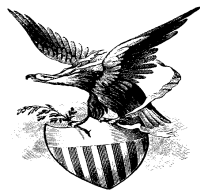


Light Brings Salt

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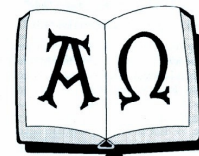
November 25, 2007



Iron Range Bible Church

Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God

"Sanctify them in the truth: Your word is truth."



"Oprah and Friends" To Teach Course on New Age Christ

By Warren Smith

Oprah Winfrey will be letting out all the stops on her XM Satellite Radio program this coming year. Beginning January 1, 2008, "Oprah & Friends" will offer a year-long course on the New Age teachings of *A Course in Miracles*. A lesson a day throughout the year will completely cover the 365 lessons from the *Course in Miracles* "Workbook." For example, Lesson #29 asks you to go through your day affirming that "**God is in everything I see.**" Lesson #61 tells each person to repeat the affirmation "**I am the light of the world.**" Lesson #70 teaches the student to say and believe "**My salvation comes from me.**"

By the end of the year, "Oprah & Friends" listeners will have completed all of the lessons laid out in the *Course in Miracles* Workbook. Those who finish the Course will have a wholly redefined spiritual mindset—a New Age worldview that includes the belief that there is no sin, no evil, no devil, and that God is "in" everyone and everything. *A Course in Miracles* teaches its students to *rethink* everything they believe about God and life. The *Course* Workbook bluntly states: "**This is a course in mind training**" and is dedicated to "**thought reversal.**"

Teaching *A Course in Miracles* will be Oprah's longtime friend and special XM Satellite Radio reporter Marianne Williamson—who also happens to be one of today's premier New Age leaders. She and *Conversations with God* author Neale Donald Walsch co-founded the American Renaissance Alliance in 1997, that later became the Global Renaissance Alliance of New Age leaders, that changed its name again in 2005 to the Peace Alliance. This Peace Alliance seeks to usher in an era of global peace founded on the

principles of a New Age/New Spirituality that they are now referring to as a "civil rights movement for the soul." They all agree that the principles of this New Age/New Spirituality are clearly articulated in *A Course in Miracles*—which is fast becoming the New Age Bible. So what is *A Course in Miracles* and what does it teach?

A Course in Miracles is allegedly "new revelation" from "Jesus" to help humanity work through these troubled times. This "Jesus"—who bears no doctrinal resemblance to the Bible's Jesus Christ—began delivering his channeled teachings in 1965 to a Columbia University Professor of Medical Psychology by the name of Helen Schucman. One day Schucman heard an "inner voice" stating, "This is a course in miracles. Please take notes." For seven years she diligently took spiritual dictation from this inner voice that described himself as "Jesus." *A Course in Miracles* was quietly published in 1975 by the Foundation for Inner Peace. For many years "the Course" was an underground cult classic for New Age seekers who studied "the Course" individually, with friends, or in small study groups.

As a former New Age follower and devoted student of *A Course in Miracles*, I eventually discovered that the *Course in Miracles* was—in reality—the truth of the Bible turned upside down. Not having a true understanding of the Bible at the time of my involvement, I was led to believe that *A Course in Miracles* was "a gift from God" to help everyone understand the "real" meaning of the Bible and to help bring peace to the world. Little did I know that the New Age "Christ" and the New Age teachings of *A Course in Miracles* were everything the real Jesus Christ warned us to watch out for. In Matthew 24 Jesus warned about false teachers, false teachings and the false "Christs" who would pretend to be Him.

When I left the New Age “Christ” to follow the Bible’s Jesus Christ, I had come to understand that the “Jesus” of *A Course in Miracles* was a false “Christ,” and that his *Course in Miracles* was dangerously deceptive. Here are some quotes from the “Jesus” of *A Course in Miracles*:

- “There is no sin. . . .”
- A “slain Christ has no meaning.”
- “The journey to the cross should be the last ‘useless journey.’”
- “Do not make the pathetic error of ‘clinging to the old rugged cross.’”
- “The Name of Jesus Christ as such is but a symbol. . . . It is a symbol that is safely used as a replacement for the many names of all the gods to which you pray.”
- “God is in everything I see.”
- “The recognition of God is the recognition of yourself.”
- “The oneness of the Creator and the creation is your wholeness, your sanity and your limitless power.”
- “The Atonement is the final lesson he [man] need learn, for it teaches him that, never having sinned, he has no need of salvation.”

Most Christians recognize that these teachings are the opposite of what the Bible teaches. In the Bible, Jesus Christ’s atoning death on the cross of Calvary was hardly a “useless journey.” His triumph on the cross provides salvation to all those who confess their sin, accept Him and follow Him as their Lord and Saviour. His victory on the cross rings throughout the New Testament. It has been gloriously sung about in beloved hymns through the ages and is at the heart of our Christian testimony. I found the Jesus of the Bible to be wholly believable as He taught God’s truth and warned about the spiritual deception that would come in His name. The “Jesus” of *A Course in Miracles* reveals himself to be an imposter when he blasphemes the true Jesus Christ by saying that a “slain Christ has no meaning” and that we are all “God” and that we are all “Christ.” It was by reading the Bible’s true teachings of Jesus Christ that I came to understand how deceived I had been by *A Course in Miracles* and my other New Age teachings.

I was introduced to *A Course in Miracles* by Dr. Gerald Jampolsky’s book *Love is Letting Go of Fear*. Jampolsky declared in his easy-to-read book how the teachings of *A Course in Miracles* had changed his life. As an ambassador for *A Course in Miracles* over the years, Jampolsky has been featured not only in New Age circles but at least twice on Robert Schuller’s *Hour of Power*. While Schuller introduced Jampolsky and his “fabulous” *Course in Miracles*-based books to his worldwide television audience, it was Marianne Williamson’s appearance on a 1992 *Oprah Winfrey Show* that really shook the rafters.

On that program, Oprah enthusiastically endorsed Williamson’s book, *A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of A Course in Miracles*. Oprah told her television audience that Williamson’s book about *A Course in Miracles* was one of her favorite books, and that she had already bought a thousand copies and would be handing them out to everyone in her studio audience. Oprah’s endorsement skyrocketed Williamson’s book about *A Course in Miracles* to the top of the New York Times bestseller list. Ironically, all of this was happening after I had left the *Course* and the New Age. In fact, I was doing the final editing on my book *The Light That Was Dark* that warned about the dangers of the New Age—and in particular *A Course in Miracles*.

After being introduced to the world on *Oprah*, Marianne Williamson has continued to grow in popularity and, as previously mentioned, has become one of today’s foremost New Age leaders. Williamson credits Winfrey for bringing her book about *A Course in Miracles* before the world: “For that, my deepest thanks to Oprah Winfrey. Her enthusiasm and generosity have given the book, and me, an audience we would never otherwise have had.” In her 2004 book, *The Gift of Change*, Williamson wrote: “Twenty years ago, I saw the guidance of the Course as key to changing one’s personal life; today, I see its guidance as key to changing the world. More than anything else, I see how deeply the two are connected.”

Thus the New Age teachings of *A Course in Miracles* are about to be taught by Marianne Williamson to millions of listeners on Oprah’s XM Satellite Radio program. Listeners are encouraged to buy *A Course in Miracles* for the year-long course. An audio version of *A Course in Miracles* recited by Richard (John Boy Walton) Thomas is also available on compact disc. Popular author

Wayne Dyer told his PBS television audience that the “brilliant writing” of *A Course in Miracles* would produce more peace in the world. Williamson’s New Age colleague, Neale Donald Walsch, said his “God” stated that “the era of the Single Saviour is over” and that he (“God”) was responsible for authoring the teachings of *A Course in Miracles*. Meanwhile, Gerald Jampolsky’s *Course in Miracles*-based book, *Forgiveness*, continues to be sold in Robert Schuller’s Crystal Cathedral bookstore as Schuller prepares to host a January 17-19, 2008, “Rethink Conference” at his Crystal Cathedral.

At this critical time in the history of the world, the New Gospel/New Spirituality is coming right at the world and the church with its New Age teachings and its New Age Peace Plan. But this New Age Peace Plan has at its deceptive core the bottom-line teaching from *A Course in Miracles* that “we are all one” because God is “in” everyone and everything. But the Bible is clear that we are not God (Ezekiel 28:2; Hosea 11:9). And per Galatians 3:26-28, our only oneness is in Jesus Christ—not in ourselves as “God” and “Christ.” What Oprah and Marianne Williamson and the world will learn one day is that humanity’s only real and lasting peace is with the true Jesus Christ who is described and quoted in the Holy Bible (Romans 5:1).

Oprah Winfrey’s misplaced faith in Marianne Williamson and the New Age teachings of *A Course in Miracles* is a sure sign of the times. But an even surer sign of the times is that most Christians are not taking heed to what is happening in the world and in the church. We are not contending for the faith as the Bible admonishes us to do (Jude 3). It is time for all of our Purpose-Driven and Emerging church pastors to address the real issue of the day. Our true Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is being reinvented, redefined, and blasphemed right in front of our eyes and hardly anyone seems to notice or care. If we want the world to know who Jesus Christ is, we need to also warn them about who He is *not*. There is a false New Age “Christ” making huge inroads into the world and into the church. The Apostle Paul said that “it is a shame” we have to even talk about these things, but talk about them we must (Ephesians 5:12-16).

If people want to follow Oprah Winfrey and the New Age “Christ” of *A Course in Miracles* they certainly have that right. But let them be warned

that the New Age “Christ” they are following is not the same Jesus Christ who is so clearly and authoritatively presented in the pages of the Bible.

The New England Primer

How to teach their children about Christ and convey proper moral values was a consuming challenge for the Puritans of early New England. Parents genuinely feared that their teenage children who died without the divine grace of the Lord would be lost forever without Christ. But the parents further reasoned that the inability to read the Scriptures was a design of Satan to keep people from spiritual truth. Therefore they were driven to instruct their children to read because the need of **prayer** and **strong morals** was so important.

They came up with a public school book entitled *The New England Primer* that was similar to one published in London. The text immediately caught on and became the most popular book in the new world apart from the Bible. In it was a study of the alphabet with the Bible, a basic doctrinal section, and a prayer book. Five million copies were ultimately sold! The book became an integral tool for educating youth on into the nineteenth century. The volume contained one of the most popular prayers ever quoted from generation to generation, the "Evening Prayer for a Child."

*Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord, my soul to keep;
if I should die before I wake,
I pray thee, Lord, my soul to take.*

But few remember the "Morning Prayer for a Child" in the book which reads:

*Now I wake and see the light;
'tis God who kept me through the
night.
To Him I lift my voice and pray
that He would keep me through the
day;
if I should die before 'tis done,
O God, accept me through Thy Son.*