

Study on Church History

Compiled by Sandy Simpson

I want to preface this study of church history by telling you how I am going to do it. I am going to cover three areas. First are the dates and brief descriptions of the genesis of world religions not related to Christianity. Second are the dates and brief descriptions of the beginnings of movements that call themselves “Christian” but are really false Christianity because they teach against one or more of the core doctrines of the Church. Lastly I will deal with the dates and descriptions of the True Church through history to show that God has always had a faithful remnant. The principle of the faithful remnant remains the same as when God explained to Elijah that he had 7000 faithful who would not bow the knee to Baal.

*1 Kings 19:18 **Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.***

The true Church has always been a small flock, a remnant, a few who find the narrow path and gate.

*Luke 12:32 "Do not be afraid, **little flock**, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.*

*Romans 9:27 Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, "**Though the number of the sons of Israel be like the sand of the sea, it is the remnant that will be saved;***

*Romans 11:5 So too, at the present time **there is a remnant chosen by grace.***

*Matthew 7:14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and **only a few find it.***

Also you need to remember what Jesus said:

*Luke 18:8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, **when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"***

So then those who claim a great end times revival with billions being saved have not read their Bibles. This does not mean that God does not desire everyone to come to salvation, but He foreknew that the vast majority of human beings will not believe on Him when presented with the Truth of the Gospel.

Today the Gospel has almost sunk out of view. The churches are in apostasy and we are in a time where there are churches everywhere but few that hold to the core doctrines of the Bible. Even most formerly Biblical churches are now accepting the false doctrines of the Latter Rain, Word of Faith and the Emerging Church. They are unwilling to take a stand against the tide of immorality and homosexuality. They have replaced the Gospel with social activities and causes. They have a downright disdain for churches that hold to the Scriptures.

I also need to preface this study with a comment on most Church History studies out there. Most of them spend a whole lot of time, particularly from the birth of Catholicism to the Reformation, cataloging Roman Catholic history. But since I do not consider the history of the Catholic and Orthodox churches to be the history of my forefathers in the faith, I need to come at it from a different perspective. Why do I say this? It is because when Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire he did save many more people from being martyred but also created a new religion that had very little to do with the early church of the first few centuries. Right from the beginning he mixed together elements from Babylonian, Egyptian, Greek and Roman religions and mixed into his new “Christianity” in order to placate the masses and give them a familiar religion. He included many practices, teaching and festival from these pagan religions and they took root in the Catholic church. Here are some of them:

The Church of Rome

Hislop considers the Church of Rome during the start of Catholicism and into the Dark Ages. **The symbol of the Church of Rome became the woman with a cross in her left hand, and a cup in her right. It was said that "the whole world is her seat."** During the Dark Ages, the Bible was sealed and unknown to the common man. People were forced to believe like the church believed. The priests reserved the right of teaching the faith, and the clergy sold dispositions of the true faith of Christianity. They practiced celibacy and priest craft, and held a mysterious power of dominion over the faith. Some did not even realize that they had simply adopted the pagan customs of the ancient mystery religions. It is not difficult to see how some of the traditions of these ancient gods carried over into Christian Rome. Even in the first century, poems confused the story of the divine father, mother, and son with the story of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. In Japan, Spain, and India, there were legends of three-headed gods which some confused with the trinity of the Godhead. In many lands, mother-worship prevailed and was supported by citing Genesis 3:15 as proof that the mother would bruise the heel of Satan, and that she indeed had power over him. The Messiah is sometimes seen as only a mediator between the goddess and mankind, instead of as a savior.

Mystery

A primary example of the analogies drawn between the Babylonian mystery religions and Roman Catholicism is the practice of incorporating certain well-kept secrets that are available to only a select few. Rome insured that the common man was studiously kept in the dark, as did Babylon. Throughout the years, Catholicism has become known for a priesthood which seems to include only members of the clergy. By discouraging the reading of the Bible in the common language of the people, the church has also discouraged personal Bible study among its non-clergy members. This in turn has tended to teach the laypersons to become very dependent upon the clergy for Bible truths, and even for access to God. This hardly seems in step with the priesthood of the believer (1 Peter 2:5,9), where we are all encouraged to enter into the mind of God through His revealed Word.

Confession

Even the confessional had its roots in Babylon. All the people were required to make secret confessions to the priest in a prescribed form, if they were to be admitted, or initiated, into the "mysteries" of their religion. They were commanded to keep secret about these mysteries. Later, the Church of Rome began requiring the same type of confession for admission to the sacraments. Even the symbol of the Halo of Madonna was originated in Babylon as a disk symbol of the sun god.

Lady Day

In Pagan Rome, March 25th was a holiday celebrating the annunciation of the virgin, in honor of Cybele, the mother of the Babylonian messiah. Consequently, on the Pope's calendar, March 25th is Lady Day, the day to observe the miraculous conception and annunciation of the virgin Mary. Since the birthdays of the two respective messiahs is the same, one might expect that the day of their conception might be celebrated exactly nine months before their birth.

The Feast of the Nativity of St. John

The next point of interest on the Papal Calendar is June 24th, midsummer day, The Feast of the Nativity of St. John. In ancient Babylon, June 24th had commemorated the Festival of Tammuz, which celebrated his death and resurrection (during June, the month of Tammuz). Hislop writes, "When the papacy sent its emissaries over Europe, towards the end of the sixth century, to gather in the pagans into its fold, this festival was found in high favor in many countries... the famous advice of Pope Gregory I, that by all means they should meet the Pagans half-way, and so bring them into the Roman Church." So, to appease the Pagans, this festival was adopted by the church, but they did not want to use the name Tammuz, and there was no event of Christ's life to commemorate in June. Therefore, they contrived the scheme to celebrate this holiday as the birth of John the Baptist, since it conveniently coincided with a date six months prior to the celebration of the birth of Christ. Also, the name that the Babylonians used for Tammuz after he had been slain was Oannes. Conveniently, the name John, or Joannes, therefore satisfied both the Christians and the Pagans. In France and Ireland, this festival was celebrated with huge bonfires of purifying fire, across which children were thrown. This coincided with the

Babylonian ritual in Jeremiah 32:35 which tells of the children being passed through the fire to the god Moloch.

Other Holy Days

The worship of Holy week with the sepulcher and the cross of fire coincide with the ancient festival of Sturn.

The date of October 7th on the Papal calendar is set apart to be observed in honor of St. Bacchus the Martyr, the martyr of the fire worshippers

October 9th is the festival of St. Dionysius (and St. Eleuther and St. Rustic). Dionysius was also known as St. Denys, the patron saint of Paris who was beheaded and is said to have carried his head in his hands to his grave. This festival was abolished in 1789, but somewhat revived in the 20th century. **The origin of this Christian myth was also from Nimrod, who was said to have been beheaded and worshipped. This led to the famous statues in Rome of the man holding his head in his hands.**

The Feast of the Assumption is observed by the Catholic church on August 15th to honor the virgin Mary as the omnipotent goddess who was perfect on earth and now resides in heaven. In Babylon, Bacchus rescued his mother in hell and took her to heaven. The Chinese also celebrate a feast in August, in honor of a mother. The Holy Virgin in ancient times was the wife of Pluto, the god of hell. She experienced the immaculate conception and was absolutely immaculate. In Rome, Madonna and her child are honored in the form of graven image statues.

Baptismal Regeneration

Catholicism holds that water baptism is an initiating ordinance and an absolute necessity for salvation. In Babylon, baptism was required before any instruction of the mysteries could be received. It provided the necessary washing and purifying. In Pagan Mexico, baptismal regeneration coincided with the worship of Wodan, the father of humanity, from whom evolved the name Wodansday (Wednesday). In Rome, a Pagan exorcism used water baptism with the use of salt, spittle, anointing oil, the sign of the cross, and holy water (consecrated salt water into which a burning torch was placed for purification). As part of excommunication, this phrase is used, "May the Holy Ghost who suffered for us in baptism curse him." **Semaramis was known as a dove, a holy spirit incarnate, who passed through water when she was overcome by her enemies, and she took refuge in the water.**

Works-Based Salvation

Another common doctrine shared by ancient Babylonians and Catholicism is the doctrine of justification by works. Merits and demerits are measured in the balance of God's justice by Anubis, the god of the scales, in ancient Babylon, and by St. Michael, the Archangel, in Catholicism. The priests were the judges, and the people had to pay to compensate for their demerits. This led to the "fear of the scales" in the Catholic Church, as well as to the practice of absolution by paying indulgences Like Moloch, the god of barbaric blood, in ancient Babylon, Greece, Rome, Egypt, Assyria, and Phoenicia, Catholicism claimed that God was not satisfied without groans and sighs, lacerations of the flesh, tortures of the body, and penances including whippings and scourges. It was common practice for Catholics to crawl on their bare knees over sharp rocks in order to pay for their displeasing of God. This is one of the things that Martin Luther found so revolting about the Catholic Church. The Flagellants would even publicly scourge themselves. From the first to the third centuries, Christianity recognized this practice as purely Pagan.

Transubstantiation

In the Catholic Church, the Mass is heralded as the transubstantiation, or unbloody sacrifice, where small, thin, round wafers are eaten. The Babylonians worshipped Baal in the same way, using the small, thin, round wafers as a symbol of the sun god. The letters on the wafer, I.H.S., supposedly stand for Iesus Hominum Salvator, Jesus the Savior of Men, but in Babylon, they stood for Isis Horus, Seb, the mother, the child, and the father of the gods (the Egyptian trinity).

Extreme Unction

The practice of extreme unction, when death is visibly at the very door, originated in Babylon as an anointing for the

last journey into the mysteries.

Purgatory

Purgatory and prayers for the dead have served both ancient Babylon and Catholicism as a special cleansing with a payment which was extorted to protect the payer from the purgation of fire.

Processions

Rome is famous for its long idol processions in which images are carried on men's shoulders, priests are adorned in gorgeous dresses, monks and nuns wear various habits, flying banners are displayed, and instrumental music is played. The same was true for Babylon. Also, the clothing and crowning of images in Rome originated with ancient Egypt, Nimrod, and the Queen of Troy.

Relic Worship

Rome uses rags or bones of saints to commemorate their deified heroes, as did Babylon. Both also artificially multiplied many fake relics for profit.

The Rosary

The rosary and prayer beads of Catholicism are pagan practices used in Mexico, Tibet, China, and Greece, as well as by Hindus and Pagan Rome. This began as the Rosary of the Sacred Heart in Babylon and Egypt, where the heart was a sacred symbol of Osiris when he was reborn and appeared as Harpocrates, or the infant divinity, born in the arms of his mother Isis. The rosary still resembles a human heart. Also, Cupid originated in Pompeii as a boyish divinity. He was a fair, full, fleshy boy in fine and sportive action, usually portrayed tossing back a heart. Thus the god of the heart, or the god of love was worshipped. The bow and arrows were used to identify him with his father, the mighty hunter Nimrod. Taking aim with his gold-tipped arrows at the hearts of mankind, he was immortalized. The ancients deified Venus and Cupid as the Catholics do Madonna and child.

Lamps

Lamps or wax candles of fire were used by the ancients in sun worship. The Catholic church uses candles at mass and at Easter, even in the daylight, although this practice was not started until the fourth century.

The Sign of the Cross

The Catholic sign of the cross originated in Babylon as a grand charm before prayer which drew the initial of the name Tammuz, Tau, or T. This same T can be found on the garments of Catholic priests. The Vestal Virgins of Pagan Rome and the nuns of Catholicism wore it on their necklaces. Bacchus wore a headband covered with crosses. The Buddhists wear them today. The cross was considered a divine tree, the tree of the gods, the tree of life and knowledge, and the product of whatever is good and desirable. In Catholicism, the cross is also called the tree of life, "hail, O cross, triumphant wood, true salvation of the world. . ." It is viewed as the only hope to increase righteousness and pardon offenses. Tammuz used the mistletoe tree to heal the sick. When Constantine came along, he declared popularized the X for Christ instead of the T for the cross, so again both Christians and pagans were satisfied.

The Sovereign Pontiff

Catholicism view the Pope as the sovereign pontiff, the representative of divinity on earth, the infallible, who's laws cannot be revoked, as was the case with Esther during the times of the Medes and the Persians. The pope is addressed as "Your Holiness," and his slipper is often kissed. He holds the keys of Janus and Cybele (on his robe), Peter's keys to heaven, although Peter was probably never in Rome. History has confused the Pagan statue of Jupiter with Peter. It is curious that the title of the high priest of Babylon was pronounced "Peter." He was the grand interpreter, Roma.

The College of Cardinals

Rome's College of Cardinals coincides with the Babylonian Council of Pontiffs and the Pagan College of Pontiffs. The word "Cardinal" comes from the word "cardo" which meant hinge. Janus, the god of doors and hinges, Patulcius and Clusius, was the opener and the shutter, controlling the door of heaven. Peter's chair, similar to that of Hercules and Mohammad, is where the ancients were carried in pomp and state in Egypt. Janus was the incarnation of Noah, half man and half fish. The Pontifical crosier corresponds to the magic of Nimrod.

The Priesthood

The celibacy of the catholic priesthood corresponds with the practice of Pagan Rome (Daniel 11:36).

The clerical tonsure, a circular haircut around the temples, used at ordination ceremonies was started by Peter of the Mystery Gods. Head shaving was a ritual in Egypt, India, and China.

Monks and nuns maintain perpetual virginity, and are often isolated in convents and monasteries. The same was true in Tibet, Japan, Scandinavia, Pagan Rome, and even with the American Indians, although most modern confinement is only temporary, while in ancient times, it was permanent.

(Pagan Influence Upon Roman Catholicism by Owen Weber 2009 (<http://www.christiandataresources.com/pagancatholicism.htm>))

Over the centuries more and more heresy was added by popes to the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church. A friend of mine was running a web site called "Inside the Catholic Catechism". His site was hacked a number of times, and he eventually found out it was hacked by Catholic monks in Turkey. He got tired of rebuilding the site and asked me to take it over and put it on my pages. It details what the Catholic Catechism, signed by the popes, teaches that goes against Scripture.

Tradition Is Equal With Scripture
Interpretation Of The Bible Is To Be Done Only By The Pope And Bishops
Mary is: Sinless, a Perpetual Virgin, the Mother of God, the Queen Of Heaven, the Co-Redeemer with Christ
Doctrines of the Rosary And Prayers To Mary
Salvation Only Comes Through The Catholic Church
All Grace Comes Through The Catholic Church
No Christian Unity Apart From The Catholic Church
Salvation Includes The Muslims
The Doctrine Of The Supremacy Of The Pope
Prayers From The Dead
Prayers For The Dead
Salvation Comes Through Baptism
Infants Are Born Again Through Baptism
Penance Necessary For Salvation
The Church Can Forgive Sins
Doctrine Of Purgatory
Doctrines Of Indulgences And Good Works For The Dead
Sacraments And Liturgy Communicate Grace
Sacraments Are Necessary For Salvation
The Mass Is A Re-Sacrifice Of Christ
The Mass Is A Conversion Of Bread And Wine Into The Very Christ
Priest Has Supernatural Power To Convert The Bread And Wine Into Christ
Mass Conducted In Communion With The Dead
Elements Of The Mass To Be Worshipped And Carried In Processions
All Sins Must Be Confessed To A Priest
Forgiveness Of Sins And Escape From Purgatory Through Indulgences
Salvation Through The Good Works Of The ☩Saints☩
Veneration Of Relics
Veneration Of Images

At the same time as the RCC was affirming certain core doctrines of the Bible against new heresies that were being taught, they were also developing their own heresies. Let's look at what was actually happening through the centuries in Councils of the RCC.

Councils of the RCC

- 313 Edict of Milan issued by Constantine - Christianity becomes a legal religion within the Roman empire.
- 325 Constantine calls the first ecumenical council at Nicea. Arian heresy which declared Christ was a created being is refuted. **Nicene Creed was later revised in 390 as the Apostles creed which included "Jesus descended into hell"**, declaring Christ to be "*...Begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father...*"
- 381 Ecumenical Council at Constantinople revises the Nicene creed to its current form
- 390 Apostles Creed drawn up **including "Jesus descended into hell"**
- 397 Synod at Carthage ratifies the 27 books of the New Testament as sacred scripture. **(The early church had already identified what was Scripture in the first century)**
- 431 Ecumenical council held at Ephesus refutes Nestorianism. (The doctrine that Christ was two persons (one human, the other divine) in one body). **Mary is declared *Theotokos* i. e. 'God-bearer' or more commonly, 'Mother of God'.**
- 451 Ecumenical council at Chalcedon affirms Christ as having two distinct natures united in one person (known as the 'Hypostatic Union').
- 553 Ecumenical council at Constantinople **affirms teaching of previous councils.**
- 664 Synod of Whitby **ratifies the authority of the Pope in England.**
- 680-81 Ecumenical council at Constantinople rejects Monothelite heresy of one will in Christ.
- 787 Ecumenical council at Nicea **ends the controversy over the use of icons in worship.**
- 1054 Great Schism - Eastern Orthodox and Western Catholic churches separate.
- 1095 Pope Urban II authorises the first Crusade to recover the Holy Land from Moslems.
- 1099 Crusaders conquer Jerusalem.
- 1187 Jerusalem recaptured by a Moslem army led by Saladin.
- 1453 Constantinople falls to the Ottoman Turks.
- 1517 Martin Luther posts his 95 Theses in Wittenburg, Germany; beginning the Protestant reformation.
- 1545-63 Council of Trent - **Roman Catholic counter reformation.**
- 1854 **Dogma of the Immaculate conception of Mary proclaimed by the Roman Catholic church.**
- 1870-1 First Vatican council. **Dogma of Papal infallibility proclaimed.**
- 1948 **Formation of the World Council of Churches.**

1950 **Dogma of the Assumption of Mary proclaimed by the Roman Catholic Church.**

1962-5 Second Vatican council. Major reforms in the Roman Catholic church are initiated. Mutual anathemas of 1054 between Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches lifted.

1994 **A document entitled “Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium,” signed by a number of prominent evangelicals, neglecting the wide doctrinal breach that separates evangelicalism and Roman Catholicism.**

1999 **Signing of the *Joint Declaration on Justification* by the Lutheran and Roman Catholic Churches.**

2006 **World Methodist Council adopts the Lutheran/Catholic Joint Declaration on Justification.**

2011 **Beatification of Pope John Paul II.**

So the RCC was lumping in those who were truly were teaching heresy with those who were disagreeing with the RCC for their false teachings. Unfortunately the RCC was putting them all to death. There is no directive in the New Testament to put false teachers to death. The following chart shows when many of the heresies were officially adopted by the RCC.

Heresy	Date
OF ALL THE HUMAN TRADITIONS taught and practiced by the Roman Catholic Church, which are contrary to the Bible, the most ancient are the prayers for the dead and the sign of the Cross . Both began 300 years after Christ.	310
Wax Candles introduced in church	320
Veneration of angels and dead saints	375
The Mass , as a daily celebration, adopted	394
The worship of Mary , the mother of Jesus, and the use of the term, "Mother of God", as applied to her, originated in the Council of Ephesus	431
Priests began to dress differently from the laity	500
Extreme Unction	526
The doctrine of Purgatory was first established by Gregory the Great	593
The Latin language , as the language of prayer and worship in churches, was also imposed by Pope Gregory I. 600 years after Christ	600
The Word of God forbids praying and teaching in an unknown tongue. (1st Corinthians 14:9).	
The Bible teaches that we pray to God alone. In the primitive church never were prayers directed to Mary , or to dead saints. This practice began in the Roman Church. (Matthew 11:28; Luke 1:46; Acts 10:25-26; 14:14-18)	600
The Papacy is of pagan origin. The title of pope or universal bishop, was first given to the bishop of Rome by the wicked emperor Phocas. This he did to spite Bishop Ciriacus of Constantinople, who had justly excommunicated him for his having caused the assassination of his predecessor emperor Mauritius. Gregory 1, then bishop of Rome, refused the title, but his successor, Boniface III, first assumed title "pope." Jesus did not appoint Peter to the headship of the apostles and forbade any such notion. (Luke 22:24-26; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18; 1st Corinthians 3:11). Note: Nor is there any mention in Scripture, nor in history, that Peter ever was in Rome, much less that he was pope there for 25 years; Clement, 3rd bishop of Rome, remarks that "there is no real 1st century evidence that Peter ever was in Rome."	610
The kissing of the Pope's feet It had been a pagan custom to kiss the feet of emperors. The Word of God forbids such practices. (Read Acts 10:25-26; Revelation 19:10; 22:9).	709
The Temporal power of the Popes When Pepin, the usurper of the throne of France, descended into Italy, called by Pope Stephen II, to war against the Italian Lombards, he defeated them and gave the city of Rome and surrounding territory to the pope. Jesus expressly forbade such a thing, and He himself refused worldly kingship. (Read Matthew 4:8-9; 20:25-26; John 18:38).	750

Heresy	Date
<p>Worship of the cross, images and relics was authorized</p> <p>This was by order of Dowager Empress Irene of Constantinople, who first caused to pluck the eyes of her own son, Constantine VI, and then called a church council at the request of Hadrian I, pope of Rome at that time.</p> <p>Such practice is called simply IDOLATRY in the Bible, and is severely condemned. (Read Exodus 20:4; 3:17; Deuteronomy 27:15; Psalm 115).</p>	788
<p>Holy Water, mixed with a pinch of salt and blessed by the priest, was authorized</p>	850
<p>The veneration of St. Joseph began</p>	890
<p>The baptism of bells was instituted by Pope John XIV</p>	965
<p>Canonization of dead saints, first by Pope John XV</p> <p>Every believer and follower of Christ is called saint in the Bible. (Read Romans 1:7; 1st Colossians 1:2).</p>	995
<p>Fasting on Fridays and during Lent were imposed</p> <p>Imposed by popes said to be interested in the commerce of fish. (Bull, or permit to eat meat), some authorities say, began in the year 700. This is against the plain teaching of the Bible. (Read Matthew 15:10; 1st Corinthians 10:25; 1st Timothy 4:1-3).</p>	998
<p>The Mass was developed gradually as a sacrifice; attendance made obligatory in the 11th century.</p> <p>The Bible teaches that the sacrifice of Christ was offered once and for all, and is not to be repeated, but only commemorated in the Lord's Supper. (Read Hebrews 7:27; 9:26-28; 10:10-14).</p>	
<p>The celibacy of the priesthood was decreed by Pope Hildebrand, Boniface VII</p> <p>Jesus imposed no such rule, nor did any of the apostles. On the contrary, St. Peter was a married man, and St. Paul says that bishops were to have wife and children. (Read 1st Timothy 3:2,5, and 12; Matthew 8:14-15).</p>	1079
<p>The Rosary, or prayer beads was introduced by Peter the Hermit, in the year 1090. Copied from Hindus and Mohammedans</p> <p>The counting of prayers is a pagan practice and is expressly condemned by Christ. (Matthew 6:5-13).</p>	1090
<p>The Inquisition of heretics was instituted by the Council of Verona in the year 1184. Jesus never taught the use of force to spread His religion</p>	1184
<p>The sale of Indulgences, commonly regarded as a purchase of forgiveness and a permit to indulge in sin.</p> <p>Christianity, as taught in the Bible, condemns such a traffic and it was the protest against this traffic that brought on the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century.</p>	1190
<p>The dogma of Transubstantiation was decreed by Pope Innocent III, in the year</p> <p>By this doctrine the priest pretends to perform a daily miracle by changing a wafer into the body of Christ, and then he pretends to eat Him alive in the presence of his people during Mass. The Bible condemns such absurdities; for the Lord's Supper is simply a memorial of the sacrifice of Christ. The spiritual presence of Christ is implied in the Lord's Supper. (Read Luke 22:19-20; John 6:35; 1st Corinthians 11:26).</p>	1215
<p>Confession of sin to the priest at least once a year was instituted by Pope Innocent III., in the Lateran Council</p> <p>The Bible commands us to confess our sins direct to God. (Read Psalm 51:1-10; Luke 7:48; 15:21; 1st John 1:8-9).</p>	1215

Heresy	Date
The adoration of the wafer (Host), was decreed by Pope Honorius So the Roman Church worships a God made by human hands. This is plain idolatry and absolutely contrary to the spirit of the Gospel. (Read John 4:24).	1220
The Bible forbidden to laymen and placed in the Index of forbidden books by the Council of Valencia Jesus commanded that the Scriptures should be read by all. (John 5:39; 1st Timothy 3:15-17).	1229
The Scapular was invented by Simon Stock, and English monk It is a piece of brown cloth, with the picture of the Virgin and supposed to contain supernatural virtue to protect from all dangers those who wear it on naked skin. This is fetishism.	1287
The Roman Church forbade the cup to the laity, by instituting the communion of one kind in the Council of Constance The Bible commands us to celebrate the Lord's Supper with unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine. (Read Matthew 26:27; 1st Corinthians 11:26-29).	1414
The doctrine of Purgatory was proclaimed as a dogma of faith by Council of Florence There is not one word in the Bible that would teach the purgatory of priests. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sins. (Read 1st John 1:7-9; 2:1-2; John 5:24; Romans 8:1).	1439
The doctrine of 7 Sacraments affirmed The Bible says that Christ instituted only two ordinances, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. (Read Matthew 28:19-20; 26:26-28).	1439
The Ave Maria , part of the last It was completed 50 years afterward and finally approved by Pope Sixtus V, at the end of the 16th century.	1508
The Council of Trent, held in the year 1545, declared that Tradition is of equal authority with the Bible By tradition is meant human teachings. The Pharisees believed the same way, and Jesus bitterly condemned them, for by teaching human tradition, they nullified the commandments of God. (Read Mark 7:7-13; Colossians 2:8; Revelation 22:18).	1545
The apocryphal books were added to the Bible also by the Council of Trent These books were not recognized as canonical by the Jewish Church. (See Revelation 22:8-9).	1546
The Creed of Pope Pius IV was imposed as the official creed 1560 years after Christ and the apostles True Christians retain the Holy Scriptures as their creed. Hence their creed is 1500 years older than the creed of Roman Catholics. (Read Galatians 1:8).	1560
The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary was proclaimed by Pope Pius IX The Bible states that all men, with the sole exception of Christ, are sinners. Mary herself had need of a Savior. (Read Romans 3:23; 5:12; Psalm 51:5; Luke 1:30,46,47).	1834
In the year 1870 after Christ, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of Papal Infallibility This is a blasphemy and the sign of the apostasy and of the antichrist predicted by St. Paul. (Read 2nd Thessalonians 2:2-12; Revelation 17:1-9; 13:5-8,18). Many Bible students see the number of the beast (Rev. 13:18), 666 in the Roman letters of the Pope's title: "VICARIVS FILII DEI." -- V-5, I-1; C-100, I-1; V-S, I-1; L-50, I-1; I-1; D-500, I-I — Total, 666.	1870

Heresy	Date
Pope Plus X, in the year 1907, condemned together with "Modernism", all the discoveries of modern science which are not approved by the Church Pius IX had done the same thing in the Syllabus of 1864.	1907
In the year 1930 Pius XI, condemned the Public Schools	1930
In the year 1931 the same pope Pius XI, reaffirmed the doctrine that Mary is " the Mother of God " This doctrine was first invented by the Council of Ephesus in the year 431. This is a heresy contrary by Mary's own words. (Read Luke 1:46-49; John 2: 1-5).	1931
In the year 1950 the last dogma was proclaimed by Pope Pius XII, the Assumption of the Virgin Mary	1950

So given what we know about the false Christianity as represented by the Roman Catholic Church I have endeavored to put together a study that reflects both false and true Christianity.

One other issue I feel needs to be addressed before we learn what we can from history is the idea set forth in many books on Rev. 1-3. A popular teaching today is that the seven churches in Revelation, which were real churches in history, also prophetically represent seven church ages. This is an intriguing idea but really has no basis in Scripture. I am not saying it is untrue but if we are going to claim to interpret the Bible properly we need to be careful not to assign the writings of the apostles to theories.

I believe we are to learn from each first century church and the reason John wrote to the seven early churches is that they were to prepare for persecution just as the last days churches are to prepare for the Tribulation. I wrote a book called "Letters to the Church" where I expand on this idea. The reason I think this is the case, and not that only Laodicea applies to the churches today, is that the account of the seven churches is given so that we may "overcome". All the early churches were to prepare to "overcome" and that is consistent with what Revelation teaches.

Church	Church History Typified	Dates	Israel's History Typified	Verses
Ephesus	The Apostolic Church	A.D. 30-100	The Day of Israel's Espousals (Exodus)	Rev. Rev. 2:1-7+
Smyrna	The Church of the Roman Persecution	A.D. 100 - 313	The Period of Israel's Wanderings (Numbers)	Rev. Rev. 2:8-11+
Pergamum	The Church of the Age of Constantine	The Wilderness Period (Numbers)	A.D. 313-600	Rev. Rev. 2:12-17+
Thyatira	The Church of the Dark Ages	A.D. 600-1517	The Wilderness Period (Numbers)	Rev. Rev. 2:18-29+
Sardis	The Church of the Reformation	A.D. 1517-1648	The Period of Israel's Kings (1 and 2 Kings)	Rev. Rev. 3:1-6+
Philadelphia	The Church of the Great Missionary Movement	A.D. 1648-1900	The Period of Israel's Removal (1 and 2 Chronicles)	Rev. Rev. 3:7-13+
Laodicea	The Church of the Apostasy	A.D. 1900-present day	The Period of Judah's Kings (2 Chronicles)	Rev. Rev. 3:14-22+

The study of Church History is helpful because it should remind of us of the sins of the past and the type of persecution we can expect from the world, false religion and false Christianity. When you see what the martyrs went through for the Faith and you look ahead to the possibility that Islam may take over the world, you have to strengthen your resolve to stand for the Truth.

Some of the dates and details on Martyrs are approximate and based on a variety of sources. I have done the best I can to combine the details. But first we will look at false religion.

World Religions and Cults of Christianity through history

Likely in the Ancient World - The occult, spiritism, idolatry and shamanism

1,500 BC - Hinduism- no specific founder

1000 BC - Zoroastrianism - Zoroastrianism founded by Zarathushtra (Zoroaster) in Persia

599 BC - Jainism, Mahavira

560 BC – Buddhism - Gautama Buddha

550 BC - Taoism - Lao Tzu

610 AD – Islam – Mohammed, picked one god of the hundreds worshipped at Mecca in order to form a religion loosely based on Judaism. In actuality Allah was a moon god worshipped in Babylon and has no son.

1400 AD – Rosicrucians - Christian Rosenkreuz (1694 US) Rosicrucians- Master Kelpius, Johann Andrea

1650 AD - Tibetan Buddhism -Dalai Lama

1700 AD – Freemasonry - Albert Mackey, Albert Pike with roots going back to ancient Egypt

1760 AD – Swedenborgism - Emmanuel Swedenborg

1838 AD – Tenrikyo - Miki Maegawa Nakayama

1844 AD – Christadelphians - John Thomas

1844 AD - Bahai- Baha'u'llah (Abul Baha), they claim to accept all religions but it is a ruse to get people to worship Baha'u'llah above all

1848 AD - Spiritualism - Kate and Margaret Fox, has been around since the beginning tied to the occult, spiritism and shamanism

1870 AD - Jehovah's Witnesses - Charles Taze Russell

1875 AD - Theosophical Society - H.P. Blavatsky, Henry Olcott

1879 AD - Christian Science - Mary Baker Eddy, comes from the same “New Thought” theology as Word of Faith, Norman Vincent Peale, Robert Schuller, Joel Osteen, and many others.

1889-1924 AD - Unity School of Christianity - Myrtle Fillmore, a dangerous cult that has redefined many words used in Christianity for their adherents so that they cannot come to an understanding of the truth without reprogramming

1900 AD - Rosicrucian Fellowship - Max Heindel

1902 AD - Anthroposophical Society – Rudolf Steiner

1914 AD - Iglesia ni Cristo - Felix Manalo

1930 AD - Black Muslims (Nation of Islam) – Wallace D. Fard

1927 AD - Mind Science - Ernest Holmes

1935 AD - Self Realization Fellowship - Paramahansa Yogananda

1964 AD - Eckankar - The Ancient Science of Soul Travel (Eck). Founded by Paul Twitchell

1968 AD - Hare Krishna (US) - Swami Prabhupada

1968 AD - Children of God - David (Moses) Berg

1945 AD - United Pentecostal International - Howard Goss, W.T. Witherspoon (can be traced back to 1914), Oneness.

1950 AD - Urantia Book - Dr. Bill Sadler

1950 AD - Lafayette Ronald Hubbard published his book Dianetics-SCIENTOLOGY

1954 AD - Aetherius Society (UFO's) - Dr. George King

1954 AD - Unification Church - Rev. Sun Myung Moon

1955 AD - Scientology- L. Ron Hubbard

1958 AD - Institute of Divine Metaphysical Research- Henry Kinley

1958 AD - Henry Kinley begins (IDMR) the Institute of Divine Metaphysical Research

1960 AD - Transcendental meditation - Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, has roots that go back to the beginnings of Hinduism around 1500 B.C.

1960 AD - Enkankar - Paul Twitchell

1965 AD - Assembly of Yahweh -Jacob Meyer

1966 AD - Church of Satan - Anton LaVey

1970 AD - Findhorn Community – Peter and Eileen Caddy – David Spangler

1970 AD- Divine light Mission - Guru Maharaj Ji

1973 AD - CARP was established in the United States. [The Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles] to introduce the teachings of un Myung Moon.

1980 -1982 AD - Tara Center—Benjamen Crème, claims to be channeling Maitreya who is widely thought to be the spirit of the antichrist.

False Christianity through history

50-100 AD - Gnosticism- Simon Magus (Simon the Sorcerer, The Great Power of God Acts 8:10) He believed for awhile and became a disciple but his motive was to learn the magic he thought the Apostles were doing. After he was rebuked he went on to found Gnosticism.

150-250 AD - Modalism (Monarchianism)—Sabellius, Praxeus, Noetus, Paul of Samosata—Modalism: In Christianity, Sabellianism in the Eastern church or Patripassianism in the Western church (also known as modalism, modalistic monarchianism, or modal monarchism) is the nontrinitarian or anti-trinitarian belief that the Heavenly Father, Resurrected Son, and Holy Spirit are three different modes or aspects of one monadic God, as perceived by the believer, rather than three distinct persons within the Godhead—that there are no real or substantial differences among the three, such that there is no substantial identity for the Spirit or the Son. Monarchianism is a set of beliefs that emphasize God as being one person, in direct contrast to Trinitarianism which defines God as three persons coexisting consubstantially as one in being.

325 AD - After being persecuted for almost 200 years Constantine made the Catholic Church, becomes a legal religion, false doctrines from the beginning getting worse over time, from the beginning taught works salvation and added to Sola Scriptura

590 AD - Roman Catholicism- Developed after Constantine; Pope Gregory, and a continuous string of popes

1054 AD - Eastern Orthodox, united in communion with the Latin Church before the East–West Schism in 1054, same issues as Catholicism

1647 AD - Quakers, George Fox, England, started ok but later got further into mysticism, have spiritualized the Lord's Supper and Baptism

1693 AD - Amish, Jakob Ammann, Switzerland, similar to Shakers

1784 AD - Shakers - Mother Ann Lee, The United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing is a religious sect, also known as the Shakers, founded in the 18th century in England, having branched off from a Quaker community. They were known as "Shaking Quakers" because of their ecstatic behavior during worship services. In 1747, women assumed leadership roles within the sect, notably Jane Wardley and Mother Ann Lee. Shakers settled in colonial America, with initial settlements in New Lebanon, New York (called Mount Lebanon after 1861) today they are mostly known for their celibate and communal lifestyle, pacifism, and their model of equality of the sexes, which they institutionalized in their society in the 1780s.

1830 AD - Latter-day Saints, Joseph Smith, NY, USA, loosely based on Freemasonry, false holy book, false prophet, different Jesus (spirit brother of Lucifer)

1830 AD - Cambellites—Alexander & Thomas Cambell, Barton Stone

1840-45 AD - Millerites 2nd day Adventists – William Miller then became 7th Day Adventists, The Millerites were the followers of the teachings of William Miller, who in 1833 first shared publicly his belief that the Second Advent of Jesus Christ would occur in roughly the year 1843.

1845-1870 AD - 7th Day Adventists—E.G. White, beliefs:

- Law (fundamental belief 19)—the Law of God is "embodied in the Ten Commandments", which continue to be binding upon Christians.
- Sabbath (fundamental belief 20)—the Sabbath should be observed on the seventh day of the week, specifically, from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset.
- Second Coming and End times (fundamental beliefs 25–28)—Jesus Christ will return visibly to earth after a "time of trouble", during which the Sabbath will become a worldwide test. The Second Coming will be followed by a millennial reign of the saints in heaven. Adventist eschatology is based on the historicist method of prophetic interpretation.
- Holistic human nature (fundamental beliefs 7, 26)—Humans are an indivisible unity of body, mind, and spirit. They do not possess an immortal soul and there is no consciousness after death (commonly referred to as "soul sleep"). (See also: Christian anthropology)
- Conditional immortality (fundamental belief 27)—The wicked will not suffer eternal torment in hell, but instead will be permanently destroyed. (See: Conditional immortality, Annihilationism)
- Great Controversy (fundamental belief 8)—Humanity is involved in a "great controversy" between Jesus Christ and Satan. This is an elaboration on the common Christian belief that evil began in heaven when an angelic being (Lucifer) rebelled against the Law of God.
- Heavenly sanctuary (fundamental belief 24)—At his ascension, Jesus Christ commenced an atoning ministry in the

heavenly sanctuary. In 1844, he began to cleanse the heavenly sanctuary in fulfillment of the Day of Atonement.

- Investigative Judgment (fundamental belief 24)—A judgment of professed Christians began in 1844, in which the books of record are examined for all the universe to see. The investigative judgment will affirm who will receive salvation, and vindicate God in the eyes of the universe as just in his dealings with mankind.
- Remnant (fundamental belief 13)—There will be an end-time remnant who keep the commandments of God and have "the testimony of Jesus" (Revelation 12:17). This remnant proclaims the "three angels' messages" of Revelation 14:6–12 to the world.
- Spirit of Prophecy (fundamental belief 18)—The ministry of Ellen G. White is commonly referred to as the "Spirit of Prophecy" and her writings are considered "a continuing and authoritative source of truth",^[24] though ultimately subject to the Bible. (See: Inspiration of Ellen White)

1870 AD - Jehovah's Witnesses, Charles Russell, PA, USA, Jesus is not the Son of God but the Archangel Micheal

1879 AD - Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, Pleasant View, NH USA, New Thought as are Norman Vincent Peale, Robert Schuller and Word of Faith Essex Kenyon, Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland, Benny Hinn, Joel Osteen, etc.

1906 AD - The Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Founded after the Azusa Street Revival in 1906, Oneness

1914 AD - Oneness Pentecostalism- Frank Ewart, G.T.Haywood, Glenn Cook, Founded after the Azusa Street Revival in 1906, Oneness

1921 AD - The Church of God General Conference has roots in several similar groups in North America that eventually united in 1921 in Waterloo, Iowa to form the current national organization. These small groups had reached similar doctrinal convictions through independent Bible study. They are antitrinitarian.

1923 AD - The International Church of the Foursquare Gospel (ICFG), commonly referred to as the Foursquare Church, is a Protestant evangelical Pentecostal Christian denomination founded in 1923 by preacher Aimee Semple McPherson, did slain in the spirit, mysterious disappearances and alleged affairs, multiple marriages (two of which ended in divorce), and death from an apparent drug overdose

1934 AD - World Wide Church of God- Herbert W. Armstrong, The issue of Plain Truth, (June/July 1934) the magazine launched by Worldwide Church of God founder Herbert W. Armstrong, predicts that the economic depression and fear of war marking the early 1930s would continue until 1936. Then, said Armstrong, "we may expect to see the heavenly signs of the sun and moon becoming dark ... which shall be followed by the 'Day of the Lord'" (p. 5). Herbert W. Armstrong set dates about the rapture. 1936, 1943, 1972 and 1975 after these dates were wrong he kept silent on the issue

1945 AD - The Way—Victor P. Wierwille, Oneness

1945 AD—United Pentecostal International- Howard Goss, W.T. Witherspoon (can be traced back to 1914), Oneness

1945 AD - United Pentecostal International- First separated from Assembly of God in 1914. Howard Goss, W. T. Witherspoon, Oneness

1948 AD – The New Order of the Latter Rain, Franklin Hall, George Warnock, William Branham – modern day proponents are Paul Cain, John Wimber, C. Peter Wagner, Mike Bickle, Francis Fangipane, Rick Joyner, the Kansas City prophets, an thousands of other individuals and churches that make up the network of the New Apostolic Reformation/Third Wave.

1957 AD – United Church of Christ, The United Church of Christ (UCC) is a mainline Protestant Christian denomination, primarily in the Reformed and Congregational tradition, with historical confessional roots in the Reformed, Congregational and Lutheran traditions. The United Church of Christ is in historical continuation of the General Council of Congregational Christian churches founded under the influence of New England Puritanism. The Evangelical and Reformed Church and the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches united in 1957 to form the UCC. These two denominations, which were themselves the result of earlier unions, had their roots in Congregational, Christian, Evangelical, and Reformed denominations. The Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCC) remains biblical

1958-1970 AD - Church Universal and Triumphant – Mark and E.C. Prophet, teaches Father-Mother God, reincarnation, ascended masters, Christ consciousness, New Age

1959 AD - Unitarian Universalist, believe all will be saved

1968 AD – United Methodists, Founded in 1968 by the union of the Methodist Church (USA) and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, ultra liberal, ordains women and homosexuals, member of the United Religions Initiative of the UN

1968 AD - Children of God - David (Moses) Berg, all people will be saved, Jesus had sexual relations with Martha and Mary, communication with the dead, many false prophecies by Berg

1979 AD - Church of Christ International (International Church of Christ)- Kip McKean, also includes the Boston Church

of Christ, cultic recruitment of young people, each member has personal mentor who has total control of their lives including decision on who to marry, etc.

The Remnant Church through history

From the beginning, the faithful including Enoch, Noah, Shem, Job
2,085 BC - Judaism-Abraham

30 AD - Christianity –Jesus Christ, beginning of The Church

30-300 AD – The early church, our model, study Romans 1-3.

34 AD(?) - Stephen (Martyred), he was stoned for his stand for Jesus Christ at the Sanhedrin (Acts 7:54-8:3)

44-45 AD—James (Martyred), James, the apostle of the Lord, was the second recorded martyr after Christ's death (Stephen was the first). His death is recorded in Acts 12:2. Where it says of Herod Agrippa: He killed James the brother of John with the sword. Both Clement of Alexandria and Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History II.2) report that after seeing the courage and unrecanting spirit of James, the executioner was so convinced of Christ's resurrection, that he was executed with him.

54 AD - Philip (Martyred) Christ corrected Philip when, in John 14:8–9, he asked: Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Philip saw the glory of Christ after the resurrection and was undoubtedly amazed at Christ's response to his request. Philip evangelized in Phrygia, where hostile Jews had him tortured and then crucified. He was hanged against a pillar at Heropolis (Abyssinia).

60-70 AD - Matthew (Martyred) Matthew, the tax collector, desperately wanted the Jews to accept Christ. He wrote The Gospel According to Matthew about ten years before his death. Within its pages one can see the faith for which he spilled his blood. In Matthew 28:20 the resurrected Christ says: "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." These comforting words likely sustained Matthew when he was beheaded at Nad-Davar.

63 AD - James the Lesser (Martyred) he was cast down from the temple and beaten to death with fuller's club after the fall. James was the appointed head of the Jerusalem church for many years after Christ's death. He undoubtedly came in contact with many hostile Jews who in Matthew 27:25 said: And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" To force James to deny Christ's resurrection, these men positioned him at the top of the Temple in Jerusalem. Unwilling to deny what he knew to be true, James was cast down from the Temple and finally beaten to death with a fuller's club to the head.

64 AD - Peter (Martyred) Although Peter denied Christ three times just before the crucifixion, after the resurrection, he was willing to be martyred for his belief. In John 21:18–19 Jesus even told Peter how he would die: Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me." According to Eusebius, Peter thought himself unworthy to be crucified in the same manner as his Master, and asked to be crucified "head downward."

67 AD - Paul (Martyred) Paul, was a self confessed persecutor of the Christian faith as he states in Galatians 1:13: For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. Paul was brought to repentance as he traveled to Damascus. Ironically, he was on his way to arrest those who held to Jesus' resurrection. Paul started as the greatest skeptic, but spent the rest of his life proclaiming the Christ he once persecuted. Writing in 2 Corinthians 11:23–27, defending his ministry, Paul tells of his sufferings for the name of Christ: *Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.* Finally, Paul met his death at the hands of Emperor Nero when he was beheaded in Rome.

70 AD - Andrew (Martyred) Andrew, who introduced his brother Peter to Christ, was martyred six years after Peter. After preaching Christ's resurrection to the Scythians and Thracians, he too was crucified for his faith. As Hippolytus tells us, Andrew was hanged on an olive tree at Patrae, a town in Achaia.

70 AD - Thomas (Martyred) Thomas was known as "doubting Thomas" because of his reluctance to believe the other apostles' witness of the resurrection. In John 20:25 Thomas states: "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." After this, Christ appeared to Thomas and he believed unto death. Thomas sealed his testimony as he was thrust through with pine

spears, tormented with red-hot plates, and burned alive at Coromandel, in the east Indies.

70 AD - Nathanael (Bartholomew) (Martyred) Nathanael, whose name means "gift of God", was truly given as a gift to the Church through his martyrdom. In John 1:49, Nathanael was the first to profess Christ: Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" He later paid for this profession through a hideous death. Unwilling to recant his proclamation of a risen Christ, he was flayed alive and then crucified in Albanapolis, Armenia.

70 AD - Matthias (Martyred) Acts 1:26 recorded how Matthias replaced Judas Iscariot (the betrayer of Christ who hanged himself) as the twelfth apostle of Christ: And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles. Matthias is believed to have been one of the seventy Christ sent out during his earthly ministry, as Luke 10:1 records: After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. This qualifies him to be an apostle. Matthias, of which the least is known, is said by Eusebius to have preached in Ethiopia. He was later stoned while hanging upon a cross.

72 AD - Judas Thaddeus (Martyred) In John 14:22, Judas asked Jesus: Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" After he witnessed Christ's resurrection, Judas knew the answer. He preached the risen Christ in the midst of pagan priests in Mesopotamia. He was eventually beaten to death with sticks, showing to the world that Christ was indeed Lord and God.

74 AD - Simon the Zealot (Martyred) Simon was a Jewish zealot who strived to set his people free from Roman oppression. After he saw with his own eyes that Christ had been resurrected, he became a zealot of the Gospel. Historians tell of the many places Simon proclaimed the good news of Christ's resurrection: Egypt, Cyrene, Africa, Mauritania, Britain, Lybia, and Persia. His martyrdom, brought about by a governor in Syria, verified his testimony for Christ. He died on a cross in Persia (now Iran).

95 AD - John (Martyred)

John is the only one of the twelve apostles who died a natural death. Although he did not die a martyr's death, he did live a martyr's life. He was exiled to the Island of Patmos during the reign of Emperor Domitian for his proclamation of the risen Christ. It was there that he wrote the last book in the Bible, Revelation. Some traditions say he was thrown into boiling oil before the Latin Gate. He allegedly came out alive and unscarred.

155 AD - Polycarp (Martyred) When Polycarp was brought before the judge, and commanded to reject and blaspheme Christ, he decisively answered, "Eighty and six years have I served him, and he never did me wrong, how then can I blaspheme my king who hath saved me?" It is written of Polycarp "So it befell the blessed Polycarp, who having with those from Philadelphia suffered martyrdom in Smyrna--twelve in all--is especially remembered more than the others by all men, so that he is talked of even by the heathen in every place: for he showed himself not only a notable teacher, but also a distinguished martyr, whose martyrdom all desire to imitate, seeing that it was after the pattern of the Gospel of Christ." (Mart Poly 19:1) "Fixing their minds on the grace of Christ, [the martyrs] despised worldly tortures and purchased eternal life with but a single hour. To them, the fire of their cruel torturers was cold. They kept before their eyes their escape from the eternal and unquenchable fire" (Martyrdom of Polycarp 2:3). Polycarp joined six others who were scourged and beheaded, he was burned at the stake by Antoninus Pius in the market place before a crowd.

117 AD - Ignatius (Martyred) Ignatius who was a friend of Polycarp became bishop at Antioch, he was fed to the lions at the Colosseum of Rome under Trajan in 117 AD..

167 AD - Justin Martyr (Martyred) an apologist for the faith confronted Marcion who rejected the Old Testament and issued his own New Testament in which consisted part of the Gospel of Luke and 10 of Paul's epistles only. He was so bold he wrote a defense of Christianity addressed to the Emperor Augustus Caesar wrote, "You can kill us. But you cannot hurt us." Justin also died a martyr beheaded at Rome in 167 AD.

250 AD - Origen (Martyred) seemed to waver between right doctrine of God's nature and sometimes heresy in other areas but defended the Christian faith against the pagans, in 250 A.D. was put in chains and terribly tortured.

258 AD - Cyprian (Martyred) The cry was "Cyprian to the lions, Cyprian to the beasts." In 257 AD, Cyprian was brought before the proconsul, who exiled him to a little city on the Lybian sea. On the death of this proconsul, Aspasius Parnunus had Cyprian returned to Carthage, but was soon after seized, and carried before the new governor, who condemned him to be beheaded; his sentence was executed on the September 14, 258 A.D.

4/5th centuries AD - Donatists - They believed a church was for the saved only - They were persecuted upon the instigation of Augustine.

12/13th centuries AD - Albigenses - Rejected Rome and placed New Testament above all the traditions and teachings of Rome

11/17th centuries AD - Waldensians - Many different violent persecutions against these Believers who had the Bible handed down to them as early as the 2nd century. The cave of Castelluzzo saw the murder of hundreds of Waldensian mothers and children in 1209.

1126 AD - Peter of Bruis - Burned at the Stake - Rejected Rome's traditions

1155 AD - Arnold of Brescia - Bible Preacher - Hanged and Burned

1211 AD - 80 Waldensians - burned at the stake

1215 AD - 80 Christians - Tried by red hot iron and burned to death the same day in Strasburg, Germany.

1237 AD - 15 Christians burned alive at Cerdagne and Castlebon, Spain

1315 AD - Waldensian Bishop Neumunster - Burned at the stake in Hamburg, Germany

1315 AD - 50 Women and children burned at the stake in Schweidnitz in Silesia

1386 AD - Christmas Eve- Inquisitor Borelli attacks Valley of Pragela; hundreds frozen to death trying to escape.

1400 AD - William Sawtree - Wycliffe follower - Burned at the stake

1408 AD - John Resby - Heresy - Burned at Perth, Scotland

1409 AD - Tailor named Bradbe - Wycliffe follower - Roasted alive in a barrel

1415 AD - John Huss - Burned for preaching the Gospel and rejecting Rome's views

1416 AD - 300 burned at the stake in Saxony

1417 AD - Sir John Oldcastle - Helped distribute Wycliffe Bible - Martyred for his faith by being roasted over fire

1427 AD - John Purvey - Bible distribution - died in prison - 1421-7

1431 AD - Paul Craws - Convicted at St. Andrews, Scotland and burned to death

1481/2 AD - 2,000 people burned alive in Spanish Inquisition in Seville and Castile

1488 AD - 3,000 Waldensian believers murdered in a cave called Aigue-Froid

1506 AD - William Tylsworth - Burned for his faith in the Word of God

1511 AD - James Brewster - Burned at the stake - Having a book of Scripture

1514 AD - Richard Hun - Died suspiciously in Lollard's Tower in London

1515 AD - Protestantism - (Reformers) Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, John Calvin

1517 AD - Lutheranism, Martin Luther, Germany, Luther was still a Catholic

1519 AD - Six men and women burned for teaching their children the Lord's prayer – London

1523 AD - Swiss Reformed Church, Zwingli, Switzerland

1525 AD - Mennonites, No single founder, Switzerland

1525 AD - Gospel preacher named Schuch - Burned at the stake in Strasburg for preaching and having a Bible - His Bible was burned with him.

1528 AD - Patrick Hamilton - Burned at the Stake in Scotland for declaring that it is the right of any person to read God's Word

1529 AD - Louis Berquin - Burned at the Stake in France for printing and distributing Bible tracts in French

1530 AD - John Tewksbury - Burned at the stake for Bible distribution - England

1531 AD - Thomas Bilney - Martyred for preaching and distributing the Tyndale Bible

1531 AD - Richard Bayfield - Burned at the stake for Scripture distribution

1532 AD - James Bainham - Burned for possessing Scriptures in the English language

1533 AD - Henry Forrest - Benedictine Monk who became saved - Burned at the stake in St. Andrews, Scotland

1533 AD - John Fryth - Burned for preaching the true Gospel – England

1534 AD - Anglican Communion, King Henry 8, England

1534/5 AD - 24 Protestants burned alive in Paris, France

1535 AD - Dean Forret - Burned for having Scripture in the English tongue – Scotland

1536 AD - Calvinism, John Calvin, Switzerland, had Christians put to death for heresy

1536 AD - William Tyndale - Burned at the Stake for Translating the Bible into English - His translation became the groundwork for the King James Version

1536 AD - Ann Boleyn - Wife of Henry the VIII - Beheaded for the true faith

1540 AD - Thomas Garrett - Friend of Tyndale - Burned at the stake - England

1545 AD - Massacre of Merindol and Cabrieres, France - Thousands of Waldensians murdered

1546 AD - Peter Chapot burned to death in Meaux, France for bringing French bibles to France

1546 AD - Stephen Polliot - Burned at the Stake for bringing Scriptures into France - His tongue was cut out so he could not witness to those around him at his execution.

1546 AD- Ann Askew - Tortured and burnt for studying and believing the true Scriptures

1548 AD - Paul Fagius - Burned for translating the Bible - England

1548 AD - Martin Bucer - Burned for translating the Bible - England

1553 AD - Nicholas Nayle - Burned at the stake in Paris because he brought gospel books for believers.

1554 AD - Lady Jane Grey - Beheaded for her conversion to true Christianity

1555 AD - Nicholas Ridley - Burned for his faith - England

1555 AD - Hugh Latimer - Burned for his faith - England

1555 AD - John Rogers - Translator of the Matthews Bible into English

1556 AD - Bartholmew Hector - Preaching and Bible Distribution -Burned at Thurin

1560 AD - Presbyterianism, John Knox, Scotland

1560 AD - Julian Hernandez - Burned at the stake in Spain for Bible Distribution

1560 AD - Jean Louis Paschale - Believed the Bible over Romish teachings

1560 AD - Stefano Negrino - Starved to death in prison - Italy

1561 AD - 88 men had throats slit in Montalto - Italy

1561 AD - Hugo Chiamps - Entrails torn from his body at Turin, Italy

1561 AD - Peter Geymarali - Entrails torn from his body at Lucerna, Italy

1561 AD - Maria Romano - Buried alive at Rocco-patia, Italy

1561 AD - Magdalen Foulano - Buried alive at San Giovanni, Italy

1561 AD - Susan Michelini - Hands and feet bound - Left to die in cold and hunger - Saracena, Italy

1561 AD - Bartholomew Fache - Gashed with Sabres and wounds filled with quicklime - Died from the agonizing pain

1561 AD - James Baridari -Sulpherous matches placed all over body and then lit

1561 AD - Daniel Revelli - Mouth filled with gun powder and then lit - Head blown to pieces

1561 AD - Maria Monnen - Flesh cut from cheek and chin thus exposing cheek bone- left to Perish

1561 AD - Thomas Margueti - Mutilated to death at Miraboco, Italy

1561 AD - Sudan Jaquin - Cut to bits in La Torre, Italy

1561 AD - Sara Rostagnol - Slit open from legs to Bosom - Perished on road between Eyral and Lucerna

1561 AD - Anna Char bonnier - Impaled on a spike and carried from San Giovanni to La Torre

1561 AD - Daniel Rambaud - Refused to renounce the true Gospel as they took his nails off, then fingers, then his feet, then his hands, then his arms and finally his legs at Paesano, Italy

1562 AD - James Bovell - Rejected Rome's teachings in favor of the Bible

1566 AD - Francesco Spinula - Drowned at Venice, Italy for making a Latin version of the Psalms

1567 AD - Pietro Carnesecchi - Refused to bow to papal authority

1570 AD - Aonio Paleario - Martyred for writing a book called "The benefit of Christ's Death."

1572 AD - St Bartholomew's Day Massacre - 4,000 brutally murdered of the French Huguenots - It lasted from August 24 to October 23 - Total killed during this time was about 35,000

1605 AD - Baptist Churches, John Smyth, Holland, came from the Anabaptists: The name Anabaptist means "one who baptizes again" and was given to them by their persecutors in reference to the practice of re-baptizing converts who already had been baptized as infants. Anabaptists required that baptismal candidates be able to make their own confessions of faith and so rejected baptism of infants. The early members of this movement did not accept the name Anabaptist, claiming that infant baptism was unscriptural and therefore null and void; thus, the baptizing of believers was not a re-baptism but in fact their first real baptism. Balthasar Hubmaier wrote: "I have never taught Anabaptism. ...But the right baptism of Christ, which is preceded by teaching and oral confession of faith, I teach, and say that infant baptism is a robbery of the right baptism of Christ..." Anabaptists were heavily persecuted during the 16th century and into the 17th century because of their views on the nature of baptism and other issues, by both Magisterial Protestants and Roman Catholics.

1628 AD - Dutch Reformed, Michaelis Jones, Netherlands

1727 AD - Moravians, Count Zinendorf, Germany

1739 AD - Methodism, John Wesley, England, later Methodists split and the United Methodists departed from many core doctrines

1744 AD - Congregationalism, John & Charles Wesley, England, split in the 1950s into United Church of Christ which is heretical, CCCC remains biblical

1747 AD - Swedenborgism, Emanuel Swedenborg, Sweden

1828 AD - Brethren, John Darby, England, later he became unbiblical and cultic, as observed by people like Spurgeon and other theologian, and formed what is known today as the "Closed Brethren"

1842 AD - Bibles burned in Lake Champlain, New York in the USA!

1845 AD - The word Southern in Southern Baptist Convention stems from it having been founded and rooted in the Southern United States, following a split from northern Baptists over the issue of whether slave owners could serve as missionaries. Members at a regional convention held in Augusta, Georgia created the SBC in 1845. SBC has had its highs and lows doctrinally and still has some false teachers who continue to hold their ordination papers such as Ed Young and Rick Warren. The current president has been a featured speaker at IHOP with Mike Bickle.

1865 AD - Salvation Army, William Booth, England, started out good but today is part of the heretical New Apostolic Reformation and teaches Latter Rain and Word of Faith teachings.

1914 AD – Assemblies of God, The Assemblies originated from the Pentecostal revival of the early 20th century. This revival led to the founding of the Assemblies of God in the United States in 1914. They initially rejected the introduction of the Latter Rain into the AG in 1950 but later accepted it and became mostly heretical after the Brownsville Assembly of God “revival”.

1919 AD – C&MA, Albert Benjamin Simpson (December 15, 1843 – October 29, 1919), also known as A. B. Simpson, was a Canadian preacher, theologian, author, and founder of the Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA), an evangelical Protestant denomination with an emphasis on global evangelism. They have started to teach Emergent Church and Word of Faith teachings in the last 15 years.

1950 AD - The Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA) is an evangelical Christian denomination. The EFCA was formed in 1950 from the merger of the Swedish Evangelical Free Church and the Norwegian-Danish Evangelical Free Church Association.

1965 AD – Calvary Chapel, Beginning in 1965 in Southern California, this fellowship of churches grew out of Chuck Smith's Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa. Doctrinally, Calvary Chapel is evangelical, charismatic, pretribulationist, and believes in the principle of sola scriptura. They are now sliding down the path of the Emergent Church (liberal teachings from UMC and UCC) because they allowed false teachers in their midst.

Conclusion

Most churches today are in apostasy, in serious decline because they love ecumenism and interfaith over true fellowship with The Church.

Though a number of cults of Christianity were identified in the past, today many churches exist which are actually cults but have not been identified as such due to the falling away of many churches. So it is important for this reason and many others to teach Christians how to discern based on the core doctrines of the Faith. I will be following up this Church History study with a study on the Core Doctrines, just how false religion and false Christianity movements are in violation of the Core Doctrines, and how we can use them in a practical way to help us to avoid ecumenical and interfaith relationships with them. We are mark and avoid false teachers and I will start with a lesson on that topic.

CORE DOCTRINES

4-Part Series

Part 1—Biblical Discernment

by Sandy Simpson

In running a discernment website that is now getting 1 to 2 million hits per month, I realize the importance of sticking to the important things. There are a lot of silly teachings out there, but when those teachings tear down the core doctrines of the Faith then that is when I expose those who teach such things, comparing what they are teaching to the essential doctrines in the written Word of God, and warn Christians away from them. But the first thing I have to do is to remind Christians that it is absolutely essential to discern, test and judge according to the Word of God because so many are not being brought to maturity in Christ. I am thankful that many of you know that biblical discernment is part of the process of becoming mature in Christ because your pastor is teaching discernment. Before we move into a pared down study on the core doctrines and video example of how those doctrines are under attack, I want to remind you what constitutes Biblical discernment and how important it is. I will be offering my entire expanded teachings on the core doctrines in a 3-DVD study called "Discernment Toolkit" which I be offering at a special price during this four part session.

BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT

There are three important biblical ways in which we are to use discernment.

- (1) **Test all teaching for sound doctrine**, and especially against the core doctrines of the Faith as laid down in the sixty six books of the Bible. We will cover the core doctrines in the next part of this series.
- (2) **Test all prophecies** to see if they are biblical and if the predictions of a prophet ALL come true.
- (3) **Test their lives, words and actions** for the fruit of the Spirit.

TEST THEIR TEACHINGS

The Church and individual Christians are commanded by the Lord to reject false teachers -- heretics.

Titus 3:10 *A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject;*
(KJV)

A heretic is defined, by Peter, as a divisive person who lays error alongside of truth, secretly introducing destructive heresies.

2 Peter 2:1 *But there were also false prophets among the people, just as **there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them-- bringing swift destruction on themselves.***

Christians are to reject those who preach a false gospel because they are condemned by the Lord.

Galatians 1:8-9 *But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!*

Even Paul, a foundational Apostle, encouraged his listeners to test his teaching against the written Word of God, and he stated that those who teach must not "go beyond what is written."

Acts 17:11 *Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*

1 Corinthians 4:6 *Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not take pride in one man over against another.*

Believers are to be discerning.

Phil. 1:9-11 *And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ-- to the glory and praise of God.*

Proverbs 15:14 *The discerning heart seeks knowledge, but the mouth of a fool feeds on folly.*

Proverbs 17:24 *A discerning man keeps wisdom in view, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth.*

Proverbs 18:15 *The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge; the ears of the wise seek it out.*

Proverbs 28:7 *He who keeps the law is a discerning son, but a companion of gluttons disgraces his father*

Proverbs 3:21 *My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment, do not let them out of your sight;*

Why do we test teaching against the Scriptures? Because we are commanded to remain in sound doctrine, to keep the faith, and to follow the teachings of the prophets, Apostles and Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 4:3 *For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.*

Titus 1:9 *He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.*

Titus 2:1 *You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.*

False teachers are liars and do not remain in sound doctrine.

1 Timothy 1:10 *for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers -- and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine*

TEST THE SPIRITS

We are warned by the Lord to test every spirit because many false prophets have gone out.

1 John 4:1 *Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

How do we test the spirits? By comparing what they are teaching and prophesying to the Scriptures, and if they are living in the fruit of the Spirit. How do we do that? First we must be a believer in Christ to test anything rightly.

Romans 12:2 *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good,*

pleasing and perfect will.

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you-- unless, of course, you fail the test?

Then we test our own words and actions to be sure we are in the Faith and in sound doctrine.

Galatians 6:4 Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else,

How much are we supposed to test? Everything.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 Test everything. Hold on to the good.

JUDGE RIGHTLY

Are we to judge? Certainly. We are not to judge hypercritically (Matt. 7:1) -- in other words, judging someone while doing the same thing ourselves. We are not the final judge of anyone's salvation. But we are to judge what people teach and prophesy.

Paul commanded those who listened to him to judge what he was saying.

1 Corinthians 10:15 I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say.

We must learn to judge rightly, now, because someday we will judge the earth and the angels with Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!

We are told by the Lord to judge those inside the Church because God judges those outside. We are to reject heretics and expel wicked men from the assembly of believers because if they are allowed to remain they will leaven the whole lump.

1 Corinthians 5:12-13 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."

TEST THEIR PROPHECY

We are to test prophecy to see if it comes true and is biblical. A true prophet is 100% accurate because he worships God in Spirit and in truth and speaks the truth. We must reject false prophets and remove them from the assembly of believers.

Duet. 13:1-5 If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a miraculous sign or wonder, and if the sign or wonder of which he has spoken takes place, and he says, "Let us follow other gods" (gods you have not known) "and let us worship them," you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul. It is the LORD your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him. That prophet or dreamer must be put to death, because he preached rebellion against the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery; he has tried to turn you from the way the LORD your God commanded you to follow. You must purge the evil from among you.

False prophets may have a good track record, but they are never 100% accurate. However, they may be able to fool people into thinking they do. That's where the teaching test comes in, and why it is listed as the first test of discernment. Some prophets can look really good, but if they are teaching heresy you can

be sure it is a test from God to see if you will "love Him with all your heart". John tells us that if we love the Lord we will obey His commands (John 14:21, 15:10; 1 John 5:2-3; 2 John 1:6). The Bible commands us over and over again to test, discern and judge teaching, prophecy and fruit. We must reject heretics who are unrepentant. If we do not obey the Lord in this, we are proving that we do not really love Him.

Deuteronomy 18:20 But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death."

We don't put false prophets to death today, but we are to remove ourselves from their presence.

Deuteronomy 18:22 If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him.

The Lord is against those who give false prophecies.

Jeremiah 23:32 Indeed, I am against those who prophesy false dreams," declares the LORD. "They tell them and lead my people astray with their reckless lies, yet I did not send or appoint them. They do not benefit these people in the least," declares the LORD.

Those who follow false prophets will share in their judgment.

Jeremiah 5:31 The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. But what will you do in the end?

Jeremiah 23:31 Yes," declares the LORD, "I am against the prophets who wag their own tongues and yet declare, 'The LORD declares.'

Jeremiah 27:15 'I have not sent them,' declares the LORD. 'They are prophesying lies in my name. Therefore, I will banish you and you will perish, both you and the prophets who prophesy to you.'"

Ezekiel 13:9 My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and utter lying divinations. They will not belong to the council of my people or be listed in the records of the house of Israel, nor will they enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Sovereign LORD.

We are not to even listen to false prophecy.

Jeremiah 23:16 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD.

False prophets are often those who claim they had a dream or a vision of the Lord or from the Lord.

Jeremiah 23:25 "I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, 'I had a dream! I had a dream!'

False prophets are actually using divination and the delusion of their own minds instead of communicating with God.

Jeremiah 14:14 Then the LORD said to me, "The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I have not sent them or appointed them or spoken to them. They are prophesying to you false visions, divinations, idolatries and the delusions of their own minds.

Ezekiel 22:28 Her prophets whitewash these deeds for them by false visions

and lying divinations. They say, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says'-- when the LORD has not spoken.

TEST THEIR FRUIT

The final test is to compare the words and actions of any teacher or prophet with the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:18-25. It is also helpful to look at the list of things that are the opposite of the fruit of the Spirit.

If a person falsely prophesies, even once, they are likely using divination and false visions. Are they trying to build a following and promote themselves, gaining fame? Then they likely have "selfish ambition". Do they promote "drunk in the Spirit"? That's the sin of "drunkenness". If they are stripping the poor of their money with crooked money-raising schemes...that's not the fruit of kindness. If their meetings are marked by wild manifestations, they do not have the fruit of peace or self-control. If they are cocky mockers they do not have the fruit of gentleness.

Gal. 5:18-25 *But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*

The Lord will cut off anyone who does not bear fruit. This means anyone who does not have the fruit of the Spirit and has not been doing the will of the Father.

John 15:2 *He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.*

CONCLUSION

Finally, we must understand that those who are false teachers, false prophets, without the fruit of the Spirit are a blight on true Christianity. We must separate ourselves from them.

The Five Core Doctrines

by Sandy Simpson

Reference:

<http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/5doctrines.html>

There are five core doctrines that Biblical Christians must not abandon and for which we must contend. These are not the only doctrines of importance in Christianity but they are those, without which, we cannot call ourselves true believers in Christ.

Other important doctrines in the Bible include: Angelology-The Doctrine of Angels, Anthropology-The Doctrine of Man, Bibliology-The Doctrine of Scripture, Christology-The Doctrine of Christ, Ecclesiology-The Doctrine of the Church, Eschatology-The Doctrine of the End Times, Pneumatology-The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit, Soteriology-The Doctrine of Salvation, Theology Proper-The Doctrine of God. For a good synopsis of these doctrines, go to **Systematic Theology** by Gary Gilley at <http://www.svchapel.org/resources/theology-lessons>.

The five basic doctrines of the Christian faith are taken from a book called "The Fundamentals" edited by R.A. Torrey with contributors such as H.A. Ironside and C.I. Scofield. These twelve volumes of The Fundamentals were mailed free to over 300,000 ministers, missionaries and other Christian workers in different parts of the world. It was written as a defense of the Christian faith against liberalism, but holds true today in serving as a helpful aid in distinguishing heresy from truth.

I base my discernment and apologetics ministry on the following core doctrines to help distinguish between sound doctrine (Titus 2:1) and heresy (Titus 1:9).

1. **The Trinity:** God is one "What" and three "Whos" with each "Who" possessing all the attributes of Deity and personality. –or- God is One God eternally existing in Three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. **The Person of Jesus Christ:** Jesus is 100% God and 100% man for all eternity.
3. **The Second Coming:** Jesus Christ is coming bodily to earth to rule and judge.
4. **Salvation:** It is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.
5. **The Scripture:** It is entirely inerrant and sufficient for all Christian life.

All of these doctrines are under attack from false teachers today.

One of the things that false teachers will say is that they subscribe to sound doctrinal statements which contain the five core doctrines while teaching against them. Don't be taken in. Check their books, DVDs and teachings against what the Bible teaches. I will be giving an example of that to the Berean class regarding Leonard Sweet who is making the rounds of many evangelical denominations, colleges and churches.

For an in depth study of this subject go to my web site under this URL:

<http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/5doctrines.html>

Let's just cover each core doctrine briefly ...

The Trinity—Theology

All the elements of the doctrine of the Trinity are taught in Scripture: 1. One God

2. The Father is God 3. The Son is God 4. The Holy Spirit is God 5. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three persons (i.e., they are not each other, nor are they impersonal; they relate to one another personally)

The one "What" and three "Whos" that make up our Almighty God together and separately are mentioned as having created the universe. This is one of the many proofs of the Trinity.

God ("What") created the universe: Gen. 1:1

Father ("Who") created the universe: Mal. 2:10, Mt. 25:34

Son ("Who") created the universe: Col. 1:15-16, Heb. 1:2, Mt. 13:35

Spirit ("Who") created the universe: Ps. 104:30, Job 33:4, Jn. 6:63

The New Testament presents a consistent triad of Father, Son, Holy Spirit (God, Christ, Spirit): Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:34; also Luke 1:35; 3:21-22 par.; 4:1-12; John 4:10-25; 7:37-39; 14-16; 20:21-22; Acts 1:4-8; 2:33, 38-39; 5:3-4, 9, 30-32; 7:55-56; 10:36-38, 44-48; 11:15-18; 15:8-11; 20:38; 28:25-31; Rom. 1:1-4; 5:5-10; 8:2-4, 9-11, 14-17; 1 Cor. 6:11; 12:4-6, 11-12, 18; 2 Cor. 1:19-22; 3:6-8, 14-18; Gal. 3:8-14; 4:4-7; Eph. 1:3-17; 2:18, 21-22; 3:14-19; 4:4-6, 29-32; 5:18-20; Phil. 3:3; 1 Thess. 1:3-6; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; Tit. 3:4-6; Heb. 2:3-4; 9:14; 10:28-31; 1 Pet. 1:2; 1 John 3:21-24; 4:13-14; Jude 20-21; Rev. 2:18, 27-29

What Difference Does The Doctrine Of The Trinity Make?

A. **Sovereignty:** Because the three persons have each other, we can be assured that God created us only to share the love they have and not as a means to His own end: Acts 17:25; John 17:21-26

B. **Mystery:** The triune God is totally unlike anything in our world, and therefore greater than anything we can comprehend: Rom. 11:33-36; Isa. 40:18

C. **Salvation:** God alone planned our salvation, came to save us, and dwells in us to complete our salvation: 1 Pet. 1:2; Eph. 1:3-18; etc.

D. **Prayer:** We pray to the Father through the Son, and also pray to the Son directly, in the Spirit: John 14:13-14; Eph. 2:18; etc.

E. **Worship:** We worship Father and Son in the Spirit: John 4:23-24; Phil. 3:3; Heb. 1:8; etc.

F. **Love:** The love among the three persons is the basis and model for our love for one another: John 17:26

G. **Unity:** The unity of the three persons is the basis and model for the unity of the church: John 17:21-23

H. **Humility:** As the persons of the Trinity seek the glory of each other, so we should seek the interests of others above our own: Phil. 2:5-11; John 16:13-14

I. **Sonship:** We are "sons of God" as we are united with the Son of God by the work of the Holy Spirit and the adoption of the Father: John 1:12-23; Rom. 8:14-17

J. **Truth:** All those who wish to worship and love God must seek to know Him as He is in truth, for God, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is truth: John 4:24; 14:6, 17; 15:26; 16:13

The Person Of Jesus Christ– Christology

Jesus is God in human flesh.

He is not half God and half man. He is fully God and fully man. At the incarnation He added to His divine nature the nature of man. Thus He has two natures: divine and human. He is both God and man at the same time. He is not merely a man who "had God within Him" nor is he a man who "manifested the God principle." He is God, second person of the Trinity. "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word" (Heb.1:3, NIV). Jesus' two natures are not "mixed together," nor are they combined into a new God-man nature. They are separate yet act as a unit. This is called the Hypostatic Union. One of the most common errors that non Christian cults make is not understanding the two natures of Christ. For example, the Jehovah's Witnesses focus on Jesus' humanity and ignore His divinity (believe that Jesus is the angel Michael, not Son of God). The Christian Scientists, on the other hand, focus on the divine nature and ignore the human. For a proper understanding of Jesus and, therefore, all other doctrines that relate to Him, His two natures must be properly

understood and defined. The Bible is about Jesus (John 5:39). The prophets prophesied about Him (Acts 10:43). The Father bore witness of Him (John 5:37, 8:18). The Holy Spirit bore witness of Him (John 15:26). The works Jesus did bore witness of Him (John 5:36, 10:25). The multitudes bore witness of Him (John 12:17). And, Jesus bore witness of Himself (John 14:6, 18:6). Other verses to consider when examining His deity are, John 1:1,14; 5:18; 20:28; Rom. 9:5; Phil. 2:5-8; Tit. 2:13; Heb. 1:6-8; and 2 Pet. 1:1. 1 Tim. 2:5 says, "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." Right now, there is a man in heaven on the throne of God. He is our advocate with the Father (1 John 2:1). He is our Savior (Titus 2:13). He is our Lord (Rom. 10:9-10). He is Jesus.

The Second Coming— Eschatology

Jesus Christ is coming bodily to earth to rule and judge.

Other religions deny that Jesus Christ is coming bodily to earth to rule and judge. Cults deny this doctrine in other ways. This doctrine is also denied by believing in anything other than Pre-Trib, Pre-Wrath Rapture or Post-Trib coming of Christ. These doctrines all affirm that Jesus Christ is coming back bodily to rule and judge. They can be lumped together as Premillennial views. There are some doctrines being taught in the churches that deny this doctrine. They are called Preterism, Postmillennialism, Dominionism, and Amillennialism.

Christ is Returning!

The second coming of Christ is a cornerstone of Biblical doctrine. It is not possible to be considered orthodox and evangelical unless you believe Jesus is coming back bodily to rule and reign. Our Lord promised it, the apostles confirmed it, and the entire book of Revelation celebrates it. Below are just a few examples of the verses that establish this fact. *John 14:1-3 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come back** and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."*

*Matthew 26:64 "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the **Son of Man** sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." Luke 21:27 At that time they will see the **Son of Man** coming in a cloud with power and great glory. The return of Christ will be visible. He will not come in secret; He will not come "mystically," or only to those with eyes to see Him. All humanity will witness His coming, and those who do not belong to Him will be terrified.*

*Acts 1:11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, **will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.**" Matthew 24:29-30*

*"Immediately after the distress of those days "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken." "At that time **the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky**, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. Re 1:7 Look, he is coming with the clouds, and **every eye will see him**, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. The Second Coming of Christ will be Bodily. He will not come "spiritually," He will not return "in His Body" the Church. He has a body now, a glorious body, witnessed by the apostle John (Rev 1:12-16), and when He comes in clouds of glory, it will be in that glorious body. *Philippians 3:21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like **his glorious body**.* Zechariah 14:3 Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. On that day **his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.** He will come in Power and Glory--unlike His first coming, His true nature will not be concealed. He will come at the head of a heavenly army, as the conquering Sovereign that He is. Titus 2:13 while we wait for the blessed hope-- **the glorious appearing** of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, Matthew 24:30 They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, **with power and great glory.***

Salvation—Soteriology

It is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

All the religions of the world deny this. Cults deny it in many ways but primarily because they add works to salvation, as the Catholics do. The Third Wave denies this doctrine on a number of counts. They very rarely preach the full gospel message but rather a message of "Repent and come to Jesus". That is not the full gospel message. Where there is no mention of the cross and redemption through the grace of God alone in Christ alone, that is where there is a false gospel being preached. They also deny the full indwelling of the Holy Spirit at salvation by their doctrine of a transferable impartation "anointing" second baptism of the Spirit, thus denying the biblical definition of salvation. The need for the Holy Spirit to be "imparted" or "transferred" by human hands denies the gospel of grace alone. This doctrine is one of the most important core doctrines of Christianity and one that is being attacked most often. Benny Hinn and others like him are redefining the very core of Christianity which is salvation by grace ALONE through faith ALONE in Christ ALONE.

*Eph. 2:8-9 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. (KJV)*

GRACE ALONE!

*Titus 3:5-7 **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 Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being **justified by his grace**, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (KJV)*

FAITH ALONE!

*Rom. 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a **man is justified by faith** without the deeds of the law. (KJV) Rom. 4:4-5 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, **but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.** (KJV)*

CHRIST ALONE!

*Jn. 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the **way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.** (KJV) Acts 14:12 **Neither is there salvation in any other:** for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (KJV) Jesus Christ did all the work to save us from our sins. This is summed up nicely in what is called the "Romans Road" ROMANS 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: (KJV) ROMANS 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (KJV) ROMANS 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (KJV) ROMANS 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (KJV) ROMANS 8:1a There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, (KJV) ROMANS 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead thou shalt be saved. (KJV) ROMANS 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (KJV)*

The Scriptures—Bibliology

It is entirely inerrant and sufficient for all Christian life.

This doctrine is so important today because the ideas of existentialism and subjectivism have influenced many Christians. If everything is relative and what I believe may not be necessary for you to believe, and I should be tolerant of what you believe in even if it is not, then there is no such thing as solid objective Truth. However, true Christians hold the Scriptures as their highest authority in all matters of faith and practice. The Bible is a finished canon of revelation from God. It was even quoted by Jesus and the Apostles, most notably when Jesus was tempted by Satan. Jesus didn't have to use the Word, but He did to show us that it truly is the Word of God the Father. The Apostles confirmed this as well. 2 Peter 1:19-21 *And in the written word of prophecy we have something more permanent; to which you do well to pay attention - as to a lamp shining in a dimly-lighted place - until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. But, above all, remember that no prophecy in Scripture will be found to have come from the*

prophet's own prompting; for never did any prophecy come by human will, but men sent by God spoke as they were impelled by the Holy Spirit. (Wey) 2 Tim. 3:16-17 Every Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for convincing, for correction of error, and for instruction in right doing; so that the man of God may himself be complete and may be perfectly equipped for every good work. (Wey) 1Co 4:6 Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not take pride in one man over against another. (KJV) Rev. 22:18-19 For I testify together to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this Book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add on him the plagues that have been written in this Book. And if anyone takes away from the words of the Book of this prophecy, God will take away his part out of the Book of Life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which have been written in this Book. (MKJV)

Some groups that deny the core doctrines by what they teach

The Trinity:

A. **Religions that do not believe in the Trinity:** Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Bahai, all religions except for Christianity, Catholicism, Eastern Orthodox. Catholicism is close to confusing the Trinity by adding Mary as co-redemptrix with Christ, and is already teaching this concept in their prayers, novenas, Catechism and with paintings showing Mary as part of the Godhead. B. **Cults that do not believe:** Jehovah Witness (denial of person of Holy Spirit "God's active force"), Mormon (God is an "exalted man" with a body), old Worldwide Church Of God, Christian Science (Trinity suggests "polytheism"), Inglesia Ni Christo (Christ is a man only), Scientology, Unification Church (Trinity is man, woman and God, Jesus married the Holy Spirit). C. **"Christian" churches that do not believe:** United Pentecostal Church & Pentecostal Assemblies of the World (Non Trinity, Jesus only), Unitarians, Unity (God not a being, force), United Church of Jesus Christ, many Apostolic Churches and any churches descending from William Branham and Azusa Street "Oneness" Pentecostals (Trinity a doctrine of demons, Jesus only) D. **Third Wave revivalists/televangelists that teach against the Trinity:** Benny Hinn (nine part god), Kenneth Copeland (Jesus brother of Satan), anyone involved in the false anointing

- When the Spirit is treated as a substance both Deity and personality is denied.
- When God is "on call" Deity is compromised and God is blasphemed.
- Many of the manifestations lower man to beastly or sub-human levels. The Spirit's actions always raise man to the character of Christ. Thus, to call these manifestations the work of the Spirit is a (not "the") blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

The Person of Jesus Christ:

A. **Religions that do not believe:** Judaism, Hinduism, Islam (Jesus only a prophet), Buddhism, Bahai, all religions except for Christianity. Catholicism and Eastern Orthodox affirm this in their creeds but teach that Jesus is put to death again each time they celebrate the Eucharist which denies that Jesus Christ is 100% man, having died once for all, in His glorified resurrection body seated at the right hand of God. B. **Cults that do not believe:** Almost all cults get this wrong in some way. A good doctrine to test cults. Jehovah Witness (Jesus is Michael), Mormon (Jesus brother of Lucifer, anyone could attain to be as Jesus was), old Worldwide Church Of God, Christian Science (Jesus "anointed" human demonstrated "Christ consciousness" as human only), Christadelphians, any Gnostic groups (Jesus spirit only), Scientology, Inglesia Ni Christo (Christ is a man only) C. **"Christian" churches that do not believe:** Unitarians, Unity (Jesus best manifestation of Divine Mind) D. **Third Wave revivalists/televangelists that teach against this doctrine:** Benny Hinn, Kenneth Copeland, many others (Jesus just an anointed man only during all or part of His life on earth, died spiritually on the cross, physical death did not provide salvation). Third Wave revivalists/televangelists: Any teachers who treat Jesus like a vending machine for health and wealth, any prophets who see false visions of Jesus proven by Scriptural model

- "More Jesus" - Jesus treated as a substance instead of a person.
- Visions of Jesus often redefine the scriptural picture of Jesus (ie. Yongi Cho seeing Jesus in a fireman's hat)
- Kenneth Copeland with his denigration of Jesus' death, Jesus having to be born again in hell, Jesus tortured by Satan, and seeing Jesus as brother of Satan

The Second Coming:

A. Religions that do not believe: Catholicism (Amillennial/Postmillennial/Dominion - Catholicism is a "religion", not Christian), Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Bahai, all religions except for Christianity. Judaism believes Messiah is coming for the first time. **B. Cults that do not believe:** Jehovah Witness (Christ "returned" invisibly in 1914 and there was an invisible "rapture" in 1918 for 144,000 only), Scientology. **C. "Christian" churches that do not believe:** Unitarians, Unity. **D. Third Wave revivalists/televangelists that teach against this doctrine:** Any teacher or group that teaches Postmillennialism (Jesus comes back but not to rule for a millenium on throne of David) or Dominionism (Jesus comes back "in His church"). PM & Dominionism are becoming melded together these days as "Reconstructionism". Pat Robertson, Rick Joyner, Paul Cain (Joel's Army), Kansas City Prophets are big proponents. Any group teaching strict Amillennialism is also denying this doctrine because the hard-core Amil Preterists believe Jesus already came back around 70 AD. This includes most of the Third Wave today, although some are still Premillennial.

- Dominion theology- spiritualizes the 2nd Coming - Jesus returns "in the church", etc.
- Revival theology denies the "great apostasy" that must take place before Jesus' return.
- The church's job is to preach the gospel and disciple, not take over structures of the world system

Salvation:

A. Religions that do not believe: Catholicism (teaches works salvation, does not agree to the phrase "by grace alone"), Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Bahai, all religions except for Christianity. Judaism also relies on works and tradition, still condemned by the law of Moses. **B. Cults that do not believe:** Most cults do not teach salvation by grace alone, but promote some form of work salvation or legalism. Jehovah Witness, Mormons ("Men have work to do if they would obtain salvation", baptism and salvation for the dead, "spiritual death can only be avoided by individual obedience to the commandments of God."), Christian Science ("Final deliverance from error ... is not reached... by pinning one's faith without works to another's vicarious effort,"), Scientology, Unification Church (Christ did not purchase our physical salvation, thus the need for the New Messiah, Dr. Moon). **C. "Christian" churches that do not believe:** SDA (back under the law, "The blood of Christ, pleaded in behalf of penitent believers, secured their pardon and acceptance with the Father, yet their sins still remained upon the books of record.", Satan is "joint sin-bearer" with Christ), Unitarians, Unity (no evil, we are one with the Father at all times, pagans worship God), Church of Christ & Boston Church of Christ (salvation by baptism), and any Charismatics or Pentecostals who add the Third Wave "anointing" to salvation by grace alone and baptism/seal of Holy Spirit. **D. Third Wave revivalists/televangelists that teach against this doctrine:** Any Third Wave teacher that teaches a transferable impartation, thus denying the gospel of grace and the true work of the Holy Spirit. This includes ALL of the Third Wave teachers at this point. Also any Third Wave teacher who does not fully present the gospel message of grace.

- The Brownsville/Toronto "gospel" is "repent and come to Jesus" without mentioning the cross or resurrection.
- Anything that denies the full indwelling of the Spirit at conversion denies, ultimately, the biblical definition of salvation.
- Need for "impartation" is denial of gospel by grace.

The Scripture:

A. Religions that do not believe: Catholicism (adds tradition equal to Scripture), Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Bahai, all religions except for Christianity and Judaism (although Judaism does not hold the New Testament to be inspired Scripture). **B. Cults that do not believe:** Mormons (add Book of Mormon, Joseph Smith from Aaronic priesthood), Christian Science (error stole into Scripture through material humans, Gnosticism), Scientology. **C. "Christian" churches that do not believe:** SDA (add Ellen White), Unitarians, Unity (Scriptures not inspired, records of men), any church that says prophets words today are over Scripture or that "God is greater than His Word" or "Don't put God in a box" or that there is any new Revelation that adds to or takes away from what the Bible already says.. **D. Third Wave revivalists/televangelists that teach against this doctrine:** Almost all Third Wave teachers deny the sufficiency of Scripture by teaching "new revelation" which is beyond what the Scripture teaches, or signs and wonders that are not consistent with the Word and the Testimony of the character of God. Some have even blatantly put down Scripture such as John Wimber, John Scotland, John Kilpatrick, John Arnott and others.

- "Empty your mind, don't think" assumes that something outside scripture must enter mind, body; occultic technique.

- b. "New revelation" needed for modern church, "new picture" denies sufficiency of "faith once for all delivered".
- c. Signs and wonders needed beyond gospel.
- d. Emphasis on experience over doctrine is backwards.
- e. Witchcraft/New Age techniques used for direction instead of scripture.

4-Part Core Doctrines Study

by Sandy Simpson

Part 3—Examples

Starting in this section we will begin to look at teachings and prophecies of many current so-called Christian teachers. We can by no means cover every false teaching that has entered the churches. I'm sorry if I have skipped one of your favorite clips. But you can take the principles you have learned and will learn and apply them to anything you see on TV, in your church, or purchase in a Christian bookstore. I am making the whole 4-part series we are doing on the core doctrines and how they apply today available in a 3-DVD series. You can get that series for \$5. Per DVD which comes to \$15. Per 3-DVD series. It has much more in it than would be possible to teach over the course of 4 sessions so if you want a deeper study on these issues I highly recommend you pick one of those 3-DVD series up for yourself for study at home. I also urge you to get two videos as supplementary materials for your own personal study which are available on my web site. Those videos are as follows with information on how to find out more:

Spirit Of Truth or Spirit Of Error

Part 1 – Benny Hinn

1 DVD or VHS

Features commentary by Mike Oppenheimer, Jacob Prasch and Sandy Simpson

<http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/spiritoftruth.html>

The New Apostolic Reformation

What is it and where is it going?

6 DVDs or 2 VHS – Book also available

Features commentary by Bill Randles, Dave Hunt, Jacob Prasch, Gary Gilley, Mike Oppenheimer, Steve Mitchell, Sandy Simpson, Jewel Grewe, Arnold Fructenbaum and many others.

<http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/narbook.html>

In these last 2 sessions I will show each video segments, then an opportunity will be given to discuss the clip. The discussion will include:

- (1) Whether or not what was being taught, prophesied, or done is Biblical and why or why not with evidence from the Bible.
- (2) Whether or not what was shown is in violation of any core doctrines, and thus cause for Christians to rebuke that person and reject them if they are unrepentant publicly for things they taught and did publicly.

My commentary follows each video segment where I will give the answers I have found in the Scriptures. Your answers may vary as to what Scriptures are used and what things you observed, but it is my hope that my commentary will help you to learn how to better discern and test the spirits.

(Clip 1 - Benny Hinn prophesying that Jesus Christ will come back bodily in his crusades)

(DISCUSS)

Jesus Christ Himself address people who will make the claim that He is coming back in any other way than the way in which He stated He would come when He said:

Matt. 24:23-27 At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect— if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time. "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. For as lightning

that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Jesus Christ is only coming back at one time in one way. He will come back bodily to the earth and the whole earth will see Him.

Rev. 1:7 Look, ***he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.***

Anyone who claims that Jesus Christ is showing up bodily in their churches, out in the desert, in the inner rooms, or anywhere else is a liar and the very definition of a false prophet. Ruth Heflin, who is dead, and Benny Hinn are both false prophets many times over, but this false prophecy takes the cake. This is a consistent pattern for Benny Hinn who has given many false prophecies and continues to do so till this day.

Benny Hinn prophesied this at his Orlando Christian Center on Dec. 31st, 1989 (Play: <http://op.50megs.com/ditc/BENNY-HINN-ON-CASTRO-DYING.ram>)

"The Spirit tells me - Fidel Castro will die - in the 90's. Oooh my! Some will try to kill him and they will not succeed. But there will come a change in his physical health, and he will not stay in power, and Cuba will be visited of God."

On the same day he also prophesied:

(Play: <http://op.50megs.com/ditc/BENNY-HINN-HOMOSEXUALS.ram>)

"The Lord also tells me to tell you in the mid 90's, about '94-'95, no later than that, God will destroy the homosexual community of America. [audience applauds] But He will not destroy it - with what many minds have thought Him to be, He will destroy it with fire. And many will turn and be saved, and many will rebel and be destroyed."

These are only two of many, many false prophecies Benny Hinn has made for which he has never repented. What does the Bible say a Christian's response should be to false prophets and false prophecy?

Jesus warned us:

Matt. 7:15 Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

Jesus again warned us about the end times:

Matt. 24:24 For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive even the elect — if that were possible.

Peter warned the church:

2 Pet. 2:1a But there were false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies ...

What are we as Christians supposed to do?

1 John 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

We test the spirits of the prophets by the test of whether or not they are telling the truth (Deut. 18:20-22), and whether or not that truth degrades the Gospel message or the knowledge of Who Jesus Christ and the Trinity is (1 John 4:2-3). Hinn fails on all counts. He has given lying prophecies and he degrades the Gospel message and subverts the Person of Jesus Christ and the Trinity by claiming that when Jesus Christ was born He was not fully God until at his baptism by John the Baptist and that when He was crucified He took on the nature of Satan and was tortured in hell by Satan for three days prior to His being born again.

What is a false prophet?

Jer. 27:15a *I have not sent them," declares the Lord. "They are prophesying lies in my name. Deuteronomy 18:20-22 But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death. You may say to yourselves, "How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the Lord" If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message that Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him."*

If a man is found to be a heretic and false prophet, then what?

"A man that is a heretic after the first and second admonition reject." (Titus 3:10)

What is the end of false prophets? They are found to be "false" ergo they are liars.

Rev. 21:8 *"But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars — their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.*

Does this constitute heresy or false prophecy in violation of the core doctrines of the Faith?

Yes. We must reject Benny Hinn as a false prophet because he is a liar and we cannot trust what he is saying. He continues in the sin of false prophecy as long as he does not repent of these things and admit he is a liar before the public. He is a divisive one, a heretic, because he is trying to gain followers to himself on the basis of his claiming to be a holy, anointed, prophet of God when he is a proven liar. False prophecy violates the authority and sufficiency of Scripture.

**(Clip 2 - Kenneth Copeland stating the Jesus is the High Priest of his confession)
(DISCUSS)**

Kenneth Copeland is a Word of Faith heretic of long standing. This clip is one example among many of how Copeland twists the Word of God to his own purposes. The KJV says it this way:

Heb. 3:1 *Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; (KJV)*

Copeland took the translation that best suited the doctrinal position of Word of Faith teachers where they believe that whatever they confess with their mouth God is duty bound to give them. They teach that they can literally create reality with their confessions, including health, wealth and anything else. This is because they actually believe they are little gods. We will cover that issue in the next section. If you read other translations you will begin to see what they verse is actually saying. It is not saying that Jesus Christ is the High Priest of what we confess with our mouths, but that the Jesus Christ we follow and confess as Lord and Savior is our High Priest in heaven.

Heb. 3:1 Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. (NIV)

Heb. 3:1 So then, my brothers in holiness who share a heavenly calling, I want you to think of Christ Jesus the Apostle and High Priest of the faith we hold. (Phil.)

Heb. 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, sharers with others in a heavenly invitation, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest whose followers we profess to be. (Wey)

Does this constitute heresy or false prophecy in violation of the core doctrines of the Faith?

Yes. Kenneth Copeland is a heretic because he is making himself equal and even the boss of God. This is in violation of the doctrine of the Triune nature of the Godhead, in that there is only one God in Three Persons who is omnipotent and all knowing. God is the one who has the power to create reality, not his creation. Therefore we must reject Kenneth Copeland as a heretic because he is in violation of a core doctrine of the Faith and has not repented of it.

(Clip 3 - Many examples of people stating they are little gods) (DISCUSS)

I urge you to read an article by Mike Oppenheimer of Let Us Reason Ministries called "Logic, perspicacity and a touch of common sense" on the <http://www.letusreason.org> web site. I will start by quoting from a few New Agers who claim we are all little gods, no surprise there.

"What be you? You are God!" (J.Z. Knight, Voyage to the New World, Ramtha with D.J. Mahr, p. 127)

"Be still and know that you are God when you know that you are God, YOU WILL BEGIN TO LIVE GODHOOD..." (Meditations of Maharishi Mahesh yogi p.178)

"We are gods and might as well get good at it" (Drawing Down the Moon, 1986. p. 25.Margo Adler a witch)

"Know that you are God" (From Dancing in the Light New ager, Shirley MacLaine)

But it isn't only New Agers, eastern mystics and witches that claim we are gods. There are many so-called Christians who have also made this claim.

"Man was created in the god class, was not created in the animal class, it was the gods class. ...Alright, are we gods? We are a class of gods." (Kenneth Copeland Praise the Lord, TBN, 2/5/1986)

"You don't have a god in you, you are one," (Kenneth Copeland, The Force of Love (Fort Worth, TX: Kenneth Copeland Ministries, 1987), audiotape #02-0028, side 1.)

"I am a little messiah walking on earth, ... You are a little god on earth running around (Benny Hinn Praise-a-Thon TBN, Nov. 6 1990)

"When Jesus was on earth, the Bible says that first He disrobed Himself of the divine form. He, the limitless God, became a man, that we men, may become as He is." (Benny Hinn "Our Position In Christ" cassette tape #A031190, Orlando Christian Center, 1990)

"Jesus was God in the flesh. We must be as He was in the world, and even greater in volume and influence." (Earl Paulk, The Ultimate Kingdom , 1986, p.121) "We are the essence of God, His on-going incarnation in the world" Earl Paulk, Held In The Heavens (Atlanta: K Dimension Publishers, 1985, p. p. 125.)

“Every Christian is a god. ... “You don't have a God in you; you are one,” (The Force of Love (Fort Worth: Kenneth Copeland Ministries, 1987, audiotape #02-0028), side 1.)

“when I read in the Bible where He [Jesus] says, ‘I AM,’ I say, ‘Yes, I AM too!’” (Kenneth Copeland: Spoken during a crusade meeting, 19/7/1987)

“Are you ready for some real revelation knowledge....you are god” (Benny Hinn, “Our Position In Christ”, tape # AO31190-1)

“The Fullness of the Godhead dwells in me ... God has planned for me to be Christ's image on th earth” (Morris Cerullo from the Video MANIFEST SONS OF GOD).

“The believer is called Christ...That’s who we are; we’re Christ!” (Kenneth M. Hagin, Zoe: The God-Kind of Life (Tulsa, OK: Kenneth Hagin Ministries, Inc., 1989), 35-36, 41.)

“We were created to be gods over the earth, but remember to spell it with a little “g.” (Charles Capps, Image of You (Harrison House, 1985), p. 34.)

“If you eat of this fruit, you will be like God. What’s the problem? He’s already like God. He was already like God.”(Creflo Dollar, Our equality with God through righteousness 1/21/2001)

“now I need to make a man to be god in this earth and over all My handiworks.”(Creflo Dollar, Our equality with God through righteousness 1/21/2001)

Speaking of Adam Creflo Dollar claims: “I’m training a god of the earth. I got to teach him to do what I do.”(Creflo Dollar, Our equality with God through righteousness 1/21/2001)

“The divine name from Exod. 3:14, “I Am who I Am,” is appropriated by Jesus who shows us how to embrace our own divinity. The Cosmic Christ is the “I am” in every creature” (The Coming of the Cosmic Christ by Matthew Fox p.154)

Remember from our lesson on the Trinity that there is only one God, one true God, all other gods being false gods, neither men nor angels being gods, and none even like God by nature. God is Three Persons, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. No one else can be added to that Triune Nature. The statement in Ps. 82 by Asaph is a statement that Adam was meant to be immortal like God, but he sinned and all men will die like men, unless they repent of their sins and are born again in Jesus Christ. But born again men are not gods and cannot save themselves. They are totally reliant on Jesus Christ for salvation and everything else in life. Neither men, nor angels, nor demons, nor Satan himself are gods. If they claim to be gods they are false gods and false Christs.

Does this constitute heresy or false prophecy in violation of the core doctrines of the Faith?

Yes. We must reject those who claim to be gods as false Christs. They are, in fact, antichrist; they have an antichrist spirit because they are elevating themselves to the same position as Christ. There is only one Christ who came in the flesh, not to make many Christs but to save those who obey Him. These teachings violate the nature of the Triune God, the dual nature of Christ and the authority of Scripture.

(Clip 4 – C. Peter Wagner and others claiming to be restored foundational, governmental, ruling apostles)

A number of the International Coalition Of Apostles members who are leading the New Apostolic Reformation of C. Peter Wagner claim that there are restored foundational, governmental, ruling apostles and prophets needed in the Church today. (#1) John Eckhardt of the New Apostolic Reformation says that apostles must "rule the church". (#28) He says that Bible school and discipleship is useless without an apostolic impartation, meaning members of the ICA need to lay hands on you to transfer an anointing for apostolic, prophets and all other types of ministries. (#26) Jim Laffoon says that the modern day apostles define who people are. (#78)

(DISCUSS)

Modern day "foundational apostles" can even "legislate in the heavenlies" according to Tommi Femrite in the September 14th, 2001 "Open Memorandum Addressing the Twin Towers War" by C. Peter Wagner.

"It is time for the apostolic leaders of nations to rise up and proclaim into the heavenlies of the nations where they have apostolic voice and authority to speak and legislate in the heavenlies." (Tommi Femrite, 9-12-01)

In the same document, Wagner claims the new apostles need not ask God what to do, they just declare what needs to be done.

"We are no longer to ask God to do what he put us here to do. Rather, it is a time to make clear declarations that will change the atmosphere of our nation." (Marty Cassady, 9-12-01)

Wagner has also stated:

"The New Apostolic Reformation is an extraordinary work of the Holy Spirit that is changing the shape of Christianity globally. It is truly a new day! The Church is changing. New names! New methods! New worship expressions! The Lord is establishing the foundations of the Church for the new millennium. This foundation is built upon apostles and prophets. Apostles execute and establish God's plan on the earth. The time to convene a conference of the different apostolic prophetic streams across this nation is now! This conference will cause the Body to understand God's 'new' order for this coming era. We look forward to having you with us in Brisbane in Feb 2000." It was signed by Peter Wagner and Ben Gray. (Brochure For Brisbane 2000)

"I believe that the government of the church is finally coming into place and that is what the Scripture teaches in Eph. 2, that the foundation of the church is apostles and prophets. Previous to this decade of the 80's and the 90's we practically ignored prophets and apostles and now we're seeing, what I believe is a major reason. We're going to new levels in prayer. We're going to new levels in the spiritual. We're going to new levels in healing and miracles. We're going to new levels in deliverance of demonic deliverance. And so this is the new era we are going into and I don't know if it is coincidental or what, but its just as we are moving into the new millennium." (C. Peter Wagner, CBN interview Jan. 3, 2000)

The church will be in key transition period between 2000-2003. During this period the youth in particular will be transitioning into revival. It is especially important for the apostolic government to be initially established and functioning in our cities by Oct 2003 if we are to see the transformations that God wants to release. (C. Peter Wagner at the Prophetic Gathering Share In Ministry Together Concerning 2000, by Jim W. Goll)

Number four. The fourth thing we have to understand. We have to understand that the church has a God-designed government. The church has a God-designed government. We now live, this is 2004, we now live in the second apostolic age. The second apostolic age began in the year 2001, ok? And in this whole first chapter in this book I argue my point, I think rather... I hope it's convincingly, that 2001 marks, is the year that marks the second apostolic age, which means for years the government of the church had not been in place since about, you know, the first century or so. It doesn't mean weren't apostles and prophets, because the government of the... the foundation of the church according to Ephesians 2:20 is apostles and prophets,

Jesus being the chief cornerstone. It doesn't mean there weren't apostles and prophets, it means the body of Christ hadn't recognized them and released them for the office that they had so that they'd function as apostles and prophets in the foundation of the church. But we now have that, I believe we've reached our critical mass in the year 2001. Now I'm concentrating on apostles in this teaching, not so much prophets, you've got a couple more prophets coming on the scene here. But here's the thing. If God gave apostles to the church, which He definitely did, ok, and I don't have to convince anyone at Gateway that He gave apostles to the church, but here is my point. If He gave them to the church as the government of the church, He must have given them both to the nuclear church and to the extended church. (C. Peter Wagner, Arise Prophetic Conference, Gateway Church, San Jose, CA, 10-10-2004)

The grace gifts of leadership, or more accurately servant leadership, are listed as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers or pastor-teachers, depending on your interpretation in Eph. 4. But the gift of foundational Apostleship is no longer applicable today because no one alive fits or could fit the criteria to be a foundational apostle. The teachings of the foundational Apostles and prophets (Eph. 2:20) are what the Church is built upon, Christ being the chief Cornerstone and Foundation (1 Cor. 3:10-11). The Apostles were those who saw the Lord while He was on earth before he ascended into heaven (1 Cor. 9:1) and the Lord did true signs, wonders and miracles through them to authenticate their ministries (2 Cor. 12:12). They wrote Scriptures (Matthew, John, Peter, Paul, etc.). They were persecuted and all but one (John) were martyred for the Faith (1 Cor. 4:9 and the Pre Nicene Fathers writings). Finally, Paul said that he was the last, in sequence, of the original foundational Apostles (1 Cor. 15:7-8). We are to use the Word of God, through Jesus Christ, taught to us by the Apostles and prophets, as the basis for our Christian life (2 Peter 3:2, Jude 17).

There is no one today who can meet the biblical criteria to be a foundational Apostle. But there are "apostles" in the Church today, "sent out" ones, messengers, mainly church planting missionaries, but they are not foundational to the Church.

According to Wagner, the Church has been without apostles, prophets or prayerful intercessors for 1800 years. It is a wonder how the Church got along at all without the New Apostolic Reformation! Or is it God Who builds His Church?

1 Pet. 2:4-5 As you come to him, the living Stone- rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-***you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.***

Col. 1:18 and he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the ***supremacy.***

Acts 20:28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought ***with his own blood.***

Does this constitute heresy or false prophecy in violation of the core doctrines of the Faith?

Yes. This is the same sin as the sin of the Nicolaitans, the false apostles of the first century church, which Jesus Christ decried and stated that he hated.

Rev. 2:6 But you have this in your favor: ***You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.***

Paul was clear that those who claim to be equal to, or in the case of many in the New Apostolic Reformation, greater than the ordinal foundational apostles are false apostles. This is the only time the words "false apostles" are used in the New Testament, though false apostles are talked about elsewhere. These teachings violate the

authority and sufficiency of Scripture.

2 Cor. 11:12-15 *And I will keep on doing what I am doing **in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about. For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.***

False apostles, by biblical definition, are servants of the enemy. Christ hates false apostles. Christians, therefore, should hate what they are doing as well.

4-Part Core Doctrines Study

by Sandy Simpson

Part 4

(Clip 5 – Jack Deere on false prophets)

Amazingly, Jack Deere claims that Deuteronomy 18 is not about prophets and that a prophet who makes a mistake is not a false prophet. (JD #145)

(DISCUSS)

It is clear that Deuteronomy 18 is ALL ABOUT prophets, and verse 20 clearly states: "But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death." So the criteria for putting a false prophet to death is not only getting people to follow other gods but one who speaks things in God's name that He has not commanded them to say. Perhaps it would help if Jack Deere reread this passage more carefully. This type of argument is being used throughout the Third Wave to try to justify false prophesy. The Bible only uses the word "mistake" a few times but uses the word "sin" over 900 times in the NIV.

Does this constitute heresy or false prophecy in violation of the core doctrines of the Faith?

Yes. False prophecy is a sin against God, not a mistake. Jesus Christ warned us to steer clear of false prophets who come INSIDE the churches to spread lies.

Matt. 7:15 *Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.*

Matt. 24:24 *For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive even the elect — if that were possible.*

Who do liars serve? Their master, the father of lies.

John 8:44 *You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for **there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.***

Rev. 21:8 *But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and **all liars— their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.***

These teachings violate the authority and sufficiency of Scripture.

(Clip 6 – Hamon on Rhema & Logos)

Bill Hamon claims that the Rhema and Logos are different, implying that Logos is not a revelation from God. (BH #65) Mary Crum claims there is a difference between past truth and present truth. (CP/MC #65)

(DISCUSS)

In "Engaging The Enemy" by C. Peter Wagner on page 15-16 he states:

"Pentecostal theologians have made the helpful suggestion of distinguishing the logos word of God from

the rhema word of God - the rhema is regarded as a more immediate word from God which we do not find in the 66 books of the Bible".

Helpful suggestion? I think not. Philip Powell of *Contending Earnestly For The Faith* says this:

"The argument goes something like this—Rhema and Logos express different ideas in the Greek New Testament. Both are usually translated as "word" but the rhema word is the inspired word, whereas the logos word is the written word. What we need is the added inspiration of the Holy Spirit to quicken the already inspired word of God so we know what God is emphasizing in our time." The conclusion is that "logos" is dead, passive and irrelevant whereas "rhema" is vibrant, alive and relevant. While this may be a simplistic explanation of this totally fallacious argument it's a fair summary and explains the dilemma that we face in the Church. False teachers such as Tommy Tenny build their heretical ideas about the Scriptures being dusty love letters on this type of argument. Men such as Yonggi Cho, Kenneth Copeland, Oral Roberts, Benny Hinn and the late Kenneth Hagin, the father of the "Word-Faith" heresy, do the same thing. I say "totally fallacious" because it is just that both in premise and in extension. Any careful New Testament word study will show that frequently the two words — rhema and logos — are used interchangeably in the Scripture to express identical ideas. Far from being inert and ineffective "logos", as used in the New Testament, is powerful, effective, even demonstrative. The centurion who asked Jesus to heal his paralysed servant appealed to the agency of the "logos" (not "rhema") of Christ when he said "speak the word (logos) only, and my servant shall be healed" (Matthew 8:8). In the same chapter we read of Jesus that, "He cast out the spirits with His word (logos), and healed all that were sick" (verse 16). The New Testament bears abundant testimony to the fact that God's Word is always full of life and power. The use of logos or its synonym rhema is irrelevant to this particular issue:

"For the word (logos) of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." — Hebrews 4:12

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word (rhema) of God." — Romans 10:17

"It is incorrect to say as some do that "logos" refers to the passive (recorded) word of God and "rhema" refers to the active (spoken) word of God. On the contrary both logos and rhema are equally applied to the written and spoken Word of God or of Christ as the following references prove:

*"But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word (rhema) that proceeds out of the mouth of God."
— Matthew 4:4*

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings (logos) of mine, and does them, I will liken him unto a wise man, who built his house upon a rock." — Matthew 7:24

Some say that "rhema" always means the quickened or inspired Word of God. However this is clearly not the case:

"Blessed are you, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil (poneros rhema = literally "every evil word") against you falsely, for my sake." — Matthew 5:11

"But I say to you, that every idle word (rhema) that men shall speak, they shall give account of it in the Day of Judgment. For by your words (logos) you shall be justified, and by your words (logos) you shall be condemned." — Matthew 12:36-37

Here the two Greek synonyms are used interchangeably, both being translated to the one English "word". The idle rhema is what Christ warns about as being the logos, which will condemn us in "the day of judgment." Acts 6:11 and 13 twice refer to "blasphemous words (rhema)", which quite clearly could not be inspired by the Holy Spirit. Paul applies "rhema" to the cleansing effect of the Word of God upon His people while Jesus uses "logos" to describe the same work and end result:

*"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word (rhema)" —
Ephesians 5:26*

"Now you are clean through the word (logos) which I have spoken unto you." — John 15:3

"So quite clearly there are occasions when logos and rhema are used interchangeably. As in all cases of correct interpretation, the test that must be applied is the test of context. No word, no matter what the language, has an absolute meaning. There will be nuances and shades of meaning that relate to the correct definition of the actual word, but in the final analysis we will arrive at the true meaning only when we take careful note of the context." (Philip Powell, CETF Newsletter, Dec. 2003, Volume 9.2, Issue 27)

The attempt to disassociate Rhema from Logos is an attempt to bring people under the power and influence of the false prophets today. What they really want to accomplish is for believers to begin to think of the new prophets and their "rhema" words as on the same level of the Scriptures, to accept new revelation that goes beyond what is written.

1 Cor. 4:6 *Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not take pride in one man over against another.*

Paul warned the churches at the beginning about those who bring new revelation to the table in order to vault themselves into a position to have power and influence over people.

Does this constitute heresy or false prophecy in violation of the core doctrines of the Faith?

Yes. This directly violates the core doctrine of the authority and ultimate sufficiency of the written Word of God in all matters of faith and practice in the life of the believer.

(Clip 7 – Laffoon on drunkenness)

Spiritual "drunkenness" is compared favorably to alcohol drunkenness and is held up by Jim Laffoon, another false apostle of the NAR, as being a good thing. (JL, TH #74) In fact Jim Laffoon states that C. Peter Wagner has been on a 14 year spiritual drunk as of the taping of this in the year 2000. (JL #75).

(DISCUSS)

Ephesians 5:18 says: "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit." The fruit of the Spirit is of power, love and a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:17). Our minds allow us to know God's will (Rom 12:2), show God we love him (Matt. 22:37), and be kept in perfect peace (Isa 26:3). We need to fill our minds with the Word of Christ (Col 3:16). Being intoxicated is the lack the fruit of the Spirit of self-control. God created our minds (Gen 1:27; 1 Tim 4:4) which are always to be submitted to His Will (Mat 6:10,26;42). The disciples at Pentecost were not drunk with wine but filled with the Holy Spirit and were preaching in other languages lucidly. I wonder how many churches and mission organizations realize that they have signed on to the programs of a man, C. Peter Wagner, who has been on a 14 year drunk so that he can get along with his bevy of new apostles and prophets?

Does this constitute heresy or false prophecy in violation of the core doctrines of the Faith?

Yes. It is heresy because it is blasphemy against the true work of the Holy Spirit as outlined in Scripture. It violates the nature of the Triune God and the authority of Scripture.

(Clip 8 – Great revival (JE, CJ, MB, BY, DS #32))

All Third Wave false teachers, and most Christians today, claim they are seeing a great revival in these last days where millions will be saved in preparation for the return of Christ.

(DISCUSS)

This is a Latter Rain false doctrine that has been leavened into most churches. But the Bible does not indicate a great end times revival or awakening but rather a great deception (Mark 13; 2 Thes 2:3; 2 Pet 2:1; Mt 24:4), delusion (2 Thes 2:9-12), and the love of people growing cold (Mat 24:12). The end times are marked by many false prophets and teachers (2 Pet 2:1; Mat 7:15,24:24; 1 John 4:1), false Christs (Mat 24:24; Mark 13:22), a different spirit (2 Cor 11:4, 1 John 4:3), and false doctrines (2 Tim 4:3; 1 Tim 4:1,6:3-5). Mat 24:14 says that the gospel will be preached to the ends of the earth, but it does not say millions will be saved. Rather, those who believe are a little flock (Luke 12:32) who have little strength (Rev 3:8) - a few who find the small gate and the narrow road (Mat 7:14). Jesus also asked "When I come will I find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8)

Does this constitute heresy or false prophecy in violation of the core doctrines of the Faith?

Yes. These teachings violate the authority and sufficiency of Scripture. Either the prophetic words of the Bible are correct in prophesying what will happen in the end times, or the new prophets are correct. I choose to believe the words of Jesus Christ and the true apostles and prophets, whose words we have been given as a sacred trust.

2 Pet. 3:2 I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.

Jude 1:3 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.

(Clip 9 – Hinn and vision of no God on the throne)

And I'm preaching to a great crowd that I saw. I saw an angel of the Lord in that dream. Now, I won't say any more about that because I don't feel at liberty what that angel was doing, not on television. I'll share that maybe later on some other programs if God permits me. But now as I'm done preaching I walk into what looked like the temple of God. I'm in the throne room. I see God's throne, I see the seats of the elders, but its empty. God was not in there. (TBN, "Praise The Lord", 12/29/02)

(DISCUSS)

The throne of God is not a literal earthly type throne where an old man in the sky sits. It is a supernatural throne, and encompasses all of the third heaven. Even earthly thrones are symbols of authority and majesty.

*The Symbols of Royal Dignity: The marks of royal dignity, besides the beautiful robes in which the king was attired (1 Ki 22:10), were: (1) the diadem nezer) and the crown (aTarah, 2 Sam 1:10; 2 Ki 11:12; 2 Sam 12:30), the headtire; (2) the scepter (shebheT), originally a long, straight staff, the primitive sign of dominion and authority (Gen 49:10; Nu 24:17; Isa 14:5; Jer 48:17; Ps 2:9; 45:7). Saul had a spear (1 Sam 18:10; 22:6); (3) **the***

throne (kicce', 1 Ki 10:18-20), **the symbol of majesty**. Israel's kings also had a palace (1 Ki 7:1-12; 22:39; Jer 22:14), a royal harem (2 Sam 16:21), and a bodyguard (2 Sam 8:18; 15:18). (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)

But more importantly, the word "kicce'" for throne in Hebrew is a symbol of authority, glory, power, holiness, justice and grace when applied specifically to the picture of God's throne in heaven upon which God sits.

The matchless glory, the transcendent power and absolute sovereignty of God (and Christ); Micaiah "saw Yahweh sitting on his throne," etc. (1 Ki 22:19; compare 2 Ch 18:18); Isaiah and Ezekiel had similar visions (Isa 6:1; Ezek 1:26); compare also Dan 7:9 and Rev 4:2 (and often); in trying to depict the incomparable greatness of the King of kings, **the Bible tells us that His throne is in heaven** (Ps 11:4, etc.) and, moreover, that **heaven itself is His throne** (Isa 66:1; Mt 5:34, etc.); **His reign is founded on righteousness and justice** (Ps 89:14; compare 97:2) **and of eternal duration** (Ps 45:6; compare Heb 1:8; Lam 5:19); **He acts justly and kindly** (Ps 9:4 and 89:14); **He defends His glory** (Jer. 14:21); **He manifests His holiness** (Ps 47:8) and **His grace** (Heb 4:16), and yet **His dealings with us are not always fully understood by us** (Job 26:9). (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)

Is God ever not on His throne? Is He ever on a vacation? No.

Ps. 45:6 *Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.*

Ps. 47:8 *God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne. Ps. 93:2* *Your throne was established long ago; you are from all eternity.*

Rev. 7:10 *And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."*

If God were ever not on His throne, He would, at that point, no longer be in authority, having vacated for a time. God is eternally in authority, and always will be.

Does this constitute heresy or false prophecy in violation of the core doctrines of the Faith?

Yes. This illustrates one way to test visions; are they biblical? If not they can be immediately discounted. This vision was part of a prophecy about how Hinn was going to lead the nations to Christ.

And after I sang the song in the presence of Jehovah, suddenly I was walking on this wide avenue that went up a hill, and as I began to walk on this wide avenue ... I'm singing now the song, (Sings) Jesus, Jesus, Jesus there is something about that name. (Talks) And as I sang the song Jesus, suddenly I saw these nations coming right there towards me, I'm walking up the hill their coming down the hill. Nations, groups of individuals dressed in their, in their, what do you call the, the, native garbs, native costumes and I recognized them by their clothing. I saw Europeans, I saw Arabs, I saw others and they were coming in groups and as they heard (Sings) Jesus (Talks) every nation one by one began to fall and worship God. (TBN, "Praise The Lord", 12/29/02)

The fact that Hinn's vision has God somewhere other than on His throne is an indication of the source of Hinn's vision. There is certainly one entity that would like nothing better than to see God off His throne. That one is the same one who was thrown out of heaven for declaring:

Is. 14:12-15 *How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You*

said in your heart, "**I will** ascend to heaven; **I will** raise my throne above the stars of God; **I will** sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. **I will** ascend above the tops of the clouds; **I will** make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.

This vision is proven to be unbiblical in many respects, including the one we just examined, so this prophecy is not from God, as advertised, but either from Hinn's fertile imagination or from demonic sources, or both. In any case it is a false prophecy.

CONCLUSION

2 Pet. 2:1 *But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them— bringing swift destruction on themselves.*

The reason to stay away from false teachers and false prophets is that they are introducing heresy into the belief systems of Christians. When heresy and false teaching has come to full flower, it is destructive.

2 Tim. 2:15-19 *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."*

Here is the crux of what I have been saying. We must study God's Word so that we can correctly handle it and use it. We do this in the face of many false prophets who have gone out to deceive Christians whose faith can be destroyed by heresy. What is the solution? Paul says two things. First, God knows those who are His. We can depend on God bringing us to eternal life with Him if we continue to trust Him. But there is something we must "do". We must confess the name of Jesus Christ, preach the Gospel, and turn away from wickedness. To turn away from wickedness we must know what wickedness is. We must be able to discern between right and wrong. The only way to do that is to grow to maturity in Christ.