



Volume 1, Number 6 October 1990

If it Talks Like a Duck and Acts Like a Duck. . . .

Why do we choke, sputter and squeak helplessly, “. . .but it can't be a duck.”

Church of Jesus Christ, are we going to wake up and face the re that are staring us in the face or are we going to ignore the black swirling whirlpool of deceit for the sake of Unity?

The people of God are believing a delusion, which according to a dictionary definition is "a false belief held in spite of invalidating evidence especially as a condition of a certain form of mental illness." Isn't this what the Word of God warns us so earnestly about? "And for this cause God shall them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." II Thes. 2:11, 12.

The devil is cunning and has worked deviously at his craft. When you believe a lie long enough, it becomes the truth to you. As a child I had colorful imagination. Things I would imagine would be so real that I could mother the tallest stories with such a straight face. Today I can still remember some of those stories, but strangely enough I can not sort out if they were all imagination or if there was indeed some truth to some of them. So, it could actually be that some of the "lies" I told did become truth in my mind. I believed the lies long enough that they became immersed in the truth.

The following parable borrowed from a New Age writer can be aptly applied to the Church today. It is only those who have been spared from the “poisoned grain” that is being widely disseminated and have continually fed upon the unadulterated written Word of God that will not be deceived.

"There once was a kingdom in which all of the grain crop one exceptional year somehow became poisoned, causing anyone who ate its products to go insane. That posed a terrible

dilemma for the king and his advisors, for the stores of grain from previous years were very modest, not nearly enough to feed the entire population of the land, and there was no way to procure food from without. The kingdom would face either widespread famine, if the harvest were destroyed, or widespread madness and chaos. After much deliberation, the king reluctantly decided to allow the people to eat the grain, hoping its effects would be temporary and that human lives would be preserved. "But," he added, "we must at the same time keep a few people apart and feed them on an unpoisoned diet of the grain from previous years. That way there will at least be a few among us who will remember that the rest of us are insane." (Kirkpatrick Sale, HUMAN SCALE, G.P. Putnam's Sons)

We hear so much about love and unity. Love, love... is it the kind that blithering fools accept fawning over each other in an attempt to be the first with the latest merchandising concept for the T.V. audience? Where is the love that is honest, not afraid to stand up against the tide and proclaim, . . .the Emperor has no clothes on!"

Several years ago we received an invitation from Rev. Sun Myung Moon to attend one of his conferences in Korea. The cost would be very nominal and the offer for an almost "free" trip was very tempting. Being "suspicious" of something for nothing, I called the telephone number for more information. My first question was: "How did you get our name?" The answer was that a number of ministers have traveled to Korea and one in particular from Michigan had given them the list of ministers in our area. I asked who that might be and was told immediately. The man went on to say that we would receive an invitation when they would be doing a presentation in our area. It wasn't long and we received that invitation. We sent a member of the church to attend the breakfast meeting. One of the speakers was the Michigan minister who had been to Korea along with many other ministers. This minister excitedly impressed on his hearers how wonderful it is that we can join together and have fellowship with the "Moonies". He was very impressed with the prayer at the conference. He extolled Larry Lea and Paul Yonggi Cho together in the same breath with Sun Myung Moon. As a result of his trip, his prayer life was changed. Now he realizes we can have fellowship with God together, and that UNITY is the answer.

As a result of the trip, this minister found that he had more love and could agree with the Moonies. Other pastors spoke and all emphasized prayer. They acknowledged that there were some points where they did not agree, but we not concentrate on those points, rather on what we can embrace together. We should have an open mind to broaden our experience. They proclaimed that the Unification Principles will make you a better Christian!

Rev. Moon's representative concluded by saying that one of the greatest problems in America is Christian disunity. He emphasized that theological differences need to be put aside to work together to solve the social and political issues. After all, we serve the same God! No we do not! According to a article in the San Francisco Chronicle, ". . . Rev. Sun Myung Moon declared, himself the new world messiah. . . according to Unification Church doctrine, Jesus failed in his mission and must be supplanted by a second, Korean-born messiah."

In the DIVINE PRINCIPLE by Rev. Moon, it is affirmed "that every person is created as a child of God. When a person matures according to the image of God within him, we may think of him as embodying true personhood; in Jesus' words he is 'perfect as (the) heavenly Father is perfect' (Matt. 5:48). He becomes a person in whom the spirit of God dwells, a

visible manifestation of the invisible God. In this sense we may even say he becomes God's body".

This thought deifies man. More serious however, the DIVINE PRINCIPLE states that, "Jesus was divine precisely because he was fully human. . . .Jesus existed from the beginning, but only in the sense he was the fulfillment of the Word."

Here our blessed Savior, the Redeemer of the WORLD is being stripped of His Deity! He stands before us devoid of the glory given Him before the foundation of the World. The only One who is worthy to open the book - is again being mocked and scorned! We are back in Pilate's hall! What will you do with JESUS? The very foundation of your faith is being threatened by the ENEMY of your ETERNAL SOUL!

Moon has used tremendous political influence to infiltrate the religious and political life in our country. Ministers are selling their souls for a mess of pottage! 70,000 pastors have attended Moon's conferences on "free tickets". Famous personalities lend their names to his speaker's lists thereby giving him the recognition and credibility he is desiring. It is not surprising to learn that on several occasions Rev. Moon visited the "medium" Arthur Ford. In the book UNKNOWN BUT KNOWN (Harper & Row Publishers, Inc. 1968), Arthur Ford quotes from transcripts of these visits. A "discarnate entity" named Fletcher [demon] would speak through Arthur Ford. This "entity" confirmed to Moon what he already believed, "The Jesus of Galilee will not return - it is not necessary."

Deception is abounding and it is not limited to Moon and his ilk. In the Statement of Purpose of THE INTERCESSOR, which was founded by Norman Grubb, we read; "Beyond this forgiveness of sins, THE INTERCESSOR is committed to proclaiming to every creature the mystery of the Gospel, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory (Col. 1:27). Pentecost means that Christ has joined Himself to us as one spirit (I Cor. 6:17). Thus we see that Christ has reproduced Himself in our flesh, and we Christians are really Christ living as us. (Gal. 2:20)."

". . . Humans have no moral nature of their own, meaning that we are simply expressions of the indwelling deity nature. . . THE INTERCESSOR, Vol 6, No.5, Sept-Oct. 1990.

This sounds exactly like Moon's DIVINE PRINCIPLE. Yet Norman Grubb's writings have been accepted by mainstream Christianity for many years.

This teaching all comes from Theosophy upon which the New Age is based.. "The primary business of New Age religions is to help their believers become God. Salvation is called 'ascension' and thought of as a return to 'the original God-source'. It's not uncommon to hear members of the Church Universal and Triumphant say that, growing up in their parent's churches, they'd always wanted to be Jesus Christ or a saint, and that they still do. . . The challenge of your soul is to get out of the sense of being apart from God and into the sense of being one with God. This is what is meant by the words, 'I AM,' which communicants say and hear and read thousands of times every day."

"The words, 'I AM' are at the center of everything. . . the Lord's Prayer goes like this:"

"Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name, I AM
I AM thy kingdom come
I AM thy will being done
I AM on earth as I AM in heaven" .

"Saying, 'I AM' thousands of times every day is meant to unleash divine and powerful energy. . . " WIGWAG, "Kingdom Come" October 1990.

This New Age Church promotes the importance of decreeing to such an extent they do it for hours on end. A prayer session can build into a hysteria punctuated by jabbing, slashing gestures and Nazi-like salutes. One of the prayers goes, "smash, blast, annihilate, shatter, dissolve and consume [fill in name]!"

Shockingly enough, we are hearing of Christians also praying "death" on those they feel are opposing them. I heard Larry Lea this week on TBN do exactly that. Paul Crouch started the program speaking about a Judge in New York. He said this man should repent and change or that God Himself will remove him. Larry Lea then prayed, ",,if he has set his will against the Will of God, I ask you by the grace and the mercy of God for the good of your land, that you remove him in Jesus' Name, God, let us see your hand in this matter and let us see it quickly," (TBN, October 10, 1990), When Jesus was not received in a village of the Samaritans, James and John wanted to command fire out of heaven to consume. (Luke 9:55). Jesus turned to his disciples and rebuked them, Jesus said to them, "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of," This rebuke of Jesus certainly does not sound like the "Dirty Harry prayers", A minister from Tennessee wrote, "I believe there is a legitimate expression of violent spiritual warfare that God is bringing to the Church! I do not believe it is wrong to feel an holy outrage at the evil that surrounds us, Nor do I believe, under certain conditions, it is unscriptural to pray for the destruction of our enemies," It is all part of the "spiritual warfare" pep rallies that are being held around the country. Dominionist preachers come to a city boasting "they will take the city for God," They take a stance against the principalities of the region, They focus on the external forces, It all sounds very exciting, However, it does not have a scriptural foundation, When the pep rally is over, the evil remains.

The more we read, the more we realize that the wave we are now witnessing is not based on the Word of God, but rather has Theosophy as its source. It is rooted in occult theology and methodology. "Those who close their eyes to the occultic roots of the Restoration Movement today will find themselves serving Satan, simply because the movement itself is contrary to Scripture and, thus, contrary to the Father's will." (MEDIA SPOTLIGHT, Special Report, Latter-Day Prophets, A.L. Dager).

The Shepherding/Discipleship teaching has also taken souls into bondage. Parents are calling from around the country crying, "My children are in a group that will not allow them contact with their parents." Young people are being "told" who to marry and the weddings are arranged without the participation of the "birth" family because the "spiritual" family is thought to be so much more important. The parents have contacted various ministries who support these groups to no avail. Various ministries have given questionable groups high visibility, which increases the support base, so it is not expedient to heed to the cries of desperate parents.

Couples are being advised to divorce if the one partner does not accept the teaching of the "so-called" apostle or prophet controlling the flock. Shepherding/Discipleship is on the increase. However, it has taken on new names such as "mentoring" and "apostles and prophets", etc. Followers are told to "adopt the mind of the Shepherd" - which is whoever is in control. He is our "covering". At the first session of a Discipleship class, the chosen "disciples" are encouraged to confess all their "secrets". From this point, the control is exercised over the minds and souls of individuals who fall under the sway. If the "disciple" tries to stand for the truth some time in the future, he is exposed for past sins and his reputation ruined because he "spilled his guts" at a confessing session.

So-called "men of God" breathe out over congregations and proclaim that it is the "breath of God" blowing over the people. They even expect people to fall over as a result. Paul Cain, who is said by some to be the most anointed prophet that's in the world today, says, ". . . if you get close enough to God, you can extract the very breath of God, you can extract the very glory of God right out of Him and then pass that on to your generation." (Prophets Conference, Vineyard 1989).

Again, we hear we must just overlook these outlandish appendages for the sake of UNITY. Ministers of the Gospel are trying to do what only God can do.. They think that if they can just get everyone to quit arguing about their different doctrinal beliefs, then unity is right around the corner. Walter Chantry brings this out so aptly in his book, Today's Gospel - Authentic or Synthetic?

"Having accepted the theory that unity is all-important for world evangelism, both the Church and the individual must lower their estimate of the value of truth. In a large congress on evangelism we could not insist on a truth of God's Word that would offend any brother evangelical. After all, unity (among Christians) is more essential than doctrinal preciseness.

"It is for just this reason that the mission boards are hesitant to answer the question, 'What is the gospel?' Thoroughly to answer that would destroy the mission society, which is a federation of churches who have differing answers to that question. To adopt the position of one church would be to lose the support of five others. The whole system built on unity and generality would crumble."

Are we willing to sell our souls for a mess of pottage? Is showing a "united front" worth giving up the foundation of our faith? Again the word "expediency" comes to mind.

The late Keith Green puts it so aptly in his tract, Unity...At What Price?

"How many times have you heard that somebody was 'causing division in the church?' Well, maybe they were supposed to! After all, there are two things that cause division according to the Bible: truth and error. . . Haven't you heard the scripture, 'Do you suppose I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division!' That's right! Jesus said that 'from now on five members in one household will be divided three against two, and two against three' (Luke 12:51.,,52). He said that whole families would be divided over Him. And there are many occasions in the New Testament when whole assemblies of people were

divided because of Jesus. . . You must remember PEOPLE WHO LOVE THE TRUTH WILL DIVIDE FROM PEOPLE WHO LOVE LIES."

"Division that comes from the proclaiming of the truth will usually include some intense reaction and opposition, but it will also produce good fruit and the advancement of God's kingdom (not to mention the conversion of souls.)"

"What bible story is there, Old Testament or New, where the doing of righteousness or the preaching of the gospel does not divide men and separate them into two very distinct categories: those who are willing to turn and obey God, and those who actually turn on the messenger, because he violently disturbs their false (and usually religious) peace?"

". . . It must be said that those who truly want to know God's views on the great pillars of christian doctrine, will appear to be divisive - and rightly so, in an age when the great gospel message of salvation can be reduced to such a sugar-coated, bakery-item as, 'God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life!'"

"Man-made unity is not what God desires. He wants a holy people. Many Christians believe that unity in itself will bring about a holy revival. But unity cannot bring holiness, only holiness can bring about true unity. . . ."

Perk up your ears, don't be mesmerized by the intonations of the "prophets" with their pleasing sounding words and lulled to complacency by repetitious choruses. Be careful of the spiritual food on which you are feeding. Learn to discern according to the Word of God. Use His Word as the final authority .n everything you hear.

Naturally the Church would be the primary target of Satan with all his evil devices. In EXTERNALIZATION OF THE HIERARCHY, Alice Bailey says,

". . .The church movement, like all else, is but a temporary expedient and serves but a transient resting place for the evolving life. Eventually, there will appear the Church Universal, and its definite outlines will appear towards the close of this century. In this connection, forget not the wise prophecy of H.P.B. [Helen Blavastky] as touching events at the close of this century. This Church will be nurtured into activity by the Christ and His disciples when the outpouring of the Christ principle, the true second Coming has been accomplished. No date for he advent do I set, but the time will not be long."

It should not be surprising to learn that the Church has been targeted by he Enemy of our souls and he has been actively garnering his resources for this, is final showdown in history. What better way to accomplish his purposes than to take sound doctrine out of the way for the sake of UNITY. By deceiving man into thinking it is realizing his full potential as the pathway to godliness; he has accomplished that which he set out in the Garden of Eden to do. The church that is being set up, the new wave of thinking is not the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a church that will accept the Anti-Christ because he does signs, wonders and miracles. It is a church that uses the Word of God allegorically and when it bolsters their position - exactly the same as the New Age Movement.

However, the true Church of Jesus Christ stands strong and firm in this day. It stands firm on the foundation that was laid by Jesus Christ, our Lord. It's a triumphant Church that the

gates of hell cannot prevail against. It is a church that will stand solidly on what God has declared in His Written Word! As the Church lifts up Jesus Christ, she is triumphant. It is the person of Jesus Christ, God made flesh who dwelt among us, that the true Church is longing to see. He will appear with healing for the nations. He will set up His Kingdom on earth. At His Name every knee shall bow.

The human body with its superb organic constitution and living mechanism is indeed one of God's wondrous creations - ever showing God's infinite mind and marvelous creative power. According to God's wisdom, He equipped man with an inherent organic system that in the event of a malfunction or disorder an "alarm" ; it were, sounds or a symptom is manifest that tells the mind something is wrong and deserves attention. If proper care and attention is not duly administered, the consequences could prove fatal. Common sense and the value of life are usually reasons enough for appropriate action. It is impossible to ignore a physical condition, especially if it incurs pain or holds out a threat to life. Good sense demands appropriate action.

At this sensitive time in the history of the Church, especially in the Evangelical/Fundamental and Pentecostal/Charismatic movements, characteristics or symptoms are in evidence, which by their very natures are both contagious and harmful. If only Christians would take the time to research the modern theological trends in the light of the Holy Scriptures, it would be clear that what is being preached and taught is gnawing at the roots of the Church. Malignant concepts and teachings have taken root in the Church. Sound doctrine is old-fashioned, out-dated and a cause of division. Loving the Word of God is construed to mean idolatry. Error is passively accommodated and garnished with euphemism. The need to address heresy is a waste of time, for all that matters is that we "love one another". If you raise a question or criticism to those who speak or write ideas without scriptural substance, you are told, "touch not God's anointed!".

Ministers guilty of certain aberrant teachings recently responded to their critics in a way as to leave no doubt they are orthodox and quite fundamental in their defense they published articles and newsletters that carefully spelt out their tenets of faith. In all fairness, their position on certain basic doctrines appears good. However, the problem comes as they supplement the Gospel of Christ with their New Age theosophical thoughts and prophecies. It is a matter of great concern that the Gospel of Christ is; thought to be insufficient to satisfy the needs of the church without the use of vain thoughts. The gross confusion in the Church today can readily be traced to the fact that the Cross of Christ is not being; preached as the all-sufficient answer to man's redemptive needs. "Leaven" (false doctrine and soulish thought) is responsible for the message of the Cross having little, or any effect on the apostate Church. According to Paul the Apostle, anything added, taught or preached contrary to the Gospel was "another gospel". (Gal. 1: 6-9). All the wisdom of the world was seen as an affront to the Gospel of Christ. (I Cor. 1:18-21). When the characteristics of another gospel appear together with the preaching of the Gospel, it is time to sound an alarm before thousands of souls are swept off their feet and churches left in ruins. This is indeed a time in the history of the Church when "discernment" is most needed.

It is imperative at this sensitive time that the Church address the symptoms that clearly show a malignant growth spreading through the Church. If we just wink or ignore the problem, it would be tantamount to aiding and abetting a disease that is already taking its toll.

God grant us the wisdom to recognize the truth and the courage to deal with the cause of error before it is too late!

God bless you!

Jewel van der Merwe

Excerpts from letters

From England:

". . . It is encouraging to us that God is confirming what He has shown us through various means. Six months after I got saved six years ago, the alarm bells started to ring in the Charismatic fellowship I was attending. . . I felt uneasy in my spirit about a number of things and did not feel the answers I got were sufficient. . . I attended a Christian Festival which was the annual get-together of the house/Church Restoration Movement. I did not know anything about this at the time. I was appalled to hear Jonathan Porritt from "Friends of the Earth" given the platform to speak to 5,000 evangelical Christians on their stewardship of the earth. After he had introduced himself as an old pagan who enjoyed "groaning" through evening song in small country churches", he then went on to explain that being GREEN was Healing. . . at the end of his 40 minute 'sermon' he received standing ovation!"

". . . I believe these "prophets" are using a powerful hypnotic spirit and it is actually quite dangerous to attend their meeting."

Cornwall

* * *

"We continue to pray for you and your Assembly and the work you are involved in to expose the deception. It is beyond our imagination that the so-called Body of Christ could be deceived, but doesn't the Word say: "If it were possible the very elect would be deceived"? We praise God continually for His mercy toward us and that by His grace our eyes have been opened."

Indiana