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# DISCERNMENT NEWSLETTER

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

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## Rick Warren, Mark Batterson & Priscilla Shirer: Keynote Speakers at AOG General Council

By Barbara Wilhelm

Currently there are several names on the bestseller list among Christian leadership who have gained incredible popularity. But not everything is as it appears. The Bible calls us to prove all things (1 Thess 5:21) and upon further investigation it can be seen that three of these names have become involved in some deeply erroneous teaching. The Assemblies of God host an event every two years called General Council where they bring all pastors and leaders from across the globe together for a time of encouragement and instruction. Unfortunately, Rick Warren, Mark Batterson, and Priscilla Shirer, the three leaders referred to above, have been chosen as the keynote speakers this year when General Council meets in Anaheim at the beginning of August. Each AG church has the authority to act independently on their own behalf but the fact that those in authority in the AG have chosen these three individuals is reason for great concern.

### THE BRIDEGROOM IS JEALOUS OVER HIS BRIDE

The Lord is preparing us to be His bride. While here on this earth, He hopes we will be attentive to His every Word and not be beguiled and seduced by the words of another, no matter how enticing the words are. He is jealous over us as a Bridegroom would be. He has communicated those wishes through the messengers He has sent—the writers of the Bible inspired by His Holy Spirit. He wants us to listen to no other “voice”—no matter how attractively presented—except His own. That is why He has told us to “prove all things, hold on to what is good.” (1Th 5:21). He has promised that His Word will be a sufficient means to prepare us for our future role.

#### John 17:17 (NKJV)

*Sanctify them by Your truth. Your Word is truth.*

#### 2 Cor 11:1-4 (Amp)

*11 I wish you would bear with me while I indulge in a little [so-called] foolishness. Do bear with me!*

*2 For I am zealous for you with a godly eagerness and a divine jealousy, for I have betrothed you to one Husband, to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

*3 But [now] I am fearful, lest that even as the serpent beguiled Eve by his cunning, so your minds may be corrupted and seduced from wholehearted and sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*

*4 For [you seem readily to endure it] if a man comes and preaches another Jesus than the One we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the [Spirit] you [once] received or a different gospel from the one you [then] received and welcomed; you tolerate [all that] well enough!*

*5 Yet I consider myself as in no way inferior to these [precious] extra-super [false] apostles.*

A careful reading of 2Cor 11:1-4 above warns us of “different” gospels, spirits, even a different Jesus that will try to lure us away, as the NKJV states, “from the simplicity” of the true Jesus.” Notice, too, how it warns “if a man comes”—a man, not Jesus, not His Word, but a man and man-made words.

Why is there such a great emphasis upon this thing called “His Word”? The explanation is simple: it is His language that He uses to speak to us:

#### 2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

*16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Notice the absolutes in these verses: all Scripture—not just the ones we choose to bolster our side; inspired of God—not man-contrived; thoroughly equipped for every work—lacking in nothing that men think they have to add. Simply said: follow what God has said in His inspired Word, add nothing to it and you have everything you need for your spiritual growth. He is all in all; His Word is as Him—all sufficient. Yet men from the beginning—as Genesis 3 details—have sadly attempted to “improve” on God’s simple plan to make His children complete in His eyes. Hear His pleading heart in **Jer 6: 16 NKJV**:

*Thus says the Lord: "Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, Where the good way is, and walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'*

Instead of the simplicity of Jesus and the all-sufficiency of God's Word, there are those who desire new ways, new gods to follow and make with their own hands, and, as of late, new ways to pray. As an example let's look at an "old" way to pray—"old" meaning all Scripture, inspired by God—and then at a "new" way—a way devised by man.

## TWO MEN WHO PRAYED FOR RAIN:

### ELIJAH of the Bible

Elijah's name means "my God is Jehovah" and he will amply prove that as his life unfolds before us. What follows is a brief summary of Elijah's "credentials" as a Biblical prayer model:

- **1Kings 17:1**—through Elijah, God commands rain to stop for 3 1/2 years (1Kings 18:41-45) until God through Elijah commands it to return
- **1 Kings 17: 1-7 and 11-16**—Elijah is fed by supernatural means: the ravens at Cherith and the widow of Zarephath
- **1Kings 17: 22-24**—the first resurrection in the Bible: the widow's son is prayed for by Elijah
- **1Kings 18: 21-24**—Elijah challenges Israel and the false Prophets
- **Kings 18: 36-40**—fire falls from God and Prophets of Baal are defeated
- **2Kings 2:8-18**—the flaming farewell, Elijah taken to Heaven in a chariot of fire
- **Mt 17:1-13**—Elijah, Moses and Jesus on the mount of Transfiguration
- **Rev 11:3-12**—the two witnesses sent to warn the earth

Besides Jesus' instruction of the Our Father, the Bible in **James 5** delineates one more method of prayer. This one uses Elijah as a role model:

**16** Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

**17** Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

**18** And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

I am presently reading *Elijah: Prophet of Power* by Phillip Keller (author of the classic *A Shepherd Looks*

*at the 23rd Psalm*). Keller's thoughts on a "righteous man who avails much" are powerful because they command holiness from the reader. They are reminiscent of the call of Psalm 51:17—"the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart. These, Oh God, You will not despise."

Righteous prayer is the profound longing of a spirit and soul in harmony with the will and wishes of God. It is a man's spirit moved upon by God's Spirit. Prayers of intercession which have their origin with Christ Himself, the Author of our faith. They are transmitted to our spirits by His own gracious Spirit who in turn helps us to lift them again to God for His approval. For in the end He, too, is the Finisher and Accomplisher of our faith. It is the person with a cleansed conscience and an unclouded view of God who comes to Him boldly and unafraid asking for great favors (Heb 10: 10-22)

The website [bible.org](http://bible.org) has a twenty-one article series on the life of Elijah concentrating on his miracles and encounter on Mt. Carmel with the 450 prophets of Baal. To induce their god to answer, the Baal priests worked themselves into a religious dither. Elijah, on the other hand, prayed a short and simple prayer. He prayed in faith while resting in God's grace and covenant promises. The series does an in-depth analysis of his "effectual prayer" and the inner preparation for him to be used by God. (See: <https://bible.org/seriespage/prayers-elijah-1-kings-1830-46>)

His public prayer occupies only two verses and 63 words in the English Bible, and even fewer in the Hebrew. In these verses we see the power of God manifested from Heaven. We see men and women turning back to the Lord. We see revival, restoration, and repentance.

### HONI of CIRCLE MAKER fame

Having seen the solid Biblical support to learn about prayer from Elijah, we turn to Honi, famed character of the *Circle Maker*, a book by Pastor Mark Batterson. According to Amazon.com's description of this book: "It's time you learned from the legend of Honi the Circle Maker—a man bold enough to draw a circle in the sand and not budge from inside it until God answered his prayers for his people." Immediately we run into an insurmountable problem. What is the origin of these "circle makings"? We cannot cite chapter and verse in the Bible for support as we can for the events in Elijah's life because there are none.

*Honi is not found in the Bible!* If it is not in the Bible, then where did it come from? The answer is astounding! As Jen Hatmaker relates on her website:

"Last June Brandon [her husband] and I went to rural Canada [and met Mark Batterson]. Mark dug out an old story out of the [Book of Legends](#) and discovered **Honi, the Circle Maker**. Mark took that beautiful old legend from the Talmud and claimed it for our generation" (<http://jenhatmaker.com/blog/2015/02/18/the-circle-maker>)

So, not only is *Circle Maker* not from the Old Testament, nor even from the Talmud—as opposed to the Torah—but it is from a secular book called the *Book of Legends*. Again we search through the only solidly reliable book we can trust: what is the *Biblical* view of fables or legends?

#### 1Ti4:7 KJV

*"But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness."*

#### 1 Timothy 4:7 AMP

*But refuse and avoid irreverent legends (profane and impure and godless fictions) and express your disapproval of them. Train yourself toward godliness (piety),*

This "legend" is a story from the Talmud and Midrash, which is a compilation of Jewish oral tradition and commentaries on the Mosaic law. The point here is that the Talmud is not the Bible. Honi is referred to as "a prophet of God" and yet he is not mentioned in the Bible. Honi did not wait to hear God's instructions as all the prophets of the Old Testament did. He had his own plan and ideas and took them to God for The Lord to execute. It was Honi's idea to make the circle, not The Lord's. This is the exact opposite of God's prophets who the Word of The Lord came to and they acted upon it as willing servants.

The Bible says: *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* (2 Timothy 2:15) and encourages Pastors to *"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine."* (2 Timothy 4:2). In both commands it is focused on The Bible which is "the word of truth" and "doctrine."

Why would a Pastor base an entire book and teaching on prayer, one of the most important aspects of Christian life, on a non-Biblical source? Rather than focus on "sound doctrine." Batterson is teaching "fables" to the church. Batterson reinforces this by saying he is in fact teaching

"how to pray in a new way" and states "you can't just read the Bible, you need to start circling the promises." (<http://beginningandend.com/the-circle-maker-heresy-witchcraft-in-the-church/>)

We return to the firm foundation of our faith—the Bible—to notice Elijah's response to the people's uncertainty as to their actions when confronted with a dilemma. Elijah went before the people on Mt. Carmel and commanded them to make a choice. In **1 Kings 18:21** he said: *"How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."*

So, too, we have a choice. We can choose God and His Word or a man and his book of legends as a model. We can believe in the all-sufficiency of the Bible or relegate it to second—or last—place. The outcome for the Prophets and people on Mt. Carmel was life-changing (see 1Kings 18:22-40). Those choosing to read a book of legends instead of the Bible face the same choice in their spiritual life. Will the people now return to the "old paths" once they have heard the truth? Let us pray they do. (Additional information: <https://www.challies.com/the-circle-maker/>)

#### SUBTLE VOICES THAT STEALTHILY STEAL SOULS

Sadly, the stealing of God's peoples' souls does not stop with one book. Leaven, once introduced into a loaf, leavens the whole thing. And the door for deception has been opened on many fronts.

#### Galatians 5:9 Amp

*A little leaven (a slight inclination to error, or a few false teachers) leavens the whole lump [it perverts the whole conception of faith or misleads the whole church].*

**Hosea 4:6** states that My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge

#### 2Pe 2:1 Amp

*But also [in those days] there arose false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among yourselves who will subtly and stealthily introduce heretical doctrines (destructive heresies), even disowning the Master Who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.*

*Barnes Commentary states:*

They would not at first make an open avowal of their doctrines, but would, in fact, while their teachings seemed to be in accordance with truth, covertly maintain opinions

which would sap the very foundations of religion. The Greek word here used for *stealthily* is “to lead in by the side of others.” Nothing could better express the usual way in which error is introduced. It is “by the side,” or “along with,” other doctrines which are true; that is, while the mind is turned mainly to other subjects, and is off its guard, gently and silently to lay down some principle, which, being admitted, would lead to the error, or from which the error would follow as a natural consequence.

This lengthy excerpt is from a booklet titled: *Beth Moore and Priscilla Shirer—Their History of Contemplative Prayer* by John Lanagan:

I knew the Lord was calling me to experience Him in prayer in a brand new way... Priscilla Shirer.

Contemplative prayer, which Priscilla Shirer refers to as her “brand new way” is in reality an ancient prayer practice that is essentially the same as New Age or Eastern meditation though disguised with a Christian terminology. Those who participate and enter *the Contemplative silence*, as it is called, open themselves to great deception.

Contemplative prayer is a primary factor to consider as we watch the visible church depart from sound doctrine more and more. It is promoted by such ministries as Mike Bickle’s International House of Prayer (IHOP), Saddleback’s Rick Warren, author Kenneth Boa, and pastor and author Tim Keller to name just a few.

Shirer was amazed to learn that some of the women from her church were going to participate in a “Silent prayer retreat.” Women would gather to spend 36 hours of silence in anticipation of hearing the voice of God.

(The language of Contemplatives) echoes Richard Foster who says we have become barren and dry within or Rick Warren who believes the church needs Spiritual Formation (i.e., contemplative prayer) to come to “full maturity.” However, this could lead one to think that the Word of God is little more than a philosophy or belief system and needs the help of Contemplative prayer to be effective at all. The insinuation is that the Holy Spirit is dormant and ineffective without this vital stimuli. Contemplatives make a distinction between studying and pondering on the Word of God versus loving Him, suggesting that we cannot love Him or know Him simply by studying His Word or even through normal prayer—we must practice Contemplative to accomplish this.

The film *Be Still* was made, according to Shirer, to “introduce others in the modern church to this beautiful *early church practice*.”

*This early church practice* is referring to the Desert Fathers—ancient monks who had learned mystical prayer practices from those in other religions. In *Be Still* Shirer states that nothing, not even a “great book,” could take the place of experiencing what she calls “the manifest presence of God.” If there is one main message in the *Be Still* DVD it is: *you cannot really know God if you do not practice the art of going into the Contemplative silence.*

#### PRISCILLA SHIRER—A STRANGE PRACTICE WITH CONTEMPLATIVE ORIGINS

In her book, *Discerning the Voice of God: How to Recognize When God Speaks*, Priscilla Shirer writes: As I meditate upon a verse, I will often insert my name or a personal pronoun into it to make it more personal. If I’m reading and meditating on a Bible story I *will become the main character* so that it’s not merely someone else’s experience with God, *but my own*. I often ask myself what God would have me do as a result of what I contemplated.(emphasis added).

So, it would not be Moses, but Priscilla and the Burning Bush (Ex 3:2-4)

Not Elizabeth, but Priscilla, mother of John the Baptist? (Luke 1:13)

Not Eve, but Priscilla, the wife of Adam? (Genesis 2)

The Bible is very clear about the importance of preserving the Word of God—not altering it. Not adding to it, and not taking away from it.

Every Word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that would put their trust in Him. Add thou not unto His words, lest He reprove thee and thou be found a liar. (Prov 30:5-6)

One has to ask, where did Priscilla Shirer get this idea of inserting herself into God’s Word as Bible characters? It is very likely Shirer got this from Contemplative teacher Jan Johnson. According to Priscilla Shirer:

Years ago I got a chance to meet Jan Johnson... I was encouraged and *redirected* in so many ways. As a young woman trying to navigate the ins and outs of my relationship with the Lord, Ms. Jan spoke wisdom into my life that was *extremely pivotal* in my life—personally and *in ministry* (emphasis added)

Priscilla Shirer quotes Jan Johnson, an advocate of guided meditations, in her book *Discerning the Voice if God*. (Incidentally, Shirer also quotes Brother Lawrence, Dallas Willard and other Contemplative in the book).

Jan Johnson has an Ignatian background. Ignatius of Loyola was the founder of the Jesuits and part of the Catholic Church’s counter-reformation. To this day, the Jesuits make great efforts to *win back the lost brethren* to

the Mother Church and are practitioners of Contemplative prayer. According to one pro-Ignatian website: Our imagination can place ourselves in the boat with Jesus and His friends on the stormy sea. Or at the table at the Last Supper, listening in on the conversation, even participating. Ignatius says if we let our imagination free, not forcing it or "scripting" it, God can use it to show us something. I recall, in my own prayer, the vivid scene with Mary and Martha. I was one of their friends waiting for Jesus to arrive to raise from the dead our brother Lazarus. We spoke about Lazarus' life and how much we missed him. But then our friend Jesus came along and brought him back to life. You should have seen the tears and embraces as the four of us rejoiced.

One writer describes Jan Johnson's approach to meditating with Advent and Christmas stories: "Johnson invites readers to enter into the stories through a sort of neo-Ignatian approach she calls 'participative meditation.'" (Read more: <http://www.lighthouse-trails.com/home/933-booklet-beth-moore-priscilla-shirer-their-history-of-contemplative-prayer.html>)

Contemplative spirituality is a belief system that uses ancient mystical practices to induce altered states of consciousness (the silence) and is rooted in Mysticism and the occult but often wrapped in Christian terminology. Common terms used for this movement are "spiritual formation," "the silence," "ancient wisdom," "Spiritual disciplines" and many others. (*The Plumbline*, volume 20, no.5 November/December)

In the 1978 edition of his book *Celebration of Discipline*, on p. 22 Richard Foster admits that Eastern meditation is "most easily entered through the door of the imagination." Jan Johnson and Priscilla Shirer need to take heed of where the imagination can lead them. 2Cor 10:3-5 warns us to "cast down imaginations" not to encourage them.

One other point: I am a former Catholic. A number of years ago I had serious reasons to do intense research into "Ignatian exercises." I found documentation that Ignatius received the exercises from visions of Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

(<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/14224b.htm>)

In addition, it is worthy of note that the present Pope is a Jesuit who advocates Contemplative prayer. Catholicism is pressing in from many sides to convince people that it is Christianity and that it deserves to be partnered with us. However, when I became a born-

again Christian 40 years ago I cut all ties with Catholicism because of the explicit commands of these verses warning against idolatry:

#### 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 (NIV)

**14** Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

**15** What harmony is there between Christ and Belial[a]? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

**16** What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

**17** Therefore, "Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing and I will receive you."

**18** And, "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

#### RICK WARREN, JEAN VANIER, AND THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

From Roger Oakland's new book *The Good Shepherd*, pp. 143-144, we learn:

The Warren- Arroyo EWTN interview that aired on YouTube April 11, 2014 provided many insights regarding the "New Evangelicalism" that is presently unfolding. Its purpose is to gain ideas and insight for the Roman Catholic New Evangelization Plan initiated by Pope John Paul II and continued by Pope Benedict and Pope Francis (who is a Jesuit).

The Vatican recently sent a delegation here to Saddleback—the pontifical council—the academy for life. Tell me what they discovered. And why did they come? This is a sizable group.

Warren's response was immediate and enthusiastic. He said:

It was. They were about 30 bishops from Europe. One of the men had been actually trained and mentored by Jean Vanier, which is an interesting thing because we have a retreat center here and spiritual director, who grew up at Saddleback, actually went and trained under Jean Vanier too. So I am very excited about that.

While the term "spiritual director" or the name Jean Vanier may not mean much to you unless you are versed on Contemplative mystical spirituality, this admission by Warren provides conclusive evidence of his endorsement of Roman Catholic monastic Mysticism and all that goes along with it. The fact he mentions he has his "own" spiritual director located at Saddleback who was trained

under the leadership of Jean Vanier is even more significant.

Let's take a brief look now at Jean Vanier, the man who trained Rick Warren's spiritual director. This will provide important insights. Vanier (b. 1928) is the Canadian Catholic founder of L'Arche, which is a humanitarian community for disabled people. It is L'Arche where Catholic priest Henri Nouwen spent the last ten years of his life. Vanier is a contemplative mystic who promotes interspirituality and interfaith beliefs, calling the Hindu Mahatma Gandhi "one of the greatest prophets of our times" and "a man sent by God." In the book *Essential Writings*, Vanier talks about "opening doors to other religions" and helping people develop their own faiths be it Hinduism, Christianity, or Islam. The book also describes how Vanier read Thomas Merton and practiced and was influenced by the spiritual exercises of the Jesuit founder and mystic St. Ignatius.

Now think about this. To learn through Rick Warren's interview with Raymond Arroyo that Warren's own "spiritual director" was trained under Jean Vanier is, at the very least, a key to understanding the long history where Rick Warren has expressed support for contemplative mystics and ecumenical efforts....

In Ray Yungen's book, *A Time of Departing*, he points out that both Rick and Kay Warren very much admire the writings of Henri Nouwen. As a matter of fact, Yungen has devoted an entire chapter to Rick Warren's contemplative propensities including his instructions in *The Purpose Driven Life* on breath prayers. Now that Warren has revealed that his own spiritual director was trained under someone like Jean Vanier, we can better understand the direction Warren is heading. (See: <http://www.understandthetimes.org/commentary/c146rickwarren.shtml>)

Over the past several decades, there have been many red flags and concerns voiced by Christian leaders as to why Rick Warren's activities and teachings are not aligned with a Scripture. He is a strong advocate of contemplative prayer, and encourages pastors to use *Centering and Breath Prayers*; as an example: "Pastor Rick Warren in his book *The Purpose-Driven Life*, p. 89, states:

The Bible tells us "to pray all the time." One way to do this is to use "breath prayers" throughout the day, as many Christians have done for centuries. You choose a brief sentence or a simple phrase that can be repeated to Jesus in one breath: You are with me", "I receive Your grace", "I'm depending on You."

Through activities with "A Common Word Between Us" he seeks common ground between Muslims and Christians. This false unity was also evidenced at the invocation at the presidential inauguration in January 2009, where he was praying to Isa of the Qur'an along with Jesus. In addition to unity with Muslims he supports the "Catholics Come Home" Campaign that entices lapsed Catholics, called separated brethren, to come back into the Catholic Church.

New Age proponent Leonard Sweet, who calls himself an emergent church leader, trained many of Warren's church leaders and pastors at the 2008 Saddleback Small Groups Conference.

Rick Warren created "The Daniel Plan: God's Prescription for Your Health" to get the people Saddleback Church healthy. To create his alleged biblical plan, he elicited the aid of unbelievers—Dr. Mehmet Oz, a Sufi Muslim, Dr. Mark Hyman, a secular Jew and New Ager, and Dr. Daniel Amen, a professing Christian who dabbles in Eastern mysticism.

Dr. Oz's New Age affinity for psychics, spirit guides, past lives, and contacting the dead was showcased on his March 15, 2011 program—just two months after the launch of the Daniel Plan—titled, "Psychic Mediums: Are they the New Therapists?" The promo on his website read: "Can talking to lost loved ones heal your grief? Hear why psychic John Edward believes you can talk to the dead."

On a January 6, 2010 Dr. Oz Show, Dr. Oz revealed what he believed to be "the most important alternative medicine treatment" for his viewers in that coming year. His #1 "Oz's Order" was to "Try Reiki"—an occult bodywork practice that incorporates the channeled guidance of spirit guides. Dr. Oz was reported in one press release as stating: "Reiki is one of my favorites, we've been using it for years in the Oz family, and we swear by it."

In his book *The Brain in Love* (formerly titled *Sex on the Brain*), Dr. Amen recommends tantric sex to his readers. He writes that tantra "is a term applied to several schools of Hindu yoga in which sex is worshipped." He states that "[s]ome tantra yoga teachers recommend meditative practices that also share elements with Kundalini yoga, where subtle streams of energy are raised in the body by means of posture, breath control, and movements."

Dr. Hyman endorsed a New Age book titled *Power Up Your Brain—The Neuroscience of Enlightenment*. It is co-

authored by shaman/medium Alberto Villoldo and neurologist David Perlmutter. Power Up Your Brain includes a chapter recommending various “Shamanic Exercises” that include an invocation to the “Great Serpent.” (“Rick Warren’s Daniel Plan” by Warren B. Smith)

Rick Warren’s position as pastor is to be a shepherd to his flock, to keep them safe. Is exposing his flock—and all the others who follow the Daniel Plan—to these three doctors the action of a responsible shepherd?

Related Material and Documentation:

- A Visit to Rick Warren’s Health Seminar—The Unfolding of a Global New Age Plan
- Rick Warren Speaks Out Against Those Warning the Church of Meditation
- Saddleback’s Response to Criticism Over Daniel Plan—An Unscriptural Paradox!
- Changing Science, Changing Mind—Healthcare More Than You Bargained For  
(<http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/blog/?p=13549>)

Again, we return to the Bible for God’s word on these activities and again His Word is relevant and specific:

#### Isaiah 8:19 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

*And when the people [instead of putting their trust in God] shall say to you, Consult for direction mediums and wizards who chirp and mutter, should not a people seek and consult their God? Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living?*

#### IS THIS CAREFUL SCRUTINY REALLY NECESSARY?

The Word of God is a standard, a plumbline. As such it spells out in no uncertain terms what is holy and safe, and what is profane and dangerous. It also states the consequences for not heeding its directives:

#### Deut: 9-10 Amp

**9** *You shall not plant your vineyard with two kinds of seed, lest the whole crop be forfeited [under this ban], the seed which you have sown and the yield of the vineyard forfeited to the sanctuary.*

**10** *You shall not plow with an ox [a clean animal] and a donkey [unclean] together.*

The whole crop?! Yes, the whole crop—all that is pure and holy in our relationship with Jesus—is lost. If you try to mix in clean with unclean, all becomes unclean. Simply, the one rotten apple will indeed spoil the bunch but, one—or even a bunch of clean apples—will not make the rotten apple healthy. As Haggai 2:11-13 states—unholiness is infectious. This truth is confirmed in Galatians 5:9 “A little leaven (a slight inclination to

error, or a few false teachers) leavens the whole lump [it perverts the whole conception of faith or misleads the whole church].” That little leaven will have stealthily crept into all the crop, into all our teachings. And in the nature of leaven, it is hardest to discover when error rides alongside truth:

Truth mixed with error is equivalent to all error, except that it is more innocent looking, and therefore more dangerous. God hates such a mixture! Any error or any truth-and-error mixture calls for definite exposure and repudiation. To condone such is to be unfaithful to God and His Word and treacherous to imperiled souls for whom Christ died. (Dr. Harry Ironside 1876-1951, a Godly fundamentalist author, writer and teacher for many years, served as pastor of Chicago’s Moody Memorial Church 1930-1948).

By that criteria we are commanded not to make even passing references to un-Biblical teachings. By that criteria we need to be as the Bereans in Acts 17:11 and thoroughly investigate all teachings to see if they line up with the truth of Scripture, the Word of God.

#### SO, THE CHOICE IS YOURS

In the end, there is a simple choice to make. Will we go back to the old way, the simplicity of Jesus and the all-sufficiency of His Word? Or do we choose the new way—which really isn’t new at all.

#### Genesis 3:1 Amp

**3** *Now the serpent was more subtle and crafty than any living creature of the field which the Lord God had made. And he [Satan] said to the woman, Can it really be that God has said... and all deception and wickedness entered Paradise.*

And what is happening now? Instead of complete dependence upon Jesus and His Word, we have the exaltation of fables and legends, Eastern religions and Catholicism. All because we are opening our hearts to another Jesus, another spirit, another gospel. We too are at the confrontation of Mt. Carmel—if Baal and the other religions are gods, follow them. But if God is truly and exclusively God, follow Him alone.