

OPRAH AND THE NEW AGE

Oprah, the Queen of Talk Shows, is considered by many to be the world's most influential woman; and her show reaches millions. Over the years, she has hosted representatives of the New Age thinking such as Wayne Dyer, Marianne Williamson, Barbara DeAngelis, LaVar Burton, Richard Carlson, Betty Eadie, and others. She has now become the #1 promoter of the New Age Movement. Those seduced into New Age thinking believe that we are all god, that we are all Christ, and that we have power within us to change our reality.

Oprah Promotes A Course in Miracles In January, 2008, she began offering a year long course on the New Age teachings of *A Course in Miracles* on her XM Satellite radio program. Lessons from the *Course* are also on her website. The *Course* is supposed to be a new revelation from Jesus, and it is dangerously deceptive. In 1965, this “new Jesus” began delivering these “new teachings” to a professor of medical psychology by the name of Helen Schucman. An “inner voice” described as “Jesus” began dictating to her and did so for seven years. These writings were published in 1975 by the Foundation for Inner Peace. At the beginning, the *Course* was read and studied by mostly New Agers. It then spread to other groups, including Catholics circles. Later the New Age leader Marianne Williamson, enamored by the *Course*, wrote *A Return to Love: Reflections of the Principles of A Course in Miracles*, which became one of Oprah's favorite books.

There are many problems with the messages in the *Course*. First of all, this new Jesus bears no doctrinal resemblance to the Jesus in the Bible. The messages contradict the Scriptures and the basic tenets of Christianity. Moria Noonan, former New Age teacher and psychic, states “The *Course* aims at radically transforming the fundamental mind-sets of Christian value systems. It calls for a ‘reeducation’ and to learn this Course requires willingness to question every value that you hold.” In fact, The *Course* Workbook actually states, “This is a course in mind training and is dedicated to thought reversal.”

Here are some quotes from this “new “ Jesus in the *Course*:

- “There is no sin...”
- A “slain Christ has no meaning”
- “The journey to the cross should be the last useless journey.”
- “Do not make the pathetic error of clinging to the old rugged cross.”
- “The Name of Jesus Christ as such is but a symbol...It is a symbol that is safely used as a replacement for the many names of all the gods to which you pray .”
- “God is in everything that I see”
- “The recognition of God is the recognition of yourself.”
- The oneness of the Creator and the creation is your wholeness, your sanity and your limitless power.”
- “The Atonement is the final lesson he (man) need learn, for it teaches him that, never having sinned, he has no need of salvation.”

(See Combined Volume (Workbook) p.183. Text, p.425 and p. 52. Teachers Manual, p. 58. (Workbook) p. 45. Text p. 147,125,237.)

There are many pastors and ministers giving warning about these writings. Among them are Fr. Mitch Pacwa and Fr. Benedict Groeschel from EWTN Catholic Network, who are quoted in Tracey Moran's article, “The Truth About ‘*A Course in Miracles*.’”

Fr. Mitch Pacwa, author of *Catholics and the New Age* said “the Course repeatedly misquotes the Bible and presents a false Jesus.”

And he said that this Jesus “does not like the Crucifixion. One of the things said repeatedly and forcefully in the Course is that sacrifice has nothing to do with love – they are incompatible.” Pacwa said, “The

'Jesus' of *A Course in Miracles* is not really the Son of God, never really had a physical body, and hence never really suffered on the cross."

Fr. Groeschel states "the *Course* is centered on a Son of God who at times seems to be the Christ of orthodox Christianity and sometimes an avatar of an Eastern religion." He also said there was a lot of suspicion about the *Course* among the clergy and Religious. The author of the article, Moran, goes on to say "And suspicion seems warranted, considering that the course denies the existence of suffering and sin, claims the Holy Spirit's main purpose is to heal people's unconscious thoughts, and reinterprets the word "miracle" into psychological terms. " (From "The Truth About 'A Course in Miracles'" by Tracy Moran of *Our Sunday Visitor*, June 2, 1996) For more info on the *Course*, you can order a CD titled "Discernment-More on the Occult and New Age" #0712 or a CD titled "The Occult and New Age" #0705 by Moira Noonan. Order from Aardvark Productions 740-284-0914.

Oprah Promotes the Book, *A New Earth* Oprah also wants her followers to "Get ready to be awakened!" This is the key message of the book, *A New Earth*, written by Oprah's New Age friend, Eckert Tolle. This book presents the idea that the world is at a crisis point and we must "spiritually evolve" as a species to avoid disaster. Spiritually evolving means "shifting" or converting to the heretical belief that we are all "God" and that we are all "Christ." This book supposedly helps us reach this goal. In fact, Eckhart claims on p. 6-7, that as you read his book "a shift takes place within you." He speaks of a "shift in consciousness." In his other book, *The Power of You*, he states on p. 104, "Christ is your God-essence or the Self." **These are typical New Age teachings and are clearly incompatible with the Christian faith.** As we all know, we are created by God; we are sinful and will be judged by Him. The Self and God are certainly not the same! **We are not Christ and we never will be!**

In Matt:24, Jesus states, "For many will come in my name and say 'I am the Christ' and deceive many." Sadly, it seems that Oprah has truly been deceived. She states, "Jesus came to show us Christ-consciousness..... She also said "I don't believe that Jesus came to start Christianity." She also indicated that there are many names that one might give to that which she calls "God" including "energy" "consciousness" and "life." She contrasted what she called the "old" spirituality vs. the "new" spirituality, as espoused by Eckhart. "The old way is the hierarchy that has authority. Church authorities tell you how to worship in church and how to behave outside of church. The new spirituality is that you are your own best authority as you work to know and love yourself, you discover how to live a more spiritual life." (See the article "The World's 'Most Dangerous' Spiritual Guru: Oprah Begins 10-Week Online New Age Class" by John Jalsevac on LifeSiteNews.com)

Many pastors have challenged this type of thinking, reminding people that we are not in control of our own lives. Jalsevac goes on to quote Pastor James A Smith Sr. when he says "**What this fails to acknowledge is that man does not define reality; man does not determine what truth is.**" "**The source of truth for our decisions and power is the one true God of all reality and He has communicated plenary propositional truths to us in the Bible and remarkably, uniquely in His incarnation in Jesus Christ.**" Jalsevac then quotes Chuck Norris:

"WorldNetDaily columnist Chuck Norris, wrote about Oprah and *The New Earth*. "The reason Tolle's psychology and spirituality is marketed so easy is that it is an eclectic mix of conventional and unconventional wisdom, and Western and Eastern beliefs, presented in a tolerant, non-threatening, and non-sectarian way. In other words, it's Religion Light, in which one can be spiritual with little down and no credit." Norris recommended that his readers simply sit down and read a Bible.

With this type of spirituality, people feel free to keep sinning and make no changes in their lives. It is a "feel good" spirituality with no rules whatsoever. Perhaps this is the reason why New Age appeals to so many people. Others who fall into these traps may simply lack discernment, because these books and programs often promote love and forgiveness. People forget that the Bible, the Word of God, also emphasizes love and forgiveness but presents truth as well as guidelines on how to live and how to attain eternal life!

What can we do? It is important to be knowledgeable on the Christian Faith, to read God's Word every day, to have a consistent prayer life, and invite the Lord Jesus into your heart to discover that personal

relationship with Him. We must also remember that Satan was once the angel Lucifer and is a highly intelligent being. He knows how to deceive us and to turn us away from the truth.

To help others, we can pray for those who have listened to the Evil One and fallen into New Age traps. We can all pray very hard for Oprah to be able to recognize the lies of the New Age and turn back to her Christian Faith. We can also share information on New Age to our friends and relatives to help them become more informed.

We must keep in mind the following scripture from 2 Tim 4:3 “For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths.”

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