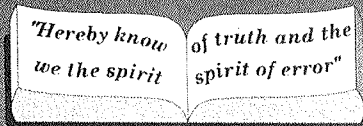


The Discerner



Volume 18, Number 4

Oct • Nov • Dec 1998

AN INTERDENOMINATIONAL HERESY-EXPOSING QUARTERLY

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EDITORIAL

By William A. BeVier

We endeavor in each issue of The Discerner to present topics of current interest and recent developments in the fields of the cults, the occult, and aberrations of Biblical Christianity.

An issue of concern today is the appearance of a movement best identified by the term "Messianic Jews." These are professing Christians who assert Christians should include more of Old Testament Judaism in the Church. Our lead article presents this current development.

A very popular effort in our world today is to obliterate all differences between people (male and female), nations (democracies, republics, dictatorships), and yes, between all "religions." The theme is "We are all one." We have included an article raising the question what is our responsibility to this effort, especially in the area of "interreligious dialogue" as Bible-believing Christians.

We are pleased to present an article in this issue by Pastor Dennis Finnan, pastor of St. Charles Bible Church in St. Charles, Minnesota. This article is adapted from a radio broadcast given a short time ago by Pastor Finnan. The complete message on "The Word Faith Movement" is available on the Internet. It also is available in written form from the author at the address given at the end of his article. You may desire to contact Pastor Finnan to learn if his weekly radio broadcast is aired in your listening area.

We have added three short book reviews to this issue in another attempt to keep us up-to-date on recent publications in our area of ministry.

Many of you will be receiving this issue of The Discerner shortly before the time of the year when the incarnation of the Son of God is remembered. James McLeod, a multi-talented and

godly man, wrote a poem a few years ago seeking to direct our attention to the real reason for the Lord Jesus Christ to come to earth the first and second times. We don't usually present poems in this publication, but this one seemed appropriate for this time of year. James McLeod was taken home to be with his Lord a couple of years ago at age 88.

The concluding section of this issue presents some choices for you as the reader. Please look over the request, and if interested, please let us have your responses.

We also want to announce the return to our Board of David A. Cook. After a short time out of state, he has returned to

Minnesota. At our invitation, he has agreed to rejoin the Board.

One other word I would like to leave with you. Many of us take stock at the end of the calendar year as to how the Lord has blessed us and how we might respond by giving a contribution to the Lord's ministries. If you do this, I hope you consider Religion Analysis Service. This is a non-profit ministry with no denominational or foundational support. All gifts are tax deductible and we issue receipts. Whether or not you can contribute financially, please pray for the ministry of R.A.S. We are in an ongoing spiritual battle and we say with the Apostle Paul, ". . . there are many adversaries" (1 Cor. 16:9).

WHAT ABOUT THE MESSIANIC JEWS?

By William A. BeVier

A “new” movement is dotting the American (and elsewhere) landscape, which claims not to be new at all, but claims to be what Christianity is supposed to be. The movement has not coalesced into one organization, but exists in various groups in various locations. The most recognizable title for the groups is “Messianic Jews.”

They assert that Christianity’s heritage is in Judaism and that part of Christianity’s problems today exist because we have gotten away from our heritage.

With increased world attention on the Middle East, especially the Biblical land of Israel, the Messianic Jews are attracting a listening audience, especially among some professing Christians.

In essence, the Messianic Jews declare we should recapture our Jewish heritage. Some of the ways in which they claim they are doing this is returning to Sabbath day worship (the Seventh-day Adventists rejoice at this), observing the Jewish festivals (H. W. Armstrong’s “traditional” Worldwide Church of God welcome this), calling their lead-

ers “Rabbis” (even when they are Gentile ministers), some encourage keeping “kosher” (difficult even for the Orthodox Jew), and attempting to learn what they call “messianic” Jewish dances (their pattern probably is the *The Fiddler on the Roof*).

The Messianic Jews have developed to where they now have publications (from Messianic Jewish Resources International, Baltimore, MD) and an umbrella organization (The Lederer Foundation). They have published a colorful eight page catalog. They offer, among other items, Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah certificates (the Jewish ceremony roughly corresponding to Christendom’s confirmation practiced by some groups). The “Bar” is for boys and the “Bat” is for girls. In all they offer fifteen certificates, including baptism (Mikveh), circumcision, (Brit Milah) and ordination. Barry Rubin, depicted on the front of the trade catalog states:

What began as a Jewish message has strayed far from its Jewish roots. So, we have added many new books to our catalog to help us restore Jewishness to your faith.

One of the books advertised it titled Dancing for Joy by Murray Silberling, who is termed "the dancing rabbi." The Messianic Jewish Alliance of America now maintains a website on the Internet. There are also websites exposing the errors of the Messianic Jews.

The basic problem with all this is a dispensational one growing out of a mixing or attempting to blend the Old Testament (Covenant) and the New Testament (Covenant). With the increasingly minimization of traditional Dispensationalism, e.g., by the Progressive Dispensationalists and others, we can expect this mixing or blurring to take place.

David Stern, a Messianic Jew now living in Jerusalem, is quoted as saying the goal of the Messianic Jews is:

. . .nothing less than to re-establish the first-century Jerusalem messianic Jewish community as a model, guide, and light both to the nations and to the Jewish people, so that the Torah understood in the light of [Jesus the Messiah] having come, will, as promised, go forth from Jerusalem. (Christianity Today, May 20, 1996, pp. 68-69)

Stern, from a Reform Jewish background (one of the liberal Jewish groups), claims he came to faith in Jesus as the Messiah in 1972. He had been a professor of economics before moving to Jerusalem in 1979. His focus is on Jerusalem with the perspective that there Christians, Jews, and Muslims can be united, since Jerusalem is important to all three groups.

The Epistle to the Hebrews repeatedly warns Jewish Christians not to go back to Judiasm

A careful and continuing study of Paul's epistles and the book of Hebrews should keep us from the errors of the Messianic Jews. For example, Romans 9-11 makes it clear there are basic and continuing differences and distinctions between Israel and the Church. In Galatians Paul asserts we cannot mix the Mosaic Law (the "Torah") and the grace of God revealed in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Paul in Galatians chapter 4 states an "allegory" (Greek text) contrasting law and grace (Judaism and Christianity) and concludes "cast out the bondswoman and her son" (the Law), ". . .we are not of the bondswoman, but of the free" (Gal. 4:30-31). The writer of the Hebrew epistle repeatedly warns the Jewish Christians not to go back to Judaism, e.g., Heb. 2:1-4; 3:1-6; 6:1-12; 7:11-22; 8:1-6; 9:11-15; 10:1-10; 10:26-29; 11:18-24;

13:10-14. One should note how many times the writer uses the word "better" (KJV) to contrast the New Covenant with the Old Covenant. The Messianic Jews claim Hebrews was written to "first-century Messianic Jews." It was written to first-century Christians with a Jewish background, but not to "Messianic Jews" in the modern sense. The purpose was to warn them not to go back to Judaism, not for them to mix Christianity and Judaism.

We need to realize many of the Jewish people are very sensitive. Anything negative or critical said about them is viewed as being anti-Semitic by some. It is true, they have endured much persecution and criticism for centuries. Their own Old Testament Scripture from the mouth of Moses tells them to expect this, Lev. 26:32-39; Deut. 28:15-68; 32:17-44. The Scripture also states the reasons why this is so. For those who do not accept the Old Testament as the Word of God, then they do not understand why the Jews suffer so (but we Christians should never be the cause of their misery).

To indicate how sensitive some can be, a local pastor a few years ago delivered a sermon from Ezekiel, based on where Ezekiel, speaking for God, is critical of the Jewish people. The pastor was accused by local Jews of being anti-Semitic. The media picked up the accusation and

spread the idea the pastor and his church were anti-Semitic, which was not true.

The Messianic Jews have something of the same complex. They so identify with Judaism, that criticism of them is termed by them as being anti-Semitic.

A recent estimate is there are about 6,000 Messianic Jews in Israel today (SCP Newsletter, Autumn 1998, Vol. 23:1, pp. 14, 16). They feel persecuted by traditional Jews in Israel and appeal to American Evangelical Christians for support. Messianic Jews in the U.S. probably exceed the number of 6,000, but no accurate numbers exists because of the diffusion of the groups. The Messianic Jewish Alliance of America claim far more worldwide, e.g., 350,000 ("Position Paper: Messianic Aliyah," 20 March 1992, but in an ad in The Jerusalem Post, May 5, 1990, two years before, the claim was 100,000).

Evangelical Christians, especially those holding to a premillennial understanding of Scripture, have been termed "Israel's Best Friend" (Christianity Today, Oct. 5, 1998, pp. 39-49). However, it is the Evangelical Christian who should be most critical of those who attempt to combine, synthesize the Old Testament and the New Testament (Judaism and Christianity), which is what the Messianic Jews attempt to do.

The early church met in Jerusalem with the apostles and elders to consider the relationship of traditional Judaism held by some Christians and the Christianity proclaimed by Paul and others to the Gentiles (Acts 15). The Scripture indicates there was "much disputing," but when all was said and done the final pronouncement by

James (one of the most "traditional" believers present) was that the Gentiles were not to be "troubled" by the Mosaic Law (Acts 15:19). Paul later writing to the Galatians churches makes a clear distinction between the ministry to Gentiles ("the heathen") and ministry to Jews ("the circumcision"), Gal. 2:9.

One might say that if an ethnic Jew becomes a Christian, it would be acceptable to retain some aspects of Jewish culture based on Acts 15, but this would not be true of any Gentiles becoming a Christian. Jewish traditions are not part of Gentile culture (unless one blurs the two). For a Gentile to convert to Judaism, then convert to Christianity causes confusion. That person could well do what

Messianic Jews do, try to mix Judaism and Christianity.

One more word of warning. Many of the Messianic Jews have

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a knowledge of the Hebrew language and the Old Testament that surpasses that of many Gentile Christians. They use this "knowledge" to confound less knowledgeable individuals and try to con-

vince them that they are correct in their interpretation of Christianity. In reality, this viewpoint reminds us of historic gnosticism. We do well to remember Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 2:1-13.

If God had believed Judaism (even as understood by Messianic Jews) was sufficient for the human race, He would never have established the Church (e.g., Mt. 16:15-18; Eph. 3:1-12). This should not be considered a criticism of such ministries as Midwest Hebrew Ministries or The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc. These ministries are attempting to bring Jews to a saving knowledge of Jesus as the Christ (Messiah), but not to leave them bound by Judaism in any form.

WHAT IS INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE? WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY?

By Jo Ann BeVier

As our society draws closer to the Y2K dilemma, the end times, the millennium, and the many other concerns facing it, we find more scrambling for a oneness, a unity between people and religions. Hence the question, what is the Christian position or stand on this issue of finding a common ground between the Christian and non-Christian or other religious groups?

One of the solutions being given is the title of this article, "interreligious dialogue." The definition given by Jason Barker in his article "Christians and Interreligious Dialogue" states "interreligious dialogue involves meeting people and getting to know their religious traditions." There are other definitions given in his article by a number of individuals and organizations which all agree that interreligious dialogue is for the purpose of mutual "understanding" between two different groups.

This is a repeat of the same issue which resulted in the ecumenical movement and establishment of the World Council of Churches in 1942. The issue has also been reopened in the ECT (Evangelicals and Catholics Together) in recent days. Is there indeed a common ground upon

which to build a relationship aside from the foundation already laid, "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid which is Jesus Christ" as stated in 1 Cor. 3:11 (also references in Eph. 2:22 and 1 Pet. 2:4-8). What is the view of Jesus Christ by the sects and religions of the world? Is He God? Or is He a prophet, a good man, a lesser being than God, or something less than God the Son? (Jn. 14:9, 10). The Scripture is clear concerning the way to God and anyone who would see any other way to God today. In John 14:6, "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but through me.'" (see also Jn. 10:1; Acts 4:12; Heb. 10:19, 20).

It is stated that interreligious dialogue should only be carried on by and between intellectuals and scholars or other authoritative religious leaders or representatives. Further, that the average person can have little involvement because this dialogue is for the intellectuals does contradict the whole premise that Christians should have a greater understanding and knowledge of the religions of the world. The implication is that those capable of understanding and having the

ability to dialogue would then pass this knowledge down to the average church goer. We must trust and rely on scholars for our understanding of other beliefs and differences with our own faith. True, we do depend on Bible scholars and their study and work in the area of God's Word and the doctrine (or teaching) of it. But to accept the wisdom of this world is in violation of Scripture (e.g., as to speech Jn. 8:43, 47; Rom. 16:18; 2 Cor. 11:4, 6; as to wisdom 1 Cor. 1:18-21; 2:4; 3:19-21; Prov. 3:7; Isa. 5:21).

Because we Americans are becoming so diverse and accepting of most everything, that new religious movements and cults are growing at a rapid rate. A Gallup poll in 1991 said that over 17.5 million Americans claimed membership in a new religion or cult. They are growing as fast as mainline Protestant denominations, i.e., the Southern Baptist Convention recorded a 2% growth, while the Mormons recorded an increase of 1.9%; and Jehovah's Witnesses increased over 4%.

These "new religious movements" (termed NRMs) are a major reason for the interreligious dialogue. Those termed NRMs are not new in the sense of being established recently. These "interfaith" dialogues have gone on for many years. The Vatican recognized and published a document which disparaged dialogue

with the NRMs. But this has also been changing in the last few years.

Interestingly, some of the NRMs refuse to interact with the Christian community. The Jehovah's Witnesses are one example. The Church of Scientology uses such a different vocabulary that it is almost impossible to communicate and they consider objections to their beliefs as insults. But some of the other NRMs are interested in actively engaging in dialogue with Christians such as Hare Krishnas, the Unification Church, and others.

While a discussion between the religious movements is something we may pursue it is most certainly not to accept their doctrines which so oppose the Word of God and Christianity. We find this stated in 2 Tim. 4:3, 4; Titus 3:9 10; 2 Pet. 2:1.

In many of the religious sects and cults they use and accept the Bible (or a translation of it) but have found it necessary to add another book or books of their own which have been given by special revelation, vision, etc. These books and writings have become a matter of faith and practice which adherents follow and obey above the Word of God. Some of these are: Roman Catholicism's Apocrypha, Mormon's Book of Mormon, Islam's Koran, Jehovah's Witnesses "Watchtower,"

Christian Science's Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy, Seventh-day Adventism's writings of Ellen G. White, and many other prophecies and revelations, or simply the teachings and proclamations of leaders. If, indeed, the Bible is the Word of God and God is sovereign, all wise, all sufficient, then why are men's additions and extra Biblical writings necessary?

There is much intelligent material written from the experience and firsthand knowledge of adherents (followers or believers) of these many groups who have left and give accounts of how God worked in their lives, apart from the cult or religious group of which they had been members. There is literature available also written from experience as missionaries in different lands, cultures and religions. There are

books by those who have spent years in study and research.

This material needs to be given and made available to the lay person who is being confronted by all these different or diverse teachings and practices. The person at work, the woman in contact with the public (in stores, door-to-door, community centers, etc.), the student in schools, colleges and universities.

At Religion Analysis Service we endeavor to make available books and tracts for those people who earnestly seek to know what other groups believe in the light of what Scripture teaches. We are also available to search for answers to questions about different sects and NRMs.

Let us be diligent, be ready to give a word of testimony, in season and out, 2 Tim. 4:2.

THE WORD FAITH MOVEMENT

*Adapted from a radio message by Pastor Dennis L. Finnan
on his "The World, the Word & You" Broadcast*

Are you aware there is a deadly cancer raging in the Body of Christ, and that this cancer is taking over the lives of many members of the Body? This is a startling and controversial statement.

The physical disease of cancer as many know is a unique disease for it is really the body itself gone wild and as a result the wayward cells ruin and destroy the order and symmetry of the body's healthy existence. Well, the same thing is happening now in the very Body of Christ, the Church. We are witnessing a subtle but forceful "cancer" growing within it that has gone wild and as a result is ruining and destroying the faith of many Christians. What is this cancer penetrating the Church today? The answer is the Word Faith Movement.

If you turn on your television these days to most any religious broadcast, you will likely be confronted with a dynamic TV personality and a large audience. This TV "preacher" is most likely to be one of the new Word Faith Movement teachers that today permeate the airwaves with a message that is being accepted by multitudes of people claiming to be Christians or seeking to be

one. In fact, the Word Faith Movement now has become the most popular and accepted teaching of the "charismatic" ever to have touched the lives of people worldwide. It is estimated that tens of millions of people every day are watching and thirstily "drinking in" the new wild claims, the absurd personal experiences and the myriad of false teachings of this new breed of teachers. With their seductive claims, we are witnessing what may be the "ruination" of the Church of Jesus Christ on earth, unless true Bible-believing Christians from all denominations do something about it. You need to know the truth about the word Faith Movement, even if it hurts.

First, who's involved in the Word Faith Movement? To begin with, it is a new teaching and emphasis that has departed from "the faith once delivered to the saints." Today Word Faith teachers are numerous and popular. Men like Kenneth Hagin, Sr. and Jr., Kenneth Copeland, Charles Capps, Robert Tilton, John Osteen, Frederick K. C. Price, Benny Hinn, Paul Yonggi Cho, Paul Crouch, John Avanzini, Marylyn Hickey, Morris Cerullo, T. L. Osburn, and Jerry Sevelle

are but a few of the most popular teachers of this new movement within professing Christianity today. These men and women, with the help of television networks such as the Trinity Broadcasting Network, beam out by cable and satellite, a false gospel from the new kingdom of the cults, that seriously borders on gross heresy of the worse kind, and what's most appalling is that true Christians have been either virtually silent about it, or have given approval of these teachers and their deceiving messages.

In addition to television broadcasts, there are scores of books, tapes and magazines that line the shelves of compromised Christian outlets which should know better than to sell this religious garbage that denigrates God, denies essential Bible truths, and leads many of its unsuspecting followers to temporal disdain for Biblical truths, and even to eternal ruin for those who have embraced it. Now that's a long and strong statement, but listen to the reasons supporting these claims.

The Word Faith Movement, if we have to give it a foundational beginning, has its present day roots in the teachings of Kenneth Hagin, Sr. who is the "father" of its popular and lucrative acceptance today. The flagship church, the Rhema Bible Church of Tulsa, Oklahoma that espouses its teachings is led by Kenneth Hagin Sr.'s son. There, teachings

come forth that if one examines the historic truths of the Christian faith, one can see they corrupt the very heart of the Gospel message and deface the doctrine of God and Christ. The errors of the Word Faith Movement are well documented and considered "serious heresy," even by many charismatic leaders today. Yet, the church as a whole is strangely silent, as tens of millions listen to and soon embrace the doctrinal corruptness of these teachers and their cultic message. Now you must ask, "What exactly is their message, and why is it wrong?" For simplicity sake, the Word Faith Movement message can be outlined as follows:

The Word Faith Movement teaches. . .

- a. The human mind and tongue contains a supernatural ability or power. These teachers proclaim that the very words one may speak can harvest or harness a "divine force," that can heal, produce wealth, bring success in anything and in other ways, influence or control even the environment. According to the Word Faith teachers, God is obligated to automatically respond to accomplish and obey any literal "words" uttered in this faith by believers knowing this truth. Frederick K. C. Price, like the others, states: "God has created the uni-

verse by speaking it into existence. He has given that same ability to you in word form." According to this teaching, God is reduced to a cosmic servant-bellhop subject to the word formulas of His fallen creatures who think they sit on the throne of the universe.

A second popular teaching that comes forth in various forms is. . .

b. Every Word Faith believer is actually a god or a potential god. Word Faith teachers tell their followers they are unique beings who are in the "God-class," and thus become workers of the supernatural, able to perform anything they wish according to their "faith." Kenneth Hagin says, "Man was created on terms of equality with God. . . he lives on terms equal with God." "The believer is called Christ, that's who we are, we're Christ!" Charles Capps says, "Adam was an exact duplication of God's kind!" Morris Cerullo says, ". . . you're not looking at Morris Cerullo, you are looking at God. You're looking at Jesus!" Robert Tilton says, "The Spirit of God is upon me the same way the Spirit of God was upon the Lord Jesus Christ." This is not an isolated slip of a tongue. The Word Faith Movement claims that its followers are little-gods.

However, true Christianity NEVER teaches us that we are either equal to God or Jesus Christ or even a part of the Godhead. This teaching emanates from and is propagated by the metaphysical cults.

Now a third teaching that comes forth from these proclaimers is. . .

c. God gives His anointed teachers special revelations that reveal His ongoing teachings. Every Word Faith teacher "claims" God speaks to them by special revelation and has given them the newly revealed truths to bring to His people. Men like Kenneth Hagin Sr. and Jr., Kenneth Copeland, Charles Capps, Robert Tilton, Benny Hinn and the others all claim to receive regular physical or spiritual appearances of God the Father, Jesus Christ and/or angels to personally instruct them in this newly revealed faith. In Jerry Sevelle's prosperity series we are told: "The revelation knowledge in this set was given to Brother Sevelle supernaturally by God." Robert Tilton claims, "God directed me by the Holy Spirit to write certain things to you. . . . I have leaned on Him for every word." Charles Capps boasted, "The word of the Lord came to me saying. . . ." Every single teacher in

this cultic faith movement proclaim special revelation from God. This is one of the marks of a cult, anyone who says today they receive "extra Biblical revelation" that leads us into new teaching outside the Bible.

Now here's a fourth error promoted by the Word Faith Movement. . .

d. All sickness, poverty, and lack of success is not God's will for followers. Word faith teachers constantly condemn any and all Christians who suffer any form of deformity, poverty, and/or failure in business or life, because God wants them to be healthy and well, and prospering in everything they desire to do. Failure is due to a "lack of faith and acceptance" of their messages and teachings. Robert Tilton says, "Jesus came to deliver humanity from failure and to bring us to success." Kenneth Hagin says, "Christians should have super-prosperity and super-success." Again, "Sickness and disease are of Satan. . . . It is not the will of God for Christians to be ill." Frederick K. C. Price boasted he doesn't allow sickness in his home, he has banned it by the power within him. He further states the reason he drives a Rolls Royce is he is following in the footsteps of Jesus. These teachers who

have stepped outside the truths of the Bible are nothing short of "hucksters," who under the banner of "Jesus is Lord" are funneling the offerings of their followers into their own pockets to prove their false doctrine of the health, wealth, and prosperity gospel.

We also hear from their lips the teaching that. . .

e. Spirit guides are here to serve followers' requests and guide them into all new truth. Almost all of the Word Faith Movement teachers mentioned teach that the angelic world is waiting to serve followers and do their bidding at their "positive-faith" commands. Gloria Copeland and Charles Capps say God revealed to them that each follower has some 40,000 to 72,000 angels assigned to each one to do their bidding and follow their every "faith" command. Frederick K. C. Price again waxes corruptly, "Yes, you are in control! So if man is in control, who no longer has it? God!" Kenneth Hagin says, "Turn your order in! Send the ministering spirits out to get it by saying, 'Go ministering spirits, and cause the money to come.'" Hagin claims that he gets regular visions and appearances of God, angels,

and Jesus. . .at least eight visits so far from Jesus.

Now continuing along in the false teachings of this cultic movement we discover that. . .

f. Spiritual experiences and manifestations are to be trusted more than Biblical teachings of the Bible and historic Christianity. Here is where the greatest danger lies, as these false teachers following earlier Charismatic teachings, lead their followers away from God's revealed and lasting truths into new revelations, teachings and experiences that contradict the Bible's plain teachings. When one chooses to depart from that which is revealed in God's Word to follow new revelatory teachings based on "experiences" Satanic delusions are rampant. This is the case more so in the Word Faith Movement than in most any other aberrant religious teaching today. Of course all of this new Word Faith Movement's teachings are not new. In fact, they originated from the very source that produced the metaphysical cults today we know such as Christian Science, Mormonism, Mind Science, or New Thought. These cultic systems of teachings are found in these religious groups just named.

Now these are just some of the major promotions that go on in the public teaching ministries of the Word Faith Movement. As a result, they lead Christians away from God's truth into the realm of sinful error and Satanic delusion. Actually, the modern father of the Faith Movement was E. W. Kenyon and the roots of this man's earlier teachings may be traced to his personal background in the metaphysical cults, specifically "New Thought" and "Christian Science." The result today, is a corrupt mixture of a pinch of Biblical truth, mixed with tons of Satanic delusion. Yes, occultic magic and the "Faith principles" of today's Word Faith teachers are remarkably similar.

Now specifically what's wrong with the Word Faith Movement today? Here in a nutshell is a quick overview of their heretical false teaching and errors:

The Word Faith Movement's major heresies:

- a. The deification of man – Man is God, a metaphysical part of God, and is therefore an exact and true replica of God. But this is Satan's lie from the Garden of Eden, "You shall be as God" (Gen. 3:5; Isa. 40:25-26).
- b. The demotion of God and Christ – God is reduced to be subservient to man, and Jesus Himself is reduced to a fallen cosmic pawn. The most

heretical teaching so far is that Jesus Christ lost His divinity after the crucifixion and became one in nature with Satan and that Satan dragged Jesus down to hell and tortured Him there. Christ had to be born again a God-man in hell to be rescued. Furthermore, Kenneth Hagin, Sr. teaches that Christ, in a special revelation, even denied His own divinity while on earth! Benny Hinn stated: "Had not the Holy Spirit been with Christ, He would have sinned. . . would never have made it." But see Isa. 46:9-10; John 1:1, 14; Col. 1:16-18; Acts 4:12.

- c. The deification of Satan – This teaching comes forth that Satan is not just god of this world, but a god who commands Heaven itself and the Godhead is powerless over his control and dominion of the earth. Kenneth Copeland teaches that Jesus was made obedient to Satan, took the devil's nature and was tormented by demons, totally powerless to stop it. He further went on to say "[Christ] had to sneak into this world around the god of this world [Satan] that was blocking every way that He could"(Isa. 14:12-15).
- d. The denial of salvation by grace – Even this classic and fundamental doctrine of the

true Church has been denied. Benny Hinn is quoted as saying, "Christians confessing they are a sinner saved by grace only insults God with such garbage."

What I'm writing to you is serious business! This is what is essentially going on and given full approval by the true professing Church. Television networks like Trinity Broadcasting Network and other professing Christian communication outlets are now filling the airwaves with these new Pseudo-Christian cultic teachers. Just because they use the name of Jesus, just because they operate within the realm of the world of Christianity by having access to Christian publishers and their outlets doesn't make them right and of God. The consequences of this false Word Faith Movement is serious and alarming. Millions of people, if not tens of millions, are being led astray and away from Bible truth into "experience-oriented" beliefs that will take unsuspecting new followers down to hell, and true but ignorant Christians into a life of spiritual harm, defeat and shame at the Judgment Seat of Christ. I tell you it's time to stand up and speak out. Just as the early church formed councils to meet and declare and define the false teachers of their day and their teachings, we need our Biblical seminaries, dynamic and popular Bible teachers and the like to do

the same. Also, our Christian publishers and their publishing outlets need to deny these cultic proclaimers access to the Church public through their ministries. We need verbal, open condemnation of them and their "doctrine of demons" revelations.

Where are God's shepherds and voices? Why are they silent?

Be encouraged to call upon the pastors of your churches to teach about this subject to warn followers to avoid and stay away from this false teaching. Visit your local Christian bookstore and lovingly but firmly ask them why they are carrying the books, other literature, and magazines of these cultic teachers. Write to your favorite Bible college and seminary to ask why they are silent on this growing religious cancer. Unless we do this, I foresee that the true Church of Jesus Christ, His body on earth today, will suffer the ravages of this cancerous growth now accepted and promoted among us. These are harsh words. It is not easy to say them because in the midst of all this terrible error and deceit are many good Christian people. They need to come out of this nonsense and stand for the "old truths and walk on the old paths wherein is the good way."

God never intended Christianity to be based on or promoted by experiential, or extra-Biblical revelation outside of the finished work of Christ and

the Bible. We have all that is necessary for truth and faith, and we are commanded to test the spirits of teachers and their words by God's Word (1 John 4:1). If one does so, today's Word Faith Movement falls in the dust before God's sharp-edged sword. The Word Faith Movement is false, it is cultic, it is error to an immense degree that will lead many to the ruin of their finances, to poor health, and eventually the inability to truly trust God and His Word.

I recommend two books to you. The first is Christianity in Crisis by Hank Hanegraaff, President of the Christian Research Institute, and a small very concise book, The Facts on the Faith Movement by Drs. John Ankerberg and John Weldon. Both of these well documented books will further identify these errors, and these aberrant statements made by the Word Faith teachers, and much more give you a sure Biblical rebuttal for your personal satisfaction. May God add His Blessing for Jesus' sake.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Masonic and Occult Symbols Illustrated

By Dr. Cathy Burns

Reviewed by William A. BeVier

We occasionally have requests for books depicting the various symbols and their meanings displayed by cultic and occult groups. Dr. Cathy Burns has produced a book illustrating 728 of these symbols. Almost any symbol encountered today is depicted and its background explained in this recent publication of 543 pages. Documentation is provided, as well as a 31 page bibliography. The 35 page index appears to be complete, from "007" to "Zoroaster."

The book retails for \$21.95. We currently have one copy in stock, but more are available if needed.

The Tetragrammaton and the Christian Greek Scriptures

Word Resources, Inc., Portland, OR, 2nd ed., 1998. 336 pp.

Reviewed by William A. BeVier

This is a detailed documented response to the Jehovah's Witnesses' claims to the use of the tetragrammaton (JHVH) by the New Testament writers.

For most of us this is no issue, but it is considered important by the Jehovah's Witnesses. The author has clearly refuted their position, for the most part using their own publications.

This is a very technical, detailed presentation which those who are interested in this issue should be aware. R.A.S. does not plan to handle this publication due to the perceived limited demand for it.

BOOK REVIEW

The Theocratic War Doctrine: Why Jehovah's Witnesses Lie in Court

By Jerry Bergman, Ph.D.

Reviewed by William A. BeVier

Bergman presents the Jehovah's Witnesses' doctrine that it is acceptable to withhold the truth ("lie") from anyone who would wish to harm the Watchtower, i.e., Jehovah's Witnesses.

A documented booklet which includes case studies. This is one of several publications by Dr. Bergman on the subject of the Jehovah's Witnesses. The copies we have on hand have a number of typographical errors of which the author is aware.

Poem by James McLeod

A Baby was born one night in a manger.
To many people, He still is a stranger.
He was the Word and was before creation.
He did miracles and brought salvation.

The Father sent Him from heaven above
to teach all people forgiveness and love.
Some thought Him a prophet and not the Lord.
By His own people, He was abhorred.

They spit on Him and rejected His name.
He was placed on the cross and was put to shame.
When Christ comes back, the world will awaken
and plead with the One that they have forsaken.

The Lord came before and He'll come again.
The next time will be for the judgment of men.
He shed His blood so that we'd be forgiven.
If we accept Christ, we'll be with Him in heaven.

The world has rejected His word here on earth.
All that matters to some is fun, money and mirth.
They may awaken when it is too late.
By rejecting the Lord, they'll be sealing their fate.

Oh sinner wake up and change your way,
accept the Lord and do it today.
Good works alone won't do it you see.
Only Christ's blood will save you and me.

WHAT BOOKS WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

The books listed below are new releases or ones we have not carried before. If there is sufficient interest we will order them and add them to our Catalog.

If you are interested, please check the box in front of the book(s), tear out the page, and mail it to us.

ZONDERVAN GUIDE TO CULTS AND RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS

Alan Gomes, General Editor

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | "Jesus Only Churches" by Beisner | \$5.99 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Unitarian Universalism by Gomes | 5.99 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Truth and Error: Comparative Charts of Cults and Christianity by Gomes | 5.99 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Hinduism, TM and Hare Krishna by Yamamoto | 5.99 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Unification Church by Yamamoto | 5.99 |

BIO BASIC SERIES

Gary Stewart, General Editor

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Alternative Medicine | \$3.99 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Suicide and Euthanasia | 3.99 |

OTHER BOOKS

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|--------------------------|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Dictionary of Cults, Sects and Religions, and the Occult by Mather, 384pp | \$29.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Creation vs. Evolution: What You Need to Know by Ankerberg and Weldon (fold out) | 1.99 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | The Final Drama: 14 Keys to Understanding the Prophetic Scriptures by Walvoord | 10.99 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | The God of the Bible and Other Gods (deities of other major religions & cults) by Lightner | 10.99 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Foreshadows of Wrath and Redemption, Wm. T. James, General Editor (Walvoord, Breese, Ice, LaHaye contributors) | 11.99 |

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NEEDED

Office Manager for Religion Analysis Service. Office located in the Twin Cities area. Desire is for a person who is a retired Christian worker interested in serving with an anti-cult ministry. Telephone 1-800-562-9153 for more information.

Come visit Religion Analysis Service on the world wide web!

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