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The New Age Movement

What is the “New Age Movement”? A common college dictionary defines it thus: “A contemporary cultural movement characterized by a concern with spiritual consciousness and variously combining belief in reincarnation and astrology with such practices as meditation, vegetarianism, and holistic medicine.”¹ Hence, the “New Age movement” may be classified as a rather loose-knit anti-Christian cult. In the first section of this paper, these definitions and the various properties of the “New Age Movement”, hereafter abbreviated “NAM”, will be examined. Section two of this paper will consider the effects of the NAM on society in general; section three will address the NAM’s effects on some groups that call themselves Christian Churches; and in section four we will contemplate the response that true Christians are to have to the New Age Movement.

I. The New Age Movement defined in detail

The NAM is not a church denomination but is a belief system. The New Age Movement is actually not “new” in one respect: its teachings are nothing but a revival of ancient heresies and thus the NAM is just one more religion of works. The NAM “is rooted in Eastern/occult mysticism and pantheistic monism. Theosophy, transcendentalism, and Spiritualism were forerunners... The New Age Movement is an informal network of cults and other groups that share the common belief in a coming ‘New Age’ of peace and enlightenment. The foundational belief is that all is One, and this One is God.”² The NAM is nothing more than a revival of ancient occultism. “It holds ties to Sumerian, Indian, Egyptian, Chaldean, Babylonian, and Persian religious practices.”³

The Bible teaches that there is one true God, the Triune God— three distinct Persons and yet one divine essence, one Godhead: “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.” (1 John 5:7) “As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol *is* nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.” (1 Corinthians 8:4) “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” (Matthew 28:19) “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is one LORD.*” (Deuteronomy 6:4) Contrary to Holy Scripture, the NAM views God as pantheistic; Pantheism – the belief that all is God – “denies the personality of God”⁴ and “destroys the personality of man, who becomes merely a part of the whole.”⁵ Thus we see that the NAM is indeed an anti-Trinitarian, anti-Christian cult.

At this point we will consider the doctrines of the NAM from those who have declared themselves to be New Age writers. Earlier it was stated that people of the NAM practice spiritualism (the supposed communication with the spirits of the dead), which today also goes by the term “channeling”. “The late Jane Roberts was used to channel a disembodied entity named Seth. This is a thumbnail sketch of Seth’s concept of God: ‘He is not one individual, but an energy gestalt... a psychic pyramid of interrelated, ever-expanding consciousness that creates, simultaneously and instantaneously, universes and individuals that are given – through the gift of personal perspective – duration, psychic comprehension, intelligence, and external validity. This absolute, ever-expanding, instantaneous

psychic gestalt, which you may call God if you prefer, is so secure in its existence that it can constantly break itself down and rebuild itself.”⁶

God’s Word has something to say about Spiritualism and other occult practices: “There shall not be found among you *any one* that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, *or* that useth divination, *or* an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things *are* an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.” (Deuteronomy 18:10-12) “And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them.” (Isaiah 8:19-20) “Ye shall not eat *any thing* with the blood: neither shall ye use enchantment, nor observe times... Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I *am* the LORD your God.” (Leviticus 19:26, 31)

Those who choose to ignore God and practice devilish arts (sorcery, witchcraft, spiritualism, channeling, seances, fortune tellers, Ouija boards, etc.) will bear the consequences, as we read in Galatians 5:19-21, “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” Likewise, Revelation 21:8 declares: “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

Another NAM writer, Benjamin Creme, states: “In a sense there is no such thing as God, God does not exist. And in another sense, there is nothing else but God— only God exists... all is God. And because all is God, there is no God.”⁷ The Bible answers in Psalm 14:1, “The fool hath said in his heart, *There is* no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *there is* none that doeth good.” Mr. Creme and those like him will find out soon enough that there is a God when they must stand before Him on Judgment Day, as 2 Corinthians 5:10 relates: “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.”

New Age writer David Spangler says of Christ: “What is the Christ? Within all life there exists a quality, an energy, which has as its basic characteristic irresistible growth, irresistible and inevitable expression of divinity... The Christ is the basic evolutionary force within creation... The true birth of Christ was not the birth of Jesus... Jesus was an ideal Jew, born in Bethlehem of Judea... Jesus differed but little from other children only that in past lives he had overcome carnal propensities to such an extent that he could be tempted like others and not yield... Jesus was a remarkable child, for by ages of strenuous preparation he was qualified to be an avatar, a saviour of the world, and from childhood he was endowed with superior wisdom and was conscious of the fact that he was competent to lead the raid into higher ways of spiritual living...”⁸ In the eyes of David Spangler and the NAM, Jesus is nothing more than “a saviour”, one among many, a man who has gradually gotten better with each life he lived as he has been reincarnated many times. It is apparent that the NAM definitely has roots in the old religious system of Hinduism with its doctrine of reincarnation and teaching that “...man is not outside,

but part of Brahman”⁹ – Brahman being the Hindu name for God. In some ways, the NAM’s idea of Jesus Christ reflects Islamic beliefs, for Islam views Jesus as a good man who “accomplished many wonderful miracles”¹⁰, and as just one of many prophets “although not as great as Muhammed”¹¹.

Regarding reincarnation, the Holy Bible has this to say concerning any possibility of such a thing: “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). Consider also the account of the rich man and Lazarus, Luke 16:19-31, “There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.”

Furthermore, it is totally anti-scriptural and ridiculous to believe that men can live or have lived other lives as animals, birds, insects and so forth because man has an immortal soul and animals do not, for Ecclesiastes 3:19-21 relates: “For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all *is* vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?” So, the spirit of an animal is quite a different thing than man’s spirit, hence no one should look at a cow and think that it’s grandma.

The NAM belief system also includes the view that “all religions are true (universalism)”¹², yet our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ says: “...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6) There is ONLY ONE TRUE religion and that is the Christian religion! Yes, contrary to what the NAM teaches, Jesus is the ONLY Savior and Jesus IS TRUE GOD and TRUE MAN. Colossians 2:8-9 warns and instructs: “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.” Philippians 3:20 informs us, “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ”, note well the Savior, not a Savior. Acts 4:12, speaking of the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, declares: “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” That is the fact: JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONLY SAVIOR from sin, death and the devil.

The disciples of the NAM also hold that “a new world order is coming”¹³. The followers of the

NAM are looking for a coming era of worldly peace and prosperity also known as the “Age of Aquarius” as a somewhat popular song from years ago called it. New Age writers have put it this way: “The Aquarian Age is preeminently a spiritual age, and the spiritual side of the great lessons that Jesus gave to the world may now be comprehended by multitudes of people, for the many are now coming into the advanced stage of spiritual consciousness...”¹⁴. “As we enter into the new Age, what we are entering into is a cycle, a period of time, a period of unfoldment when truly humanity is the world initiate, the world savior, and ultimately it is upon the shoulders of humanity that the future and the translation for the entry into light of this planet rest... Its meaning as a new age is that for the first time in human history we have a chance to take up a conscious creative recognition of this fact and can begin acting upon it. Up to this time we have moved with evolution. Now comes the time to become the servants of evolution and through our own consciousness to release the light, the love, and the wisdom that will bring our renunciation of spiritual estate (i.e. an attitude of self-sacrifice, to ‘give up the good order to get the best’) to its fruition in the occult redemption of the world.”¹⁵

The NAM, like millennialists, are looking for good-times, peace, and perfection in this sin-sick world, but the Bible tells us that this world will only grow worse and worse as the Day of Judgment approaches! “For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.” (1 Thessalonians 5:3)

St. Matthew describes the “last days” thus: “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here *is* Christ, or there; believe *it* not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, *he is* in the secret chambers; believe *it* not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other... But as the days of Noe *were*, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” (Matthew 24:21-31; 37-39)

At the return and appearing of Jesus Christ comes the Judgment Day, which the Bible describes as follows: “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world... Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels... And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous

into life eternal.” (Matthew 25:31-34; 41, 46)

There is a fire-storm coming soon upon this planet, as 2 Peter 3:10 relates: “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” But we Christians await much better things, as Scripture informs us: “Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” (2 Peter 3:13)

Having viewed the main tenets of the New Age Movement, we have plainly seen that the NAM offers another God, another Jesus, and another gospel than does the Christian religion. The NAM is DANGEROUS! In Holy Scripture the apostle Paul admonishes: “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*.” (2 Corinthians 11:3-4) “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.” (Galatians 1:6-9)

The New Age Movement uses certain terminology that has crept into daily use in American vernacular, some of these terms have already been alluded to and others will be examined in the remaining sections of this paper. Some NAM terms are *Christian terms that have been given a new and DIFFERENT meaning*. The most common and familiar NAM terms are as follows¹⁶:

- [A] Age of Aquarius (a period of 2000 to 2400 years of which will supposedly be characterized by a heightened degree of spiritual or cosmic consciousness), Alpha (the physical body), Animism (the belief that inanimate things possess a soul or spirit), Aura (radiated glow or halo surrounding living beings), Avatar (a person who descends into human form from above as a manifestation of divinity)
- [B] Bhagavad Gita (Hindu sacred scripture), Blood of Christ (... the “life-energy” of the Cosmic Christ), Buddha (“The Enlightened One”, An avatar or messenger)
- [C] Channeling (a New Age form of mediumship or spiritism), Chinook Learning Community (a New Age educational community located in the Pacific Northwest), Clairvoyance (ability to see mentally without using eyes), Control (the spirit that sends messages through a medium in a trance), Cosmic Christ (considered to be a universal spirit or a cosmic force... impersonal)
- [D] Deja Vu (the feeling of having already experienced and event or place that is being encountered for the first time)
- [E] Esoteric Christianity (a mystical form of Christianity [?] that sees its ‘core truth’ as identical to the ‘core truth’ of every other religion [universalism]), Exoteric Christianity (a form of Christianity identified with historic or orthodox Christianity that New Agers would describe as being devoid of all spiritual authenticity), ESP (extrasensory perception encompassing paranormal abilities such as telepathy, precognition, and clairvoyance)
- [F] Fall of Man (refers to the fall of man’s consciousness... a fallen consciousness is one that recognizes the existence of only the material realm), Findhorn Community (New Age community located in the north of Scotland)
- [G] Gaia (name for the goddess of the earth), Globalism (term referring to the need for a transformation

from the present nation-state divisions into a one-world community [New World Order]), God (a being who has many faces... an impersonal force), Guru (teacher or master)

[H] Holistic Health (sees the body as an interrelated organism...its goal is to treat the whole person – body, mind, and spirit – as opposed to merely treating a particular sickness)

[I] Inner Self/Higher Self (refers to the inner divine nature [supposedly] possessed by human beings), Interdependence/Interconnectedness (describes the oneness and essential unity of everything in the universe)

[J] Jesus (an avatar [see avatar above])

[K] Karma (refers to the “debt” accumulated against a soul as a result of good or bad actions committed during one’s life– or lives)

[L] Levitation (raising objects or people off the ground without using physical energy), Lucis Trust (originally incorporated as Lucifer Publishing Company)

[M] Medium (a psychic or sensitive living person whose body is used as a vehicle for communicating with spirits), Metaphysics (the science of the supernatural), Monism (a metaphysical theory that sees all of reality as a unified whole... made of the same stuff)

[N] Nirvana (liberation from earthly things; paradise), Numerology (the analysis of hidden or prophetic meanings of numbers), [New World Order (see One Worlders & Globalism)]

[O] Occultism (belief in supernatural forces and beings), Om (a word symbolizing Brahma, the Creator God), One Worlders (those who advocate the abolition of nations, working to hand over power to a single-world government [the New World order, Globalism]), Out-of-body-experience (leaving the physical body while at rest, asleep, near death, or temporarily dead)

[P] Pantheism (identifies God with the whole universe [all is God]), Paranormal (beyond or above normal human powers or senses), Paradigm Shift (refers to a shift in world views), Pentagram (five pointed star used in magical ceremonies... a Satanic symbol), Planetization (unifying the world into a corporate brotherhood), Psychic Energy (energy that enables people to do miracles)

[R] Reincarnation (refers to the [supposed] cyclical evolution of a person’s soul as it repeatedly passes from one body to another), Retrocognition (knowledge of past events learned paranormally)

[S] Seance (a gathering of people seeking communication with deceased [persons] ...through a medium), Second Coming of Christ (the coming of the Cosmic Christ in all of humanity [or] ... the appearance of Maitreya [a person who made his “appearance” in 1977] as the avatar of this age), Shaman (medicine man or witch doctor), Spirit Guide (a spiritual entity who provides information [we Christians recognize it as a devil]), Spiritualist or Spiritist (person who believes in the ability to contact departed souls), Syncretism (the attempt to combine differing religious systems [ecumenism, unionism])

[T] Taoism (Chinese religion and philosophy that sees the universe as engaged in ceaseless motion and activity... the process is described in terms of “yin” and “yang”), Tarot Cards (deck of seventy-eight cards that supposedly reveal the secrets of man and the universe), Telepathy (communication between minds by extrasensory means), Tetragram (a magic diagram shaped as a four-pointed star), Theosophy (a school of thought founded by Helena P. Blavatsky. The term literally means “divine wisdom”. The goals of Theosophy are to: form a universal brotherhood; do comparative study of world religions, science, and philosophy; and, investigate the psychic and spiritual powers latent in man. Theosophy is the forerunner of much New Age thought), Third Eye (an imaginary eye in the forehead believed to be the center of psychic vision), Trance (mental state... during which the conscious mind rests while the spirit entity [devil] takes over the medium’s body)

[U] UFO (unidentified flying object), Unity-in-Diversity Council (a New Age “meta-network” of over 100 networks and groups rallying for global cooperation and interdependence)

[V] Veda (the most ancient of the Hindu scriptures), Visualization (also known as “guided imagery”...

basically refers to “mind over matter”... the attempt to bring about change in the material realm by the power of the mind)

[W] Warlock (wizard or sorcerer; a male witch), World Goodwill (a New Age political lobby)

[Y] Yin/Yang (Chinese names referring to the active and passive principals of the universe. “Yin” refers to the female or inactive, negative force; “Yang” refers to the male of active force. These two forces [are said to] continually interplay with each other. The words are used to describe the constant flow of motion and change in the universe– the “Tao”), Yoga (a means of becoming united with the supreme being or with the universal soul), Yogi (someone who practices yoga)

Note to the reader: To help with your understanding, the preceding NAM terms and definitions may be referred to as you continue reading this paper.

Now that the NAM has been defined in detail as to its roots, teachings, and terminology, we will proceed with part two:

II. The New Age Movement’s effects on society in general

The NAM has affected the schools in our country– public and private. Christian moral values have been removed from the majority of textbooks used in today’s schools. So-called “values clarification” is being taught in the classroom: “Values clarification was pioneered by Louis E. Rath and Sidney B. Simon. The goal of values clarification is to involve students in practical experiences, making them aware of their own feelings, their own ideas, their own beliefs, so that the choices and decisions they make are conscious and deliberate, based on their own value systems.”¹⁷ In response to the idea of “values clarification”, Richard A. Baer wrote in the Wall Street Journal, April 12, 1982, “...If parents object to their children using pot or engaging in premarital sex, the theory behind values clarification makes it appropriate for the child to respond, ‘But that’s just *your* value judgment. Don’t force it on me.’”¹⁸

Values clarification is indeed being taught in America’s schools today! For example, so-called safe-sex is taught instead of the Biblical rule of no sex outside of marriage. The Bible says, “Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.” (Hebrews 13:4) Additionally, students are being instructed to view homosexuality or lesbianism as an acceptable alternative lifestyle, rather than being taught that such things are unnatural and sinful. Holy Writ states: “Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it *is* abomination. Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it *is* confusion. Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you.” (Leviticus 18:22-24) “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

Children and young adults are continually being taught to look to themselves with self-worth, self-esteem, and self-glorification. “In a Los Angeles public school classroom, 25 first graders lie still as their teacher tells them to imagine they are perfect beings who are full of light and who contain all the wisdom of the universe within them. This exercise in guided imagery is part of educator Beverly Galyean’s curriculum... and reflects her belief that we all are God.”¹⁹ Meditation – in the Eastern sense

of the word – is also being taught in classrooms these days, that is, the emptying of the mind. “One book that made its way into a California school district is entitled *Meditating With Children: The Art of Concentrating and Centering*, by Deborah Rozman.”²⁰ Globalism is being taught in schools as well; the periodical ‘Social Education’, February 1983 issue, stated in an article entitled ‘Global Issues in the Intermediate School’: “Most educators agree that children should be introduced to global perspectives as early as possible, certainly before the onset of puberty when ethnocentrism and stereotypical thinking tend to increase dramatically.”²¹ Holy Scripture gives us the only true view of “self”: “...GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.” (Genesis 6:5) “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23) The Bible also has something to say about “Globalism”– the idea of one, big, tolerant, happy society of peace and prosperity on this earth: “*There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.*” (Isaiah 48:22) “For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.” (1 Thessalonians 5:3)

Then there is the New Age practice of “yoga” which has become popular in many health clubs and also in schools; many American citizens are unaware of what yoga is and what its roots are– Yoga is distinctly Hindu in origin. Hinduism is one of the world’s major religions especially popular in India. “Hinduism gave birth to Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. Many cults and sects in America, including New Age Philosophy, are based on Hindu doctrines”.²² Yoga is defined as: “The Hindu path of union with the divine. Any sort of exercise (physical, mental, or spiritual) which promotes one’s journey to union with Brahma.”²³

A still more detailed description of Yoga is: “Background is Hinduism. The practice of yoga, with its various postures and exercises, [supposedly] leads man to self-liberation and god-realization. The purpose of all yoga is to unite man with the Cosmic Consciousness, or that spark of divinity that each [supposedly] possesses. Teaches reincarnation. There are four [main] forms of yoga: (1) Karma Yoga teaches spiritual union by right conduct; (2) Bhakti Yoga teaches union with the Absolute by devotion to a guru; (3) Juana Yoga teaches access to God through knowledge; and (4) Raja Yoga teaches god-realization through mental control. The most familiar in the West is Hatha Yoga, a subdivision of Raja Yoga. Its eight stages are: body purification, postures, postures to produce psychic energy, breath control, stilling the mind, concentration, meditation, and union with God. Sacred writing is the *Upanishads* and other Hindu Vedic scriptures.”²⁴ Consequently, it is obvious that yoga is not simply an exercise program of physical fitness, but yoga is unchristian because it teaches people to seek God and peace by their own works, to look within themselves to find God, and to study Hindu writings rather than the Holy Bible.

God’s true Word appropriately comments regarding “finding peace”, “self esteem”, “meditation”, “yoga exercises”, the “Hindu scriptures”, and the like, as follows:

- (1) “But refuse profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise thyself *rather* unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.” (1 Timothy 4:7-9) All the bodily exercise and breathing exercises in the world won’t save a soul or bring anyone closer to God!
- (2) “My flesh and my heart faileth: *but* God *is* the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever. For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee. But *it is* good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy

works.” (Psalm 73:26-28) Trust in the true Triune God brings eternal benefits for He is forever strong; on the other hand, our bodies and hearts will fail us.

(3) “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7) The *only* kinds of worthwhile meditation are study of God’s Word, prayer, and other Biblically prescribed acts of worship to the true God, Who gives us real peace in Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord!

(4) “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.” (James 4:8-10) If a person really wants to be close to God then one must repent of his or her sins and approach the Lord in humble, sincere faith! Holy Writ plainly declares: “...The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel... He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mark 1:15; 16:16) “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

The NAM is also having an effect on government and politics. New Agers are trying to force their teaching of Globalism into government through political lobbies and by seeking to elect politicians that share their views. “New Agers are working toward a centralizing of power on a global level... New Age political methodology... is both *outwardly aggressive* and *quietly subtle* in its penetration of society.”²⁵ The truth of the matter can be seen if we consider some of the names of some rather well-known New Age Groups which one hears mentioned in the News media fairly regularly: The Green Party, Greenpeace U.S.A., Planetary Citizens, and The Unity-in-Diversity Counsel. More than one of our nation’s leaders has used the term “New World Order” to describe their hopes for a united, peaceful planet, so it is evident that the NAM’s political agenda has spread far and wide. “New Agers may differ over such questions as when the New Age begins, whether it will be preceded by a worldwide cataclysm, how it will be politically structured, whether there will be a Christ-figure governing it, or who the true avatars [god-men] or messengers from the spirit world are. Nonetheless, they agree that they can hasten the new order that they all await by cooperating to influence developments in our culture’s political, economic, social, and spiritual life.”²⁶

The Bible informs us that society on this present earth will never improve to the point where all men become socially and economically equal, and complete worldly peace is realized: “For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always.” (Mark 14:7) Thus, we see that social and economic inequality will always be in this world. “From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come* they not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members?” (James 4:1) As long as sinful lust remains in man there will be wars and fighting, not peace and tranquility! The Lord Jesus tells us: “...in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33) We Christians can rejoice because we have real inner peace in Jesus, even though we know that in this world there is only unrest.

The NAM has made many inroads into health care services and medicine. Clinics and hospitals can be found throughout the country which promote “holistic health”. Holistic health is based on the principal of “holism” – “the view that an organic or integrated whole has an independent reality which cannot be understood simply through and understanding of its parts”²⁷ Consequently, holistic health

“...Generally refers to health care that involves the whole person. Health is viewed as more than the absence of disease. Individuals are held responsible for their own health or sickness and are referred to as clients. People are viewed more as energy than as matter. Natural forms of healing are promoted rather than drugs and surgery; there is a disdain for conventional medicine. Tools and practices include acupressure, acupuncture, applied kinesiology, aromatherapy, Ayurveda, bioenergetic analysis, biofeedback, body-work therapies, channeling, chromotherapy, crystal therapy, do’in, functional integration, guided imagery, homeopathy, iridology, macrobiotics, mandala drawing, nutritional therapy, orgonomy, polarity therapy, psychic healing, reflexology, Reiki, rolfing, shiatsu, Therapeutic Touch, Transcendental Meditation, visualization, yoga, and zone therapy. Some chiropractics and osteopaths (though certainly not all) provide some of these alternative therapies...”²⁸ Most of us will certainly recognize a few of the healing methods mentioned in the preceding quote as being practiced by some in our local medical communities. Holistic health fails to recognize sin as the cause for all of man’s ills, and fails to recognize the Lord God as the only true healer of man’s physical and spiritual sicknesses. It is also true that much of the traditional medical community also does not recognize man’s sin as the root cause of ill health, nor does it recognize the true God as the Great Physician. Nevertheless, traditional medicine does not propound the pagan spiritual exercises that holistic health does.

The Holy Bible encourages prayer and application of medicine to the sick, as we read in James 5:14-15, “Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.” Whether the medicines used are prescription drugs or herbal based remedies, we must always remember that ultimately all healing comes from the Lord, as Psalm 103:2-3 informs us: “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.”

Having examined some of the NAM’s effects on society in general – in education, politics, and health care – we will proceed with part three:

III. The New Age Movement’s effects on some groups that call themselves Christian Churches

Many NAM teachings have been embraced by churches which call themselves Christian and we will examine a number of these. (Please refer back to section one of this paper for details on the NAM teachings, and Scripture proof refuting the NAM’s false doctrines.)

The first false NAM teaching that we will examine as propounded by some churches which call themselves Christian is the DENIAL of the TRUE GOD– the denial of the orthodox Biblical doctrine of the Holy Trinity. So-called “Christian Science” denies the true God and holds to pantheism, the notion that all is God. Mary Baker Eddy can be called the founder of Christian Science, and she wrote a book called “Science and Health” which is regarded by her followers as the “Key to the Scriptures”. “Science and Health” has this to say about God: “God is incorporeal, divine, supreme, infinite Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principal... Life, Truth, and love are the triune Principal called God.”²⁹

The doctrine of the Holy Trinity is also denied in the official teachings of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). The primary theological textbook used in ELCA seminaries is “Christian Dogmatics, by Braaten/Jenson” and it says (vol.1 pg.155): “Truly, the Trinity is simply the Father and

the man Jesus and their Spirit as the Spirit of the believing community.”³⁰ Dr. Paul Jersild, an ELCA professor wrote in his book “Invitation to Faith”: “The formulation of the Trinity as a doctrine is *not* found in the New Testament. It was hammered out during the fourth century in what is called the Trinitarian Controversy... *nor* is the language of the fourth century dogma to be regarded as sacred and absolute.”³¹ The same type of anti-trinitarian stand can be viewed in many churches and denominations today because liberalism has permeated the vast majority of seminaries and Bible schools.

The second false NAM teaching which we will examine, that is held by some churches calling themselves Christian, is the DENIAL of Holy Writ’s teaching concerning the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Seventh-day Adventism has a decidedly different view of the Person and work of Jesus Christ than does orthodox Christianity, “...the Adventists teach that Christ took a polluted human nature: ‘In His humanity Christ partook of our sinful, fallen nature. If not, then He was not made like unto His brethren, was not in all points tempted like as we are, did not overcome as we have to overcome, and is not therefore, the complete and perfect Saviour man needs and must have to be saved’ (Bible Readings for the Home Circle, 1915 ed., p.115). ‘Our Saviour took humanity, with all its liabilities. He took the nature of man, with the possibility of yielding to temptation’ (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of The Ages*, p.117). ...‘we dissent from the view that atonement was made upon the cross’ (Fundamental Principals, p.2). ... ‘Before He takes His throne as King, He will make the great atonement... and their sins will be blotted out’ (Fundamental Principals).”³²

The Scriptural doctrines concerning the Person and work of Jesus Christ are also denied by the ELCA. Christian Dogmatics by Braaten/Jenson (vol.1, pp.71, 528, 529), the primary theological textbook used in the ELCA’s seminaries, states: “...ecclesiastical dogmas are not to be found in the Bible, but are products of a later time. In the age of Christendom, the dogmas of the Trinity and Christ, as formulated in the Nicene and Athanasian creeds, were necessary to believe for salvation. Now the biblical critics could apply the Scripture-principle of Protestantism to show that these dogmas lack solid biblical support... The story of Christ in the Gospels is a mixture of historical events and mythological symbols. The purpose of the myth is to interpret the significance of the events... Myth and its symbols are indispensable to express the reality of God in the person of Jesus.”³³ God’s Word has something to say to all such blasphemous unbelievers: “Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell *you* the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God’s words: ye therefore hear *them* not, because ye are not of God.” (John 8:42-47)

What is the official teaching of the ELCA regarding Jesus’ vicarious atonement, Jesus paying for the sins of the world with His holy, precious blood? The ELCA’s primary theological textbook, Christian Dogmatics by Braaten/Jenson informs us: “...Scripture *never* speaks of God as one who has to be satisfied or propitiated before being merciful or forgiving. Jesus himself, though he *might* have and quite *possibly* did reckon with a violent death at the hands of his adversaries, seems not to have understood or interpreted his own death as a sacrifice for others or ransom for sin. Such interpretation apparently came as the result of later reflection... A new understanding of the nature of that sacrifice is demanded...”³⁴ It should not now be a surprise to the reader to learn that the ELCA officially denies the

bodily resurrection of Jesus too. A primary ELCA adult Bible study program called “Search”, reports in its unit six Leader’s Guide (pp.75-76), by Dr. Donald H. Juel: “The Gospels include only a small portion of what we know was a large collection of Easter *stories*... They were telling the good news for their particular audience. These accounts were *not* meant to be journalistic reports of facts.”³⁵ The Scriptures in many places teach the very doctrines that the unbelievers deny! For example, 1 John 4:9-10 relates: “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.” And, Hebrews 9:22-28 declares: “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. *It was* therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.” Therefore, we see that in essence the official position of the ELCA is to deny that the Nicene and Athanasian Creeds state the truth of the Holy Scriptures and to deny the Words of the Bible itself! The official position of the ELCA and others which share their beliefs is thus shown to be NEW AGE and UNCHRISTIAN.

The third false NAM teaching and practice held by some churches which call themselves Christian is syncretism, also known as religious unionism or the ecumenical movement. Religious unionism is joint worship and church-work between churches and church-bodies that are not in doctrinal agreement. Unionistic practices are very common today as can be seen if you look at the church page in just about any local newspaper. Joint worship services during the holidays are very popular. United “mission work” such as food and clothing drives, quilting clubs and so forth are frequently advertised. Open Communion and pulpit swapping between various denominations has become common. Look around and you will see liberal Lutherans, Presbyterians, Methodists, Roman Catholics, Community Churches, and many others worshiping and working together, despite the fact that Holy Scripture commands, “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.” (Romans 16:17) Already in November of 1980 a newspaper reported a joint worship service between ALC Lutherans, LCA Lutherans, and Roman Catholics.³⁶ A 1974 Christian News article described and photographed a unique joint worship service in Deltona Florida, where Jewish and Christian congregations worshiped together using the cross and the Torah, temple prayer books and Christian hymnals.³⁷ Even so-called ‘conservative’ Lutheran bodies are practicing unionism; for example, according to a 1995 Christian News letter to the editor, the WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod), the LCMS (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod), and the ultra liberal ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) were working closely on evangelism and worship, and then the same article went on to state that “WELS and the LCMS are also working together with ELCA on the Joy religious radio show and the Church Membership Initiative.”³⁸ Yes, New Age principals have made rapid headway into many churches which call themselves Christian.

What is the common denominator or main reason for the promulgation and acceptance of NAM beliefs within many churches which claim the name “Christian”? The rejection of the authority of

God's Word and the acceptance of substitutes such as a pope or a claimed direct revelation of the Spirit. The throwing aside of the Holy Bible in favor of other "authorities" is in itself another NAM teaching! "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them." (Isaiah 8:20) "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you." (Deuteronomy 4:2) "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." (Romans 15:4) Again and again God directs us to His infallible Holy Word and commands us not to tamper with it by adding or taking away from it!

God instructs and warns: "The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What *is* the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD. *Is* not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer *that* breaketh the rock in pieces? Therefore, behold, I *am* against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour. Behold, I *am* against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use their tongues, and say, He saith. Behold, I *am* against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD." (Jeremiah 23:28-32)

With the foregoing words of Scripture in mind, the next point to be considered in this paper is how NAM terminology and doctrines are reflected in modern Bible translations. That statement may shock a few readers at first, but its truth will be demonstrated shortly. Be aware that I am not saying that *all* the people who worked on the new Bible translations *purposely* used New Age wording – only God knows who did – but quite frankly, in my opinion, most modern Bible translators didn't know what they were doing in most facets of their work. Be that as it may, examples of NAM terms and teachings in modern Bible translations will follow after a few introductory remarks.

Earlier in this paper the reader was informed that spiritualism is a practice which New Agers dabble in. Interestingly, "The Greek text used to translate the NIV [New International Version], NASB [New American Standard Bible] and others was an edition drastically altered by a Spiritualist (one who seeks contact with the dead through seances), who believed he was in the "new age" [Arthur Westcott, *The Life and Letters of Brook Foss Westcott*, Vol II (London: Macmillan and Co., Limited, 1903), p.252]"³⁹ If the Westcott & Hort Greek text is compared with the Nestle/Aland 27th edition (which is the most modern Greek text currently in print) very little difference between the two actually exists – the word count of both is considerably less than that of any edition of the Greek Textus Receptus. Furthermore, the shortened Greek texts are united in deleting and changing a great number of passages concerning the deity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Remember, the NAM does not think much of Jesus because they believe that there are many ways to heaven, despite the fact that Jesus says: "...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)

NAM spokespersons want their unionist "one world religion" and they aim to have it by changing the Bible. "New Age leader, Vera Alder, forecasts: 'From all archaeological archives... and the illuminations of modern science and discovery... the Research Panel would develop a new 'Bible' of a World Religion which will be the basis of future education.' [When Humanity Comes of Age, p.39] To equalize the pagan and 'Christian' elements in this synthesized religion, two groups of documents arise. *Toward a World Religion for a New Age* reveals: 'In this century religious data previously

unavailable has been found. Among these are [1] the Dead Sea Scrolls, [2] Christian writings deleted from the bible during the 4th century. Probably much of this knowledge could be advantageously used in synthesizing the major religions with a World Religion for the New Age.' [cited in Dark Secrets of the New Age, p.182]"⁴⁰ Hence it is evident that a "Bible" that would be acceptable to ALL religions and persons is a New Age goal, and in order to accomplish such a goal any wording considered *offensive* must be deleted.

In the past, the Lord has dealt with the NAM type of attitude that people had towards Him and His Word, for He instructed Isaiah to write: "Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever: That this *is* a rebellious people, lying children, children *that* will not hear the law of the LORD: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us. Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon: Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant." (Isaiah 30:8-13) Rest assured that when the time is right the Lord God will deal appropriately with the New Agers who despise Him and pervert His Word, just as He dealt with rebellious Israel.

NAM founders, leaders, and sympathizers *hate* the King James Version of the Bible. Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, cofounder of the Theosophy movement, which was forerunner to the New Age Movement, wrote of the KJV: "The English translation of the bible can never be relied upon. [The Secret Doctrine, Vol. II, p.798, The Theosophical Publishing House, London, 1893]"⁴¹ Professor Armin J. Panning of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) denounced the KJV with the following words: "The number of modern translations available today is eloquent testimony that we have passed the day when one version will be accepted by all English-speaking people as the authorized version... Among the reasons given for producing modern translations, there is invariably included some reference to the difficulty of the KJV English... Another claim made for modern versions is that they reflect an updated text. Particularly for the New Testament a great number of Greek manuscripts have been discovered since 1611. Generally where the manuscripts differ, the more recently discovered texts tend to be shorter than the Received Text (*Textus Receptus*) which underlies the KJV. Hence some passages included in the KJV do not appear in the modern translations... Also, there has been progress in understanding the original languages... strides have been made in understanding the Greek way of thinking... fortunately the weaknesses in translation which the KJV displays do not affect its doctrinal content..."⁴² Thus we see a conservative (?) WELS professor praising the modern Greek texts and new translations while declaring the KJV's English "difficult" and the translation as having "weaknesses". (The claims of "difficulty" in the KJV English will be addressed shortly)

The conservative (?) WELS suggests that the NIV is a better Bible translation and suitable replacement for the KJV. Professor John C. Jeske of the WELS did not have one negative comment to make about the NIV in his review of it; he says: "The NIV is a fresh translation of the Bible from Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek... The beginnings of the NIV go back to 1965, when a group of biblical scholars met in Chicago... They were convinced that the archaic language of the *King James Version* was making it unacceptable for communicating the gospel in the 20th Century... The NIV will be as useful for liturgical purposes as it will be for private devotion and study."⁴³ The fact is that the NIV is one of the poorest translations to ever see the light of day! The NIV is based on the Westcott/Hort type

of Greek text in the New Testament and its Old Testament is based on a variety of sources, so the NIV has a faulty foundation as well as being chock-full of paraphrase. For those readers who are not familiar with the NIV's manifold shortcomings, I urge you to acquire a copy of the book "Comparisons", which has been reprinted by the ILC.

It is often said that the KJV is difficult to read because of so-called "archaic" language, and such comments are meant to infer that modern Bible translations are *easier* to read, yet the reverse is actually the case— and that is not just my opinion. It has been scientifically proven that the KJV is actually easier to read than most modern versions of the Bible! Educators and departments of the U.S. government use certain computer programs to determine the readability of written material. Computers do not have the biased opinions that human beings have, so the results are indeed scientific. Readability programs that indicate the Flesch-Kincaid level, the Flesch Reading Ease level, and the Gunning's Fog index were used in several studies to examine the KJV, the NIV, and other modern Bible translations. The KJV scored at or near the top in every test for reading ease!

Donald A. Waite, Jr., B.A., M.A., M.L.A., is one gentleman who conducted such research as mentioned above, and in the conclusion of his well-documented and supported book he says: "***The average KJV word is short.*** The entire KJV averages 1.31 syllables and 3.968 letters per word. This word length puts the KJV in the same readability category as children's books... 88.30% of the KJV's words (first) contain six letters or less. For the NT 97% of its words (first tie) contain eight letters or less. ***The KJV's average sentence, although moderate in length, is within Pro-scribes guidelines for 'clear and effective writing.'*** ... ***The KJV did extremely well in the average, four program, Entire Bible scores...*** No other version did as well over-all in the entire Bible readability scores— none! ...***In the 66-book averages, the KJV again did extremely well.*** The **F-K** average was **6.20 (first tie)**. **63.3%** of its book scores were *first or second* places (NIV=37.9%). The **GFI** average was **8.63 (first)**— **71%** *first or second* (NIV=40.9%). And its **FRE** average was **78.73 (first)**— **62.1%** *first or second* (22.7% NIV). Again not a single version equaled or surpassed this excellent record."⁴⁴ So, do not buy into the unsubstantiated rhetoric of liberals, modernists, and New Agers!

We will now look at some examples of New Age phraseology in the NIV and the NASB and contrast their wording with the wording found in the KJV.

NIV Luke 11:2-4 He said to them, "When you pray, say: "[?] Father, [?] hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. [?] Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.[?] "'

KJV Luke 11:2-4 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

Comment: Notice how the Lord's prayer is butchered in the NIV. In the NIV the reader no longer knows what "Father" is meant. New Agers believe in a "Father", as Helena Petrovna Blavatsky wrote: "**Satan** the serpent of Genesis... the real creator and benefactor, the **Father** of Spiritual Mankind."⁴⁵ Deliverance from evil is not something the NAM and its adherents want, for they do not see things as black and white (good and evil) but rather as one big grey area.

NAS Luke 10:16 "The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me."

KJV Luke 10:16 He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.

Comment: The NAS does not want God referred to as "him", despite the fact that the Greek here is masculine and not neuter. New Bible translations unite in replacing male pronouns with neuter terminology in many places when referring to human beings or to God, and the term "the One" is one of their favorites (not to be confused with "the Holy One", which is a correct translation in some Bible passages). "New Age author Naomi Goldenberg asserts: 'God is going to change... we women are going to bring... the end of Him.' ...The One must move from the avante garde fringe to the very heart and mind of society. The whole society must be brought into harmony with the One as the New Consciousness produces the New Age. [Unmasking the New Age, p.51] ...If 'The One' does not come from the original Greek or Hebrew, what is its source? The *Encyclopedia of Mysticism and Mystery Religions*... unravels the 'mystery': *ONE*: Term for the ultimate... in many mystical religions and philosophies."⁴⁶ Thus we see a New Age term, "the One", used throughout the new "Bibles".

NIV Revelation 1:18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

NAS Revelation 1:18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

KJV Revelation 1:18 I *am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

See previous comment!

NIV Matthew 11:3 to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"

NKJV Matthew 11:3 and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"

NAS Matthew 11:3 and said to Him, "Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?"

KJV Matthew 11:3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

See previous comments!

NAS 1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.

NIV 1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.

KJV 1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

See comments following the next set of passages.

NAS Ephesians 5:5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

NIV Ephesians 5:5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person-- such a man is an idolater-- has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

KJV Ephesians 5:5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Comments: The words “fornication” and “whoremonger”, which definitively label sex outside of marriage as SIN, are *removed* from most of the new “Bibles” and *replaced* with the vague and subjective term “immoral”. “One New Age group calling itself New Christianity, writes in its newsletter... ‘Our ministry isn’t into sin, guilt, disease, or pain. This group is formulating their *own* new code of ethics.’ Robert Muller, New Age spokesman, concurs, calling for a: ‘new code of behavior which will encompass all races, nations, religions and ideologies.’”⁴⁷ “...The words moral and immoral (according to custom and not according to custom) are an affront to God. They imply that man himself can determine *what* is good and what is evil. ...The Hindu *Bhagavad Gita* ‘teaches supremacy of freedom over morality.’ Its dialog between Arjuna and Krishna concludes: ‘there can be no absolute moral values because all things are changing, evolving. A particular moral value represents only a particular perspective offered by a particular time at a particular level of evolution.’”⁴⁸ Hence, the New Age terms used in the new “Bibles” remove the absolute moral standards which the Almighty Triune God demands! “Ye shall not do after all *the things* that we do here this day, every man whatsoever *is* right in his own eyes.” (Deuteronomy 12:8) “The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.” (Proverbs 12:15)

NIV Proverbs 21:21 He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.

KJV Proverbs 21:21 He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour.

Comments: New Agers promise health and wealth, a better “Age” on this earth– the NIV promises the same thing. Religious leader Pat Robertson has said: “Poverty is a curse that comes on those who either have not served God properly, or who are not following certain laws of God or are temporarily in transit to one of God’s destinations [Pat Robertson, *Answers*, Christian Broadcasting Network, Partner’s edition, p.155].”⁴⁹ The Lord Jesus Himself was not rich in money and goods– “And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head.” (Luke 9:58) So, apparently Pat Robertson, the NAM, and the NIV don’t think much of Jesus Christ!

NAS Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

NIV Philippians 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

KJV Philippians 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Comments: The new “Bibles” and the NAM have many “saviors” to give you! To them Jesus Christ is just “a” savior, one of many. “*Talks with Christ and His Teachers* by Elwood Babbitt reports an entity calling itself Jesus Christ, appeared and said, ‘I am **not the Savior**; for each man is **a Savior** within himself.’”⁵⁰ Conversely, true Christians know that Jesus is “the” Savior, the only true Savior from sin, death, the devil, and hell. The Bible declares: “And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.” (1 John 4:14-15) And, speaking of Jesus Christ of Nazareth Acts 4:12 relates: “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Bible believing Christians know that their Savior is true God and true man, the only begotten Son of the heavenly Father: “And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.” (1 John 5:20)

The NAM’s effects on some groups that call themselves “Christian” has been briefly demonstrated. It has been shown that much of the NAM’s agenda is encouraged and promulgated in the new Bible translations on the market, and that through such false “Bibles” New Age beliefs have entered many professed Christian churches. This brings us to the concluding section of this paper:

IV. The response that true Christians are to have to the New Age Movement

Christians must be aware of the New Age Movement as it is just one more sign of the times, and Scripture warns us: “Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (*but*) *he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*” (1 John 2:18-23) But, Christians are not to be uncontrollably alarmed, that is, we are not to be in a state of panic. Our Lord is much stronger than any attempts of the devil and sinful men to overthrow our faith. We must remember the words of Elisha the prophet, for they apply even today amongst Christians: “...Fear not: for they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them.” (2 Kings 6:16) God’s army of heavenly hosts is at His disposal as always, so we should continually pray for protection from all evil.

We must remain on our guard and be spiritually healthy. And how do we stay spiritually healthy? By continuing in God’s Word and Luther’s doctrine pure. English speaking Christians must adhere to the faithful translation of God’s Word as found in the King James Version of the Bible, because we need to feed upon God’s *pure* Word without the poison admixture of man’s philosophy and sinful reason. We are to, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.” (1 Peter 2:2-3) The sour-word-milk of

modern Bible translations will ultimately harm the Christian who drinks it. The apostle Paul advises, 2 Timothy 1:13, “Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.” Stay with the form of sound words, stay with the KJV!

Having the true Bible’s sound words, we need them rightly divided, that is, we also need to remain sound in doctrine and to proclaim it to others. “Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.” (2 Thessalonians 2:15) “Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *is* the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.” (Jeremiah 6:16) The Bible advises, 1 Timothy 4:16, “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.” And in Ephesians 4:14-15, “...be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love...”. By testifying to the full truth of God’s Word – witnessing for Christ – we can touch those who have been engulfed by New Age principals and thought, and hopefully help rescue them from eternal ruin.

Just *having* the true Bible and the true doctrines drawn from it is not enough– we must make diligent use of them! Personal study of God’s Word, faithful attendance at divine worship services, Sunday School, and Bible classes, are all things that should be done if one wishes to remain spiritually healthy and avoid being easy prey for the New Age Movement or any other cults and heresies. Scripture urges: “But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of.” (2 Timothy 3:14) The Lord Jesus says: “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” (John 5:39) “...If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:31-32) “God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24) Furthermore, Holy Writ instructs: “O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.” (Psalm 96:9) “Give unto the LORD the glory *due* unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.” (1 Chronicles 16:29) “Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:23)

The Christian must take his spiritual health seriously, as 2 Peter 1:10 relates: “...brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.” We need to pray for strength to remain steadfast in the truth: “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.” (Luke 21:36) “Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.” (Colossians 4:2) We need to pray for the victims of the NAM and all of the other lost, that they would come to a knowledge of their sins and repent of them, and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, as we learn from 1 Timothy 2:1-6, “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.” God truly wants all men to be saved. We must do all that we can to spread the message of sin and grace, such as: support true Law and Gospel preaching and teaching with

prayers and gifts; spread the Word with Scripturally sound tracts and personal witnessing; and invite others to attend worship services at one of our orthodox, confessional Lutheran, Bible teaching Churches.

The response that the true Christian is to have to the NAM finally boils down to this: personally cling to Jesus Christ in true faith as your Savior and Lord, and share Him in truth with others. “Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession.” (Hebrews 4:14) The Lord Jesus sums up our mission in Matthew 28:19-20, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Knowing what the New Age Movement is, knowing what the NAM’s effects are on society and in groups professing to be Christian Churches, and knowing the response we are to have to the NAM; let us be about the true God’s business.

m.e.l.

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