

# Light Brings Salt

Volume 5, Issue 19

May 20, 2007



## Iron Range Bible Church

*Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God*



### A Sewer by Any Other Name

by Dr. David A. Noebel

Brad Scott in his Streams of Confusion lists several ideas that threaten the well-being of the twenty-first century: man makes right, not God; every man possesses an innate moral sense; man is good by nature but corrupted by society; happiness is the measure and goal of a good life; man, too, is an animal; material and economic causes alone produce social

change; only slaves and fools restrain their wills and desires; there is no God, only unconscious, mechanistic causation; Christianity is primitive and even Christ is flawed; life is meaningless; free will is an illusion; everything is relative; and all we need is love. All of these rotten ideas spew directly from the foul-smelling sewer of Secular Humanism.

Yet Secular Humanism, postmodernism, New Age thought, and a thousand other ideologies just like them are really little more than repackaged versions of the ancient satanic doctrine that ruined Eden.

Remember how the devil convinced Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit? "You will be like God," the serpent hissed, "knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:5). Ever since that fateful day, the unchanging goal of rebellious mankind has been to sit-all by himself-on God's throne.

Don't believe it? Then just listen to the mantras being intoned these days:

Secular Humanism says, "There is no deity to help us; we must help ourselves."

Postmodernism says, "There is no absolute truth; we must create our own."

New Age thought says, "There is no Christian deity; I am my own God."

Call these worldviews what you will, their central and controlling thought remains the same: We human beings will be like God. We will know good and evil for ourselves and on our own terms.

This catastrophic lie has plagued us from the beginning of human history until now, and the Bible makes it clear that it will continue to deceive the world until the end. The Antichrist, the man the Bible pictures as the very embodiment of human rebellion, will first and foremost be a worshiper of himself. The prophet Daniel says of him: The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place. He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers ... nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all. (Daniel 11:36-37, NIV)

This epitome of secular Humanists "will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God," says the apostle Paul (2 Thessalonians 2:4, NIV).

Do you see it? The same lie that destroyed Eden? Puny man saying, "I am God!"

In every age and in every place, this remains forever the temptation-to believe the devil's lie and to imagine that we have become God.

The Oxford English Dictionary contains thousands of obscure words that don't get much use these days, but we think one word buried in its massive bulk deserves to get out more often. Oxford defines anthropolatry simply as "man-worship; the giving of divine honors to a human being."

Anthropolaters—that's what unredeemed men and women inevitably become that is worshipers of man. Secular Humanists, New Agers, postmoderns, and all their cousins may not realize it, but every one of them is blindly roaring down the same dead-end highway called "Man Worship."

But on second thought, it's a good deal more personal than that. At first the temptation is to see mankind as God. Then it becomes us as God. And finally it's me as God. So the progression moves from worship of man, to worship of us, to worship of me.

In the end, all anthropolaters become I-dolaters. "I am God." Like little antichrists, they exalt and magnify themselves above all gods and set themselves up in the temple of their minds, proclaiming themselves to be God.

### The Battle Is On

While each generation has to face its own challenges (Acts 13:36), the ideas and beliefs battling for the minds of every generation have much in common. Each generation has to decide if Christ is superior to Nietzsche; if God is smarter than Plato; if freedom is better than totalitarianism; if private property is superior to socialism; if creationism is superior to evolution; if purpose and design are superior to chance; if truth is better than falsehood; if beauty is better than ugliness; if love is better than hate; if good is better than evil; if right is better than wrong; if heaven is better than hell; if moral absolutes are better than moral relativism; if adoption is better than abortion; if self-control is better than licentiousness; if individual responsibility is better than victimization; if patriotism is better than globalism.

The Christian is obligated to bring mistaken ideas and beliefs to Christ for His light. As

Paul says, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2).

Christians cannot remain neutral and forgo this battle for the heart and mind. Elijah took on the state religion of Baal and Asherah at Mount Carmel in 1 Kings 18. Jesus Christ took on the Greeks (Pan) and the Romans (Caesar) at Mount Hermon in Matthew 16-17. And Paul took on the Greek philosophers (Epicurean and Stoics) at Mount Mars in Acts 17. All engaged the battle. None raised the white flag to surrender.

We must do no less, otherwise every idea that Christians hold dear, as well as the institutions based on these ideas (home, church, state), will be lost.

Second Corinthians 10:5 makes the Christian response very clear. It is our responsibility to overthrow "arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

Christians must capture every idea and bring each one into the obedience of Christ—or else those ideas will capture them, damage their minds and souls, and ultimately destroy their lives.

May the materials presented in the following pages provide Christians—and especially Christian young people—with the ammunition necessary to wage the battle for the mind intelligently, strategically, tactically, and prayerfully.

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### CULTURE

"The threat of radical Islam is not merely a few thousand terrorists using small explosives to kill a few dozen people at a time—usually in the faraway Middle East. Rather, it is an historic recrudescence of a violent, conquering old tradition of Islam that almost overwhelmed the world from the Seventh Century until as recently as the 17th century. It is radicalizing the minds of increasing numbers of the world's 1.4 billion Muslims to be very aggressive culturally, as well as violent—from Africa to Indonesia, to Cairo to Ankara, to Paris, to Rotterdam to London to Falls Church, Va." —[Tony Blankley](#)