

An Introduction to the New Age Movement

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You have heard 'its' language. You have seen 'its' elements. However, not only have you heard 'its' language and have seen 'its' elements but the same can be said of those the Lord has entrusted to your spiritual care. They have heard 'its' language and have seen 'its' elements and this as 'it' is everywhere.

'It' is on employers' minds as 'it' promises better employee production to bigger profits. 'It' has become a part of the medical world as 'it' is being prescribed as a healing agent. 'It' is the talk of the scientific world and this in specific in the study of quantum physics. 'It' is being promoted and pushed in the academic world as the answer to better educated students. 'It' promises the athlete to be able to realize his/her full potential to be that great athlete. 'It' has found 'its' way to be put onto film where moviemakers as cartoon makers show 'it'. 'It' has found 'its' way to be on the lips of some politicians. 'It' can be found to have 'its' own section in bookstores as libraries. 'It' can be viewed in art galleries both small and large. 'It' has 'its' own section in the music stores and this right next to your favorites of when music was music. 'It' has 'its' own clothing line. 'It' has also wormed 'its' way into the religious world.

Yes, literally, 'it' is everywhere. As 'it' is everywhere so too is 'it' supported as promoted by clergy, government officials, celebrities of the Hollywood connection as elsewhere, sports' teachers and trainers, educators, scientists, doctors, employers, plus a host of others.

'It' is everywhere. 'It' has courted many where many have tied the knot of life with 'it'. 'It' is courting many every day to tie 'its' knot of life with them.

Yes, 'it' has been successful in tying the knot of 'its' life with many and will probably continue to be successful in doing the same with many others because of what 'it' promises both for the here and now as forever. For the here and now 'it' promises an evolving into the best possible life in every area of life to the ultimate evolving into one's eternalness. These promises have made 'it' very appealing for so many and will make 'it' appealing for so many more for who doesn't want the best of life for the here and now and forever.

However, the way 'it' promises to the attaining of this best of life for the here and now as forever is based on mankind, not on the Lord Jesus and His every word of promise. 'Its' way to the 'Promised Lands' as mentioned is based solely on mankind's evolving, being enlightened, being transformed by mankind's power source, that being mankind's inner consciousness, inner self. As mankind taps into his/her inner consciousness, inner self, his/her power source, then mankind, or he/she evolves, is enlightened, is transformed into his/her full potential both for the here and now as forever. This is possible for mankind 'it' professes as mankind has divine attributes which mankind can tap into for the best possible life here and now to the ultimate evolution, enlightenment, transformation into one's eternal deification. Or, to simply state all this verbiage 'it' says "You are God."

The 'it' I have been referring to has to do with the New Age Movement and its beliefs about which I have been asked to share with you at this pastoral conference.

To begin talking with you about this I would first like to let you hear what others say of this movement, of its beliefs.

Marilyn Ferguson, a well-known New Ager and author of *The Aquarian Conspiracy* (the 'bible' for many a New Ager) writes that "a new agenda" (p. 23) is needed for mankind. She

says she believes this to be needed as “what is known has failed us (mankind)” (p. 26). Now, over the next thirty pages or so of her book mentioned above she goes into great detail to explain why “a new agenda is needed” as “what is known has failed us”. Here, I would like to summarize what she has to say over these many pages in my own words. Simply, she says that we, mankind, have been brought up in the wrong way. We’ve been brought up to look to others for our learning and/or for our direction in life. As we’ve followed this ‘old agenda’ throughout the years this explains why so much in life is in a mess around us and in our lives. Instead of looking to others for learning and/or direction (here she includes any and all religious upbringing) over all these years we ought to have been looking within ourselves. With this looking within one’s self she says “You see who you are and what you can be” (p. 56). As I read through what she had to say with her statement “You see who you are and what you can be” I was left with the impression that what she says in so many words is this, “You are the answer for your life and this both for life here and now as forever.” What then does this lead one to see or to believe of one’s self? If “I” am the answer to my life both for the here and now and forever am “I” not my own god?

Another New Ager, Paul Zuromski, writes in his introduction to his *New Age Catalogue* “You are participating in a revolution of consciousness. The goal is our understanding of who you are, learning why you’re here and exercising your unlimited potential in this lifetime” (p. 1). Zuromski’s words here pretty much echo Ferguson’s, don’t they. He speaks of one’s inner consciousness which if probed one will discover his/her unlimited potential. If one has such unlimited potential what does that make one? Doesn’t this infer that one has divine qualities?

Hear what New Ager David Spangler, as quoted by Paul Zuromski in his catalogue, says in answer to the question, “What is New Age?” Spangler answers, “The simplest answer for me is that it is a condition that emerges when I live life in a creative, empowering, compassionate manner. It manifests when I recognize and honor both the intrinsic wholeness of my world and the value and importance of everything in it. It arises when I honor each person, animal, plant or object as unique yet also as a part of myself, imbued with a spirit of personhood, sharing whatever worthiness or sacredness I claim for myself” (p. 2 of Zuromski’s introduction). Spangler’s words “(the) sacredness I claim for myself” pretty much speak of the basic belief New Agers cling to and this being that mankind is divine.

Now, after hearing what a few New Agers have to say of themselves, of their beliefs, I would like to share with you what a couple have to say about New Agers and of their basic belief.

Philip Lochhaas, a pastor in the LC-MS, writes in his *How To Respond To... The New Age Movement* “The New Age Movement may be defined briefly as a concerted effort on the part of otherwise dissimilar people to abolish God totally as a distinct reality and replace Him with humanity. Humanity, it is asserted, by means of a ‘quantum evolutionary leap’ will acquire all the attributes heretofore associated with God” (p. 5).

Professor Marcus Manthey of our Michigan Lutheran Seminary writes in his paper *Testing The Spirit Of The New Age Movement* as delivered to the Wisconsin State Teachers’ Convention (WELS), October 25, 1991 “Humanity’s quest for divinity, an ambition as old as sin itself... empowers the New Age Movement” (p. 6)

In hearing what these five have said of themselves as New Agers and about them as New Agers you’ve heard the basic belief of the New Age Movement and that being “Mankind, you are divine. Mankind, attain your full deity.”

So where can this movement claim its origins? On the one hand this question is not so easily answered but then on the other hand it can be quite easily answered.

The origins of the New Age Movement aren't easy to come to as the movement's belief system is a mixture of secularism, Eastern religions, humanistic psychology, superstition, ancient and medieval witchcraft and pagan pantheism. As the New Age Movement's belief system is a mixture of these things such makes it hard to pinpoint its origins. But then its origins can be easily pinpointed from what Professor Manthey says as he says "it's as old as sin itself." This comment takes us to the Garden of Eden and The Fall into sin. As the devil came to Eve with his temptation to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil recall what he said to her, "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God..." (Genesis 3:5). Eve fell for this. Many fall for this today as the devil continues to hold this out to mankind "You will be like God." Such is the calling card of the devil that he is using these days through the New Age Movement. As he has been using this temptation he has been successful in that many have tied the knot of their lives with New Age beliefs. Too, with this same temptation he will continue to court many that they might be counted among the New Age Movement's harem.

So what are the flowers and candy the devil is using for this courting for mankind to swallow his line "You will be like God"?

Philip Lochhaas lists six principles or parts which he says has become the creed of New Agers. First of all I would like to list them for you and then talk a little about each of them. These principles or parts as Lochhaas lists them are:

- 1) God is impersonal and not separate or distinct from creation.
- 2) Humanity, like all creation, shares the essential being of God and is therefore divine.
- 3) All humanity's crisis rise from ignorance of divinity and oneness with all things.
- 4) Humanity's only need, therefore, is transformation—the awareness of divinity.
- 5) Transformation can be brought about by any myriad of techniques that can be applied to the body, mind and/or spirit.
- 6) Personal transformation is the basis for a global transformation that will be characterized by mass enlightenment and social unity. (p. 7,8).

First, common to all New Agers in their beliefs is that "God is impersonal and not separate from creation." For the New Ager God does not have a distinct existence or personality. Rather, God is for the New Ager an "It" or an "Energy" as Marilyn Ferguson speaks (p. 383). Lochhaas writes that other New Agers will use the word "Force...(or the) aggregate consciousness of all living things" (p. 9) when speaking of the who or what is God. Shirley MacLaine in her book *Dancing In The Light* goes so far as to make God's existence dependent on human perception as she says "I know that the God-source exists. Therefore it is" (p. 404). So a tree, a rose bush, your Heintz 57 Variety, mother earth, etc. are all in possession of the "It", "Force", "Energy" or "Consciousness" of what is divine. Humanity is no exception to this. Humanity, according to New Agers, has the attributes of divinity. Mankind is divine.

Here we all know and believe this to be pure rubbish. We know and believe that God isn't impersonal. We know and believe that God is distinct from creation. We know and believe these truths as God makes these truths known to us from His inspired and infallible Word.

From His Word He makes Himself known that He is God, the only true and living God. No less than a dozen times in Isaiah 43-45 does He declare "I am the LORD, and there is no other." You probably can think of any number of other Bible passages that say the same where God tells us that He exists.

God also tells us that He is not a part of creation but that He is the Creator. Here we could cite the very first chapters of Genesis where God tells us that He is the Creator of all and how He created all there is.

However, the New Ager doesn't believe these truths. The New Ager believes that "Humanity, like all creation, shares the essential being of God and is therefore divine."

Gary Zukow, another prominent New Ager and author of numerous New Age materials writes in his book *The Seat Of The Soul* "You have always been because what it is you are is god, or Divine Intelligence, but God takes on individual forms, droplets, reducing its power to small particles of individual consciousness...as that little droplet form grows in power, in self-hood, in its own consciousness of self, it becomes larger and more God-like. Then it (self) becomes God" (p. 186). Or, another New Ager, J. Z. Knight, who claims she channels the spirit entity 'Ramtha' says "...the life that flows through you and the thought that is coming to every one of you, however you entertain it, is intelligence and life-force that you have termed God" (p. 5 Zuromski).

As the New Ager believes that mankind shares the essential being of God the New Ager also believes that all things are possible for mankind.

Marilyn Ferguson writes of this using the word 'create'. "We can create a better society, a better world...we have within our power to make peace within our torn selves and with each other, to heal over our homeland, the whole Earth" (p. 331). Claude Bristol, another New Ager and author of *From The Magic Of Believing*, speaks of this unlimited potential to do anything saying "We become what we envisage" (p. 50 Zuromski).

Yes, according to the New Age belief system mankind has the ability, the potential to do anything. Nothing is impossible for mankind to do or accomplish. This sounds much like what we hear from the Biblical account of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) doesn't it? Those people involved with building that tower believed that in building such a structure that they would make their name great and not be scattered over the face of the earth. They believed they had this ability to accomplish both. But God squashed their belief didn't He. Mankind doesn't have the unlimited ability or potential to do everything and anything. Only God has such ability as all things are possible for Him (Matthew 19:26). It is only because of His blessings to mankind that mankind is able to do and accomplish what mankind does do and does accomplish (Psalm 139:14).

But, the New Ager believes that mankind can achieve what mankind desires. William James as quoted by Marilyn Ferguson says "Man alone is the architect of his destiny" (p. 48).

So then why hasn't all this taken place? Why isn't everything going great? Why are there all the crisis that come with every day living? A New Ager would answer these questions saying "All humanity's crisis rise from ignorance of divinity and oneness with all things." It is because of this 'ignorance of divinity' that leads mankind to experience what mankind does—the hunger, the warfare, the violence, health problems, etc. For the New Ager these evils come from one's 'ignorance of divinity' and not from the corruption of sin or from the evils of sin. The New Ager doesn't view sin and its evil as realities.

First, sin is not real for the New Ager. Douglas Groothuis in his book *Revealing The New Age Jesus* quotes New Ager John White as saying "...sin is not the transgression of God's moral law for which we deserve punishment. It is simply 'missing the mark' by not hitting the bull's eye of the God within us" (p. 15). Marilyn Ferguson speaks in the same tone as she says that we "are free of fears and guilt associated with religious upbringing" (p. 103, 104). She says this in the context of speaking about the 'new agenda' that is needed for mankind. The 'old agenda'

taught us how to view right and wrong whether it be religiously or otherwise. This ‘old agenda’ to Ferguson has been all wrong. We need to be “free of these” (p. 105) she preaches. And to be free of these one needs to perceive things differently where nothing is wrong or sin.

You can probably guess what then follows for the New Ager with such a view of sin. What follows is that there is no need for feeling sorry for what is said, thought and/or done for there is nothing one might do, think and/or say that is wrong or sin. Certainly we know this to be wrong on their part for God tells us that “All have sinned” (Romans 3:23) and “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves” (I John 1:8).

But for the New Ager there is no reality of sin and therefore no need for repentance. Oh, they do speak of repentance and this in the following way as we hear Groothuis quote White where White speaks of repentance saying “to repent...(has) nothing to do with sorrow over sin, but everything to do with going beyond or higher than the ordinary mental state. This means transcending self-centered ego and becoming God-centered, God-realized” (p. 15, 16). For the New Ager there is no wrong, no sin, just a wrong perception of life.

The New Ager takes this into explaining the reason why there is sickness. James Allen, author of *Become The Master of Your Own Destiny*, writes as quoted by Ferguson “At the bidding of your unhealthy thoughts the body sinks rapidly into disease and decay; at the command of glad and beautiful thoughts it becomes clothed with youthfulness and beauty” (p. 248). You become sick because your perception is wrong. Sickness for the New Ager is not of the evils, or corruption, of sin, but just a wrong perception of life. The New Ager explains all the evils of sin in this same way.

Here, I might add that there are some New Agers that believe a little differently. The New Age Reincarnationists believe that ‘bad karma’ is the cause for sickness, poverty, or whatever else we know to be a result of how sin has so corrupted life. But, for these New Agers the answer is death to get rid of the ‘bad karma’. It might take numerous deaths and subsequent reincarnations to get rid of all the ‘bad karma’. But, eventually through enough deaths and reincarnations the ‘bad karma’ gives way to the ‘good karma’ that gives one a forever state of bliss.

While speaking of death, other New Agers also speak of death and of what happens when you die. Ruth Montgomery in her book *A World Beyond* quotes Arthur Ford as saying “We welcome a newcomer with love and open arms (this being into some world between the physical and higher state yet to be attained)... We (others at this place) tell him to wait, that within a short time he will understand more” (p. 10 Zuromski). Yes, New Agers who are not reincarnationists also believe that there is death. The best I was able to find about this I’ve shared with you in the quote above: one dies, goes on to some spiritual world, there to await yet a higher world.

What you won’t hear from a New Ager is that sin is the cause for death. Death is just another ‘crisis’ due to humanity’s ignorance of his/her divinity.

What then is humanity’s need to rise above such ‘crisis’? The New Ager would answer this question by saying “Humanity’s only need is transformation—the-awareness of one’s divinity.”

Here, New Agers offer a myriad number of ways to get this ‘personal transformation’. Each way that is offered has the specific purpose of helping one reach the inner self, the inner consciousness which has “it”, the “force”, the “energy”, the “power” to become transformed into one’s divinity.

But, you’ve got to get to that inner self, that inner consciousness. Here, Marilyn Ferguson speaks of four stages one must go through in order to get there. The first stage she calls the

“entry point” (p. 89). This is what triggers the beginning of getting into the inner self, the inner consciousness. Any mystical or psychic experience can serve as such a trigger she says. The second stage she calls “exploration” (p. 92). This takes place when one doesn’t hinder or stop the trigger means. Here, she offers transcendental meditation as an aid. The third stage she calls “integration” (p. 92). She speaks of this as a reflecting on what has taken entry along with the integration. Here, she offers philosophy, quantum physics, music as an aid. The fourth stage she calls “conspiracy” (p. 93). This is where one really gets deep within one’s self, one’s inner self, inner consciousness to the discovering of one’s power source to become transformed or that of finding one’s divinity to using it.

In addition to the ways mentioned through Ferguson’s four stages New Agers offer many other ways as to how to get to that ultimate stage of discovering one’s divinity to the use of it. They offer sensory overload, biofeedback, autogenic training, channeling, psychodrama, hypnosis and self-hypnosis, feverish activity or frenetic dancing, shamanistic or magical rites, seminars (such as Silva Mind Control, Lifespring), dream journals, primal therapy, rebirthing, syncretistic religions (Theosophy), body disciplines, self-healing (Religious Science of Science of the Mind), guided imagery and visualization, boot camp confrontational therapies, deep massage, diet, drugs (LSD), acupuncture, sleep deprivation, endurance tests, fire-walking, pyramidology, use of crystals, astrology and/or anything else that would help one get into one’s inner self, inner consciousness where one’s source of power is or where one would discover his/her divinity to use it.

Too, adults are not the only ones being exposed to and courted by the New Age Movement, as children are going through the same. The primary way that children today are being exposed to and courted by this movement is in the classroom. It was this matter that Professor Manthey addressed in his paper I’ve mentioned in this paper.

In his paper Professor Manthey speaks of a number of things that have been incorporated in some school systems which directly expose the children to New Age beliefs. Professor Manthey writes on pages 19-22 of his paper of these things those being meditation, yoga, creative visualization and values clarification. Marilyn Ferguson says that those teachers who teach and promote these things are “the heroes of education” (p. 281).

Years before she put these words in print, Dr. C. M. Pierce, professor of education at Harvard University, spoke the same in a speech he gave to 1000 teachers at a seminar on childhood education in 1973 “Every child in America entering school at the age of five is mentally ill, because he comes to school with certain allegiances toward our founding fathers, toward our elected officials, toward his parents, toward a belief in a supernatural Being, toward the sovereignty of this nation as a separate entity. It is up to you teachers to make all of these sick children well by creating the international children of the future” (p. 15 Lochhaas). Another one-time prominent educator, Dr. Beverly Galyean (died 1984) took Pierce’s look at education a step farther to say “Once we begin to see that we are all God, that we have the attributes of God, then I think the whole purpose of human life is to renoun the Godlikeness within us; the perfect love, the perfect wisdom, the perfect understanding, the perfect intelligence, and when we do that, we create back to that old, that essential oneness which is consciousness. So my whole view (of education) is very much based on that idea” (p. 16 Lochhaas).

So the New Age educator looks to bring the children into his/her inner self, his/her inner consciousness and this to discover one’s divinity to use it. One way New Age educators attempt to draw the children into this is through meditation.

Now, in having a good memory, you might say to yourself “Wasn’t it back in the 1970’s that the Supreme Court of our land ruled that meditation (transcendental meditation) was a religious practice and as it was judged to be such didn’t the Supreme Court ban its use in public schools?” Your memory serves you correctly on this point. But what New Agers have done to get around this ruling is to speak of this as “centering” or “relaxation”.

Or, there’s yoga that’s being used. Yoga is often used to improve breath control and muscle tone. But ultimately the heart of this ancient Hindu ritual is meant to be used to achieve a state of union with universal consciousness. Yoga is practiced in some school systems.

Or, there’s creative visualization which is also called guided imagery. This is used by some educators to enhance the students’ creativity. Professor Manthey writes of the abuse of this practice saying that it is “a deliberate consciousness-altering technique aimed...(to put) the student in contact with his/her Higher Self” (p. 20). As the professor says this he goes on to cite Klimek and Canfield as they describe a typical visualization session:

“On the day of the session they ask the kids to get into a comfortable position with their spines straight, either sitting up or lying down. Then they ask them to close their eyes and become relaxed, being aware of the rhythm of their inhalation and exhalation. To begin the fantasy, they say: We are about to review your life. You will begin to experience yourself going backwards in time. Begin thinking about this day. What have you done all day?...Now look back at the past week...the past month...Allow your life to pass by as if you were watching a movie...Now go back to the time you first entered school...To being a young child...a baby...To the time of your birth and the time you were in your mother’s womb...And now go back to the time before your conception.

You are about to meet a special guide, your own special spirit guide. A guide to whom you may ask what the purpose of your life is...Meet your guide and pose your question. Feel your guide’s unconditional love and strength and beauty...Let whatever happens happen...Communicate with your guide in whatever way you wish. Listen to your guide’s response. Notice what you are experiencing...Now ask your guide for a gift to represent your purpose, your essence, your unique genius...Now you must begin your journey back. Say good-bye to your guide, knowing you may visit your guide at any time you wish...Begin your journey back, bringing with you your life purpose and your gift from that experience. Make your journey through time and finally to the present moment. When you are ready, open your eyes, remain silent, and draw and write about your experience.” (p. 20 Manthey as he quotes from Annette Hollander’s *How To Help Your Child Have A Spiritual Life: A Parent’s Guide To Inner Development*, p. 241,242).

Following this long quote Professor Manthey says “It isn’t difficult to recognize that this is much more than a method to stimulate creativity” (p. 20). I’m sure that we agree with him on this.

Another topic that is found in the New Age philosophy of education which is practiced has to do with self-image, self-esteem. The New Age educator will tell his/her students to reject any thought, any notion, that is negative about his/herself. “You are good”, the New Age teacher preaches over and over again to his/her students. Professor Manthey says of this “With their presupposition of the god within, New Agers tend to view any sort of negative self-image or self-talk as tantamount to blasphemy. And since the god-source within each person offers the power, the energy, the unlimited potential for all achievement and success...the New Ager sees nothing in the students except that which may be praised and extolled” (p. 21). Has the Franklin school

district recently adopted this as the district has done away with letter grades to replace them with “He/she is progressing nicely” remark, etc. on the students’ report cards?

Another teaching method that has been introduced has to do with values clarification. What the students are being taught with this is that each individual decides what is truth because that which is truth is that which an individual perceives to be the truth. Groothuis writes of this “The term ‘values clarification’ is itself instructive. The word values—rather than ethics or morals—carries with it the assumption that right and wrong are something we can choose, as we would choose what clothes to wear. The purpose of the process is not to discover an objective value system, but to create a subjective set of values to clarify our value options—in other words, what is right and wrong for me. The clarification of our ‘sense of values’ replaces the quest for true goodness; feeling replaces right; preference replaces value. The only thing prohibited by the Values Clarification method is a recognition of and respect for the objective, universal and absolute moral law of God” (p. 132).

Yes, children are being exposed to New Age beliefs just as adults are. This is true as ‘it’ has gone a courting without any discrimination of age, gender, race, creed, etc. New Age holds out to all ‘it’ courts that “One has divine qualities. Discover those qualities. Tap into those qualities. Be what you are. Be divine.”

For the New Ager this tapping into or ‘personal transformation’ is necessary as “personal transformation is the basis for a global transformation that will be characterized by mass enlightenment and social unity.”

Ultimately this is what New Agers see as that which is going to take place. They foresee a time when all humanity will be one with one another—one in language, one in a monetary system, one in world government, etc. And, New Agers believe that this is going to happen sooner than many might think as there have been and are today many trailblazers that are setting this all to be as have put this all in motion to be. And could you guess who one of these trailblazers has been? If you guessed our Lord Jesus you guessed correctly. This is how New Agers will speak of our Lord Jesus. John White says of Jesus “(that He is) the unprecedented realization of the higher intelligence, the divinity, the Ground of Being incarnated in Him” (p. 15 Groothuis). Or, Nicholas Notovitch, a late 19th century Russian journalist and author of *The Unknown Life Of Jesus Christ* (used by many a New Ager) speaks of Jesus as “The eternal Spirit came in human form so He might teach man to identify himself with the Divinity and attain to eternal felicity” (p. 152 Groothuis).

This is how New Agers view Jesus as their Savior. They see Him as a trailblazer among the many trailblazers to that one day global transformation has shown mankind that mankind can attain the fullness of his/her deity.

Very simply this is the heart of the New Age belief system. And, even though we might not hear ‘New Age’ mentioned so much any more these days ‘it’ is still around. I’ve seen and heard it or I should say that I’ve become more aware of it since I started working on this paper.

Oh, before I started working on this paper I knew of New Age and had read a little about it, but after working on this paper I’ve come to see just how much of it is around. I would like to share some examples of this with you at this time. Not too long ago after coming home from visiting with some of my shut-ins I sat down for a few moments to watch some cartoons with my two youngest boys. While watching these cartoons one of the characters said that she had to get in touch with her consciousness because she didn’t feel as beautiful at the time as she did the day before. Or, one day my two teenagers wanted to go to Best Buy as they wanted to look at some tapes and CDs Best Buy had on sale. As they looked at these I wandered around a bit and in

doing so I found a whole section labeled 'New Age Music'. Or, as I went with my wife one day to help her look for some reading material for school there on one wall of the bookstore were two sections on 'New Age Reading Material.' Or, through some people in my congregation I've come to know one who is heavy in the use of crystals for their power to better health. Or, there was one with whom I spent a number of hours in counseling where I kept pointing this person to her Lord, His Word, that He was as her Savior her sure Refuge from all the problems she was going through. To make a long story short here she went to a secular psychologist (I had recommended a Christian one) and one day popped in at the office and told me that her psychologist had helped her find her inner strength to cope with her problems. Again I reminded her of her Lord, His promises. I was able to do this a couple of times following this day. But she ended up leaving church giving the reason that the church didn't help her.

New Age junk is around. We may not hear 'New Age' mentioned so much by name these days, but its language, its elements are definitely around.

So, what can we do? One thing we could do would be to learn a little bit more about 'New Age'. Hopefully, these pages have helped you learn a bit more about 'New Age' than you already do. Too, I'd be the first to admit that these few pages are not the everything about 'New Age'. It would take a major literary work to even attempt to put together all that has to do with 'New Age', its language, how its beliefs are being used, who uses it, etc. Perhaps, you might use the bibliographies attached to this paper to read more about 'New Age' on your own.

Now, whether you do this or not, know that 'New Age' beliefs are around and that those the Lord has entrusted to your spiritual care are being exposed and courted by it in many ways and this at work, at school, from friends, from bosses, from coaches, etc. They are being exposed and courted by this movement. Here, one thing you could do is to remind them to continue to "Test the spirits" (I John 4:1). But, above all, continue to preach and teach sin and grace, Law and Gospel. Continue to preach and teach that as sinners the only one who is the 'power' to 'transform' life is the Lord Jesus as He is their Savior. Continue to preach and teach that He is the 'light' to one's 'eternalness' as He again is their Savior.

Yes, continue to preach and teach sin and grace, Law and Gospel. Continue to do so as the underlying belief of the New Age Movement will continue to be around until the Lord comes again in all His glory. For until He comes again the devil will continue to use that which he used in the Garden of Eden to try to lead mankind from their God and Savior. The devil will continue to use his temptation "You will be like God" to do this. The devil will continue to do this whether it be through 'New Age' or whatever else might come along. This we can be sure of. Yet, we can be sure, be most certain, that our Lord Jesus has defeated him and his every evil plan and purpose. As our Lord has defeated him and his every evil plan and purpose our Lord also gives us victory over him and all his evils. As our Lord gives us this eternal victory He also gives us the armor to stand firm in our faith to resist the devil and that armor is His Word. Put this armor on for yourself. Help those entrusted to your spiritual care put this same armor on.

In doing so we as God's people will be blessed by our Lord to stand firm in our faith in Him to live in and to receive His promise that He will keep us to be with Him—our Creator, our Redeemer, our Sanctifier—forever.

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