

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

The  
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# The DISCERNER

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## THE CONTROVERSY OVER SUN MYUNG MOON'S IMPRISONMENT

*Prof. John E. Dahlin, Editor*

Our readers, undoubtedly, expect that some comments be made in *The Discerner* regarding the government's case against Sun Myung Moon, who is the Korean head of The Unification Church. Rev. Moon spent nearly one year in the federal prison at Danbury, Connecticut. He is now free, and immediately after his release from the prison, he launched a crusade with the objective of rebuilding his movement and in gaining a greater influence in our country for his Unification Church. Many of his spokesmen have given him their unqualified support. They insist that Rev. Moon was singled out for persecution by the justice department of our government with the objective of destroying him. Other sympathizers of Rev. Moon (and they are many) insist that the government initiated the case against him because he was a foreigner, and that he directed a movement which was inconsistent with American ideals and traditions. The defenders of Rev. Moon have been extremely caustic in their criticism of the justice department in handling the case against him. It began with the indictment of Rev. Moon for conspiracy and fraud, and his failure to pay the federal in-

come tax on large sums of money which had been deposited in his account. His attorneys have insisted, however, that these funds were held for the church, and that they never were intended for Rev. Moon's personal use.

Many other defenders of Rev. Moon accuse our government of treating him in an altogether different way from the treatment given many other Americans who have been involved in difficulty with the IRA on taxes. The short of it is that the jury found Rev. Moon guilty of fraud and in cheating the government of taxes which he owed during recent years. The case was disposed of in 1983-84 with the result of the imprisonment of Rev. Moon.

### MY RESPONSE TO THESE CHARGES

To the many columns found in our newspapers by writers and critics, including that of Senator Hatch of Utah, I wish to respond. The latter does insist that religious liberty is involved in this case as well as certain basic rights provided in the First Amendment. These rights were violated, according to Senator Hatch

and other critics of the Department of Justice. I wish to point out, first of all, that our federal courts have had a remarkable record of consistency and fairness during the past two centuries. Integrity has prevailed where the federal government has held the jurisdiction. It is inconceivable to me that those in charge of the Department of Justice were simply determined to get this foreigner, and that the income tax route was used in bringing him to prison. While I am no constitutional lawyer, I have studied constitutional law in our higher educational institutions. In the light of this, I must reject these theorists who insist that Rev. Moon did not receive a fair trial. In addition, I might also point out that leniency to Rev. Moon was shown in that he was given a shorter prison sentence than what others have received in similar cases of violation of federal laws. A much stiffer sentence was the option of the federal judge had he chosen to impose such on Rev. Moon.

It appears to me that radicalism has dominated the critics of the department of justice in claiming that arbitrary and unfair methods prevailed during the trial of Sun Myung Moon. These same critics have been quick to defend the draft dodgers who were guilty of defiance of the national defense act. The government was condemned by these critics for upholding the federal law. More than that, these soft-hearted writers seek to hinder every move being made by our government in strengthening our defense against Communist aggressors. In addition, they defend the Communist type of governments which have the present control of areas in Latin America. By

propaganda they seek to paralyze our government's position in dealing with these lawless nations from gaining new victories over those representing liberty and constitutional governments. Unfortunately, many naive people listen to these self-appointed spokesmen who advocate a leftist policy.

### THE BETTER WAY

The general position held by fundamentalists and Bible-believing people is in the continued opposition to the Unification Church, and against Rev. Moon in particular, who has introduced a false system of religion. Bible-believing people regard Moon as the leader of a cult which has rejected the Biblical doctrine. The teachings of Rev. Moon bear the earmarks of Oriental philosophy and a rational attitude towards the Word of God. Truly, the entire system by Moon is a hodge-podge arrangement lacking the true Biblical doctrine. Moon's system fits in with the leader's scheme in gaining followers during a time of spiritual confusion of millions of people.

In some areas Rev. Moon's program leans towards a racketeering method of operation. He has misdirected thousands of uninformed young people to become promoters of this cult, known as the Unification Church. He is advocating a religious system which will serve as an umbrella for all organizations in this big get-together in supporting this modern scheme. These young people are often found to live in dire poverty, not having adequate food or clothing. They seek to interest people in entering strategic places where crowds are congregated. They sell flowers and pencils and other items, and work

long days. It is sad indeed to see them victimized by a false religious system. Often they sleep on the floor because of a lack of money, while at the same time the Moon hierarchy live in luxury and extravagance. Rev. Moon actually lives in a palace fit for kings and royalty. This deception by the Moonie system many of us have witnessed. The brain-washed youth often become victims of the apostate system parading with the name, The Unification Church.

### **THE BIBLICAL WRITERS IDENTIFY THESE LATTER-DAY SCHEMES**

Every area of the New Testament offers warnings against the false systems of religion which will emerge during the latter days. We are exhorted by Paul, Peter, Jude, and by other New Testament writers to beware of these false teachers. We have also the statement of warning by our Lord, "Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Mt. 7:15). See also II Thess. 2:3-12; II Thess. 4:1-2; I Tim. 4:1-2; II Tim. 3:1-5; II Pet. 2:1-5; and Mt. 24:4-6.

The worst course is to compromise our position, and accommodating ourselves to the smooth propaganda of the cultists. We are instructed in II Cor. 6:14-18 not to fellowship with those who walk in darkness. They are identified as apostates who are misleading uninformed people these

days. Separation is a policy which is being downgraded at the time when the ecumenical appeal is gaining momentum.

Rev. Moon has given a later appeal, in addition to providing pastors and religious leaders with costly books and printed material. Now he tries to point out that he has no controversy or quarrel with established denominations. He is cleverly trying to sell the idea, that there is no substantial difference between his teaching and the doctrine adhered to by present-day denominations. But the fact remains, Rev. Moon has not repudiated his religious doctrine, which is available in print for inspection. He has not recanted from the false teachings which he has circulated for many years.

I sincerely hope that you, as readers of our magazine, will manifest discretion in rejecting the false teachings of Rev. Moon and other cultists. All of them should be measured by the yardstick of the Holy Scriptures. The defenders of Rev. Moon during his entanglement with our government, should not cause us to lose our balance, as it were, by accepting the rationalization of the critics who offer condemnation of our government in handling the Moon case. We are a nation governed by law, and any serious deviation from this standard merits proper discipline invoked by the government against all wrong-doers.

### **THE CULT WITHIN THE CHURCH**

*By Dr. Roy E. Knuteson, Sr. Pastor/Fellowship Bible Church  
2550 South Taft Hill Road, Fort Collins, CO 80526*

Recently I was asked to officiate at the funeral of a man who was not a member of my church. His family

told me that he was an active member of a church in a nearby city, and more importantly, that he was a Thirty-

Second Degree Mason. They insisted that the Masonic Lodge have a part in the memorial service.

Veteran pastors have been through this awkward situation many times and know how to handle it as an opportunity to preach the gospel to an unsaved audience. Accordingly, I therefore requested of the mortician that the Masons go through their rites first, and then I would read the obituary and close the service with a gospel message. I chose to have the last word.

### A Bizarre Ritual

Here was a man who was a member of good standing in a recognized evangelical church, and yet at his funeral, these lodge members went through an eerie and bizarre ritual that was unChristian to the core. First, they lined up like little children behind the casket, dressed in their little white leather aprons. Then, each of them read sequentially from their lodge burial manuals, and one of them read this final prayer: "Most glorious God, author of all good and giver of all mercy, pour down thy blessings upon us, and strengthen our solemn engagements with ties of true affection." In the closing remarks, they spoke fondly of "our dear brother whom we shall miss very much," and then closed their burial statements with these written words: "So in the bright morning of resurrection, thou shalt spring again into newness of life. Until then dear brother, until then, farewell." I learned later upon questioning, that not one of these six lodge members had ever met the deceased! This is not unusual.

At the graveside, these men read

again from their little books and then, motioning up and down with their outstretched hands, they chanted: "The spirit goes up and the body goes down" over and over again. They spoke of the "Supreme Architect of the Universe" and how their "friend" had gone to the "Grand Lodge in the Sky," all because he was a Thirty-Second Degree Mason!

### The Hidden Cult

This is the Masonic Lodge—the cult within the church. Why do I call it that? Because the Masonic Lodge bears all the marks of a major cult and most of its members come from within the organized church. Many church buildings in America, of various denominations, have cornerstones displaying the Masonic Lodge symbols. On a recent visit to Mississippi, I saw a Baptist church building that was jointly used by the Masons, and each shared an equal portion of the outdoor sign!

Freemasonry, as it is also called, is the oldest and largest secret order in the world, but it is also a religion that preaches another gospel—a gospel of good works—which is condemned in Galatians 1:6-8. It is a spiritual counterfeit that endorses and practices beliefs that have nothing to do with Christianity and are in direct violation of the teachings of Christ.

These lodge members are enslaved by their organization and, in my many years of pastoral ministry, I have yet to meet an active Mason who did not place his lodge above his church in his loyalties and devotion. Freemasonry is, in my opinion, one of the most subtle cults of all time because it works from within the professed church and receives little condemnation by the clergy, many of

whom are members themselves. The vast majority of church members are totally unaware of how tragically unscriptural this movement really is because hardly any of the many books on the cults even mention it.

The Masonic Lodge has more than a hundred fraternal organizations, including **The Order of The Eastern Star** and **Daughters of the Nile** (for women), **Job's Daughters** and **The Order of The Rainbow** (for girls), and **The Order of Demolay** (for boys). Other orders in Masonry are called **The Tall Cedars Of Lebanon In The United States Of America**, **The Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets Of The Enchanted Realm** and **The Knights Of The Red Cross Of Constantine**. In America, Free Masonry is represented by **The Blue Lodge** with its three basic degrees: Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason. Additional optional degrees are available up to the Thirty-Third Degree in the Scottish branch or up to the Tenth Degree in the American Rite, also called the York Rite. The Scottish Rite branch of this cult features **The Order Of The Mystic Shriners**, which is an organization of high ranking Masons who are well-known for their wild drinking parties and crazy antics at their national conventions.

Free-Masonry erroneously claims that their lodge goes back thousands of years and that Solomon, John The Baptist, the Apostle John, and other Bible characters were all Masons. *The Holy Bible-Masonic Edition* boasts of the antiquity of the Lodge, stating: "It is admitted that Masonry is descended from the ancient mysteries. This was first arranged when the constellation Leo was in the

summer solstice. Thus the antiquity of Masonry is written in the starry heavens" (Revised Edition 1957, p. 51). Actually, this cult cannot be traced further back than 1717 A.D., according to *World Book Encyclopedia*. What began as a labor union of stone masons in Europe grew into an international lodge which included fifteen American presidents including: Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Harry Truman. It is estimated that one out of twelve American males is a Mason today.

### Cultic Beliefs and Practices

What really sets this group apart as a cult is their stated belief that "all men are brothers" (Universalism) and that "God" is the same, whatever the name (Unitarianism). God is often referred to in Freemasonry as G.A.O.T.U. (Great Architect Of The Universe) and "The All-Seeing Eye," or "The Nameless One Of A Hundred Names." In the secret rites of the Master Degree, the candidate is told that God's name is "Ma-Ha-Bone"—a name he is never to say aloud or ever reveal. In the York Rite, The Mason Of The Royal Arch Degree is told secretly that God's name is "Jah-Bul-On." "Jah" means Jehovah, "Bul" is the pagan idol "Baal," and "On" is the Egyptian Sun God. This is just another form of syncretism, creating a composite deity of pagan origins.

Do not be deceived by their professed belief in God and their prominently displayed "Sacred Books" in their "temples." If the Lodge is composed largely of Christians, the Bible is displayed. In other settings the "Sacred Book" may be the Jewish

Pentateuch or the Moslem Koran. In fact, any "sacred book" of any religion is accepted within Freemasonry. The Masonic Lodge wants to offend no one, but please everyone. Albert Pike, regarded as one of the outstanding Masons in the Western World, states in his book *Morals and Dogmas*:

"We utter no word that can be deemed irreverent by anyone of any faith. We do not tell the Moslem that it is only important for him to believe that there is but one God, and wholly unessential whether Mohamed was His prophet. We do not tell the Hebrew that the Messiah whom he expects was born in Bethlehem two thousand years ago; and that he is a heretic because he will not so believe. And as little do we tell the sincere Christian that Jesus of Nazareth was but a man like us, or his history but the unreal revival of an older legend."

Mackey in *The Encyclopedia Of Freemasonry* states:

"But its universality is its boast. In its language, citizens of every nation may converse; at its altars men of all religions may kneel; to its creed disciples of every faith may subscribe" (Volume 1, page 149).

What an unholy alliance and blasphemous organization in the sight of God!

### Blood-Curdling Oaths

Most Americans do not realize the terrible oaths that Masons are required to take for each advancing

degree in this cult. Each Entering Apprentice is asked to solemnly swear before he knows what he is getting into, that he will never reveal the oath that he is about to take, in direct contradiction to the Word of God. Many of these blasphemous oaths are common-knowledge, and are available through a little research. Here, for example, is one such oath that a new member is required to repeat:

"Binding myself under no less a penalty than that of having my throat cut across, my tongue torn out by its roots, and buried in the rough sand of the sea at low water mark where the tide ebbs and flows twice in twenty-four hours, should I ever knowingly or willingly violate my solemn oath and obligation as an Entered Apprentice Mason. So help me, God."

A Third Degree Master Mason's oath has this penalty:

"Binding myself under no less penalty than that of having my body severed in two, my bowels taken out and burned to ashes and scattered to the four winds . . . should I ever violate this solemn obligation as a Master Mason. So help me, God."

Each succeeding degree has a similar horrible oath and penalty connected with it. Incidentally, it is a well-known fact that Joseph Smith was deeply involved with Freemasonry and that many of the "secret vows" taken in Mormon temples today, include almost identical wording (and gestures) which he

borrowed from the Masonic Lodge. In this case, one cult gave birth to another cult in many of its rituals. This revelation alone ought to turn any conscientious Christian away from Freemasonry.

Jesus commanded His followers to "not swear at all" (Matthew 5:34). It is an open violation of God's plain Word to take such oaths as required by this or any other cult. James 5:12 states: "Above all, brothers, do not swear—neither by heaven or earth, or anything else. Let your "yes" be yes, and your "no" no, or you will be condemned" (NIV). Our Lord would never sanction these required oaths, for He said: "I have said nothing in secret" (John 18:20). Masonry claims to have found the truth, and yet demands that its members swear never to reveal and always conceal its teachings! How unlike true Christianity in which believers are commanded to "go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15 NIV). Masonry's methods stand condemned by the Word of God.

Freemasonry is a religion without a Savior; a religion that denies the shed blood of Christ, and refuses to call Him Lord. In fact, they even prohibit prayers being said "in Jesus' Name" at any of their lodge meetings. It is a cult that knowingly misquotes the Bible and take verses out of context to support its teachings. It rests under the condemnation of God as a sacrilegious system that needs to be exposed and refuted.

What should be the true Christian's response to this horrible cult within many a church? Here are four suggestions:

First, Masonic oaths, if already

taken, ought to be renounced immediately and confessed as sinful, because it is scripturally wrong to take such vows in the first place. Leviticus 5:4-5 states: "If a person takes an oath to do anything, whether good or evil—in any manner one might carelessly swear about—even though he is unaware of it, he will be guilty. When anyone is guilty in any of these ways, he must confess in what way he has sinned."

Secondly, The Masonic Lodge (and all of its auxiliary organizations) ought to be rejected and forsaken because the Bible says: "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. Therefore, come out from them and be separate, says the Lord" (2 Corinthians 6:14, 17 NIV). Of all such apostate religions, God says: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins" (Revelation 18:4 NIV).

Thirdly, The Masonic Lodge needs to be exposed as a cult, for Ephesians 5:11 commands: "Have nothing to do with the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but rather expose them." Preachers should denounce this cult, as well as all others, from their pulpits.

Fourthly, Masonic members who will not renounce their lodge as a sinful pagan cult, should be denied membership in every Bible-centered church, no matter how glowing their testimony may be. The Bible asks: "For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? (2 Corinthians 6:14-15 NIV). It is time that we rid the church of this awful cult in our midst.



# UNITY SCHOOL

*By Dr. R. Alan Streett  
Criswell Bible College, Dallas, Texas*

On a thousand radio stations daily, a pleasant female voice can be heard echoing the words, "Hello, I am Rosemary Miller and the word for today is SERENITY." The speaker then proceeds to deliver a 30 to 60 second devotional on the topic. To the uninitiated listener, the spot message is a breath of fresh air. If you have ever heard these radio sermonettes, then you have been smoothly introduced to the cult known as Unity School of Christianity.

Founded by Charles and Myrtle Fillmore nearly a century ago, Unity is the queen of the mail order cults; sending out more literature than any other religious group in the world. The impressive headquarters for the sect is located in Unity Village, Missouri, an incorporated town 15 miles southeast of Kansas City. Located on 1,400 acres, Unity Village has its own security force, fire department and post office.

Unity's library, which is open to visitors, houses more than 40,000 volumes. The books deal mostly with spiritualism, the mind sciences, and the occult. The Archives of the International New Thought Alliance also makes its home in the Unity library.

Unity additionally owns motels, a gift shop, cafeteria, a vegetarian restaurant, and radio and television production studios. Its printing presses run continually, producing metaphysical magazines, correspondence courses, and other literature.

Thousands of people visit Unity Village each year to attend the School

for Ministerial and Religious Studies, or to hear a guest lecture delivered at the 1,200 seat Activities Center. Others enroll in one of the dozen two-week courses at the Institute for Continuing Education. Some visit just to relax in the beautiful surroundings (which include gardens, pools, fountains and wooded shade areas) and to share in the recreation opportunities with other kindred spirits. Another one-half million people a year call Unity's 24-hour prayer line, known as "Silent Unity."

## History of the Movement

The Unity School of Christianity was begun when Charles Fillmore, a successful real estate salesman, suddenly lost his business and experienced failing health. His wife, Myrtle, likewise, suffered a physical setback after contacting tuberculosis. At the invitation of a friend they attended a lecture at Emma Curtis Hopkins' Illinois Metaphysical College. Miss Hopkins, a former student of Mary Baker Eddy (of Christian Science fame), was a proponent of mind healing, or the power of the mind over matter. This contact led the Fillmores to begin a spiritual pilgrimage, which introduced them to Rosicrucianism, Theosophy, Buddhism, Spiritualism, and a host of other eastern philosophies. By conservative estimates, the Fillmores took more than 40 occult-related courses. Both claimed that their renewed minds dissolved their illnesses.

From their newly acquired

knowledge, the Fillmore's began lecturing others on the creative power of words and thoughts. Borrowing from the writings of P. P. Quimby, Mary Baker Eddy and Miss Hopkins, the couple formed an eclectic philosophy all their own. As their fame spread, students sought them out for advice and wisdom. Lecture tours were scheduled, a metaphysical class was begun in Kansas City, and Charles authored a correspondence course. In 1889, the Fillmores started publishing *Metaphysical Thought*, a highly read magazine promoting various occult concepts. Two years later, while meditating with his students, the name "Unity" flashed in Charles Fillmore's mind. He eventually incorporated his so-called ministry under the title: Unity School of Practical Christianity. In 1914, the word "Practical" was dropped.

Unity principles, its founders claimed, were responsible for their renewed prosperity, health and longevity of life. Myrtle lived to be 86 years old; Charles reached the 94 year mark.

### Unity's Doctrinal Beliefs

One needs only to peruse Unity's "Statement of Faith" to discover its unorthodox nature. Statement #1 rejects God as a personal Being, designating Him to be a Law or Principle, or the Universal Mind at best. Statement #2 presents a gnostic view of Jesus Christ. Unity believes that Jesus was merely a man who attained God- or -Christ consciousness. Statement #8 declares man to be divine as a result of a pantheistic union with God. The statement reads in part: "We believe Divine intelligence is present in every atom of man and matter..." Mind over matter (the

power of positive thinking) is taught in Statement #9 and positive confession, the creative power of thoughts and words, is propagated in Statement #10. Is it any wonder that both Norman Vincent Peale and Robert Schuller have lectured at Unity Village! A yin/yang concept of God as "mother/father" can be found in Statement #16. Reincarnation is called the vehicle by which man must be saved (Statement #22). In Statement #24 we read, "...the second coming of Jesus Christ is now being fulfilled, that His Spirit is quickening the whole world." Point #29 boldly asserts that all doctrines of Christianity must be interpreted allegorically. In other words, Unity rejects all the major doctrines of Christianity as being literally true. Unity rejects a literal virgin birth, puts no emphasis on Christ's death as an atonement for sins, repudiates a belief in a real devil and a real hell, and relegates sin to ignorance of the mind.

Besides its radio and television broadcasts and its massive literature distribution campaign, Unity promotes its beliefs through the Association of Unity Churches. Over 600 Unity churches and study groups are located throughout the world. It is estimated that over six-million persons a year come in contact with Unity ministries.

The organized Unity Movement has served as a base for supporting a broader application of ONENESS in the sphere of Christianity. Many religious leaders are trying, as never before, to unify the three major bodies in Christendom—Roman Catholic, Protestant and the Greek Orthodox groups. The whole ecumenical program is moving in this direction—(Editor).

## Book Notices

Compiled and Reviewed by Rev. Ewald Eisele

**SEDUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY**, By Dave Hunt & T. A. McMahon. 240 pp, \$7.95.

The subtitle says: **SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT IN THE LAST DAYS**, and the introduction begins, "We have written this book reluctantly..." Let me quote from the back cover of this book: "The Bible clearly states that a great apostasy must occur before Christ's second coming. Today Christians are being deceived by a new world view more subtle and more seductive than anything the world has ever experienced. What are the dangers in the growing acceptance and practice of Postive and Possibility Thinking, Healing of Memories, Self-help Philosophies, and Holistic Medicine? **THE SEDUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY** will not appear as a frontal assault or oppression of our religious beliefs. Instead, it will come as the latest 'fashionable philosophies' offering to make us happier, healthier, better educated, even more spiritual. A compelling look at the times we live in. A clear call to every believer to choose between the Original and the counterfeit."

This book will shock you. The authors are not afraid to name individuals and quote from their own writings or speeches to document what they say about them. Here is a book that will compel the reader to make some choices and decisions.

For too long, Christians have been blind to what is really going on in this spiritual battle in which we are supposed to be engaged. As the authors say in the introduction, "The church

needs to recognize that cults are only a part of a much larger and more seductive deception known as the New Age movement. This is a broad coalition of networking groups all working for world unity based upon religious experiences and beliefs that have their roots in Eastern mysticism," (pg. 7) and, "It is our deep conviction, based upon years of research and mountains of evidence, that the secular world is in the late stages of succumbing to the very deception that Jesus and the apostles predicted would immediately precede the Second Coming. We are gravely concerned that millions of Christians are falling victim to the same delusion" (pg. 9).

On page 50, in a chapter entitled, "An Official World Religion?," we find, "It would be fruitless to speculate further about global conspiracy theories involving the Trilateralists, Masons, Illuminate, or New Age Networks; these organizations are only pawns in the real game. No one is going to take over the world by conspiring to do so. Far more important than knowing the individuals and groups involved is understanding the common lie that deceives them all. The mastermind behind the scenes is Satan himself, and the world takeover is his move. Even so, that can only come when God allows it, and it will be made possible through some startling developments." And then Scripture is quoted to show that the Bible tells us how it will happen, "AND ALL THE WORLD wondered after the beast (Anti-christ). Rev. 13:3, 4, 7 (pg. 50-51).

In the same chapter, we are reminded that under the influence of the "Holistic or Wholistic movement, science, medicine, psychology, sociology and education have all taken a sharp turn to the 'spiritual,' but not in a Biblical sense."

Agnes Sanford, along with her writings and influence, is mentioned in the book. On page 124, "Much of the credit for bringing these occult methodologies into Christianity must go to Agnes Sanford..." A man came into our office and was thumbing through this book when he came to this page. He was absolutely beside himself. He declared, "I have some of her books and they sell them in ——— Christian Book Store." Another man came in and after he saw what was covered he bought all of the copies I had on hand—(more came in today!). There are many well known people in the present "Christian" circles that are mentioned in this book. I believe that it deserves the widest circulation possible and I hope that many of our readers will order it and see that others get an opportunity to read it.

Do not think that this book is vindictive! The authors write in the introduction, "It is our desire to rescue rather than to condemn." They take the same stand that we at Religion Analysis take. What does the Bible say? Does the Word back up the teaching? What is the truth of the matter? When you read this book (or any book for that matter) be sure to read the introduction. There you will find some important and deep-seated convictions that motivated the authors to pen this very important book.

*GODS OF THE NEW AGE*, by Caryl Matrisciana. 224 pp, \$6.95.

Here is another book in the same category as the one above. In fact, the author of that one has written about this book: "I consider the film *GODS OF THE NEW AGE* to be one of the most significant documentaries in the last twenty years. I would put the book in the same category. It is must reading." Hal Lindsey says, "What Caryl Matrisciana has to say to the Church and the world is incredibly important."

Mrs. Matrisciana writes from personal experience. In fact, the first 104 pages of this book is taken up with what she recalls of her childhood and youth in pagan-infested old India, while the British were still in control of the nation. I suppose that you could call this an autobiography except that it is far more. However, reading the first part of the book, one is given insights into the paganism of the religions of the east that is unsurpassed. What is even more interesting is the revelation of the way those who were not Indians reacted to the religions, poverty and culture around them.

The author was involved in every imaginable attraction that the "swinging set" of London offered, including cults, drugs, Yoga, self-help therapies, psychiatry, self-analysis, visualization, and in America, Westernized Hinduism and humanism. This is not a dry diary. It is an absorbing book that I found hard to put down! When the author accepts the Lord in the middle of the book the tale is only half told. The last half is every bit as enthralling as the first. You will never regret buying this

book and you will learn things that you could never learn elsewhere.

*DEATH AND THE AFTERLIFE*, By Robert A. Morey. 315 pp cloth, \$11.95.

Though "it has been appointed unto man once to die" and there are over one thousand Scripture passages on the subject, the doctrine of death and the afterlife has been largely ignored by the Church in recent years. The aspect of the Gospel concerning God's love in Christ is emphasized almost to the exclusion of "the wrath to come."

In this age of liberalism, humanism and the proliferation of cults, Dr. Morey examines the Biblical and historical development of this important doctrine in both the Old and New Testaments.

The book is divided into two main sections: the first defines such Biblical terms as spirit, soul, body, Sheol, grave, Gehenna and eternal punishment. The second part is an apologetic on the Biblical teaching of death, defending it against the occult and theological errors such as annihilationism and universalism.

The author has presented us with a landmark work that every serious student of the Bible will want to add to his library.

*A REASONED LOOK AT ASIAN RELIGIONS*, By David L. Johnson. 175 pp \$5.95.

Even though one has little background in religious or philosophical studies there is help here for a better understanding of Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism,

and Chinese Marxism. The book is analytical in the sense that it presents both the historical setting in which a particular Asian religion was formed and the theological structure that it maintains. The book is critical in the sense that the implications of each religion are uncovered on the basis of the question, "What are the logical results—mental and moral—of holding to such beliefs?" It is written so that Westerners might have a better understanding and may be better able to communicate intelligently with those who are captivated with Eastern thought.

These books have been received and are in stock—with an exception or two—since our last supplemental list was sent out with our Newsletter. They may be purchased through our office. When ordering, please include adequate postage.

*PSYCHIATRY AND CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY: Blessing For Christians or a Curse?* (Prepared and published by Good News Messengers, Inc.), 20 pp \$1.25. For those who have themselves contacted a psychiatrist or have friends or loved ones so involved, this booklet will shed some surprising light on the subject.

*ARE BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS A VIOLATION OF GOD'S LAWS?* From Personal Freedom Outreach. 4 pp tract, 12/75¢. A good little tool for the J.W. who calls at your door.

*OUT OF DARKNESS INTO LIGHT*, By Peter Barnes. 138 pp \$4.25. Here is the account of the experience that the author had before,

during, and after being a Jehovah's Witness. There is more practical information in this book than in the average "experience narration" book on this cult. It will help you to better understand some of the pressures, fears and questions that face the average house-to-house "witness." This is an excellent book and well worth your outlay of time and money.

*WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HINDUISM AND YOGA*, By W. J. McCormick. 21 pp \$1.00. In our last listing, we had a book advertised with the title, "Yoga—Surely there's no harm in Yoga, or is there?" This was listed as a booklet at 75¢. When it arrived from Ireland it turned out to be a four-page 5¢ item. We are discontinuing it and substituting this one which also has a section on Hinduism. Plastic bound 6"x8" computer printout. Good information!

## HOW TO TELL A FALSE RELIGION

*By Richard C. Halverson*

The Apostle John makes it quite clear that the Christian has no option in this matter of false prophets (I John 4:1-3). The Bible warns us over and over again that there are many false prophets going out into the world masquerading often as angels of light, as servants of Christ, taking portions of the Bible and using them in a way to deceive the children of God.

So much of Christianity has been watered down that we have become infected with an innocuous climate that has generated a sickly, thin, anemic attitude of tolerance—we're supposed to tolerate everybody and everything. If we raise our voice against anything, we're accused of being unChristian. This, however, is not the spirit of the New Testament

or of Jesus Christ Himself (as we shall see). He loved men but He was indignant against false teachers. "Better a millstone" . . . "Better never born" . . . said He concerning those who would lead others astray.

If one will not tolerate poison that can destroy a man's body, how much less should one tolerate poison that can destroy a man's soul? If we are careful of what we put into our stomachs, how much more ought we to be careful of what we feed our minds? Once in a while a good, strong, healthy dose of intolerance is legitimate for a Christian. We ought to be intolerant of sin. We ought to be intolerant of error. We ought to be intolerant of heresy. We ought to be intolerant of falsehood. We ought to be intolerant of false prophets and anti-

Christ's that do everything they can to lead people away from Jesus Christ and do it in His name.

Note that we do not judge false prophets; they judge themselves by what they teach. Jesus Christ said, "By their fruits ye shall know them," and He was talking about false prophets when He said it.

What we propose to do is not to judge any teacher or prophet (if the shoe fits, put it on), but to lay down scriptural standards by which the teaching of every prophet ought to be judged. At the outset, let it be understood that we recognize the Bible to be the final authority—the final arbiter—the last word. What we say must square with the Scripture also.

It's not what someone else says the Bible teaches, not what some other book says the Bible teaches; it is what the Bible itself says about itself. The only correct interpretation of Scripture is Scripture itself. We compare Scripture with Scripture, passage with passage until the balance of teaching is reached in the Scriptures. One is not qualified to say "this is what the Bible teaches" about any single subject until he has read everything the Bible has to say about that subject.

The Bible takes a very serious view of false prophets. Paul says in Galatians 1:8, "Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." Those are strong words. Jesus said, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves; Ye shall know them by their fruits" (Matt. 7:15, 16).

Let us be reminded that Christians have been admonished to test for truth. We have no right to listen to any teaching, whatever it is, and accept it gullibly. We have been commanded to be sure to find out that what we listen to is true or false. That's a command—that's an order from the Lord! "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God because many false prophets are gone out in the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is the spirit of antichrist whereof ye have heard that it should come and even now already it is in the world" (I John 4:1-3).

Our office manager, Rev. Ewald Eisele, is available for seminars on cults, pulpit supply or teaching Bible classes. Write or call the office for dates and details—(Phone: 612/722-4463). Mr. Eisele pastored Baptist churches for 30 years and believes in the importance of the local church and its ministry.

RELIGION ANALYSIS SERVICE, INC.

2708 E. Lake Street

Suite 231

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406

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### PERTINENT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*John E. Dahlin, Editor*

**QUESTION . . .** In Moon's teachings, what are the main points in his deviation from the Scriptures?

**ANSWER . . .** In one sentence, it may be said, he is anti-Biblical and anti-Christian. He has hacked down every Christian doctrine. The traditional concepts are replaced with the most bizarre teachings ever brought forth in theology. His allegorizing of the Bible leads him to misconstrue the Word of God. Rev. Moon rejects the Christian concept of the inspiration of the Scriptures. The deity of Christ is downgraded. The fall of man is completely misinterpreted. And, the atonement of the Lord on the cross is explained away. His view of salvation is completely unscriptural. The return of Christ is treated in a far-fetched manner. Such views are heretical according to II Peter 2:1-2. Moon's "gospel" is what Paul would term "another Gospel" (Gal. 1:6-9).

**QUESTION . . .** What is the beginning point in the matter of promoting a false doctrine?

**ANSWER . . .** The best evangelical scholars ascribe this to the rejection of the **Verbal Inspiration** of the Scriptures. By this basic error it is easy to begin the rationalization of the Scriptural Truth. The inerrancy of the Bible is a fundamental point to be embraced by all Bible-believing Christians. On this doctrinal matter there must be no compromise.