

The DISCERNER

“HEREBY KNOW WE THE SPIRIT OF
TRUTH AND THE SPIRIT OF ERROR”

AN
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QUARTERLY

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EDITORIAL THE DISCERNER

by Dr. Wm. A. BeVier

Have you read any good articles about the cults lately?

I recently thought I would review the articles published in the periodicals within the last year or so about the cults. I first consulted the Christian Periodical index, which portends to index all the articles in the prominent evangelical periodicals. The 1991 index listed no references to any cults in the U.S. The only entry under the heading "cults" for 1991 was an article titled "Cults—Corinth (Greece)." For the year 1990 there were only three articles.

The Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, primarily of secular sources, didn't have much more to offer. *The Christian Century* and *Jet* magazines each had one article in 1991. *Psychology Today* had an article about Jim Jones and Jonestown based on incidents happening in 1979. There were two articles about the Santeria group in Florida and their practice of animal sacrifices, and right to religious freedom. (*Christianity Today*, May 13, 1992, also picked up this item.) *Rolling Stone* magazine (which most of us don't read) had an article about the satanic ritual

murder of a boy in New York.

Very few articles on the cults were to be found for 1990, 1991, and to date in 1992. I was beginning to think interest in the cults was about to disappear and I began to wonder why. Perhaps we are having trouble identifying the cults. There is evidence for this I recently saw an article by a Church of the Latter Day Saints, i.e., Mormon, Military Chaplain complaining that he is not receiving proper acceptance by the other Chaplains—(he should look at the history of his group's attitude of the "Saints" toward the "Gentiles" to understand this). Later in this Editorial, a reference to the New Age will support the contention that cults are becoming more difficult to identify.

Perhaps another reason there are so few current articles on the cults is a viewpoint: if we don't mention them they will go away. Giving recognition helps to promote, even if the recognition is negative. Again, many people at the present time don't want to be critical of anything or anybody, and most of the information about the cults is negative, so we just don't say anything about them. We don't

want to offend anyone. But with no current information about the cults, it is no wonder there is so much ignorance about them and the spiritual damage they do.

There still are books being written in this area by a few good writers, but it seems many people are no longer reading books—(read any good books about the cults lately?).

I was about to give up my search when I came across two relatively recent articles in *Christianity Today*.

The October 7, 1991 issue had an article titled: "The Kingdom of the Cult Watchers" (35:19-22). We recognize the title is a takeoff from one of Walter Martin's books, but the article addresses the activities of "cult watchers" today, such as the Religion Analysis Service.

One quotation from the article indicates recent developments. "With the advent of the New Age movement [sic.], cult-watching groups must aim at far more diffuse and diverse targets." The article features the Spiritual Counterfeit Project (SCP) headquartered in Berkeley, California, including its problems and successes. Perhaps because of the "diffuse and diverse targets" many are becoming reluctant to "shoot" at anything. We don't know what is a cult and what isn't, and the cults keep changing so much (as we have tried to indicate in an earlier editorial).

The *Christianity Today* article makes reference to the 1991 Directory of Cult Research Organizations which lists over 500 evangelical cult-watching organizations. So Religion Analysis

Service is one among many in this regard. However, according to the *Christianity Today* article, only eight or nine have a paid staff. This brings the number down greatly as far as effectiveness is concerned. (Permit me to make this aside—RAS has a "salaried" office manager whose salary is several months behind.)

The *CT* article ends with the words describing "cult-watchers" as: Those "... raising a howl meant to wake the rest of us."

There is another article in *Christianity Today* (Jan. 13, 1992, pp. 37-44) I would call to your attention, in case you haven't read it. The article is titled "New Kingdoms for the cults" with the subtitle "Aberrant and unorthodox groups join Christians in filling Eastern Europe's spiritual vacuum."

Most of us have rejoiced over the collapse of the communist systems in the U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe. One result has been the opening of the millions of people living in these areas to access by Bible-believing Christians (and not-so-Christian business interests). Evangelicals have been taking advantage of these opportunities, but so have the cults.

Christianity Today reports during the summer of 1991 (latest figures available) 370,000 Jehovah's Witnesses met in conventions in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Poland, Rumania, and the old Soviet Union. They reported 18,293 "converts" being baptized in 30 conventions.

The same article reports the Mormons are sending missionaries to Eastern Europe and have 600-700

active in the former Soviet Union. The former U.S. ambassador to Poland, David Kennedy, a Mormon, gained official recognition for the Mormon church in Poland.

In 1990 the Unification Church ("Moonies") flew 1,400 Russian students to the U.S. to attend Moon's training sessions. These are now back in Russia propagating his beliefs.

Travelers to Russia report Hare Krishna posters fill Moscow's subways.

The Christian Science group is seeking to raise \$37million for a short-wave radio station in Poland. At the same time they are trying to sell their TV station in the US. because of financial problems. They must believe an investment in Eastern Europe is worth more to them than a TV station here.

Transcendental Meditation is being recommended by some Soviet Armenian psychiatrists. It is reported in 1990 over 12,000 Armenians received training in TM and TM claims over 1,000 practitioners in Moscow.

Other groups identified by *Christianity Today* as operating in Eastern Europe are the Rastafarians in Poland, Bahai in Czechoslovakia, Theosophical Society in Yugoslavia (before the current civil war), New Age groups in Moscow, and the Children of God in Bulgaria. L. Ron Hubbard's video "An Introduction to Scientology" has been translated into several Eastern European languages.

During the summer of 1991 the Mormon Tabernacle Choir toured Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union as part of a "well-

organized" plan to present Mormonism in a positive way. A Mormon temple is planned for eastern Germany.

All of this may explain why there doesn't appear to be a lot of current activity by the cults in this country. They too, like many Evangelical Christians, are focusing their attention on the newly "open doors" in Eastern Europe.

Paul Carden, a researcher at Christian Research Institute in California, is quoted by *Christianity Today* as saying:

Perhaps most disturbing of all, the Christian church and the general public in Eastern Europe are largely ignorant, and all but defenseless, in the face of this cult invasion.

This is indeed a disturbing truth. Bible-believing Christians need to do all they can to stop this "invasion." Our prayers to God is one way. Our financial support of those true believers traveling to or already living in Eastern Europe is another way. Maybe we need to think of translating some of our good literature on the cults into the Eastern European languages.

I believe we have another way we can help. We can strike at the "home base" of most of these cults, which is in the U.S. Most of the personnel and support of the cults overseas is coming from this country. If we become more effective in our witness [and the Lord is pleased to use this to win more to Christ in the U.S.] it will reduce the resources that the "enemy of our souls" can send overseas.

* * * * *

LEADING J. W.'S TO CHRIST

(Do you HELP or HINDER them?)

One day in the late 1970's, when I was a Jehovah's Witness elder, I boldly walked into the fellowship hall of an Assembly of God church where a counter-cult ministry was operating a literature table. While the other Witnesses who were out in field service with me waited outside in my car, I began witnessing to the bushy-haired young fellow who was manning the table.

But this young man questioned me about the Watchtower Society's prediction that 1975 would bring Armageddon. He showed me photocopies documenting the false prophecy. These included, if I remember correctly, pages 494 and 499 of the August 15, 1968, *Watchtower* magazine, where a study article titled in all capital letters, "WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO 1975?" asked, "Are we to assume from this study that the battle of Armageddon will be all over by the autumn of 1975, and the long-looked-for thousand-year reign of Christ will begin by then?" The article assured readers that the date might be off by "only a difference of weeks or months, not years." I responded with the then standard defense that the time interval between the creation of Adam and the creation of Eve would allow for some years after 1975. But he showed me the Aid To Bible Understanding article on Eve (p. 538) which gave her age as the same as Adam's. The *Aid* book said, "At the age of 130 another son was born to her," making Eve's age the same

as that given in Gen. 5:3 for Adam when Seth was born. The revised article in *Insight on the Scriptures* (p. 772) changes this to "When Adam was 130 years old, Eve gave birth . . ."

The young Christian's presentation was really beginning to shake me, and I wanted to hear more. If the Watchtower Society was not a true spokesman for God, I wanted to know the facts. But just then the pastor of the church walked up to us and took charge of the discussion, turning it to the subject of the Trinity.

I was certain that the Trinity doctrine was false, and I was well-prepared to use Scripture in support of J.W. theology. But I saw no point in wasting time arguing with a man determined to force on me what I viewed as worship of a satanic three-headed false god. So, I politely excused myself and left.

For some time, whenever I recalled the incident, I wished I could have heard the rest of what the young man had to say about false prophecies in Watchtower literature; but then I would remember the pastor's pushy arguments for the Trinity and be glad I left.

If I had been allowed at that time to hear all the evidence proving the Watchtower Society to be a false prophet, perhaps I would not have remained in the organization until 1982.

The steps that need to be taken with J.W.'s in most cases are these:

(1) Use their own literature to prove the Watchtower Society a false prophet. Show how back-and-forth doctrinal changes prove the organization does not speak for God.

(2) Help the J.W. see that his or her salvation depends, not on an organization, but on Jesus Christ. Also, that Christ deserves obedience as our Lord. An organization claiming we must obey its instructions and depend on it for salvation is a counterfeit lord and savior—a false christ. The J.W. needs to stop following the organization and must turn to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

(3) Now that the organization has been taken out of the way as the authoritative interpreter of Scripture, it becomes possible for the J.W. to read the Bible with enough understanding to correct his or her theology.

Unfortunately, Christians who lack first-hand personal experience with J.W. thinking often start out trying to correct the individual's theology first. They assume that, shown the appropriate Bible verses, the Witness will get the point. But these Christians fail to realize the extent to which mind control blocks any interpretation other than that supplied by the Watchtower Society.

For example, I have seen J.W.'s read at Revelation 19:1 the words, "great crowd in heaven" and say that the great crowd is not in heaven but on earth—the exact opposite of what the verse plainly says—because the Society has told them authoritatively that the great crowd is not in heaven. A similar mental block occurs when Witnesses read verses about the deity of

Christ.

Failure to recognize this can result in Christians actually hindering J.W.'s instead of helping them turn to Christ. That is what happened when the pastor mentioned above interrupted the young man who was effectively breaking through the mind control barrier in my own case. Instead of helping to lead me to Christ, this pastor actually aborted the process altogether. Although he knew his Bible, he did not know Jehovah's Witnesses or how to talk to them.

In his sermon to the men of Athens the Apostle Paul furnishes an excellent example of using knowledge of how non-believers think. Instead of starting out attacking them as idolaters and worshipers of false gods, Paul established common ground by praising them for being "very religious" and then spoke of their "altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you" (Acts 17:23 NIV).

We imitate Paul when we express appreciation for a J.W.'s devotion to God and the Bible, and then demonstrate that the Watchtower organization does not truly represent these. But when we start out attacking a J.W.'s theology we are often simply placing an obstacle in his path—hindering rather than helping him turn to Christ.

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* * * * *

SHAMANISM

A shaman is a priest, guru, or a spiritual leader with another title, historically known variously as medium, medicine man, witch-doctor or sorcerer, who claims to heal body and/or spirit through the use of magic. He is also, by divination, able to reveal that which is hidden and unknown. He is able, because of the demonic power he has, to control people even from a distance. The word shaman originated in Siberia and was applied to a village, tribal or religious leader. At times the shaman would, in a self-imposed state of ecstasy and trance, engage in soul-travel. His purpose would be to roam the earth or visit the spirits in the underworld and bring back a revelation to the people.

Shamans, either male or female, were first chosen by family, but later the choice was left to the spirits. Part of their training, and evidence of shamanship, were their ecstatic trances and out of body excursions. He would use the power of plants and herbs, which the demons did not like, to rid an individual or an entire village of evil. He would also choose the place for the individual families in the tribe to live because this too was a religious decision which only he could make.

Shamanism is the practice of a religion that is not organized, not centralized, and which is overseen by the shaman simply because of his spiritual power. At its root is the belief that there is a hidden world of unseen gods, demons and ancestral spirits. There can be communication with these but only

through the shaman who is in the same position as the mediums who came on the scene later on.

There is a great deal of controversy over the origin and history of shamanism. While it is world-wide, it is not always considered a religion. Often it is a system of techniques, or an ideology which attaches itself to a religion or movement which has its own history or system of beliefs. Some believe that a shaman is represented in early cave drawings as early as the so-called Paleolithic Period (30,000 years ago). It certainly is an ancient religion pre-dating Christianity. It is closely related to the ancestral worship of many eastern cultures. It was, evidently, for the most part of history, a tribal religion with variations in rites, ceremonies and artifacts from tribe to tribe.

As mentioned above, the tribal leaders in Siberia and Mongolia were generally the shamans. They controlled the population, cured diseases, divined knowledge which was hidden from the common people, and were the leaders in the religious sacrifices.

Shamanism spread rapidly throughout Asia. In India the one all-important ministry of the shaman was to be the tribal healer. He was known to be able to heal both body and soul since he was the only person able to see a soul. Sickness was caused, and this was a common belief, by the individual's soul being lost, stolen, or strayed. The shaman was called to retrieve the soul, restoring it to the individual, who was thereby healed. The entire life of the village, or

tribal population, centered around the person of the shaman. Since he could control the people and the spirits, he was considered to be the only one who could act as mediator between man and the gods. Sometimes he would engage in some form of sacred dance in order to induce a trance-like state. That would enable him to relay some message to the people from the spirit world.

Shamanism soon spread throughout the orient. In some places it was THE strong religious element. In others it played only a minor part as a more popular religion developed. In the history of the development of the Buddhism of Tibet this is more obvious than in other places. There, shamanism included worship of the spirits along with the worship of the local deities. It was slowly replaced by the more prayerful (by means of prayer wheels), individual, and meditative religion of the monasteries.

In China, before the Imperial Religion was established, there were two religious elements. The first was a cult of heaven and divine ancestors, which was a forerunner of Confucianism. The second was a religion of omens and magic in which the spirit medium or shaman held forth in a priest-like role. As in the case of the shamans of India the same activities were followed. The Chinese shaman also engaged in exorcism and fortune-telling. There was another development in that the trance-like state of the shamans eventually evolved into the transcendental state of Mystical Taoism.

Throughout the East the ritual varied. It may be a simple chant and dance, or an elaborate

ceremony, or the wholesale slaughter of scores of pigs to fulfill the religious and social requirements of the population as was the custom among the Melpas tribe of Papua New Guinea.

From Siberia, Mongolia, India and the Islands these beliefs, in one form or another, spread to Japan and Taiwan and on to Europe. How and when is not known, but shamanism spread to the Americas where, among the Indian tribes, the shaman was known as the tribal medicine man. Whether in the South or North, his function was practically the same as those in the East. Depending on the place, time and local situation, he was priest, soothsayer and/or doctor. He, at times and varying from place to place and from time to time, had visions, used magic and witchcraft-like practices.

However, shamanism was not to be confined to tribes. With the explosion of the New Age and New World Order philosophies a new interest in eastern religions also exploded. This is not only true in the Americas but is also the case around the world. Naturally this has opened the door to an innumerable host of anti-Christian teaching and teachers.

In America, this opened the door for shamanism to become the greatest driving anti-Christian religious force ever experienced. A shaman no longer goes about with his fetishes and fierce mask as was sometimes true in the past. There are exceptions regarding these primitive artifacts. The initiate to shamanism today is sometimes required to bring along to his class his drums, rattles and other paraphernalia.

The American shaman of today may well wear a business suit, a clerical gown, or a conservative dress. Today's shaman may be a school teacher, college professor, doctor, attorney, merchant, psychologist, politician, policeman, or preacher. Their dress and artifacts have changed and so has their approach. The emphasis today is on the individual. Self-help, self-improvement, self-healing, self-esteem, new thought, and positive thinking of one kind or another.

One of the most effective tools used by shamans in various professions is visualization. It has been used in school rooms for years but is also used in many other kinds of teaching situations. In his 1990 book, *The Way of the Shaman*, author Michael Hainer says that visualization belongs in the number one spot as THE tool to introduce shamanism. Knowing the background of shamanism around the globe, it is obvious that it is an integral part of sorcery or witchcraft. If the teacher, doctor, nurse, social worker, or preacher suggests visualization, the student, client or patient had better beware because the demons of shamanism are readied to invade his or her mind. This is unfortunately true because the shamans masquerade as every sort of professional. Visualization is a tool of Satan and comes right out of the pit of hell no matter who is teaching it.

In another area there is the holistic health movement with its various forms of shamanism inherited from the Eastern cultures and religions. Today there is very little said against these disciplines and treatments. There is hardly a voice or a printed page against them

from the conservative and fundamental Christians who should be the ones raising a cry against this form of satanism. From India with its Hinduism we have the meditation and the yoga disciplines. From Egypt we have an explosion of "pyramid power" which supposedly helps and heals every sort of problem. From China there is acupuncture and acupressure.

Unfortunately shamanism is not only in the schools, nursing homes and hospitals, it is also infiltrating the churches in America. Today we are seeing a proliferation of every variation of do-it-yourself religion that man can imagine. The variation is so great that a person can pick and choose as though in a religious supermarket. One may pick "Name It and Claim It," "Health and Wealth," "Positive Confession," "Revelation Knowledge," or some other unBiblical "gospel" offered by shamans masquerading as ministers of God's Word.

The subject is without end. There are also the shamans masquerading as ecologists and environmentalists who want to save their Mother, the Earth. They are driven by the same demonic power that drives all shamans. They draw into their net anyone who will listen to their siren call to save the whales, the trees, the owls, or any other lower animal. These are the same ones who will march on behalf of Pro-Choice groups so that they can save the porpoises but kill the babies.

There are others, hundreds, if not thousands of them. They are in radio, television, writers for the newspapers and news magazines, manipulators of the economy, in the

lodges and clubs. Satan has his disciples everywhere. It is high time for the REAL Christians in America to recognize the deception and take steps to remove it from as many places as possible. A good place to start would be the churches. Either remove the samanistic emphasis from the church or remove themselves from that kind of a

church. There certainly are enough warnings in the Word that there would be false prphets and teachers (shamans). The commandment is very simple: "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing . . ."

—Ewald Eisele

* * * * *

II JOHN 10 & 11

If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

The doctrine of Christ as set forth in the New Testament is the doctrine appointed of God to bring men into the experience of salvation. The Lord has set the seal of the Holy Spirit to it and we are not at liberty to allow anyone to think that they can please God or attain unto salvation by any other means. As is well known, and admitted in most Christian circles, opposition to the simple truth of the Word has come under a more fierce attack in the last 50 years than ever before. Almost every area of our land, and most of the world, has had an influx of teachers of falsehood who go about seeking to lead God's people astray. It was so in John's day and is far more true today; those who do not try to win the lost, but rather believers in the Lord to their way of thinking. It may be said with hardly an exception that these false teachers have never opened a mission field but always go in after

one is established and try to disrupt what a Godly missionary has done. This is also true in our cities as well as on the foreign mission fields of the world.

In these verses, John is warning against just such people. It is not that this Disciple of Love has suddenly become one of hatred, but rather that love of the Truth involves hatred of error. It was so in the life and ministry of our Lord and should be true in ours as well. The Gospel never regards heresy and/or apostasy with tolerance.

It is not that the Holy Spirit, through the Apostle John, is forbidding common courtesies, such as saying "Good Morning," or some other kind of courteous greeting, though there are some who would also forbid doing even that. Such a thing could not be interpreted as having fellowship with a false teacher or as an endorsement of his views. What is forbidden here is any action which might appear to be an acceptance or endorsement of the falsehood that a visitor embraces. Such an action may just simply be accepting a piece of their literature. These deceivers will not take

literature containing the Truth, and why should a Christian accept their printed lies?

Allowing a falsehood teacher to enter one's home as though he or she is a believer is contrary to the law of Christ here declared. Also, that makes it possible for the one coming as a teacher of error to very subtly undermine a believer's conviction. A false teacher, whether he is a Jehovah's Witness, Mormon, or Seventh-Day Adventist, is trained to do just that.

Also, inviting in a deceiver such as that adds to his prestige in the eyes of his or her superiors, or the neighbors who know you to be a Christian. Their thinking could be, "Well, if a Christian allows the Jehovah's Witness to come in it must be all right, and maybe they are not as bad as everyone says." One more thing—allowing them into one's home is in reality, according to verse 11, advancing the false doctrine that the intruder is teaching and establishes, in him or her, a more firm conviction that, after all, his way is right.

The excuse is often given, "Well, if I invite them in it gives me an opportunity to witness to them and perhaps win them to Christ." The evidence is against any such a conclusion to a visit by a false worker. Besides, they came to your door and that is the territory in which they have chosen to work

their evil and you can witness to them there. "Well, it's cold—you know that it is 40 below and they are going to get real chilled standing at the door!" So, let them go home and warm up! But, as the Lord says here, "Don't ask them in." I know that we are living in a more compromising time than John did. But John is not talking here about a kind of time; it is the Holy Spirit saying, "Do not be a partaker of his EVIL deeds!" Christ demands obedience, which, according to the Word, is more acceptable than any sacrifice we could bring (I Sam. 15:22).

The Holy Spirit, who inspired Paul to write in Romans 16:17, "Mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned, AND AVOID THEM," is saying here, with different words, the same thing. It goes without saying that this approach to the question is against what many tell us to do today. Many advocate inviting the emissaries of Satan in, and that is what they are, and then try to win them. John, Paul and evidently the Holy Spirit [according to these verses] could not disagree more firmly. Do not be unequally yoked to them, nor give even an impression that you may agree with them.

—Ewald Eisele

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BOOK REPORTS

ONENESS PENTECOSTALS and the TRINITY—Gregory A. Boyd. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1992. 234pp. Paper, \$11.95.

If you have never heard the term "oneness pentecostals" then you will be surprised to learn that this is a world-wide movement which has approximately 5 million members in the United States with just as many other members in foreign countries.

Despite its size, not much information has been available about them. This movement began in the early 1900s and has expanded in 90 denominations and in 57 countries. Their main denominational differences deny a belief in the Trinity and require baptism of converts only in the name of Jesus. For years the group has remained relatively inconspicuous because their theological differences did not discount the deity of Christ, and they were therefore considered relatively harmless.

But the author recognizes how this anti-trinitarian stance seriously erodes a believer's view of God and God's revelation. As a former oneness pentecostal and an ordained Baptist minister, he warns that the time has passed for ignoring this sect. "Oneness" groups are experiencing explosive growth, mostly in conversions from trinitarian churches. Once inside, a oneness believer is immersed in a closely-knit religious subculture that is difficult to leave—a member, although caught up in a legalistic lifestyle, is taught that they belong to the only group that knows the

"true God" while other Christians remain sadly misled.

Dr. Boyd's new book, *Oneness Pentecostals and the Trinity*, carefully distinguishes the views of oneness believers from trinitarian Pentecostals and charismatics. It refutes charges of oneness members that trinitarians believe in more than one God and clarifies their movement's misconception that the early church believed a "oneness" gospel.

The author begins on a more personal note with a testimony of his involvement in this group during his teenage years and the struggle for truth that plagued his early adulthood. He goes on to mark important distinctions that supply us with an insightful explanation of what Christians truly mean when they confess belief in a triune God. There are eight chapters in which the problems of this belief are addressed in a kindly manner. In the text, the author cites 42 Oneness Pentecostal works which makes this an extremely well documented book. There are four appendices which are informative additions. The last chapter, The Inescapable Trinity, and the first appendix, Salvation, the Spirit, and Tongues are alone worth the price of the book. Order your copy from our office by name, \$11.95 + \$1.05 postage.

—Ewald Eisele

* * *

THE CRITERION: Religious Discrimination in America—Jerry Nergman, Ph.D., Richfield, MN: Onesimus Publishing, 1984.

80pp. Paper, \$5.00.

The author of this interesting, revealing and disturbing book taught six years, having himself an earned Ph.D., before he came face to face with dismissal from his teaching. He writes, not because he is a disgruntled fired teacher. He writes because he is convinced that the general public has a right to know that the guarantees Americans think they enjoy under the First and Fourteenth Amendments mean very little when personal religion faces the established religion of the Academic community.

This book chronicles the religious persecution in our nation today. The persecution is espoused by those who believe in evolution, the accepted religion. The evidence points to the fact that this religion knows nothing of the love and tolerance of Christianity, but is vicious in its hatred for anything that smacks of supernaturalism.

In the introduction, Dr. Bergman states the categories of discrimination:

- 1) Derogatory and clearly Inappropriate comments
- 2) Refusal of Admittance to Graduate Programs
- 3) Refusal to award degrees
- 4) Denial of Promotions
- 5) Firings, Terminations, and Denial of Tenure

Obviously, the public knows nothing of these things because the very liberal media is also, along with the academic community, anti-Christian. These things, Dr. Bergman points out, are widespread. He has dozens of very well documented cases besides his

own (which is reported by another author, Luther D. Sunderland,) which was written for publication in *Contrast Magazine* and is included here in an Appendix.

The only conclusion one can come to, after reading of the way academia violates the First Amendment of our Constitution, is that a student with any Christian convictions will have to hide his light seeking an advanced degree, or face rejection.

Don't let the date of the writing of this book fool you. These things are on the ascendency today. Order your copy today—80pp paper, and \$5.00 + \$1.05 postage.

* * *

**THE RLDS CHURCH:
CHRISTIAN? or CULT?—**Carol M. Hansen, Independence, MO, 1992. 132pp, Paper, \$5.00

The author, a former member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (RLDS), has done the general public a priceless favor in making this book available.

She writes with a three-fold burden on her heart: to help RLDS members to recognize Jesus Christ as Savior; to warn those contemplating membership in RLDS; and to provide Christians with information regarding this faith.

Before the Table of Contents there is a notation: "The Biblical quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible: the 1955 edition of the Doctrines and Covenants: and the 1971 edition of the Book of Mormon, unless otherwise indicated." Unfortunately many of the "otherwise indicated"

are quotations from the NIV.

Before a very brief history of the RLDS Church she has four pages of her own testimony. As is true of many in the cults today, she was born into it and was won to Jesus Christ later in life (she doesn't say how much later!).

On page 15 she asks, as a page heading, the question, "What is a Cult?" She uses the late Dr. Walter Martin's definition from his book, *The Rise of the Cults* (page 12), to answer the question. Then the distinctive traits of a cult are listed:

- 1) A false prophet or leader
- 2) Non-Biblical sources of authority
- 3) Non-Biblical teachings on the nature of God
- 4) False teachings concerning salvation
- 5) A false utopia
- 6) A claim to be the "only true Church"
- 7) Preaches "another Jesus"—not the Jesus of the Bible
- 8) Other

The remainder of the book is given over to prove that these traits are all found in the RLDS. This is well written, interesting, and very extensively documented. Some of the documentation is in quotations from various RLDS writings, some from other sources. There are a number of photo-copies of documents in relation to the subject being considered.

There is no hesitancy to name individuals and/or organizations. Probably the outstanding characteristic of the book is found in its lack of rancor or any negative judgmental attitude. Rather, there

is evidence that, as I mentioned above, the author desires nothing less than that each member of this cult would come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. One of the last pages of the book has this title, "Our Hope for the RLDS Church," and in the following pages to the end of the book, there is detail on, "How To Become a Christian." Order your copy from our office by name, \$5.00 + \$1.05 postage.

* * *

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MASONS—Ed Decker, Eugene, OR, Harvest House, 1990. 219pp, Paper. \$6.95.

The author of this contribution to knowledge about anti-Christian movements is no stranger to those interested in doing battle for the truth. He is the director of Saints Alive in Jesus, and is the co-author of the best-seller book on Mormonism, *The God Makers*. This is his second offering regarding Masonry.

This book is a novel. Having said that I know that some will write the book off as pure fiction. Don't do it. Ask anyone, especially any lady, who has read *The Wedding Dress*, by Marian Wells, which is an historical novel about Mormonism, and you will get rave reviews of that book.

I believe that this one by Ed Decker is headed for the same thing. Just reading his Foreword, which concerns his getting started on the project, is enough to get one to have a can't-wait-to-read-the-book feeling.

After the Foreword comes the Introduction. I have read many. Most have been dry as dust and I

would guess you have had the same experience. Surprise! This one is a fascinating account of what makes Masonry click in America. There is a short history about how it got to where it is today. Also of its members in high government positions and not a few who are holding down responsible positions in the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Well, I read the book—in one sitting—which is an unheard of thing in this office! Not only is it very well written and interesting, it is also loaded with information regarding the inner-workings of the craft.

The setting is a small town in

UNDER THE SPELL OF MOTHER EARTH—Berit Kjos. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1992. This book is written to combat the growing influence of nature worship in America. Recognizing the danger of this idolatry the author has written a book of which there are multitude of good things to say. I must begin with the introduction, which is A Parable. To say that it was very interesting would be to belittle the real wonders of The Parable. Since the book is not about The Parable, it had to be cut short, and have gaps in it to hasten to the main subject of the book. But one could wish that the author had made it a bit more complete.

There are many books on the shelves of stores and libraries that should be read by parents. This is not one of them, it is **THE** book that parents **SHOULD** read! Must read. Must - unless the parent cares little or nothing about what is being fed into their children's brains and hearts.

The author writes concerning

Montana and how involved almost the entire population was in the local lodge. Almost half the membership of the local church were lodge members when a young preacher and his wife were called to the pastorate. Well, I am not going to tell you the story, but let me tell you this—you will like this book! Not only because it is a fascinating story, but because of what you will learn about Freemasonry.

This offering is listed in our new 1992-1993 catalog as #S1-16 for \$6.95, plus \$1.05 postage. Order yours today!

—Ewald Eisele

* * *

the pagan religions and the witchcraft which is being taught as fact in the public school classrooms. These are not learning sessions, they are exercises in mind control. Efforts to turn out, not brighter students but, ones with their minds warped against America and the moral values that built this nation. There is an even more disturbing revelation. Individual Christians, and worse, churches with no discernment whatsoever are being blinded by the supposed glamour of these pagan religious teachings and rites.

There are so many excellent features. There is a section, "What Can Families Do?", in each of the nine main chapters which are a real help. Following the nine chapters there are five shorter chapters added to really help families in areas that are usually ignored. If you have a family, or are interested in one, you must read this excellent work.

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and a*

*Very Happy and Prosperous New Year,
all year or until our Lord
returns for His own.*

May we humbly suggest, as part of your year-end financial considerations, that you would include the most generous gift possible to our ministry. All gifts are tax deductible and are much needed in order for us to continue to serve you and those, overseas and in our prisons, who are not able to buy books or Bibles.