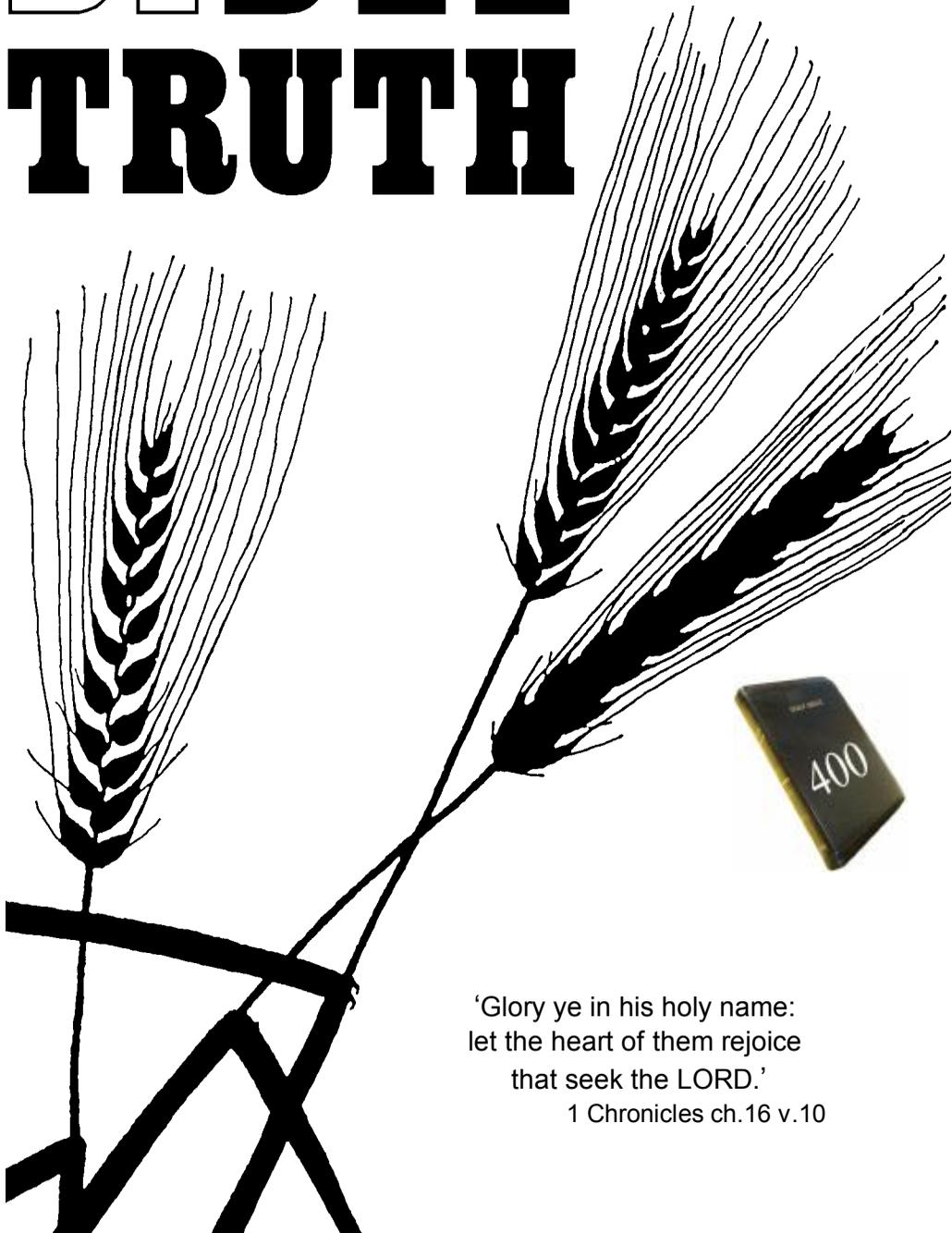


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'Glory ye in his holy name:
let the heart of them rejoice
that seek the LORD.'

1 Chronicles ch.16 v.10

Christianity Without Christ

by John Trotter

The title of this article might appear to be an oxymoron, for obviously Christ and Christianity complement each other. The idea behind the title is that which is called Christianity in this materialistic world is in fact, or almost, Christless. The reality is that the world is very religious. We probably have as many gods as the Greeks had during the apostle Paul's time. As expressed in Acts ch.17 v.23 the Greeks even had an inscription to the 'unknown god', in case they missed any. It was the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that Paul was declaring unto them.

With so much paganism intertwined with what is called Christianity (even in the mainstream churches), one has to ask the question, Will only the remnant be contending for the faith once delivered unto the Saints? (see Jude v.3.) It will be frightening for those to whom Jesus will say,

'Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity**'.

Matthew ch.7 vv 21-23

These people by their sayings and actions support the view of contempt for Divine Law and as a result initiate lawlessness in society.

It appears to me that Matthew ch.7 v.21 is referring to those who are within the mainstream 'Christian Church'. The fact that there is a reference to 'in thy name' shows it is Christ they are referring to. It is certainly not referring to the gods of other faiths. A cleansing is to occur, beyond our imagination.

There are many reasons why people say they are a Christian, such as,

- I am kind to people,
- I attend Church on important occasions,
- I believe there is a God,

- Because I am not a believer in Buddhism or some other faith,
- I believe that Jesus existed in history and spoke of good ideas or even,
- I believe in the teachings that the western nations are mostly made up of ancient Israel.

None of the above qualify anyone to say that they are a Christian or more accurately, 'a follower of the Way'. It is not the intention in this article to go any further on the subject of What is a Christian, but rather to show in a limited way, no matter how good the forged note is, it is not the genuine article.

Some time ago I was looking up some articles on beliefs of prominent people in the western nations. It soon became obvious that a number of these people were not Christian even though they believed there was a God who created the universe. Many of them were in fact Deists and Unitarians. At least the Deist is not a fool for he believes there is a God.

'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.'

Psalm 14 v.1

Intelligent, wise and historically astute as they were or are, these leaders see no need to believe in the Deity of Christ. Their perception of God is that whilst they see Him as the creator, there is no need to believe in a personal Christ who died for our sins and rose from the grave. In the past many of these would have been seen as Epicureans, that is, their main purpose in life was the pursuit of happiness.

The Jesus Christ of Scripture is the keystone or cornerstone of our faith. If Matthew ch.7 v.24, 1 Corinthians ch.3 v.11 & Ephesians ch.2 v.20 are used as our starting point then our foundations will be sure. The search for Truth will be made so much easier, for not only will the Holy Spirit lead us into all Truth but the God of our Fathers will reveal an abundance of peace and Truth.

'Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth. And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first. And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me. And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations

of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.'

Jeremiah ch.33 vv 6-9

It is the Deity aspect of Christ that the Deist is unable to accept. Like the Greeks and the Jews (Judeans) the reason for Him being the stumbling block is the same, they are unable to accept the answer to the question put to Peter.

'When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.'

Matthew ch.16 vv 13-16

In the Gospel of John we read a similar theme. It is the Deity of Christ that separates Christ from every other religious figure in history.

'... we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.'

John ch.6 v.69

In Matthew there are references to the false Christs.

'... Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. ... 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.'

Matthew ch.24 vv 4-5 & 24

When you consider that Christ means 'anointed' these false Christs are self appointed and anointed individuals. The word deceive means 'cause to roam' or as one translation says 'cause to err'. This also refers to the elect showing that they have a strong chance of being deceived.

These false christs are to be found in virtually every belief that does not recognise the Divinity of the true Christ. Christ made it very clear when He said,

'He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad'.

Matthew ch.12 v.30

You cannot sit on the fence. False Christs have existed down the centuries. It could be said that all the signs of the last days have existed to some degree from the time of Christ when on earth '... and there is no new thing under the sun' (Ecclesiastes ch.1v.9). As we are approaching the time of His Second Coming; we are reaching a world-wide climax of all these signs.

The message of these false Christs is expressed in many forms. From the teachings of Helena Blavatsky, the founder of the Theosophical Society to the world wide teachings of the Ecumenical Movement and the New Age prophecies, we have not only many Christs but also a pack of wolves in sheep's clothing (see Matthew ch.7 v.15). We have been warned that these wolves will raven the sheep (see Ezekiel ch.22 v.27 & Acts ch.20 v.29). This is a story in itself and can be told another day.

These false teachings are very politically correct. Tolerance for all things and beliefs is part of their creed. Very little is black or white. Read Isaiah ch.5 v.20 and the surrounding verses for further details of the resulting curses and confusion. Human reason is at the core of these teachings. The fulfilment of man becoming a god is in every sphere of these man made world religions (Genesis ch.3 v.5). Satan can be transformed as an angel of light (2 Corinthians ch.11 v.14). Nice talk can deceive the hearts of the simple.

'Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.'

Romans ch.16 vv 17-18

The messengers of the illuminated knowledge are present in every unexpected sphere of society. Even what appear to be opposite evil forces have at the core the same message of presenting to the unsuspecting world a process of holistic salvation and a number of saviours to solve all the woes of this world. From the Picasso type designed meditation room of the United Nations to that of worshipping nature we have a man made but Satanically inspired intent to recreate an Eden on earth.

The following few details are a mere thumb sketch of a world wide movement that is planning to establish such an Eden. This movement is drawing people from all religions of the world. It also has an holistic plan to create order out of chaos (planned). 2 Thessalonians ch.2 vv 9-12 is quite relevant to this movement.

‘Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.’

For a moment I will refer to the ‘Gaia’ philosophy. This teaching has also its false Christ in the form of a female goddess. ‘Gaia’ and Eve, who is the mother of all living is closely linked to the New Age teaching.

‘And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.’

Genesis ch.3 v.20

‘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.’

2 Corinthians ch.11 v.3

Because the earth is considered a living organism we arrive at the term Mother Earth or Mother Nature. This mother is ‘Gaia’ or ‘Ge’ in Greek. It is no coincidence that the words Ge-ography and Ge-ology start with ‘Ge’.

You probably have heard of the phrase, ‘Order out of Chaos’. Many writers have connected this phrase to the New World Order and the use of revolutionary change. It is also associated with the Hegel dialectics of history and the ‘thesis, antithesis, synthesis’ solution to the problems of the world. Now in Greek mythology ‘Gaia’ or ‘order’ was the daughter of ‘Chaos’. ‘Gaia's’ son was ‘Oaenus’. Now from this relationship between ‘Gaia’ and ‘Oaenus’, who was also her son, we have the Titans of Greek mythology. Similar relationships also occur in Egyptian mythology in the case of ‘Isis’ and ‘Osiris’. These ancient gods are reappearing in the form of an ecumenical push for a world religion.

The issue that is bringing the major religions together is the concept of a Mother figure, a goddess that speaks gently and is compassionate and tolerant of all beliefs. This is the exoteric message that will fool the people but there is an esoteric and very intolerant undertone. I will leave you to guess what and who will not be tolerated.

In the book, *The Ages of Gaia* by Dr James Lovelock the author provides the connection between 'Gaia' and the Mother Mary of the Roman Catholic church. The general view is that the God of the Old Testament is a 'remote master' so in His place we have a goddess who is linked to all major religions. Also 'Isis' the divine mother of ancient Egypt is being resurrected into the New World religion where one finds senior representatives of all faiths , including the deceived of the Christian faith, so called. In short what we are seeing is the fulfilment of esoteric 'Christianity' where the masses are without understanding and are being led by the blind.

'... Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?'

Luke ch.6 v.39

Whilst preparing this article I came across a book entitled, *Christless Christianity* by Michael Horton. It is a valuable source of information, showing how the majority of churches in America (and the west) are using 'therapeutic Deism' as a newly dressed up religion. The following sentence is one of many quotes,

'It [the church] trivializes God, making Him a means to our selfish ends'.

The book supplements the title of this article. The author shows the present crisis has its beginnings during the first three centuries AD. He refers to Pelagius a monk of the 4th century as an example for the ongoing conflict with doctrine. So many of these people fulfill the words of 2 Timothy ch.3 v.7.

'Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.'

With so many in the mainstream churches denying the Divinity of Christ, the Resurrection, and other vital matters, it is little wonder that we have a 'cut and paste' Bible presented to the people. Thomas Jefferson, as wise as he was, wrote his own Bible in a manner that it deleted the above vital aspects of the true Christ. The following quote by Jefferson partly shows his Deist views which are not Christian. In a quote from his book entitled *Toward the Mystery*, he says,

'The authors of the Gospels were unlearned and ignorant men and the teachings of Jesus have come to us mutilated, misstated and unintelligible'.

The natural man sees mostly the goodness in mankind. For example it is difficult to think of someone as being evil. This characteristic of man has unfortunately not taken into consideration the evil intent of a few who have 'crept in unawares' (see Jude ch.1 v.4). It is true though, that the people as a whole have been conditioned not to want to know the Truth and as a result 'my people love to have it so' (see Jeremiah ch.5 v.31). Those who have 'crept in unawares' rely on the ignorance of the masses. Their deception goes on unheeded. Most of these people are very intelligent and well educated by the standards of the world. Their cunning can sneak in with error that can lie dormant for decades and when the right conditions arrive the false teaching can be hatched from its place of learning. This method of deception can be effectively used to lull the people into a state of mind where they will accept tyranny as a way of life.

In conclusion, the quote by William Booth the founder of the Salvation Army is worthy of note. He was asked the following question, 'What in your opinion is the chief danger, social or political, that confronts the coming century? His answer was,

'In answer to your enquiry, I consider that the chief dangers which confront the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God and Heaven without Hell'.

His concern has come true. Finally some verses from the Scriptures.

'And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying I am Christ; and shall deceive many.'

Matthew ch.24 vv 4-5

'Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.'

1 John ch.4 vv 1-4
