

The Spirit of Truth and The Spirit of Error

"What God has said on Seven Fundamentals", and "What men are now saying!"

The Truths of Christianity Compared to:

Christian Science, Spiritualism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Armstrongism, Mormonism, Eastern Mysticism, The Way International, Unity, Unification Church

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- Quotations are from standard writings and leading teachers of the various sects or cults. Initials in parentheses are abbreviations of aforementioned book and magazine titles.
- Scripture quotations are from the *New Scofield Reference Bible* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1967).

Compare The "Truths" of The Word of God to the "Errors" of Eastern Mysticism

The following provide a side by side, topical comparison of the Truths of Christianity, "What God Has Said on Seven Fundamentals", and the Errors of Eastern Mysticism, "**What Men Are Now Saying**".

- God
- Christ
- Holy Spirit
- Sin
- Redemption
- Salvation
- Retribution

The Word of God

Personality Of The Godhead

- In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth (Genesis 1:1).
- He is God; there is none else beside him (Deuteronomy 4:35).
- God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).
- For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man, Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5)
- Go. . . and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).
- Jesus was baptized; the Spirit descended; the Father spoke (Matthew 3:16-17).
- Come, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech (Genesis 11:7).
- From the time that it was, there am I; and now the Lord God, and his Spirit, hath sent me (Isaiah 48:16).

Jesus Christ

- In the beginning was the Word,. . . and the Word was God (John 1:1).
- When, as His mother, Mary, was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18).
- Behold, the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14).
- God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the nations, believed on in the world, received up into glory (1 Timothy 3:16).
- And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

Eastern Mysticism

God

- Brahma, the Absolute, other than which there is nothing else -- without qualities, unknowable, impersonal, beyond all appearances, changes, differences.
- God is all there is. "All visible objects are but modifications of self-existence, of an unconscious and impersonal essence which is called God" (Walter R. Martin, *Kingdom of the Cults*, p. 239).
- God is omnipresent and almighty, and is in the heart of everyone (*Transcendental Meditation*, p. 61).
- In his real nature man is divine. The inner man is fully Divine. Vedanta teaches no other dogma but the divinity inherent in man, and his capacity for infinite evolution (*TM*, p. 58).

Jesus Christ

- All religions from times immemorial are just different branches of the main trunk of the eternal religion represented by the Vedas (*TM*, p. 19).
- "I don't think Christ ever suffered or Christ could suffer" (Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, p. 123).
- Christ is considered to be one of a long line of "Masters" who had themselves realized divinity. They are recognized as "divine," and addressed as such. Through such individuals at various times in history, the "divine truth" was transmitted to men. His picture is frequently to be seen beside that of Buddha, or of Shankaracharya, or Yogananda, or other recognized "Divine Leaders."
- The "Masters" are considered to be realized

- No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him (John 1:18).
- And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead (Romans 1:4).
- And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain (1 Corinthians 15:17).
- Wherefore, he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them (Hebrews 7:25).
- This same Jesus . . . shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into Heaven (Acts 1:11; cf. John 14:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Holy Spirit

- When the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, . . . he shall testify of me (John 15:26).
- When he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8).
- When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth (John 16:13).
- The Comforter, who is the Holy Spirit, . . . he shall teach you all things (John 14:26).
- His spirit that dwelleth in you (Romans 8:11).
- Be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18; see also 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 3:16).
- But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his (Romans 8:9; see also vv. 14, 16).

Sin

expressions of divinity and, as such, are worshiped.

- **Current Religious Movements from the East:**
 - **Bahatism:** This emanated from Persian Islam but is essentially eclectic. All ways are of God, but Baha has the truth for this age.
 - **Divine Light Mission:** Guru Maharaj ji is presented as the Perfect Master, the Lord of the Universe, who has come to uncover the light of knowledge which is within the disciple himself.
 - **Krishna Consciousness (Iskcon):** Devotion centers on the god Krishna.
 - **Transcendental Meditation:** Deceitfully propagated as nonreligious, this is undoubtedly Hindu. Maharishi Mahesh Yogi is the leader. Mandatory initiatory rites in Sanskrit address the Lord Narayana, Brahma the Creator. Daily meditation focuses on the Source of Creative Intelligence within the individual himself.
 - **Vedanta Society (Rama Krishna Mission):** This group also teaches the Perennial Philosophy, that god is the essence of all that is, and salvation is to "realize" the god (reality) that is within you.
 - **Yoga:** This is one of the six major Hindu philosophical systems to be followed in order to obtain union (yoga) with the Ultimate, the Great All-pervading Soul. Self-realization Fellowship advocates practice of disciplined Kriya Yoga as the path to realization of the good within, the true self.
 - **Zen Buddhism:** The major Buddhist activity solves eternity's problems by illogical Koan to produce enlightenment -- similar to T.M.

Sin

- There is none righteous, no, not one (Romans 3:10).
- For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Roman, 3:23).
- If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us (I John 1:10).
- If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us (I John 1:8).
- Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law (I John 3:4).
- All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not unto death (I John 5:17).
- Whatever is not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23).
- Therefore, to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin (James 4:17).

- The subject per se is given little attention, and forgiveness of sin is unrealistic. By the Law of Karma, "sowing and reaping," wrong actions inevitably produce punishment, good actions their reward. Salvation consists of doing good in excess of evil in order to evolve to the highest state through successive incarnations. This highest state is Enlightenment; the realization of oneness with the World-Soul, Reality.
- Sin is not defined. It consists of actions which are contrary to one's "dharma" or "duty."
- "Sin means wrong doing or wrong thinking due to discontentment. Suffering is the result of some wrong doing in the past."
- "Past sins might induce an action in the present; some tendency of the past may come to us" (*Meditations of Maharishi*, p. 121).

Redemption

- We have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7).
- Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things . . . but with the precious blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:18-19).
- Unto him that loveth us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us a kingdom of priests unto God and his Father (Revelation 1:5-6).
- Without shedding of blood is no remission (Hebrews 9:22).
- Made peace through the blood of his cross (Colossians 1:20).
- This man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God. . . For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified (Hebrews 10:12, 14).

Salvation

- Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house (Acts 16:31).
- But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the children of God, even to

Redemption and Salvation

- "Be still and know that you are God, and when you know that you are God you will begin to live Godhood (*Ibid.*, p. 178).
- Go within and experience the Divine Nature!
- A mystical experience reached by various methods, which blanks out all sense impressions and releases one into a sense of identity with the great All, the only Reality!
- There is no supernatural intervention. We bear the whole responsibility for our actions. If we attain the clear vision of what we are, "the Divine or Inner Light, and the god within," we need not go elsewhere. "All may say, at the moment of Awakening, 'I am the Way' " (*KC*, p. 237).
- Salvation comes through the realization that there is no duality. God is all-in-all, is all there is, and "that are Thou" (*Upanishads*).
- God-realization, or Self-realization, the highest of all states of being, is a here and now possibility by any of the suggested methods:
 - 1) The Way of Knowledge, usually involving meditation focused within. This may be aided by silent repetition of a designated, personal mantra, which is a

- Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house (Acts 16:3 1).
- But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the children of God, even to them that believe on his name (John 1:12).
- He that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the . . . only begotten Son of God (John 3:18).
- He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life (John 3:36).
- Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5).
- For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God -- not of works, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- Justified freely . . . through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (Romans 3:24).
- Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth (Romans 10:4).

group of sounds without meaning. Or by "Knowledge" imparted by a "master" by which "inner light" is given, and the "current of real life" (the source of life) is turned on within us. Meditation is upon this "light experience."

2) The Way of Works, following prescribed rules of conduct without desire. This is the more common way of India, much less emphasized in the West.

3) The Way of Devotion to a deity, involving continuous chanting of the chosen name, as exemplified by the vocal Krishna-Consciousness cult.

- Transcendental Meditation is a path to God (*MM*, p. 59).
- The way of Yoga (meaning union) is that of concentration aided by body control, with the aim being "Union with the Divine."
- Self-realization is entry into the Kingdom of Heaven within, entry into the field of the Creator. "It is the gradual movement from Matter to Mind, and then to Super Mind. Once we reach the Super Mind, we reach union with the Divine."

Retribution

- The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).
- Those who sleep in the dust . . . shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame, and everlasting contempt (Daniel 12:2).
- And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment (Hebrews 9:27).
- And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God. . . . And the dead were judged out of those things written in the books, according to their works (Revelation 20:12).

Retribution

- Heaven and hell are not accepted concepts.
- Karma, the "law of the deed," of sowing and reaping, is allied with Transmigration (Reincarnation) in defining the results of sin and rewards of good.
- Suffering (on earth) is the result of some wrong doing in the past, one's own repayment of deeds.
- One who has attained union with God, or "God-consciousness," has reached the end of reincarnation. As the Buddha is reported to have

- **The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven . . . in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel. . . ; who shall be punished with everlasting destruction (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10).**
- **If thy foot offend thee, cut it off; it is better for thee to enter lame into life than, having two feet, to be east into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched (Mark 9:45).**

said, "There is no rebirth for me."