

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

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DISCERNER Editorial

It has been said a number of times that the cults are the unpaid debts of Christianity. The cults exist because Christianity, especially evangelical Christianity, has not been presented and taught as it is revealed in the Bible.

Many of the founders of the numerous cults had some objection to a part of God's revelation, e.g., Charles Taze Russell's rejection of eternal punishment and predestination. Some were ignorant of portions of God's Word, e.g., Joseph Smith, Jr.'s failure to recognize that the Aaronic priesthood comes only by natural birth in the family of Aaron. Others had some special but limited interest in the Scriptures, e.g., Ellen White's undue emphasis on the Second Coming of Christ.

There are Christians today, individuals who have personally accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and are trusting His redemptive work for their souls' salvation, but they know little or nothing about the Bible beyond that. These individuals are prime targets for advocates of the cults. In many cases, the members of cults know far more about the Scriptures than do Christians.

If you have ever talked on a one-to-one basis with the Mormons or Jehovah's Witnesses who come to your door or hand you their literature and engage you in conversation, you realize many of them know much

about the Bible from their perspective. Many Christians, or merely church attenders, are "taken in" by these individuals who can so quickly and easily quote Scripture. Their presentation sounds so reasonable. In fact, that is frequently the approach they take. They will quote or refer to Scripture (generally out of context) filtered through their own literature, then ask: "Doesn't this sound reasonable to you?" For one who knows little or nothing about the Scriptures, to agree with the cultist: "Yes, this sounds reasonable to me," that one is on the way to being led astray or into a cult.

We might ask how do these cult members become so knowledgeable about the Bible? The answer is: they study it (howbeit, from a limited perspective). Before Mormon missionaries are sent out on their two-year mission they spend six weeks in a concentrated study period under direct supervision. Jehovah's Witnesses spend four to five hours a week at the local Kingdom Hall being taught their doctrines and how to approach "nonbelievers." Why do they do this? Two primary reasons seem to exist. They are convinced they are right and they are working to earn their salvation or acceptance with God. Time and effort to attain their goals of converting others and earning their own salvation are worth the investment to them.

If one can get beyond the "party line" when dealing with a member of

a cult, it becomes evident most are limited in their knowledge of Scripture. What they know, they frequently know well, just as it has been taught to them. However, they fail to know the "whole counsel of God" (as Paul refers to it in Acts 20:27). We need to know all God has revealed.

In other cases, members of some cults know very little about the Bible, but they do know their own literature and beliefs. They are persuasive in their approach. They are convinced themselves of their views and they make an effort to convince others. They will contact a person who seems to be interested again and again. They will generally appear to be friendly and genuinely interested in trying to "help" the other person to live a better and more enjoyable life. They frequently will refer to some notable individual who has accepted their view or is a member of their group, e.g., "Do you know the Osmonds are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints?"

We, as Christians, need to be aware of the purposeful approaches used by members of cults. They have a "sales pitch" which in theory is well thought-out and is adaptable to the "customers." We need to be aware of their approaches, but not attempt to imitate them. The Holy Spirit and the truth of God's Word do not need the world's approach to accomplish God's purposes. However, we do need to know and use God's appointed methods.

What are God's methods? They are found in Scripture, though some Christian writers have organized them for us in such areas as evangelism and Bible study methods.

The primary need for all Christians is to know and understand the Bible, the written revelation of God. Not just a part of it, but all of it. It is realized we must start somewhere

and we first must know a "part" before we will know the "whole," but we should not stop with the "part," whatever it is now that we know.

A characteristic of many cults is that their members are not sure of their "salvation," because they are working to earn it. We, as Christians, who have accepted and trust in I John 5:13: ["These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may believe on the name of the Son of God"] have the opportunity to share with them a "know so" salvation. They are not sure of what they are offering others; we can be.

In order for Christians to be convinced of the truth of God's Word, they have to know it. Even though the Scripture is a revelation from God, knowledge of it does not come without study (which is more than just "reading"). Paul wrote to Timothy (a man who had "known the Holy Scriptures" since a child—II Tim. 3:15) that he should "study" (be diligent, earnest effort) to show himself approved (genuine, pass the test) unto God . . . rightly dividing (cutting straight) the Word of Truth (II Tim. 2:15). We, too, need to study the Word of God and do it systematically and completely.

We don't have to know the fine points of the Greek and Hebrew texts of the Scriptures or have read all the theologians past and present to know the Scriptures and to be able to help those in or exposed to the cults, but we do need to know the content of the Bible in our own language. As mentioned above, study aids are available for us. Also, Bible teachers and such ministries as Religion Analysis Service exist to help us when and where needed.

We must be willing to invest the time and effort to learn the Scriptures (as many cultists are to learn their own literature), using the resources

available to us, if we are to save ourselves, our children, and others from the spiritually destructive cultic groups in this world.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES' SECRET DOUBTS & FEARS

David A. Reed

Editor, Comments From The Friends

"There's no love in our congregation."

"I know I'm not going to make it through Armageddon."

"I'm not good enough!"

They may not admit it—not even to themselves—but Jehovah's Witnesses are often plagued by doubts and fears such as these.

They know what the Watchtower Society tells them, but they also know what their own eyes and ears tell them. While giving the 'correct' answers at Kingdom Hall, they occasionally allow their true feelings to surface in private. The truths revealed by these candid comments say much about what life as a J. W. is really like.

During my eight years as an elder, fellow Jehovah's Witnesses often confided in me, expressing doubts and fears that troubled them deep inside. The complaint I heard most often was undoubtedly this: "There's no love in our congregation."

When I myself was 'new in the truth,' and even later when I was newly appointed as an elder, I vigorously denied the validity of such complaints. "Maybe the problem is that you don't display love for the friends," I would respond, putting the blame right back onto the complainer. "There is plenty of love in the congregation, but you're just cutting yourself off from seeing it on account of your own bad attitude."

This was the standard approach taken by other elders, too. (We learned it from the Watchtower Society.) Of course, after we had finished with the brother or sister who had complained, the individual felt no more loved than before—only now he or she felt too guilty to voice the complaint again for a while.

But after serving for some years as an elder—and after handling countless 'judicial committee' cases of sexual immorality, wife swapping, homosexual conduct, drug abuse (even one case where the guilty party had been selling drugs at Kingdom Hall), drunkenness, assault and battery against outsiders, assault and battery against fellow Witnesses, fraudulent business dealings and other serious matters, not to mention the endless petty squabbles that kept stirring up the 'friends'—I began to realize that there really was no love in our congregation, or at least very little of it.

But the biggest shock came when I began circulating as a 'public speaker' to give the Sunday morning talk in other congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses in eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and when I began rubbing shoulders

with elders from other conventions: I found that other congregations had the very same problem—no love!

The average Witness, though, usually thinks that it is our congregation that lacks love, whereas the rest of the organization is overflowing with love as portrayed in *The Watchtower*. So, there is reason to feel guilty about the lack of love locally, but no reason to doubt the organization as a whole. (In fact, guilt over our own shameful condition gave us all the more reason to look to the Governing Body, who seemed obviously more godly than we were.)

Of course, we would hear lectures about the need to act more lovingly, but even for those who tried to apply the counsel, it was still only an act. The forces that were actually at work in the congregation most of the time were fear (of displeasing Jehovah or His organizational representatives), guilt (over shortcomings in personal conduct or failure to meet field service goals), pride (over being better than others whose shortcomings or failures seemed worse than ours), jealousy (over the accomplishments or privileges of others), and camaraderie (not real love, but a by-product of the 'us against them' syndrome).

Talks and *Watchtower* articles encouraging us to show love always stressed that love was the first one of the 'fruits of the spirit' listed at Galatians 5:22, 23. We were told to 'work on' manifesting those fruits—a difficult feat since we were also told that we could not receive the 'holy spirit'; only the 'remnant' of the '144,000 anointed ones' had the privilege of being 'spirit-begotten.'

"All my life I believed
I was never going to die,
but now I am."

Because my wife, Penni, and I were always very active in field service, both of us having served as regular pioneers, and later as zealous publishers, we had many friends among the older faithful ones who had served the organization for many years. And we knew some of these long enough to see them approach the end of their lives—a bitter end in many cases.

One elderly sister who had been a Witness for over thirty years summed up a discussion of her ailments by telling Penni, "don't ever get old!"

"I don't intend to," my wife responded, confident that Armageddon was due momentarily.

"I didn't intend to, either," her friend replied with deep disappointment evident in her voice.

Of course she hadn't expected to grow old. She had spent the late 1960's and early 1970's trusting *The Watchtower's* prophecies that 1975 would bring 'the end.'—(8/15/68 WT., pages 494 and 499)—and before that, it had been expected in the '40's and in the '50's—always 'just months away.'

An elderly gentleman who had served the Watchtower Society for many years and was then in his seventies, sick with heart trouble, told me, "All my life I believed I was never going to die, but now I am."

"Here, look at this," he said as he opened his copy of *God's "Eternal Purpose" Now Triumphant* (Watchtower Society, 1974) to page 51 where it indicated that there was:

'another creative 'day,' a seventh 'day,' at the close of the 'morning' of which the whole earth would be populated with a human family and be a global Paradise.'

He pointed out where the book went on to name specific dates:

'Evening' of seventh creative 'day' begins 4026 B.C.E.

Then he showed me page 131 where it said:

'Morning of seventh creative 'day' begins, 523 B.C.E. The first half or 'evening' period of God's seventh creative 'day' was now closing, 3,500 years from creation of Adam and Eve.'

"See," he said, with his wrinkled old finger pointing at the page, "it's simple mathematics: the second half of the 7th creative day would end 3,500 years later, in the year 2975, and the 1000-year reign of Christ climaxing the 7th day would begin in 1975—or so the Society taught us. But they misled us. It wasn't true."

Our friend knew he had been misled. And he knew who had misled him: the Watchtower Society. He didn't leave the organization, but as he lay dying a year or so later, he gave the hospital staff strict instructions not to let any Jehovah's Witness elders in to see him.

"I know I'm not going to make it through Armageddon —I'm not good enough!"

Our friend, Myrtle (not her real name), had also served the Watchtower for decades. Then in her seventies, she was still going strong—'pioneering' for a few months at a time—although not with the same strength she had displayed in her younger days when she was able to work a full time job and raise a fami-

ly, besides going out in field service.

One day as we were working together in the door-to-door ministry, Myrtle paused between houses and turned to me. "David," she said, "I know I'm not going to make it through Armageddon—I'm not good enough!"

Needless to say, I was shocked. "But, Myrtle," I tried to reason with her, "you've accomplished more than most of us at Kingdom Hall. If you won't make it into the New Order, how could any of us hope to survive?"

"I don't know about that," she answered, shaking her head, "but I know that Jehovah isn't pleased with me. I'm not good enough. I'm not going to be there in the Paradise."

I was shocked then, but now I realize that Jehovah's Witnesses fell into one of two categories: (1) those who self-righteously assumed that God would preserve them through Armageddon on account of their good works, and (2) those who knew they were sinners unworthy of eternal life. I myself fell into the first category; Myrtle fell into the second.

Since then I have learned that I was wrong and Myrtle was right. Independent Bible reading eventually led me to Romans, chapter 8, which says that "those who are in the flesh cannot please God" (verse 8).

Myrtle felt that she could not please God, no matter how hard she tried, and she was right, because "those who are in the flesh cannot please God." The only ones not in the flesh [and therefore able to please God] are those who have received the Spirit "of sonship" (vs. 15) as "joint heirs with Christ" who would eventually be "glorified" with Him (vs. 17).

But, *The Watchtower* had taught us that there are only 144,000 individuals down through the centuries who receive God's Spirit to become joint heirs with Christ, who will end up glorified with Him in heaven—that only a small remnant of a few thousand such spirit-anointed individuals remain alive on earth, whereas the millions of average Jehovah's Witnesses do not receive the Spirit as discussed at Romans, chapter 8.

No wonder, then, that so many J.W.'s—like Myrtle—feel guilty, condemned, and unable to please God! The Scriptures make it plain:

'Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him.'

'... but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, "Abba Father!" it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ...' (Rom. 8:8, 9, 15-17 RSV).

So, the Watchtower Society consigns its 'great crowd' of non-spirit-anointed followers to a position where they "cannot please God" no matter how hard they try.

Removing doubts and fears

These doubts and fears that plague Jehovah's Witnesses have a common solution: the individual must put his trust in Jesus Christ, rather than in the Watchtower. Whereas Myrtle felt condemned while serving in the Watchtower organization, "There is therefore now no condemnation for

those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1). Whereas our other J.W. friends felt bitterly disappointed as they faced death in their old age,

'The law of the Spirit of life in Christ has set me free from the law of sin and death... if Christ is in you, although your bodies are dead because of sin, your spirits are alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through His Spirit which dwells in you' (Rom. 8:2, 10-12, RSV).

And whereas Jehovah's Witnesses commonly complain that their congregations lack love,

'Love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God... There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear' (I John 4:7-8, 18 RSV).

So, if you, the reader, are a Witness of Jehovah, and you now realize that your doubts and fears are due to looking to the Watchtower Society for your salvation, you are invited to turn, instead, to Jesus Christ. He extends this invitation to you: "Come to me, all of you who are tired of carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest." Also, "I will never turn away anyone who comes to me" (Matt. 11:28-29; John 6:37 TEV).

Taken from *Comments From The Friends*, the quarterly of the ministry to the cults by the same name. This ministry is worthy of your support, in prayer and with financial gifts. The address is COMMENTS FROM THE FRIENDS, P.O. Box 840, Stoughton, MA 02072. Write for their quarterly!

THE GREATEST THREAT TO BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

By Rev. Ewald Eisele

In spite of the emphasis of Religion Analysis Service on the threat to Biblical Christianity that is posed by the cults, there is an even greater threat with which we must deal. As most know, our ministry, as stated on the cover of our catalog, concerns itself with "cults and *unscriptural teachings* in the light of God's Word."

From time to time some have bestirred themselves to write about, and against, the body of apostates which goes by the name of The World Council of Churches (WCC). We have only one booklet on the subject listed in our catalog and that was written prior to the 1983 meeting of the organization in Vancouver. There may be later books on the subject but they have not come to our attention. Unfortunately, there are few who take pen in hand to write something about the WCC. Hopefully, this will change, in view of the blasphemous statements made by the leadership, and others, during the meeting of the World Council of Churches: World Conference on Mission and Evangelism which was held in San Antonio, Texas from May 23 to June 1, 1989. (*Christian News*, Vol. 27, No. 24)

The publicized theme of the meeting was, "Your Will Be Done—Mission In Christ's Way." However, "Christ's Way" was not that which was presented by the keynote, as well as other speakers.

Loud and clear the message came through, the greatest threat to Biblical Christianity is the apostasy of the denominations and churches in

fellowship with that unbiblical and ungodly organization. **THEY** did not proclaim it but that is the message that was given to any Bible believer.

From the very beginning of the conference the real theme was proclaimed. Dr. Eugene Stockwell, the chairman of the WCC Commission on World Mission and Evangelism, giving the keynote speech at the opening session, gave his answer to the question, "Is Christ the only way?" He said, "No, Jesus is not the only way, if that is taken to mean that all who do not name the name of Jesus have lost the way, have no passport to heaven." He said, "In our encounter with people of other faiths we cannot deny that many of them have arrived at having a profound relationship to God."

And lest anyone doubt that this leader of the ecumenical movement would be vague about those who have this "profound relationship to God," he named them: The Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, Zoroastrians, Jains, etc. Interestingly, there were also, among the delegates 48 Roman Catholics, including 21 appointed by the Vatican.

The conference's Ecumenical Press Service in its release stated in an article heading, "Conference Ponders Christ's Way in Mission." "For the first time in the history of these world mission conferences, followers of other faiths—two Hindus, two Jews, a Muslim, a Buddhist, a Sikh, a Jain and a Native American traditional religionist attended as consultants."

Stockwell also made reference to the WCC 1983 assembly in Van-

couver where representatives of non-Christian religions including Islam, Jew and Hindu were brought to the platform and their "sacred" books were read. At that meeting, you may recall, a Hindu dancer was allowed the use of the platform to give expression to her pagan religion and for her efforts received a rousing ovation from the full assembly.

Nor was Stockwell alone in his rejection of Christ's statement that, "no man cometh unto the Father but by me" (John 14:6). The Uruguayan Methodist General Secretary of the WCC, Dr. Emilio Castro, in his major speech struck a note closely related to the theme of Liberation Theology. He said in part, "the dynamic session of Christ's Way must begin with the marginalized sector of society. It is from the starting point of the poor that the fabric of God's kingdom will be woven." The poor were then described, "the poor come to us in the drug addict or the dissident, in the economic migrant or the political refugee, in the lonely person who cannot find a place in our competitive society or in the victims of that society.

The pro-Marxist political stance of the WCC is too well known to have to go into it here. Its support of Marxist terrorists was one of the reasons why, several years ago, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the Salvation Army withdrew their memberships.

The 700 delegates to this meeting heard this anti-Christian, rank liberal, blasphemous rhetoric over and over in the plenary sessions and workshops. There is no doubt in my

mind that the WCC poses as great a threat to Biblical Christianity as any other cult or movement today. That apostate organization claims to be the voice for the entire church of Jesus Christ in spite of the fact that it is not, by any stretch of the imagination, even Christian. It is, in its doctrines and affiliates, the greatest perversion of Christianity in history and shows no sign of betterment. Probably the most unfortunate thing about the entire picture is that they are deceiving and pulling the wool over the eyes of so many millions of Christians who have never been taught the simple fundamentals of the faith. And yet, the deluded ones are without excuse because the truth of the REAL Christ is plainly spelled out on the pages of Scripture.

The real church, the born-from-above believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, need to be much in prayer, not only for the ongoing of Christ's church, but also for the leadership of the WCC. Paul, who confessed that he was the greatest sinner, was turned around, soundly converted, and became Christ's outstanding spokesman. The hand of the Lord is today able to accomplish the same thing in the hearts and lives of the apostate leadership of the WCC.

For those in churches affiliated with the WCC, through denominational-ties, the Scriptural admonition is simple: "come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you" (II Cor. 6:17).

BOOK REVIEW

I LEFT THE LODGE by Dale A. Byers

Reviewed by Rev. Ewald Eisele

In the Preface of this book, the author, a former Mason who had been raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason, says that at a very difficult time for his family, a group of Masons came and helped save the family home when it was in danger of being destroyed by a natural disaster. This so impressed him as a boy that as soon as he reached the required age he joined the local Chapter of the Lodge. The first chapter tells about this, and his subsequent decision to accept Christ as Savior. It also reveals the turmoil that took place in his own mind and soul when he realized that Masonry and Christianity were not compatible.

In chapter two he deals with what Masonry is on the surface for all to see. Throughout the book he quotes from official Masonry publications. Indeed, the entire presentation is very adequately documented. He states that, officially, Masonry is defined as consisting of a course of moral instruction, illustrated by types, emblems and allegorical figures.

FREEMASONRY BENEATH THE SURFACE is the title of the third chapter. He begins to give the reasons why a Christian cannot properly belong to an organization that on the surface seems so innocent, so doctrinally neutral, so philanthropic. In fact, the entire book really deals with this question. "But," says he, "no amount of good works and social endeavors can conceal the darkness of Masonry." He also deals with some of the evidence of the impact of

Masonry on a variety of areas of life. Along this line, he mentions that even our currency reflects the impact of the lodge. He points to the markings on the dollar bill, with the all-seeing eye and the pyramid as being inspired by Masonry. Quoting Masonry's own authors he shows the connection between "the god of Masonry" and "the god of this world."

Chapter four is historical and traces the roots of Masonry. The worship of the ancient mystery religions and the worship of Satan and the sun god are also brought into the picture and related to the over-all "worship" of the lodge. The individual temples and lodge rooms, he reveals, are constructed to emphasize the allegorical aspect of their "worship."

The Masonic view of the Bible is considered in chapter six. Though it is a short chapter, he documents very well the fact that the lodge uses the Bible in a twisted manner in order to make it say what they want it to say. That Freemasonry is a religion is also proved by quoting their own publications and leaders. Chapter seven continues the revelation regarding the religious aspect but concentrates on those Masonic symbols that betray Christ.

The longest chapter in the book is the eighth which carries the title *MASONRY, MORMONISM AND WITCHCRAFT*. He quotes from a speech by the out-going president of the Mormon Historical Society, Dr. C. Reed Durham, Jr., which was delivered April 20, 1947. In this

speech, Dr. Reed identified the similarities of Mormonism and Masonry and recognized that his church had its roots in Freemasonry. This is perhaps the most interesting and revealing chapter in the book and is in itself well worth its price.

Chapter nine has the title *MASONIC OATHS ARE UNGODLY*. He uses, not only Scripture, but also quotes some of the penalties involved if one breaks one of the many oaths he must take.

MASONRY BELITTLES THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST is chapter ten. Here it is stated that as far as the lodge is concerned the lodge superseded the Church. To Masonry, the Church's supposedly being outdated and effective, gave rise to the Masonic organization. Today, it is the meeting ground for men of every country, sect, and opinion, united in a common belief in the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man, and the hope of immortality. In this

reviewer's opinion, this is one of the greatest reasons why a real Christian can never belong to a secret society. A Christian is not allowed to testify of his faith in Jesus Christ because it may offend a fellow Mason who just might belong to the most pagan religion on earth. So the Christian is muzzled by what, in reality, is a satanic cult.

There are four more short chapters which deal with reasons for a Christian separating himself totally from the lodge. Following the conclusion there are fourteen appendices which concern the various rites, a list of U.S. presidents who have been Masons, and various subjects that will be of great interest to every reader.

This is a very important work that should be widely read by Christians, whether in the lodge or not. It may be purchased from our bookstore for \$7.95 plus \$.90 postage.

CAN BIBLICAL CREATION AND EVOLUTION BE RECONCILED?

by Bolton Davidheiser, Box 22, La Mirada, CA 90637

Prominent scientists and theologians insist that Biblical creation and evolution can be reconciled, and furthermore that reconciliation is desirable and important. Other scientists and theologians, a minority in our day, hold the opposite view. Many books and numerous articles have been written on the subject and so a resolution of the matter in a few paragraphs may seem to be impossible. But perhaps not.

Those who seek a reconciliation seem always to base the whole issue on the first two chapters of Genesis in the Bible. Their contention is that if

the creationists would only interpret these two chapters properly there would be no real difficulty and reconciliation would be accomplished.

However, one problem which does not involve interpretation is that the Bible gives the names of early man and the lengths of their lives, starting with Adam, the first created man. That Adam was a real individual and not merely a type of mankind is attested by the apostle Paul as important in Christian theology (Romans 5:14-21, I Corinthians 15:21-23). Also there are other New Testament references to Adam and the first

three of his children as real persons.

The Biblical genealogies encompass a very brief period of time compared to the enormous extent of the ages needed to make evolution plausible. One attempt to reconcile this disparity in time has been by postulating an indefinitely long interval between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2, The English translation of the second verse is change from "the earth was without form and void" to "the earth became without form and void." It is assumed that there was a creation previous to the one recorded in Genesis which was ruined and made chaotic through a rebellion brought about by Satan. This change in translation is accepted by some Hebrew scholars, particularly those desiring to reconcile creation and evolution, but the majority seems to agree that it puts an unnatural strain on the Hebrew grammar in this verse.

Two Old Testament references are cited in support of this "gap theory," also called the "ruin-reconstruction theory." One is Isaiah 45:18, stating that God created the earth not in vain but formed it to be inhabited. "Not in vain" here is the same Hebrew word as "without form" in the Genesis text. But as also described in the Genesis account, it merely says that the earth at first was in an uninhabitable condition and does not mean that a former creation was destroyed.

The other is Jeremiah 4:23, "I beheld the earth, and lo, it was without form, and void . . ." In context the prophet is describing his vision of the condition of the land of Israel during the Babylonian captivity. It has nothing to do with the time of creation.

Adoption of the "gap theory" by creationists is merely a device to accommodate the Bible to the great age of the earth insisted upon by evolutionists. It grants them the one thing they must have—vast amounts of time. Moreover, in recent years various "scientific" evidences have been found for a young earth.

But the matter of this postulated gap in the Genesis record is refuted by several Biblical passages, particularly Genesis 1:31. At the end of the creation week God saw that everything which He had made was "very good." But according to the "gap theory," Satan, a created being, was already at this time very bad and had caused so much trouble that a previous creation had been ruined, making it necessary for God to perform another creation, the one recorded in the Bible, to take its place.

Also the order of events in creation is in contradiction to the accepted evolutionary sequence: green plants before the sun, whales before land animals, birds before "creeping things."

Much is said about the "double revelation theory," that we have two books from which to gain knowledge on this subject, meaning the Bible and the "book of nature," and they must agree. But when Biblical statements appear to differ from scientific theories, those who put their confidence in the double revelation theory seem invariably to put their faith in the "book of nature."

The Bible says that the Creator was our Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:1-3, 10, 14, I Corinthians 8:6, Ephesians 3:9, Colossians 1:16-17, Hebrews 1:1, 2). John 1:1, 3 expresses it, "In the

beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made." Verse 14 makes it clear that the Word is Christ. Some have blasphemously written, somewhat paraphrasing John, "In the beginning was the word, and the word was hydrogen." Rather similarly, as the Bible states that the first man, Adam, was made from the dust of the ground, some say they believe humanity was derived from the same materials as are found in the dust of the ground, and add, "by way of a long animal ancestry." Then what about Eve, Adam's wife, the first woman? It is stated in Scripture that she was formed from a portion of Adam's side. The Hebrew word is generally translated "rib." There is no possible evolutionary explanation for this.

An honest examination of the matter reveals that Biblical creation cannot be reconciled with evolution. In the end, those who say they can be reconciled are forced to resort to ridicule and name-calling, such as "literalist" and "lunatic fringe."

BUT HERE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART

A basic Christian doctrine is salvation by grace through the atonement for sin made by the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. Eternal salvation is through receiving forgiveness for sins through the merits of the only sinless One by way of His taking the penalty for our sins upon Himself and dying in our place. But if evolution is true, we are improved animals in-

stead of fallen sinners. Then there never was one rational, responsible, first man who introduced sin into the world by disobeying a direct command by God. It follows from this that there is no need for the Redeemer, no occasion for the Savior. Thus this basic Christian doctrine, for which a multitude of martyrs have given their lives, is negated.

Many are not aware of this basic Christian doctrine. Ministers of many churches no longer teach it to their congregations. They are more interested in improving social conditions.

Evolutionists frequently use the words "creation" and "Creator" while the context shows they are referring to evolution. Some use the term "creation by evolution." They point out that evolutionists can believe in God. True, but that is not enough. As James wrote (2:19), "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well. The devils (demons) believe, and tremble." Evolutionists also point out that they can be as virtuous and ethical as creationists. True again, but that shows their ignorance of the basic Christian doctrine of salvation by grace and not by works. Judged on the basis of works, none of us can meet God's standard. The only way to have one's name written in the Book of Life is to be redeemed through the sacrifice for us made by the only One who did not sin.

Is there any way this basic Christian doctrine can be reconciled with a gradual evolution of man from the beasts? No!

THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT (Part Three)

by Rev. Ewald Eisele

In this segment we will continue to consider some of the Therapies with which we left off in the last issue.

Biofeedback: Involves the use of special electronic equipment to gain control of a body function which we cannot normally consciously regulate.

Homeopathy: A drugless therapy. "Like cures like." A substance which causes a symptom when given in large doses is said to cure the same symptom when given in very small amounts.

Iridology: Diagnosing illness by viewing the color and texture of the iris (the pigmented center of the eye).

Massage and body-work therapies:

Organomy: Illness comes because the free flow of "orgone" energy is inhibited in the body. Restoration is through uninhibited sexual activity.

Functional integration: Exercises derived from yoga.

Zone therapy: Same as acupuncture except that certain parts of the body have control over organs away from the pressure point; usually using hands and feet as nerve centers. Also called Reflexology.

Rolfing: Massage with a vengeance (feels so good when they stop!)

Do'in: Same as acupuncture except uses massage instead of needles.

Polarity therapy: Claims to balance the negative and positive polarities of the "life energy" flowing through the body by using gentle massage, exercise and diet.

Meditation, imagery and visualization: Meditation follows Hindu and/or yoga traditions. It is universally touted in holistic health as THE way toward relaxation, stress reduction, and attainment of various states of enlightenment.

The use of visualization and guided imagery involves extending a meditative state to create a specific mental picture for diagnosis and healing. It is also used in public schools in the elementary grades.

These disciplines are dangerous because they are closely related to the practice of contacting a "familiar spirit" as taught in most occult texts.

Psychic diagnosis, healing & surgery.

Nutritional therapies.

Applied Kinesiology. Usually students in chiropractic schools are exposed to this cousin of formal Kinesiology. The latter is a legitimate science which is the study of human muscular movements. The former is dangerous in that the theory is closely related to Chinese concepts of energy flow and is actually a combination of ancient Chinese medicine and American chiropractic manipulation.

Disease and other bodily misfunctions result from the blockage or imbalance in the flow of energy in the body. Universal energy is the basis for all life. It flows from the universe into living creatures, circulates within

them and then flows out of them into the universe. If the individual living creature is not functioning properly and the energy is not allowed its proper flow, the entire universe suffers.

This is readily accepted to NA people because Universal Energy is what religions have called God, since man & woman consist of universal energy which has assumed human form, they are God!!

Psychology:

ASSOCIATION FOR TRANSPERSONAL PSYCHOLOGY
PSYCHOSYNTHESIS
PAST LIFE THERAPY

Self-help or self-development seminars:

THE FORUM (est) THE FELDKRAIS METHOD
LIFESPRING TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION
INSIGHT SEMINAR TRAINING SILVA MIND CONTROL

Education:

CONFLUENT EDUCATION (CE is based on pantheistic theology)

PROJECT GOAL (Guidance Opportunities for Affective Learning)

It was (1980) developed with federal funds to help handicapped children in Irvine, CA. By 1982 it was used in all schools and in 37 other districts to teach ALL children. The program includes biofeedback, yoga, and guided imagery. The aim is to introduce them to their "inner self" which is able to guide them in making decisions or in knowing what is true or good.

Political organizations

UNITY-IN-DIVERSITY COUNCIL PLANETARY CITIZENS
CREATIVE INITIATIVE FOUNDATION WORLD GOODWILL
GLOBAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATES LUCIS TRUST
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR INTEGRATIVE STUDIES
THE CLUB OF ROME

Club of Rome officials have stated:

"Mankind cannot afford to wait for change to occur spontaneously and fortuitously . . . man must initiate . . . changes . . . (The) crises confronting mankind now and in the immediate future can be successfully met provided there is genuine international cooperation in the creation of a MASTER PLAN for world growth. There is no other viable alternative to the future survival of civilization than a new global community under a common leadership." End of quote.

The Club of Rome is closely allied to The Council on Foreign Relations, International Monetary Fund and The World Bank.

Publications:

NEW AGE MAGAZINE NEW REALITIES
EAST/WEST JOURNAL ReVISION
NEW DIRECTIONS THE MOVEMENT
YOGA JOURNAL WHOLE LIFE TIMES

(Concluded on Next Page)

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THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT (Conclusion of Part III)

Books:

NEW AGE DIRECTORY

KEYS OF ENOCH

WHOLE EARTH CATALOG (in the introduction this admonition: We are as gods and might as well get good at it).

BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE

AQUARIAN GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST (written by Levi H. Dowling, who wanted to be known only as Levi, just before his death which is explained in the introduction as "Passed from Earth Life in 1911).

THE NATIONAL NEW AGE YELLOW PAGES. The sub-title of this book reads: "The Complete Directory of Conscious-Raising Services, Products and Organizations." Everything on the NA scene is covered in the 252-page book! It lists all of the NA businesses, trade people, and therapies of those who believe in the dawning of a new age and who think that since it is to come that it is only right to let people know that they are behind the movement.

(This article will be continued in the next issue of *THE DISCERNER*.)