Christians may be divided as to how God created and when He created, but they believe that God is the Creator. They believe that Satan is the destroyer and the deceiver of man.

Those on the other side accept the theory of evolution as the best possible alternative to creation. The one main reason the men believe in evolution is that they might escape the authority of Almighty God.

VII. Our Attitude Toward Man

Christians believe that man was

created in the image of God, that man of his own will chose to believe the devil's lie rather than to believe the truth of God. By this act of his will man became a fallen creature. Every child that is born into the world is born with a fallen nature. When man sinned, the world God had given him was cursed also, thus man's fallen nature truly is responsible for all of the sin, sorrow and suffering that we have in the world. Since man is a fallen creature, he needs a Redeemer. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Redeemer.

In spite of all of the evidence that surrounds them, humanists refuse to recognize that man has a fallen nature. They believe that through evolution man is gradually attaining to a higher and more noble status. They believe man can solve his own problems without the help of God. They believe that faith in a prayer hearing and a prayer answering God is a hindrance to man's progress.

VIII. Our Attitude Toward America

Every student of humanism knows that their one main goal is to establish world government. If you do not know this, I encourage you to do some honest investigating. Humanists are right in believing that the globe is shrinking; they are right in thinking that it would be a great idea for all of the peoples of the earth to forget their animosities and become one great happy family. They call it “world community.” Surely they are right in their desire to abolish war.

But, there are three basic errors in their thinking,

1. They are leaving God out of their plans. God is not in all of their thoughts (Psalm 104:4).

2. They reject what the Bible teaches about the fall of man. They are making their plans without recognizing that each person all over the world has a fallen sinful nature.

3. If they would study their Bible they would discover that the world government they are seeking to establish (and will establish) will be under the reign of AntiChrist. (For a start, read the 13th chapter of the book of Revelation.) Christians are grateful that there will be another world government following the brief reign of the AntiChrist, the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ! (Read my book *The Millennial Reign of Christ*.)

Multitudes of Americans are going along with the humanists in their desire to establish a one world government, but most of these people including our public school teachers, do not realize three things are necessary to establish the humanistic one world government:

1. Patriotism must be destroyed; we must learn to think of ourselves as "world citizens" and not citizens of America. Humanists refer to patriotism as "bloody gore" and "tribal suicide."

2. Our national sovereignty must be surrendered. All the nations of the world that are not under the control of Communism are sovereign nations. The states within the Soviet Union are not sovereign. The United States is a sovereign nation, but it is impossible to have sovereign states within a sovereign nation.

3. The Christian faith must be destroyed. I am not talking about the religion which commonly passes for Christianity, but Biblical Christianity. Those who are in the World and National Council of Churches are fitting

nicely into the humanistic plan. But, true Christians who believe they have the only true and living God, who believe that they have a unique Christ and who believe they have a unique Bible, will not bow their knees to Baal, and since they will not, they must be eliminated.

Most public school teachers are not aware that in teaching Global Education they are preparing the boys and girls of America for the reign of AntiChrist. While we teach our boys and girls Global Education, Communists all over the world continue to prepare their boys and girls for world conquest. Christian homes, schools and churches must present children with a Biblical view of history. As Christians we have the only true and living God who knows the end from the beginning. Christians must not be ashamed or hesitant to contrast truth and error, for it is not their truth, but God's objective truth.

Nowhere is the conflict more intense than in the public schools. Both sides are aware that if they are to win, they must first win the schools. Humanists already control colleges and universities all over America, now they are trying to utilize the control that they have on the public schools.

Writing in the September/October 1981 issue of *Graduate Woman*, Barbara Parker, the director of Schools and Libraries Project, with People For the American Way, states that the leaders of the New Right have their eyes on the nation's public schools. The leaders of the New Right readily admit this. Humanistic writings clearly delineate the goals they wish to attain, and humanistic writings are replete with statements

that they must control the American educational system. Though the rank and file of public school teachers all over America deny that they know what humanism is all about, and most of them tell us they have never heard of the *Humanist Manifestos*, their leaders let the cat out of the bag by saying, "Humanistic education . . . has arrived academically. Humanistic education is past its infancy and is now a widespread phenomenon which, like any organism, can be expected to mature within an enabling environment. The 'enabling environment' for the growth of the humanist 'organism' is our nation's compulsory education system." This statement was made by Elizabeth Simpson in giving a report to the Ford Foundation.

Ms. Parker states, "The New Right is working diligently to alter drastically what is—or isn't—taught in American schools. The basic concept under attack is pluralism." Webster defines pluralism in this way: "A state of society in which members of diverse ethnic, racial, religious or social groups maintain an autonomous participation in and development of their traditional culture or special interest within the confines of a common civilization."

Most level-headed, fair-minded Americans recognize that we have a pluralistic society, and we were getting along wonderfully well with pluralism until the humanists throughout the 20th Century began to infiltrate and gradually take over every branch of government including the public schools. Some of their theologians wrote books about God being dead, and the humanists wrongly assumed that all Christians were dead. For years Christians had

been content to preach the Gospel and to win souls without realizing what the humanists were doing, and now that Christians are trying to restore pluralism, the humanists are upset!

Ms. Parker states: "The battle lines that have been drawn are these: Put the Bible and prayer back into the classroom; and get evolution, sex education, realistic library books, 'objectionable' textbooks, and 'secular humanism' out."

That is a fair appraisal of the situation, except that not all Christians are trying to get evolution out, but to get creationism taught along with evolution. At the Scopes Trial in 1925, Clarence Darrow said, "It is bigotry for public schools to teach only one theory of origin," but now the shoe is on the other foot, and the humanists are squealing.

Robert Billings hit the nail on the head when he said, "We believe that the unmistakable signs of moral decay are all around us . . . in our schools, our government, and even in many churches . . . Unfortunately, the ruling forces in education . . . have chosen to obscure this moral breakdown . . . and confuse the issues . . . Our objective is to slice through this murkey sea of non-values and clearly focus on the basic moral implications of each issue along with its ultimate potential consequences."

Is it not strange that educators and many others cannot see what is taking place in America? Is it not strange they fail to recognize that one of the major factors causing skyrocketing crime, increased violence and vandalism in the schools and lowering of academic standards could be humanistic education?

On the one hand God-fearing Americans must join the battle, but on the other hand we must be careful not to call everyone an atheist or even a humanist who does not agree

with us. Remember that God is still on His throne. Remember that He works all things after the counsel of His own will. Remember we are ultimately on the winning side.

BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by Rev. Ewald Eisele

THE CHALLENGE OF THE CULTS by Maurice C. Burrell. (Baker Book House, 1982) 160 pages, paper, \$3.95.

Here is a book that will prove invaluable to those wanting to know what the cults considered in this study manual cover. The author has covered very well Herbert W. Armstrong and his Worldwide Church of God, The Family of Love (The Children of God), Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church (Moonies), The Divine Light Mission (Guru Maharaj Ji), Transcendental Meditation, The Hare Krishna Movement (International Society For Krishna Consciousness—ISKCON), and Lafayette Ron Hubbard's Church of Scientology.

The first chapter deals with some general characteristics which are common in all cults. Some of the points he makes are the missionary zeal, the charismatic leadership, the feeling of group superiority, the strict discipline and the doctrinal deviations of each of the cults. These things, and more, are true of all cults no matter what they may be or where they may be found. In the following chapters, one for each cult considered, he deals with the history, beliefs, methods and relationship to Christianity. At the close of each chapter there is a summary of main

differences between the cult and Christianity. The final chapter, The Challenge of the Cults, is just what the title states. There are areas where what they do, their attitudes, their dedication and zeal present a real challenge to Christians to look into their own relationship to their commission to spread the true Gospel as fervently as the cultists do their false gospel.

The gospel is presented throughout. There are guidelines to follow in dealing with each error. The serious Christian who is interested in reaching someone in one of these, or other, cults will find much here to help in the effort.

This book of 160 pages may be purchased from Religion Analysis Service for \$3.95 plus 63¢ postage. Other new books in our stock are these:

BEYOND BUDDHISM by J. Isamu Yamamoto, 140 pages, \$5.50.

FALSITIES OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISM by Robert L. Sumner, 28 pages, 35¢.

TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION by Ronald L. Carlson, 150 pages, \$2.95.

A CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSE TO ISLAM by William M. Miller, 178 pages, \$2.95.

WHAT THE CULTS BELIEVE by Irvine Robertson, now in paperback, 157 pages, \$3.95.

THE GOD-MEN by Neil T. Duddy, an inquiry into Witness Lee and the Local Church, 156 pages, \$4.95.

THE SPIRIT OF PENTECOSTAL-CHARISMATIC UNITY by Wilson Ewin, 20 pages, 40¢.

JEHOVAH OF THE WATCHTOWER by Walter Martin, 192 pages, \$4.95 (back in print).

BRIGHAM SMITH by John Smith, a novel explaining the major doctrines of Mormonism—VERY GOOD! 156 pages, \$3.00.

THE NEW CULTS, by Walter Martin, 418 pages, \$7.95.

REINCARNATION AND CHRISTIANITY by Robert A. Morey, 60 pages, \$1.95.

HOROSCOPES AND THE CHRISTIAN by Robert A. Morey, 64 pages, \$1.95.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH by F.W. Thomas. A very good in-depth study of all the various Philosophical and Religious ideas man has believed in regarding this in-

teresting subject. Must reading for the serious student of the Word and the ideas of man. 165 pages, \$4.00.

THE NEW 'LIFE AFTER DEATH' RELIGION by Charles R. Smith, 12 pages, 75¢.

THE BAHAI FAITH by John Boykin, 32 pages, 50¢.

MORMONISM by Donald S. Tingle, 44 pages, 50¢.

BRITISH ISRAELISM by Dan Olinger, B.J. Univ. Press, 14 pages, 75¢.

THE CULT EXPLOSION by Dave Hunt, an expose of today's cults and why they prosper, VERY GOOD, 270 pages, \$5.95.

WE LEFT THE WATCHTOWER FOR JEHOVAH by Gaskill & Meneses (ex-JWs), 45 pages, \$1.50.

When ordering books please send adequate postage. Any overpayment will receive a credit memo or refund. Thank you for praying for the needs of our ministry.

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Pertinent Questions and Answers

John E. Dahlin, Editor

QUESTION . . . What are the common similarities and characteristics among cults of our time?

ANSWER . . . Most of the cults use literature extensively as their major propaganda in expanding their activities. We must concede that the printed page is used effectively by these groups. In addition, most present-day cults gather funds on a scale far beyond that which Bible-believing groups are doing in spreading the true gospel. Often certain false leaders have been guilty of money racketeering. Recently a number were indicted for various schemes including fraud and tax evasion. Moreover, the more aggressive cults, especially the modern groups, have introduced brain-washing and mind control to gain complete dominance over people. These are some characteristics of the various cults of our time.

QUESTION . . . Will conservative groups who major in the gospel be able to cope with the new situation?

ANSWER . . . Yes, truth is stronger than error. We read these encouraging words from Paul: "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (of the flesh) but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, 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" (2 Cor. 10:5-6).