

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: Contemplative Prayer & the "New Age" Christianity?**

**Contemplative Prayer & the "New Age" Christianity?, on: 2009/12/15 1:05**

From Lighthouse Trails (12/14/2009):

This past week, USA Today released an article that clearly substantiates the message that Lighthouse Trails has been trying to say for years. If anyone doubts the validity of our warnings, this USA Today article proves that we have not exaggerated or misinterpreted the scale and depth of the increasing threat to traditional Christianity.

The article, titled "More US Christians mix in 'Eastern,' New Age beliefs," states that "Elements of Eastern faiths and New Age thinking have been widely adopted by 65% of U.S. Adults, including many who call themselves Protestants and Catholics."

Much of this change can be laid at the feet of the mysticism that has presented itself under the banner of contemplative or centering prayer via the spiritual formation movement. What this has done is broken down the barriers that have previously existed. Some might argue that the article is talking about New Age practices, not the Christian mystical tradition, which contemplative advocates say is orthodox and loyal to the Gospel. But as Anglican mystic Richard Kirby stated so precisely: "the meditation of advanced occultists is identical with the prayer of advanced mystics: it is no accident that both traditions use the same word for the highest reaches of their respective activities: contemplation" (p. 7 The Mission of Mysticism).

The implications of this are that we indeed are living in a time of departing, of which II Thessalonians 2 speaks. There is no turning back. This is a reality that we will be living with from now on. And it is the responsibility of biblical believers everywhere to be fully equipped in knowing how to counter this reality so that friends, loved ones, pastors, professors, and co-workers etc. can be warned.

This new spirituality completely opposes the Gospel that we embrace and love and that is the only way of salvation. As the world moves more into this mystical model, it is vital that those who comprehend what is taking place have the boldness and courage to speak the truth and defend the faith.

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first. I Thessalonians 2: 1-3  
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Time is short, brothers and sisters. Spread the good news to all who cross your path:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."  
(John 3:16-18)

Sincerely,

Walter

Re: Eastern Mysticism - posted by JS, on: 2009/12/24 17:54

Isaiah 2:6

Quote:  
-----Therefore thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because *they be replenished from the east, and are soothsayers like t  
he Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers.*  
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The NIV renders the verse this way: "They are full of superstitions from the East; they practice divination like the Philistines."

This post reminds me of a book I read by Dave Hunt, called "The Seduction of Christianity," where he outlines the infiltration of New Age into the postmodern church.