
DISCERNMENT NEWSLETTER

“...how is it that ye do not discern this time?” Luke 12:56

Volume 20, Number 6

Nov/Dec 2009

From the Editor: The following article was written around 1986. The author of the article, Lottie Hobbs, is now 88 years of age and lives with her remaining sibling (out of a family of 8) in Fort Worth, Texas. Lottie was delighted that we were publishing her article. In speaking to her, I realized that I was speaking to a dear child of God whose focus in life has been to serve the Lord and remain faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

1986 was the year that in our little church in Michigan, my late husband Travers van der Merwe (with some of the church members) had started to delve into scripture to find answers to the “strange fire” that was “burning” on the television – being offered by rising evangelistic stars. In that Michigan church were members who had come from a charismatic church where they would participate in rituals including sitting in a candle-lit room in a circle – calling forth the “Holy Spirit”, etc. They had large collections of tapes and books by all of the latest Charismatic speakers. However, they did have questions. They were willing to be “Bereans”.

Coming from Africa, we had been isolated from the changes that had already taken root in the United States. At the first church we had pastored we had wondered why some of the people did not want to sing the hymns of the church. We also wondered why they didn’t seem to like it when my husband taught prophecy. Soon we learned that indeed there had been a change taking place – the saddest being the departure from solid teaching of the Word of God. Because of mass communication, it wasn’t long before the “strange fire” became a “wild fire” and spread throughout the world. The flames spread quickly throughout Africa and thus importing even more bizarre manifestation and departures from the Word of God back to the U.S.A.

During this time, the Lord raised up His witnesses who spoke truth. Just as Lottie Hobbs, a sweet humble lady wrote this wonderful article under inspiration, others (and many of them older ladies) were gathering research and sounding the alarm. As soon as any of these researchers would go public, they would come under terrific attack! Meetings would be hastily called to make an “united” stand against them and labeled them publically as “heresy hunters”. From the viciousness it seemed they all should be burned at the stake.

It didn’t take long and there was lamenting over moral failures and crashes of “empires” as the root of the problems were never dealt with in a scriptural manner. Each

“ministry” became a law unto itself. Without the Word of God being the Authority, man has become “as god” . . . and the creature to be worshipped instead of the Creator. There has been lamenting and some introspection – those voices are few. However, the god of this world has blinded the eyes. Entertainment and supernatural manifestations (pleasing to the flesh) have replaced the fear of God that brings a sinner to his knees in repentance at the Cross. Until the Cross of Christ becomes the focus – all else is dross, wood, hay and stubble!

(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

For our conversation (heavenly citizenship) is in heaven: from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself. Philippians 3:18-21

As this year closes, may we soberly consider the seriousness of the hour and walk close to our Lord and Savior in the year ahead. – redeeming the time!

Jewel Grewe

Recent Update from Zimbabwe !

We are blessed to have a contact in South Africa near the border whose family lives in Zimbabwe. She is able to help us get funds to the pastors and churches there. It is good to have first hand news out of the country so that we know that the funds that have been given through this ministry have gone to meet needs in a severe crisis. She sent the following e-mail as I was writing this update today:

“The current situation in Zimbabwe is reminiscent of the days before the last elections when ordinary citizens were full of hope mixed with anticipation. The political situation today remains unchanged with the newly formed Government of Unity close to the brink of collapse as the President and his Deputy with their respective parties continue their-tug-of-war for power; the people continue to struggle to make ends meet and put food on the table.

In the last 6 months the store shelves in the urban (town) areas have filled up generously, at exorbitant prices, but the goods can only be purchased in South African Rands or the US Dollar. These currencies are not readily available to

everyone. Everything in Zimbabwe is now purchased in foreign currency only. The Zimbabwean dollar has become obsolete. Most people depend on outside (of Zimbabwe) help from family and friends to send money to them to survive, this has overtaken the supply of groceries and basic commodities as it is at time more cost effective to send an envelope of money than a bag of groceries into Zimbabwe.

Basic services such as fuel, water and electricity (which still operate for approximately 4 days a week) telecommunications (telephones, mobile and internet services) are charged and payable in SA Rands or US Dollars. Municipal services were cut a long time ago and each household and businesses all over Zimbabwe have to burn their own garbage to avoid the spread of diseases. There are no garbage bins anywhere in the town or residential areas, but there are heaps of garbage in busy areas in and around the town centers. This garbage is then collected by concerned citizens and burned at dumps as and when it can be done.

Medical services are still very difficult to attain. There was a report that the only radiotherapy machine started operating at one of the local hospitals called Mpilo just this week. This is first time in as long as patients could recall! The opening was met with much relief by cancer patients that have been waiting for so long to get some form of treatment.

So life in Zimbabwe continues to be difficult and for the brethren the burden remains to steadfastly pray for the deliverance of his people in that land.”

Let us continue to trust the Lord with the dear faithful Christians in Zimbabwe who are standing true to the Gospel!

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Are We Going Full Speed Backward To Paganism?

Lottie Beth Hobbs

Where Are We Going?

Go, go go! Today's frenzied society tends to revere speed and motion. Without a doubt, people are on the go - philosophically as well as physically- but **activity** is not necessarily **accomplishment**; and **direction** is far more important than speed.

All speed is NOT progress. The motorcyclist traveling full speed towards the edge of the Grand Canyon must change direction, or he will “progress” himself to sure destruction.

All change is NOT progress. A loving, caring, sober father

who becomes a negligent and abusive drunkard has surely changed! But is this progress? Of course not! Yet, an IDOL called “CHANGE” has been hoisted by philosophers who teach; “All change is progress.” Desiring to be “progressive” with the “in” crowd, many bow before the IDOL- a false and impotent IDOL! Yes, there is much change. But is it progress?

In what direction are we going? Full speed backward to paganism?

What Is Paganism?

In his book, *How to Think About God: A Guide for the 20th Century Pagan*, Mortimer J. Adler says: The dictionary meaning of the word ‘pagan’ identifies a large section of the population - all those who do not worship the God of Christians, the Jews or the Muslims.

How many share the view of Adler, an influential educator, born 1902 to Jewish parents? On some college campuses bumper stickers: “Pagan and Proud,” “I’m a Born- Again Pagan” can be seen.

WHAT IS YOUR WORLD VIEW? Each responsible person surely has one. What do you believe about: “Where did I come from?” “Why am I here?” “Who directs my path?”. “Where am I going?” Your answers constitute your World View and nothing is more personal and important. Why?

What Difference Does It Make?

An inescapable difference! Ones’ belief about these fundamental questions directly determines his behavior. Belief and behavior form the whole of life- here and hereafter.

To analyze today’s moral jungle, we must examine the root (world view) from which it grew. Yet, this obvious connection is usually ignored altogether.

This leaflet deals with three world-views (summarized on chart). Variations exist within each group, but we should learn basic concepts, differences, and the truth on each point.

A Look Backward

Our nation was founded on the Christian world-view. ¹ “All men are created equal...” affirms a **Creator** and the **created**. History’s greatest governmental blessings resulted: economic, religious, and personal freedom! Truly unique on the world scene

Yet, many call this the “post-Christian era.” Is this true? If so, what happened?

The Spread of Naturalism

Naturalism: belief that all things were formed by gradual

processes of nature - rejecting supernaturalism (God/Christ/Bible). Atheism, humanism, existentialism. The name is not this issue. To quibble over whether a person is a humanist is unnecessary. This merely diverts the focus. Simply ask: is naturalism his world-view?

Naturalist such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Rousseau, Voltaire, Darwin, and Freud had tremendous influence on the social/moral/spiritual structure of their time, and even now.

REMEMBER: It is not possible to strip away ones belief in a Creator without altering his personality, behavior, and the entire thrust of his life. Yet-

While most Americans were trustingly unaware, **our major institutions (school, churches, homes, and government) have been thoroughly permeated by naturalism.**

Enlightenment?

Atheistic teachings first spread through Europe, disguised appealingly as “age of enlightenment” and “age of reason.” A major U.S. importer of the “enlightenment” was John Dewey (1859-1952), atheist educator and co-author of *Humanist manifesto I* (1933) which endorses socialism and evolution, denying the Creator and immortality...²

Understanding Americas’ world-view could best be changed through children, Dewey injected his atheistic socialism (euphemistically called “humanism” and “progressive education”) into leading teachers colleges - with phenomenal success!

Like a plague, naturalism swept through major institutes of learning. Remember: teachers influence. This is their goal, their life’s work.

Prominent educators influenced millions with their new naturalism theories - such as:

B.F. Skinner. “father of behaviorist psychology,” signer of *Humanist Manifesto II*.²

Carl Rogers’ “client-centered” psychotherapy (therapist listen while patient “finds answers **within self**”) and “student centered” education (student “find answers **within self**”).

Sidney Simon popularized Values Clarification.³

Joseph Fletcher (signer of *Humanist Manifesto II*)² promoted Situation Ethics in churches as well as universities.

Mortimer J. Adler and Robert M. Hutchins (long at Chicago University) edited the revised *Encyclopedia Britannica* and developed the *Great Books Program*.⁴ Adler co-founded

Aspen Institutes of Humanistic Studies, and now promotes his *Paideia Proposal: And Educational Manifesto* in schools.⁵

Abraham Maslow (1908-1970) though an atheist, ascribes to man a transcendency enabling “self actualization” and “peak experience”. His anti-Christian naturalism developed into a pseudo-spiritual, transpersonal psychology- “bridging” Humanism and New Age thinking.

Basic principles we must consider include:

Who Am I?

A fundamental question. Am I “just a little lower than the angels” (Heb 2:6-9)? Or, just a little higher than the apes? Rejection of God led to an alternate explanation, the evolution theory: that we are only an overgrown amoeba, an accident of nature, a two-legged animal on our way to a dusty grave and oblivion.

Yet, the evolution theory permeates society, fostering confusion, destroying faith and morals. Students recite in one class that “All men are **created...**” In another class, creation is ridiculed.

The theory destroys the sacredness of human life. So nobody should be shocked at the escalation of abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, and suicide. If we are only animals, these acts no more objectionable than stepping on an unwanted bug!

A retrogression to paganism? Who can deny it?

Cafeteria Mortality

How Shall We Live? Who tells us what to do? God or man? All who reject the Creator/Guide must turn to human beings for direction: either self or others. Then one person’s idea is as valid as another’s. From this logic grew Moral Relativism, Situation Ethics, and Values Clarification: no absolute right/wrong (black/white) but grey areas from which to choose.

Yes, Cafeteria Morality! Go down the line and pick what appeals!

“Do your own things.” “Your parents have no right to impose their values on you.” “The church is an out-dated relic.” “If you embrace the values of parents/church, you **are not thinking for yourself.**” Sound familiar? These anti-Christian ideas abound! **Nobody should be surprised** that many have concluded: “Then there’s nothing wrong with ‘alternative lifestyles’, lying, stealing, violence, murder, promiscuity, pornography, or anything else!” Yet, in forums to analyze moral/social problems, this simple basic CAUSE is NEVER, NEVER mentioned!

Unbelief in the Churches

The principles in Column I (see chart) were once embraced by virtually all who claimed Christianity. However, naturalism invaded theological seminaries, clothed attractively as “modernism” -supernatural references are simply “naturalized”. Analyze Columns II and III. Mark the teachings now infused into churches. This most effectively dilute the strength of Christianity. Theistic evolution (that God used evolution) took root. But think: (1) The words “create” and “evolve” are contradictory and mutually exclusive. Both cannot be true. (2) If the Bible is wrong about man’s origin, who can believe it about man’s destiny, or anything else? This logic destroys the faith of many. And nobody should be surprised!

Please examine all your church literature. Is the authority placed in **God or man?** In other words, are students asked: “What does **God want you to do** in this situation?” Or is the emphasis: “What do **you think...**?” “How do **you feel...**?” “What would **you do if...**?”.

These are borrowed from the anti-Christian idea: “The answer is within you.” The Bible teaches, however, that the **problem** - not the **answer** - is within us. The **answers** are in God’s Word. So the questions should be: “What **should we** think? feel? do?”

Since low self-esteem is a major problem, **humanistic psychologist developed their “gospel of self-esteem”** based on this-world only philosophy, foundation of the Human Potential Movement- with its Encounter Groups and plethora of “Self-help” books. Yet, sadly, some Christian leaders give more emphasis and credence to Human Potential anti-Christian writings than to the Word of God!⁶

TO BUILD SELF-ESTEEM, teach from the cradle that a loving Creator provides a Blueprint for successful living, answers to our problems, that He knows us **by name**, and is interested in **everything we do**. No anti-God psychologist can improve on this formula

What Is the New Age Movement?

Several decades of humanistic man-on-his-own philosophy, trying to live without God, produced emptiness, a spiritual/emotional vacuum, loneliness, hopelessness. And the watered down “gospel” of modernism fails to fill the vacuum. Hearts cry out for something more sure and meaningful!

However, rather than returning to God to fill the vacuum, some sought “other roads to spiritually” they said - turning to psychology, occultism, spiritism, to the gurus of the East, (causing an influx of mysticism) to astrology (What is your sign?) became a conversation-opener) or to drugs (“to find myself”).

Led by adults, **some** young people of the 60’s rebelled against “the establishment” becoming the counter-culture: the “guru followers,” the “flower children”. What happened to them? They didn’t go away. They “went in” - into the establishment: business, government, entertainment, health professions, journalism, education, and religion- injecting many of their once-maligned anti-Christian ideas.

Humanism and New Age-ism are not stranger but relatives - sharing some bonds, rejecting others. Both are rooted in denial of God/Christ/Bible. Both exalt change and evolution. Interlocking of the two is logical. Humanists reject supernaturalism, but easily accept the “divine within” since humanity has always been their “god”. New Age-ism or Cosmic Humanism teaches spiritual evolution and a spiritual dimension which is actually counterfeit Christianity, as they speak of “God,” “Christ,” “spiritual fulfillment.” Ask always: “What do **you mean** by these terms?”

WHAT ARE NEW AGE GOALS? PERSONAL POWER and a GLOBAL UTOPIA - goals to replace the Western world-view, including Christianity, with a “new planetary consciousness.” The book *Networking* lists 1526 organizations sharing this resolve to “build Another America

I am God”

New Age-ism embraces supernaturalism, but ascribes it to the creature, NOT the Creator (as in Rom. 1:22-24) This is Eastern mysticism: that **all things**, including man, constitute God, the ONE - called Universal Mind, The Source, Universal Self, Cosmic Consciousness, Universal Presence, or The Force 8 --your Inner Voice, Higher Self, or Intuition. Be alert to the language, and

Be not deceived! New Agers do not mean God or Christ of the Bible. They flaunt the “I am God” concept. It **naturally appeals to man’s ego and thirst for power**, an appeal as old as the Garden of Eden. Satan promises Eve: “Ye shall be as God.”

Swami Muktananda advises: “Kneel to your own self. Honor and worship your own being. God dwells within you as You!”⁹

Philosopher L.L. Whyte says: “In dropping God, man recovers himself. It is time that God be put in his place, that is, **in man**, and no nonsense about it.

New Age writer Barbara Marx Hubbard: “At this moment of out planetary birth each person is called upon to recognize that the ‘Messiah is within,’ “¹¹

The Reincarnation Appeal

This pagan Hindu teaching (many lives in succession) is promoted in movies, TV, magazines, books, songs, games (such as *Dungeons and Dragons*),¹² school courses, and by

celebrities such as Shirley MacLaine¹³ and John Denver.

The appeal? It offers hope of life after death, while totally destroying **all sense of guilt**. (If you “blow it” you simply try again and again, in other lives).

The result? This justifies and encourages immorality and suicide (when life get tough, one can simply go on to the next one). Murder or euthanasia is merely sending another to his “next plane”. So reincarnation de-values human life - NEVER MENTIONED in conferences on suicide or euthanasia.

Belief that **all things** are sacred (part of “life progression”) forbids killing animals for food - one cause of world poverty and hunger; one rationale for vegetarianism.

Reincarnation is totally anti-Christianity, giving false hope and destroying many. God says: It is appointed to men ONCE to die, and after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27) ¹⁶

The Spiritist Appeal

All who reject the Creator still feel a spiritual thirst, search for meaning, and curiously about after-life - becoming easy prey to the promises of spiritist (who teach contact with spirit world). So occultism (that which is hidden or veiled) is mushrooming, as some seek “a spirit guide,” or “altered state of consciousness.” Ideas of occultist Alice Bailey and Madame Blavatsky are popularized by writers such as David Spangler (*Revelation*), Marilyn Ferguson (*The Aquarian Conspiracy*), Shirley MacLaine (*Dancing in the Light*). We MUST KNOW a writer’s world-view before accepting his/her conclusions. For example: Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, oft quoted author of *Death and Dying*, is a reincarnationist who participated in group séances claiming sex between participants and spirit entities. ¹⁴ Influential psychoanalyst Carl Jung would not publicly admit his spiritist involvement in séances, saying: “My colleagues would regard me as mentally unbalanced.” ¹⁶

By Westernizing the word “spiritism” to “spiritualism” occultists have sold their wares (even witchcraft) to people desiring to be “more spiritual” or to have “more personal power”.

A tract distributed on college campuses: “A Pledge to Pagan Spirituality” says, in part:

I am a pagan and I dedicate myself to channeling the Spiritual Energy of my Inner Self to help _____ and to heal myself and others.

...May I always be mindful that I create my own reality.

...May I always be mindful that the Goodness and God in all their forms dwell within me and this _____ divinity is reflected through my own Inner Self, my Pagan Spirit.

Our nation is experiencing an explosion of Self-Growth plans, designed to nurture this Inner Self, this Pagan Spirit - offering spiritual fulfillment/answer to problems WHILE REJECTING the CREATOR GOD.

Such Motivational Courses are promoted in businesses, schools, and churches, under a myriad of names: Stress Management, Self-hypnosis, Relaxation, Therapy, Meditation, Pre-testing Anxiety, Guided Imagery, Quieting Reflex, Sensitivity Training, Silva Mind Control, Biofeedback (which can be used for altered states of consciousness and psychic experiences), organized groups such as Est (now called Forum) Lifespring, Scientology, The Esalen Institute, John Denver Windstar.

NOTHING IS STRONGER THAN A FOUNDATION. If you should build a house on the sand, or with a weak or faulty foundation, the house would eventually crumble - no matter how beautiful and expensive may be the stones in the superstructure.

Though Humanistic or New Age programs may contain “beautiful stones” in the superstructure, the foundation is the premise that that answers are found IN MAN (or from a “spirit guide”) but NOT from our Creator/Guide.

So investigate! Always examine the **foundation** before “buying the house.”

Global Utopia

Self-deification and personal power are individual goals. Look at global goals.

If heaven is myth and this world is all there is, the highest hope is utopia on earth. So globalism (one big world living in peace and prosperity) is being pushed in governments, schools, and churches. “Unity” is the sacred world. Not Biblical unity, but: **one world socialism, one-world government and law, one-world religion**. Their motto is: “Think globally; act locally.”

SOCIALISM has failed everywhere tried. To advocate it on a global scale is foolish! DISARMAMENT (pushed by the “Peace Movement”) ¹⁷ is a PLANNED step forward toward WORLD GOVERNMENT. But think! WORLD GOVERNMENT could exist ONLY through FORCE, DESTROYING FREEDOM completely!

Question: are your elected officials promoting or opposing New Age-ism (Globalism)?

World Brotherhood?

“**Brotherhood through Natural Law?**” is the door through which they plan to lead us all to world religion. Christians, think! Natural law existed before Christ. If it could heal the worlds ills, then Christ’s coming was altogether vain and

unnecessary. Which is exactly the point that some to seek to establish. WORLD RELIGION does not mean that all the world believe the SAME THING - but that ALL RELIGIONS MUST BE ACCEPTED AS EQUALLY VALID. This leaves NO ROOM for the distinctiveness of Christianity.

So, Christians, do not bite the bait of "Natural Law." It is not possible to accept both it and Christianity.

Healing Our World (HOW) is a new tax-exempt origination. Small Core Groups are being formed, and New Age leader Barbara Marx Hubbard (previously quoted) invites all the join:

A grassroots movement is erupting spontaneously throughout the world. Events such as Live AID and Hands Across America have connected millions globally in spirit...Healing Our World is a new vehicle to link up the many individuals and groups....Experience the joy of discovering yourself in a spiritual family locally and globally...Fulfill the greatest teachings of our most illuminated beings and become like them in thought, word, and deed.

Lofty-sounding words indeed! But remember: this is PLANNED "Spiritual family" leaves ABSOLUTELY NO PLACE for Christianity. New Age leaders know this quite well. So don't be deceived. Wisdom pleads: if you don't agree with their goals, don't play their ball game! Don't carry their ball - as any kind of player!

What is the Answer?

Let's resolve to reverse this rush backward to Paganism! Since the dictionary defines Paganism as the rejection of "the God of the Christians, Jews, or Muslims," this includes both Humanism and New Age-ism. So we must be informed.

Don't be fooled by language. With enticing "Christianized" labels (Peace, Unity, God, Christ, Inner Peace, Brotherhood, Spirituality) some of the world's most pagan, anti-God teachings are being sold to honest unsuspecting people. The faulty foundations cannot withstand the inevitable storm (Matt. 7:24-27).

Label-switching changes nothing! To label poison as "candy" doesn't change the poisons deadliness. As in ancient times, some now call evil good, and call good evil (Isa 5:20). But this label-switching doesn't change error to truth, or prevent error's consequences. **Christians who turn to anti-Christians for direction** are trading gold for garbage, beauty for ashes! Not a smart trade!

Understand that Humanism and New Age-ism are not NEW or DIFFERENT! Both are retrogressive - tired old bankrupt throw-backs to pre-Christian times when the world languished in sin and darkness - before Christ brought Light and Salvation and Hope to our hearts.

Our moral/social/spiritual foundation - both nationally and individually - must be strengthened by following the Light from our Creator God and His Son. This is true progress and enlightenment.

(see chart on next page)

Footnotes and Related Resources

This fact and many other are being censored out of public education. For documented evidence, we recommend *Censorship: Evidence of Bias in Our Children's Textbooks*, by psychologist Paul C. Vits.

Humanist Manifestos I and II

Values Clarification by Simon, Howe, Kirschenbaum, 79

Strategies used in schools. *Values and Faith* by Larson and Larson, *Values Clarification* designed for churches.

These two books not recommended for use, but research only.

What About the Junior Great Books? pamphlet by Hobbs.

Education's Trojan Horse: The Paideia Proposal, pamphlet by Hanna and Hoover.

On this issue, we strongly recommend *Psychological Seduction: The Failure of Modern Psychological*, by psychologist William Kirk Kilpatrick (\$9.95) and *Psychology As Religion: The Cult of Self-Worship* by psychologist Paul C. Vits (\$10.95)

Networking by Lipnack and Stamps (Doubleday, N.Y., 1982)

The Force: The New Age "God" - pamphlet by Barbara Hanna.

Quoted in *The Cult Explosion*, by Dave Hunt (Harvest House, 1980), p. 106.

From The Universe of Experience, by L. L. White (Harper and Row, 1974), p. 6

From *The Evolutionary Journey*, by Barbra Marx Hubbard (Evolutionary Press 1982) p. 157

Dungeons and Dragons: Only a Game? Pamphlet by Hobbs

Out on a Broken Limb, by La Gard Smith (\$6.95). Refutes Shirley MacLaine's New Age book, *Out On a Limb*.

The New Age Journal, November, 1984, p. 40.

Quoted in *Occult Shock and Psychic Forces*, by Wilson and Weldon (Masters Books, 1980) p. 379.

The Reincarnation Sensation, by Geisler and Amano.

Excellent new expose of reincarnation. Response to past-life recall, altered states, Eastern mysticism, and other New Age concepts (\$8.95).

To learn how the "Peace Disarmament Movement" is pushed in schools, get N.E.A.'s *CHOICES: How to Indoctrinate Students in Ten Easy Lessons*, by Hanna and Hoover (50 cents; 10/\$4.00) and the book *Educating for Disaster*, by Thomas B. Smith.

(Apology: The numbering on the footnotes didn't carry through).

<p>CHRISTIANITY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GOD: All-knowing, all-powerful, Creator of man and universe. 2. MAN: Created by God in his image. Deny self; glorify Creator. 3. NATURE OF TRUTH: fixed, absolute, unchangeable, knowable (can tell right from wrong) 4. MAN’S GUIDE & STANDARD: Word of the Creator God to whom man is accountable. “It is not in man...to direct his [own] steps” (Jer. 10:23) 5. CHRIST: Jesus, God’s only begotten Son, our Savior and Lord. 6. HUMAN PROBLEMS: result of sin, failure to follow God. SOLUTION: faith and obedience to God/Jesus Christ. 7. FAMILY: God-ordained and regulated by moral edicts; thus, protection for marriage/children. 8. DEATH: entrance into another world where spirit live forever in heaven or hell. 9. AIM: to teach all of God and Jesus Christ, for the abundant life here and hereafter. <p>SUMMARIZED: “In the beginning God ...created man in His own image.” “It is appointed to men ONCE to die, but after this the JUDGMENT.”</p>	<p>NATURALISM (Atheism/Humanism)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NO Supernatural Creator; the God idea merely a myth created in primitive man’s superstitious mind. 2. MAN: result of evolutionary chance of nature. Deny Creator; glorify self. 3. NATURE OF TRUTH: Relative, constantly changing. Each decided his own “truth” “Do your own thing” 4. MAN’S GUIDE & STANDARD: No external authority. Man has his own guide through science and reason. “I think” “I feel” “I’m okay; you’re okay” Situation ethics. 5. CHRIST: teacher of ethics, but not divine. 6. HUMAN PROBLEMS: result of ignorance and superstition (religion). SOLUTION: knowledge (education), human reason, technology (science). 7. FAMILY: can be any group living together, free to set own standards; this tends to destroy stability and permanence. 8. DEATH: end of man’s existence (annihilation); no heaven or hell. 9. AIM: to build a utopian society on earth through socialistic world government. <p>SUMMARIZED: Human potential is “god”. Since the God idea was created in primitive man’s mind, enlightened man knows that “God is dead” (never really existed.)</p>	<p>NEW AGE-ISM</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GOD: counterfeit “Creative Being.” God is Everyone and Everything (pantheism or monism). 2. MAN: evolved physically, still evolving spiritually, ONE with all. Deny Creator; deify Self. 3. NATURE OF TRUTH: revelation from within self or from a “spirit guide”. Thus, varied from person to person. 4. MAN’S GUIDE & STANDARD: Science and the “god within” form counterfeit religious teachings. Basis for decisions: love of neighbor/world unity. 5. CHRIST: one of many who evolved to high spiritual plane. 6. HUMAN PROBLEMS: caused by separation from the “ONE” each other and nature. SOLUTION: change “consciousness,” align with “god within” reach “at-onement.” 7. FAMILY: through reincarnation each spirit chooses family before birth, thus, relationships held dear. 8. DEATH: only an ILLUSION merely passage into another life/body through reincarnation. 9. AIM: a utopian society through WORLD RELIGION and ONE-WORLD GOVERNMENT: everyone united. <p>SUMMARIZED: “God is very much alive for I AM GOD, and will continue to live in future earthly lives.” (Mixture of transpersonal psychology, Eastern mysticism, occultism).</p>
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