

THE WAY OF HOLINESS

A Christian Newsletter encouraging women to be strengthened in their walk with the Lord through Holiness. Isa. 35:8, 9

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This Issue: Understanding the Ecumenical Movement

Walking a Holy walk with the Lord comes from the heart. However, discernment is necessary to keep the heart pure and free of error. Reliable discernment is a result of both reading Scripture and knowing what is being falsely taught in the Christian world.

Today, Christianity is on the brink of the "great falling away," (from doctrinal truth), (2 Thess 2:3). Perhaps we are there already. This

scripture cannot pertain to unbelievers, false teachers or professing Christians since they never possessed the Truth. That leaves born-again Christians susceptible to "falling away."

Since the Bible teaches eternal security, we understand that the punishment for falling away is to lose ones rewards in heaven. Perhaps we don't fully understand the ramifications of that. Those who recognize their doctrinal errors may repent and be forgiven. However, Apostates are

committed to their man-made doctrines to such an extent that they are blinded.

Today, the Lord is calling many watchmen to shout the warning that we are now in the midnight hour— That hour just before the return of Jesus.

At this late hour, the Ecumenical Movement and all its erroneous teachings must be understood and taken very seriously. Without this understanding one

could easily fall into grave error. True Christianity is now considered obsolete to ecumenical Christians. They consider independent churches like ours dangerous to their cause. In order to fully understand what we stand for, we must clearly know that for which we do not stand.

The day may come when an instant decision may have to be made before a government official as to how firmly we believe. We must be well prepared so that our hearts do not waver.[]

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Ecumenical Defined

Many years ago, when the word "ecumenical" began to commonly appear, it was difficult for many to pronounce, spell and understand. The first known use of the form "ecumenicism" wasn't until 1961. It's still hard to pronounce and not well understood. The word "Ecumenical" is from the Late Latin oecūmenicus, from the Greek oikoumenikos, and Greek oikoumenē, meaning the inhabited world. *Oikein*, is to inhabit, from oikos, house.

This definition speaks of the whole household, or the inhabited world. In spiritual terms, this refers to goal of forming a single, worldwide church.

The goal of the Ecumenical Movement is to establish religious unity among Christian churches throughout the whole world. It is committed to unity through diversity and doctrinal tolerance in order to bring about a one world "Christian" religion. Oddly, the EM which tolerates all, cannot tolerate fundamental Biblical doctrines. []

The Worldwide Ecumenical Movement Originated from a Parachurch Organization

Parachurch organizations are Christian faith-based organizations which carry out their mission usually independent of church oversight. The prefix *para*, is Greek for *beside*, or *alongside*. Some of these organizations cater to a defined spectrum among evangelical beliefs, but most are self-consciously interdenominational and many are ecumenical. A parachurch organization is a Christian organization that engages in social welfare and evangelism without restricting itself to a specific religious denomination. (Wikipedia)

It is remarkable to find that a worldwide movement such as the Ecumenical Movement could have stemmed from a vision held by one American Methodist layman evangelist associated with a parachurch organization.

John Raleigh Mott (May 25, 1865 – January 31, 1955) was a long time leader of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), a parachurch Christian student organization.



1910

Mott had a passion for missions and a dream of having Christian student organizations all over the world unite, in order to evangelize the whole world as a means of bringing peace to the world. In fact, in 1946 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in establishing and strengthening international Protestant Christian student organizations that worked to promote peace.

Early in his association with the YMCA, Mott signed the student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions Declaration which united many Christian student organizations. Eventually Mott and others formed the World's Student Christian Federation. It was from this organization that the Ecumenical Movement arose.

Mott led the way by delivering motivational speeches to students all over the world. Mott's life long dedication to world unity of Christian churches led to him being dubbed

The Father of the Ecumenical Movement. Since its official beginning in 1910, at Edinburgh, Scotland, the expansion of the movement has been phenomenal.

Many well-intentioned Christian groups form parachurch organizations. Since they are not operated as ministries of local churches, they are not biblical. And because they lack Biblical oversight, they inevitably stay from sound doctrine. Some examples of roles undertaken by parachurch organizations include:

- Evangelistic crusade associations patterned after the Billy Graham Association. Billy Graham's career was launched by a parachurch organization, Youth For Christ.
- Evangelistic and discipleship ministries such as The Navigators, and Campus Crusade for Christ, and many psychology-oriented organizations such as Focus on the Family.
- Music and print publishers, radio and television stations, film studios, online ministries, and Bible Societies.
- Self-help groups, Habitat for Humanity, etc. For a more complete list see Wikipedia, [List of Parachurch Organizations](#).

There are many excellent websites, books, and conferences One such ministry is that of missionary church planting, David Cloud. His web site, Way of Life Literature, is a fundamental Baptist preaching

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Parachurch Organization, Cont.

and publishing ministry based in Bethel Baptist Church.

As always, we look to the Word of God to guide us into all Truth, lest we condemn unfairly. To quote Pastor Robert Hammond of Long Hill Baptist Church, Trumbull, CT., “opposition to parachurch organizations is based on the observation that New Testament ministry is always carried out under the authority of local churches. Paul was sent out by a local church to plant local churches. Paul’s letters were sent to local churches and/or to men serving in local churches.” None of this is surprising given the clear Biblical teaching that local churches are the “pillar and ground of the truth.” (1 Tim. 3:15)

Because the head of many parachurch organizations is a pastor or ordained minister, it is assumed that their oversight is sufficient. However, a pastor alone does not constitute a local church.

The ecumenical approach of parachurch organizations typically invites great doctrinal compromise and error. Christians are expected to try the spirits. The spirit of ecumenical parachurch organizations is often antichrist because they frequently do not teach salvation by faith alone. Christians should recognize that ecumenists are working to build a worldwide spiritual household of God on the sands of salvation by works. The LORD makes it quite clear that His household is to be built on faith in Christ only (Eph. 2:8-9)[]

Many topics remain to be discussed regarding the EM, such as the roles played by the World Council of Churches, Pastor Rick Warren, the Orthodox Church, and their unity scriptures. These will be covered in future issues of The Way of Holiness Newsletter.

Watching Our Words

“The mouth of the righteous is a well of life” (Proverbs 10:11a) or so it should be. Unfortunately, there are those who use their mouths to discount others. To give a discount to an item is to reduce its value. To discount a person is to denigrate their value, to reduce their accomplishments and to deny their reality. The purpose of such dismissiveness is to make the discounter feel of more value at the other person’s expense.

A discounter is the person who makes an issue about the one ‘B’ mark on an all ‘A’ report card. It is the person who is tagged as always putting others down. It is the one who takes away joy and confuses the mind with negative comments.

In the work force he is the boss who, in response to a job well done, comments, “what took you so long?”, and offers no appreciation, thereby discounting the achievement. Shifting goals without notice is another ploy. Removing responsibilities, repeatedly reminding of blunders, allocating meaningless tasks-- all are meant to discount.

Discounting can be a most insidious form of verbal abuse. The discounter destabilizes the victim by withholding approval through comments such as, “is that the best you can do,” “how can you think that’s art?”, “what makes you think I told you that?” If the victim shows hurt, that is the desired result and is criticized as being “too sensitive.”

Beware of the discounter. His mouth is not a well of life, it is destructive. Put on the breastplate of righteousness to protect your heart and to ward off the fiery darts (Eph 6:14). If you are a victim, please know that you are not to blame. Seek counsel and let the Holy Spirit minister His comfort to you. Give the abuse to the Lord. Only He can change the abuser while He strengthens you.

Are you a discounter? Repent, confess and forsake this sin. Ask the Lord to help you to demonstrate genuine love and encouragement in your speech. []

Note: Women, children, teens and men can all be guilty of abuse.



THE SOCIAL MELDING POT OF ECUMENISM

Sources used (author and page number noted) are from "The Dictionary of the Ecumenical Movement." Lossky, Nicholas, et.al. WWC. Geneva. 1991

Presently, as from its beginnings, members of ecumenical committees, though diverse in their religious orientations and geographical locations, are working behind the scenes, meeting at all levels to find common grounds of faith. (Best 231-2). New and blended liturgies and doctrines are being shaped and drafted (Allen 622-23; Bouwen 338). These will be the fruit of official committees agreeing to not disagree whenever possible, and to compromise where agreement is not achievable. The molders of this new unity religion, who are mandated to report their progress to their superiors, envision "people of all faiths" worshipping together as one, without hindrance or opposition from those who dissent (Meyer 281).

Integration by association is its subtle, quiet weapon. By encouraging participation in interdenominational and interfaith social programs and causes, a mecca for mixing faiths is created (Ariarajah 283; Neuner 288).

The Lord is using the Ecumenical Movement (EM) to bring about His purposes, but warns those who are His own to stay out of it, (Rev. 18:4). Christians everywhere are being enticed to follow "the yellow brick road" to ecumenical Rome which stands alongside the Protestant World Council of Churches espousing peace through unity. The RCC has declared new Papal encyclicals to make this possible.

Enough ecumenical activities are presented to be sure to meet everyone's taste. March for Jesus events declare the need for unity through singing CCM songs while marching. Rallies such as Promise Keepers bring together Mormons, Catholics, and every brand of professing Christian man. Pulpit swapping is encouraged to keep the fires burning. All too spiritually dangerous to women is the ecumenical conference series known as "Women of Faith." Awana

and The Alpha Course are a few of the EM programs presented for children and students. Christian rock music, Christian concerts and contemplative prayer groups offer teens a venue for sharing ecumenical experiences, too.

Ecumenical propaganda disseminated through books slyly instills unity philosophies in the minds of the readers. Joseph Girzone's once very popular "Josuha" novels of faith books do just that. Jesus (Josuha) is presented throughout the books as promoting ecumenism in subtle ways. The list of activities meant to blend all religions through social and church activities goes on and on.

Reminiscent of the fruit in the Garden of Eden, it all looks good and tastes good. But it must be remembered that Satan comes deceptively as an "Angel of Light" and the "Father" of all lies, (2 Cor 11:14). Satan can produce good-looking fruit which is actually spiritual poison. Not discerning the fruit cost Adam and Eve their close walk with God and they were expelled from the Garden.



Please check with your pastor before tasting any forbidden fruit from the tree of ecumenism. He will try the spirits for you through research and prayer. Following or getting involved with any parachurch groups, radio/TV ministries, etc., outside of your own Bible-believing church can lead to serious error. Keep in mind: a little leaven leavens the whole loaf and that is what the ecumenists are counting on—converting one person or church at a time to bring about a united world church that will teach dogmas that do not teach that salvation is through Jesus Christ **alone**. []

ECCLESIASTICAL MELDING THROUGH BI-LATERAL TALKS

While the folks are having fun participating in the aforementioned activities, the most insidious meetings are occurring among the higher echelons of ecumenism. Here the ingredients for the spiritual melding pot are being determined. Take a dash of Lutheran-Catholic bi-lateral “ talks”, add to it bi-lateral talks between Anglican-Lutheran, Charismatic-Catholic, Southern Baptist-Catholic, Greek Orthodox-United Church of Christ, Presbyterian-Catholic, New age Spirituality-Judaism,— make any combination of which you can dream, and you have a pot of unscriptural stew stired and ready to serve mankind. A strong dish of tolerance and compromise to say the least. A few of the most outstanding results of these bi-lateral talks are:



- In 1980 the Vatican signed a document allowing full communion to Anglican clergy and laity if requested. This resulted in

married Anglican clergy and their parishioners to merge with the Roman Catholic church and still carry on as before, (Foy 96, 298 Dictionary EM).

- The Lutheran World Federation now enjoys full communion with Rome.
- At a news conference January 25,1995, the leader of the Church of Scotland said, “Being unable to share Communion is an incentive to fostering union with Catholics”, (Foy 78 Dictionary EM).
- “In a landmark resolution (1995) reaffirming its commitment to ecumenical relations, the Southern Baptist Convention specifically encouraged the “ongoing Baptist–Roman Catholic (bi-lateral) Conversation.
- Having accepted each other as Christians, the Catholic-Charismatic Movement has been the strongest bridge to unity.

Please note-everyone is expected to unite with Catholicism and to come under its umbrella. []

A note from



Jackie Thorpe

The ecumenical tool of integration by association has not been wasted when it comes to international airports. In 1995, I travelled to Scotland. I landed at Glasgow airport where there was a lot of buzz about a new airport chapel that had opened that day. Everyone seemed to be dismayed about the fact that an interfaith chapel was now located at a Scottish airport. The Presbyterian Church of Scotland claims an allegiance of 45% of the population. Curious, I asked about it and where it was located. As I entered the chapel, I was overwhelmed with the understanding that here in front of me was living proof of the unbiblical effects of the Ecumenical Movement.

The chapel was austere. It’s simple wooden chairs and alter bore no symbols. However, colored lights streamed through a large stained glass window. It displayed symbols of every religion, from Protestant to Islam. It was obviously designed to offend no one but God. I felt ill.

My hosts were a Christian pastor and his wife. In discussing the Ecumenical Movement with the pastor, he was in denial that ecumenism could ever touch Scotland. He told me in no uncertain terms that I was mistaken. That next morning, the Scottish newspaper headlines read, “Interfaith Chapel Opens at Glasgow Airport”. Glasgow, which was fifteen minutes from the pastor’s home was also the location of the first ecumenical conference held in 1910. The article showed a picture of a delighted Church of Scotland minister and a Catholic priest. God always confirms the words He gives His messengers to deliver. []



ECUMENICAL CHRISTIANIZATION



The Encarta Dictionary defines Christianization as meaning: to change the religious beliefs and practices of a person or group of people from another religion; to make somebody or something Christian by imbuing him, her, or it with Christian principles.

For centuries, The Roman Empire, was held together through Caesar worship. one world government requires a one world religion. However, in 315 AD, the Roman Emperor, Constantine, influenced by his mother Sophia, a professing Christian, prayed for victory in the name of Jesus during a particularly difficult battle of war. So grateful was he to the Christian god for his victory that day, that he made the Imperial decision that all the Roman Empire must become Christian. No citizen could get work or food unless they converted to Christianity.

Though the Roman Empire had worshiped the ruling Caesars as gods, they also worshipped lesser gods, which have become known down through the generations as the mythical gods of Rome. In order to make Christianity palatable to the empire, Emperor Constantine *Christianized* all Roman temples, statues, symbols, holidays and rituals. The pagan temples were now called churches, statues of male gods were now dubbed Peter or Paul, the wheel of life symbol eventually represented the Eucharistic host.

Today the Ecumenical Movement (EM) is using the same tactic to bring all religions into one. Terms like communion, salvation, social justice, are being given new unity meanings for all to accept. Eastern meditation is now called contemplative prayer. New Age prayer circles are now being practiced as “Christian” prayer circles. Many new age practices have been Christianized, causing unsuspecting Christians to enter into realms and practices that God forbids.

The EM claims that it’s goal is limited to the unification of only those religions and denominations that name the name of Jesus. But their interfaith outreach to spiritist, Abrahamic religions, Hindus and other pagan religions is quite obvious to those who seek to find the true workings of ecumenism.

Some grave examples are the Christianizations of Hindu, Zen Buddha and Shinto practices (*more examples of integration by association*). Hinduism has entered Christian circles mainly through Yoga. Yogi Masters such as Baba Prem, Vedavisharada, CYI, C.ay, C.va, claim that it is impossible to separate Yoga from Hindu philosophy. Yet, Christians insist that Yoga is only exercise. Baba goes on to say that “the roots to modern day yoga come from Vedic Yoga. The same Vedic Yoga that is the authority of Hinduism.” In Hindu philosophy, Yoga is the name of one of the six orthodox philosophical schools, (Wikipedia). Since all reliable sources state that Yoga is first and foremost a philosophy, it would appear that Christians dabbling in it are in direct disobedience to the Word of God. The apostle Paul warns, “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the

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Ecumenical Christianization Cont.

rudiments of the world, and not after Christ,” (Col 2:8) “...and ye are complete in Him”, (Col 2:10).

Since philosophy is “a set of basic principles or concepts underlying a particular sphere of knowledge,” (Encarta Dictionary) anyone practicing Yoga is halting between two philosophies which cannot be reconciled. Elijah asks, “How long will you halt between two opinions..?” (1 Kings 18:21). God also asks Christians to separate from the world. Yoga is of the world since it is not something given to us by Jesus. Hinduism and Christianity cannot be yoked. As such, a choice must be made. Yoga inherently asks for the yoking of practitioners to be one with the universe. The Lord asks that we be submitted to Him. Only one master can be served, even if one is “Christianized.” When the Romans were presented with statues of Venus or Diana Christianized into the Virgin Mary they still saw them as Venus and Diana. When the ecumenists present Yoga as Christian exercise and mediation, God still sees it as Hindu.

Yoga plays with the mind. One of its goals is to encourage relaxation, through both physical form and eastern style mediation. In contrast, Biblical meditation fills the mind with scripture and worship. Eastern forms of meditations require emptying the mind. An empty mind is a play ground for demonic spirits. New Age channelers of “angels” and spirit guides begin by calling up the spirits that serve them by emptying their minds to allow the spirits to take over. Is it any wonder that we are told to daily put on the helmet of salvation to protect our minds? (Eph 6:17).

The heart of every Christian knows, through the workings of the Holy Spirit, when it is out of God’s will. Such defensive phrases as, “it’s only”, “what can it hurt”, “it’s just for fun”, “I don’t see the harm”, “I don’t do it all the time”, “it’s only entertainment”, “it’s only exercise”, “God knows my heart,” come from those trying to rationalize their behavior.

Giving up those things which weigh us down and displease the Lord require such little sacrificing in return for the great sacrifice He made for us. If one wants exercise and chooses Yoga, something deeper is being sought. Ecumenism, New Age, Hinduism, and all the rest cannot offer the “rest” of eternal salvation.

For more on the subject of “Should Christians practice yoga?”, please see:
<http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/yoga.htm>

Works Consulted.

- 1 Hurlbut, Jesse Layman, D.D. The Story of the Christian Church. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids:Zondervan, 1970
- 2 Prem, Yogi Baba. There Is No Christian Yoga. <http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/htm /yoga.htm>
3. Ibid.

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Services:

Sunday School (all ages) 10:00 A.M.

Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.

Sunday Evening Service 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

Saturday Evening Prayer 7:00 P.M.

Statement of Faith can
be found at
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THE WAY OF HOLINESS

Isaiah 35:8-9

*"And an highway shall be there, and a way,
and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not
pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though
fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous
beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed
shall walk there."*

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HOW CAN I BE SURE OF HEAVEN?

By Pastor Bob Hammond

How can I be sure of Heaven ?

1. Acknowledge to God that you have sinned against Him. The Bible says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23).
2. Realize that our sin separates us from God. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)
3. Understand that Christ died on the cross and paid for all our sins. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and



not of works, lest any man should boast."

(Ephesians 2:8-9

4. The Bible teaches that, in order to receive forgiveness of sins, we must repent and place our faith in Christ alone.

To repent is simply to make a conscious decision to turn away from sin and to turn toward Christ. The Bible says that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only

begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).

God promises everlasting life to those who trust in Jesus Christ alone, not in a church, denomination or good works. Have you made a decision to trust Christ?

Please tell the person who gave you this newsletter or call Pastor Bob Hammond, Long Hill Baptist Church, 203-208-3450. []

