



Berean Watchmen
Ministries

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The Watchmen

THE VOICE FROM THE WALL

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Examine yourself...

The Bible (upon which our learning of things of God rests) teaches us many things. Most significantly from within its pages we learn of our sin under the Law, the judgment to come, the condemnation as a result of that sin, and the redemption of our souls through Jesus Christ.

The moral fabric woven by the Bible and that is supposed to be strengthened by the teachings of the pastors of the churches in which we congregate has been worn thin by poor, lackluster, and even heretical teachings of these selfsame pastors. Whether by ignorance or by design, these pastors are leading many down the wide path to destruction.

The other day I attended a seminar about motivation and sales and such for work. One of the speakers was none other than Mr. "Power of Positive Thinking" himself, Dr. Robert Schuler. As I sat listening to him and was stunned by what I was hearing. To preach on sin, judgment and hell in any form is negativity in its purest form and should be avoided for the sake of being positive and preaching salvation. He told a "funny" anecdote to relay this theme; the end of which had a junior person basically condemning the elder to hell for preaching sin, judgment and hell.

Whaaaaat?!?

Worse yet, a majority of the audience instead of being rightfully indignant laughed and guffawed along with him regarding the story and its outcome. It was sad. It was a prime example of the result of the Laodicean teaching of the Gospel and living your best life now. Ugh... self-centered self-righteous fakers for the most part, I would surmise.

This sort of preaching (salvation alone

with no mention of sin and judgment) is why the church is in the sorry shape that it is in now. Moral relativism has crept its way into the church. Worse yet, it's crept its way into the thinking and faith of many "believers". There is a side effect to this... false converts.

The moral foundation of the church has been eroded by "positive thinking", being "purpose driven", "living your best life now" and worst of all political correctness. ALL of these have a cancerous effect on the church and produce bad fruit as they are all man-centered and not God-focused and therefore eternity minded. They are all designed around feeling good, worrying about how you are perceived and basically being comfortable either spiritually, financially or physically.

Through teachings such as these the understanding of God's Word - that rests upon a solid rock foundation - has been relegated to the proverbial house built upon sand. When the first signs of tribulation come, the truth is rejected as that is not what the adherents to these themes have come to expect. They expect God to give them everything they desire now including peace, comfort, safety, abundance, wealth etc, etc, ad nauseam. Basically God becomes a bubble gum machine... insert prayer and blessing pops out.

This eroding of the solid rock foundation then manifests itself in other thoughts and processes including support for things that are an abomination to God (both directly and indirectly). These people end up supporting deviant lifestyles for fear of being seen as intolerant. They end up supporting the murder of innocents by way of abortions. They end up support policies that reject the support of the state of Israel. The list

goes on.

How can God's people support such things? How can they support things that exist in direct contradiction to the Scriptures? The foundational reasons may vary but they all point to the same thing - a false conversion. That is, making a decision for Christ instead of pleading for salvation out of repentance and faith as the Scriptures demand.

Claiming salvation for whatever purpose without understanding what you are being saved from, and the true wretched nature of our being leads to that end.

With that said, I would ask any reading this to consider and follow the commands of the inspired Word of God....

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reborn?" - 2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourself! How exactly does one do that? I'm glad you asked. One does that by using the schoolmaster that God Himself provided us:

"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith." - Galatians 3:24

"What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." - Romans 7:7

Using the Law of God (the Ten Commandments) as a mirror, examine yourself in light of the Law. Take a hard look at your life. Reflect upon not only your words and deeds but also your thoughts as God judges all three and determine how you would fare.

Have you ever stolen anything? Have you ever lied? Have you have lusted after another person? Have you ever hated someone?

In light of those commandments where do you stack up? Even the slightest sin is enough to condemn you to hell for

eternity for the Scriptures say:

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." - James 2:10

That's a pretty tall order. Further look at the fruit in your life. Are you exhibiting the fruits of Salvation?

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." - Gal 5:22-23

Or does your life resemble this:

"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." - Gal 5:19-21

Are you growing in holiness? Is it easier and easier to overcome temptation? Yes, temptation will still come, and at times you may stumble, but is it easier to overcome it? Has your attitude changed regarding the sins that used to take hold in your life?

Now where do you stack up? If you find yourself woefully short in these areas you may want to consider immediately crying out to God for forgiveness and repenting and turn to Christ in faith as your Savior!

The churches today are sick, the pews are filled with those who have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof. There are those who profess Christ on Sunday and amongst their friends but in darkness turn to other activities and fulfill the definition of hypocrite. Pray you are not counted among them. For if you are like me the most dreadful thought you may have is that upon your death and judgment you hear these words from the King of Kings:

"Many will say to me in that day, Lord,



*"I would not have known sin, if not for the Law"
- Paul the Apostle*

"Are you growing in holiness?"



Christian Church. For instance:

- The concept of reincarnation (Hollywood loves this one)
- Centering and contemplative prayer (Well supported by proponents of the Emerging Church)
- Karma (has worked its way into our daily conversation)
- Being 'One with God' (Oprah loves this one)
- Avatar (a common reference on the internet for a representation of an internet user either through icon or name)
- The fame and reverence of the Dalai Lama in modern times.

Hinduism encompasses a wide variety of religious beliefs, and has been influential in the foundations of other religions, such as Buddhism and the New Age Movement and spin-off religions.

Hindus are very tolerant of other religions, because they believe that all paths eventually lead to God – because ALL is God.

Some Major Teachings of Hinduism

The Law of Karma

The Law of Karma is a guiding principal of Hinduism and is the law of cause and effect, in which each individual creates his own destiny through his thoughts, words and deeds. If we do a good deed, then we will in turn receive positive consequences or blessings. Bad actions or deeds will have the opposite effect. Essentially it is the old adage, "What goes around, comes around".

Often the Law of Karma isn't accounted for in this life, but it impacts your future life. It traps individuals in a cycle of reincarnation, each successive life better or worse dependent on your karmic performance of the previous life. Those who built up bad karma may be born into a lower caste (class) or even as an animal or an insect. It may take many more lifetimes of suffering before they are again born as humans.

Selfless acts and thoughts as well as

devotions to the Hindu god(s) help one to be reborn at a higher level.

A Hindu's condition of suffering helps them to atone for the evil they have committed in their previous life. For this reason, charity is almost unheard of in the religion. If someone is downtrodden, it may be more beneficial to leave them be, as their suffering state may give birth to a better life for them next time around. To ease their suffering now, might in fact hinder their chances at a better life next time. (You can see why there aren't many prosperity preachers in Hinduism)

The process of successive reincarnated lifetimes is called *transmigration*.

Transmigration

Transmigration is passing of the soul at death into a new body or new form of being. Transmigration and reincarnation (the soul's rebirth in a new body) are roughly the same. Transmigration occurs until a soul reaches the perfect state of *nirvana*, or one with god.

Nirvana

Nirvana is the supreme state free from suffering and individual existence. It is a state often referred to as "self realization" or "god realization". It's the ultimate religious goal of all Hindus. The attainment of Nirvana breaks the otherwise endless rebirth cycle of transmigration. Hindus call this nirvana "eternal bliss". However, no one can describe in words what nirvana is. It can only be experienced directly.

The Concept of God in Hinduism

Hinduism is monotheistic - sort of. It recognizes one supreme deity known as Brahman, or ultimate reality. Brahman is the universe and all it contains. Essentially, god is everything, and everything is god, a belief that is known as pantheism. To take the concept further - If 'everything' is god, then that would include you and me. Unlike Christianity, Hinduism has no concept of a personal and knowable God, who is separate from his creation. To a Hindu, Brahman is simply all that exists.

To really confuse the issue, Hinduism also has a polytheistic side. It includes

“Unlike Christianity, Hinduism has no concept of a personal and knowable God, who is separate from his creation.”

aspects of worship of multiple deities (although they are all considered manifestations of the one ultimate reality). Brahman is personalized as three separate entities: Brahma (the Creator), Vishnu (the Preserver), and Shiva (the Destroyer). Most Hindus also worship Krishna and Rama, two of Vishnu's ten incarnations, or avatars. In addition to these major gods (incarnations of Brahman), forces of nature, animals, and humans can all be deified, giving Hindus a pantheon of 330 million gods and goddesses to worship.

Does Hinduism Recognize Jesus?

Not the Jesus of the Bible. Not the true Jesus. Hindus are very happy to consider Jesus to be one of the many *avatars* or incarnations of the impersonal Brahman, however, they do not accept Christ as the ONLY incarnation of God. In no sense does Hinduism recognize Jesus as the unique Son of God, Co-equal, Co-eternal and Co-reigning within the Triune Godhead of the Bible.

Sin and Salvation in Hinduism

There is no concept of Sin against a Holy God in Hinduism. To a Hindu, man's biggest problem is his ignorance that he is in fact 'god' himself.

In Hinduism, since Brahman is all that exists, everything else is ultimately an illusion. Our material world, physical bodies, and our personal existence are all illusions. In essence our ignorance in Hinduism is equivalent to the "fall of man". We have forgotten that we are part of Brahman, and have attached ourselves to the desires of individual self. It is these desires and their consequences that bring suffering, and that subject us to the Law of Karma.

Although there is no concept of 'salvation', the goal is to remove the karmic debt and end the cycle of rebirths. When one overcomes their ignorance of their own divinity and a detachment from self (an illusion), the individual can be released from personal existence and disappear into the impersonal Brahman. This 'liberation' from the wheel of life is called *moksha* or *nirvana* as we mentioned before. Freed from their physical, personal existence, individuals also become free from all

pain and suffering, and become like a single star within all the universe that is Brahman.

There are three paths to achieve this liberation from the wheel of life.

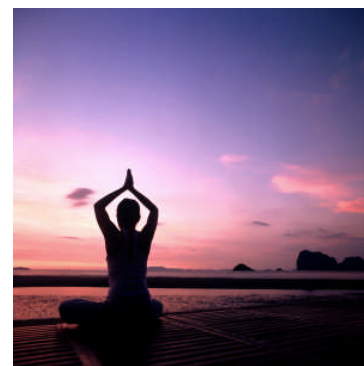
1. The Way of Works: Liberation can be obtained through social and religious obligations.
2. The Way of Devotion:
 - a. This is the most popular way, and includes acts of worship to any of the numerous gods and/or avatars.
 - b. Whether in a home or in a temple, worship is primarily done individually rather than as a congregation. Most Hindus worship daily through offerings, rituals, and prayers. Prayer or worship is considered to be an integral part of the Hindu way of living. The chanting of mantras is the most popular form of worship in Hinduism.
3. The Way of Knowledge: This way attempts to reach a higher consciousness until one finally realizes his identity (or lack of identity) within Brahman. This is achieved through study of philosophical writings, yoga and deep meditation.

Yoga and Hinduism

As just mentioned, yoga is one of the 'Ways of Knowledge'. Yoga is one of the classic systems of Hindu philosophy that practices certain disciplines to achieve freedom from the limitations of the flesh and lead to the fulfillment of knowledge. The goal of yoga is not to achieve peace within, channeling, or the working of miracles, but the acquirement of knowledge. In fact, the yoga doctrine insists that physical and mental training should be used only as a means to spiritual needs.

Yoga practice forms a ladder to perfect knowledge through eight stages: self-control, religious observance, postures, regulation of the breath, restraint of the senses, steadying of the mind,

"To a Hindu, man's biggest problem is his ignorance that he is in fact 'god' himself."



Paths to Brahman?

meditation, and profound contemplation.

The philosophy and practice of yoga have been primary tools of Hindu missionaries to North America since Indian priest and mystic Swami Vivekananda introduced yoga to the West at the World's Fair in 1893 in Chicago.

Swami Vivekananda is attributed with the idea of combining the theory of "evolution of the soul" with his teachings of Hinduism. Instead of working out one's karma by becoming a grasshopper, ant or human in progressive lives, he taught an 'evolution of the soul' whereby the individual continues in an evolutionary process to 'manifest the god within.' This new brand of Hinduism was undoubtedly born because it was thought that North American's would not buy into the traditional Hindu concepts of reincarnation. It would seem that pride has always plagued us North Americans. Not many westerners could imagine they would ever come back as a lower form of life.

Another fellow of interest is Paramahansa Yogananda. Another Hindu missionary, this time in 1920 he was welcomed warmly by elite circles of that day. He started the Self-Realization Fellowship in Los Angeles which still exists today. He chose to demonstrate that yoga was completely compatible with Christianity. Wearing a cross, he came to America with a Hindu religious text, the *Bhagavad Gita*, in one hand and the Bible in the other. He reasoned that yoga was the binding force that could connect all religions together. He wrote a book titled, "*The Second Coming of Christ: The Resurrection of the Christ Within You*". Essentially it was Yogi Paramahansa's commentary on the four Gospels, or as the cover of the book reads, "*A Revolutionary commentary on the original teachings of Jesus*"

Now let's stop right there.

Right now for any evangelical Christian, who seeks truly after the heart and mind of God, warning bells should be ringing loudly in our heads. What on earth would a Hindu guru have to reveal about

the teachings of Jesus.

Was it not Jude who warned us to keep to the original faith?

"Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." Jud 1:3

Take careful note of Jude's words, 'was once for all'. The implications of these words are that the canon is closed. There is no special revelation beyond those that bore the approval of the apostles. Any teaching, new or old, must align itself perfectly with Scripture, or that teaching is deemed false. God is not the author of confusion. He invented language and wanted us to understand His Word as delivered.

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." – 2 Peter 1:20-21

How unfortunate it is that the modern Church does not recognize this most essential fact.

Christians and Yoga

A September 5th, 2005 issue of Time Magazine, featured a quote from Subhas Tiwari, a professor of yoga philosophy and mediation at the Hindu University of America in Orlando, Florida. Mr Tiwari says plainly within that article, "Yoga is Hinduism".¹

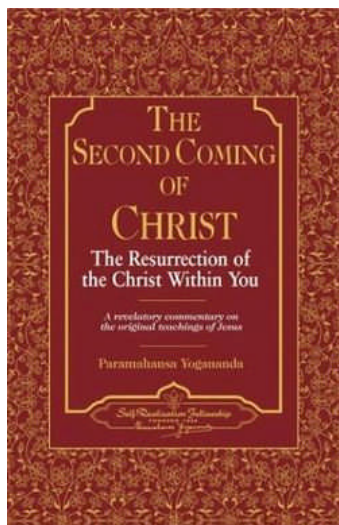
So if the yoga experts know this to be true, and profess it to be so, why do so many who profess to be Christians, deny this essential and baseline fact?

My friends, Christian yoga, is as ludicrous as saying a Christian Hindu, or a Christian Buddhist. There is no such thing.

The following except is from an article posted at Christianity today by Sarah E. Pavlik, and it recounts an experience she had in her first yoga class.



Swami Vivekananda



Yogi Paramahansa's
Commentary on the Gospels

"Once in the class, I scanned the room, curious as to what type of people take yoga. The class was comprised of an unlikely bunch: hefty, construction crew-type men, white-haired grandmas, and people such as me, wearing Nikes and t-shirts. I didn't spot any lime-green hair, or a single pierced nose. Suddenly my attention was drawn to the front of the room. There she was, the instructor—a bit larger than I expected. She looked nothing like those leotard-clad yoga instructors on TV. Her wiry blonde hair blended with her wire-rimmed glasses, giving her an all-around bland appearance. She spoke softly but with intimidating authority.

"Take off your shoes and socks," she said with a whisper. Reluctantly I removed them, hoping nobody else in the room could smell my feet. She explained that we needed to be barefoot so we could sink our feet into the earth. Funny, this earth looked a lot like carpet to me. But I complied, imagining my feet squishing into the soft, fertile ground.

"Now we need to get acquainted with our breath. Americans generally breathe through their mouths and miss the benefits of breathing fully," she informed us. I forced the air in and out, trying to make friends with my breath. It felt good.

"Yoga is thousands of years old, and as of late, has been accepted by modern medicine as a remedy for back pain and stress reduction," she said between breaths. Thousands of years old? Accepted by the medical community? It must be a good thing, I rationalized as I prepared to stretch. We moved quickly into what she termed poses.

First I was a tree. Then she coaxed us into bending our limbs and planting our right foot onto our inner thigh. That wasn't all that difficult until she asked us to squat and twist our torso 90 degrees. She called it the "twisted chair." How appropriate. I looked like a pretzel in blue sweatpants.

Next we began "sun salutations." With our hands raised over our heads, we quickly dropped them to our feet. Finally, we brought our entire bodies to the floor, prostrate. It was obvious this was an ancient form of sun worship. Now not only was my body contorting, my mind was too. God's first commandment to not have any other gods before him sprang to mind. I was getting uncomfortable.

After several repetitions of sun salutations, she brought us back into "mountain pose." I glanced at the clock and was shocked to see all but five minutes of the hour-long class had slipped by. It was time for the relaxation exercise. My muscles were ready, but my spirit was a bit more cautious.

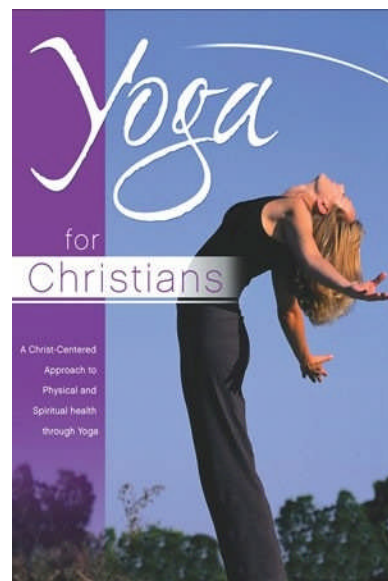
I lay down on the carpeted earth. She encouraged us to shut our eyes and go to our quiet place. Being a mother of two boys, I wasn't sure if such a place existed, so I decided heaven would be my quiet place. "It's time to let go of the stresses of the world, your job, your home, your deadlines, and just be at peace," the instructor said soothingly. The twing-twang of the music seemed to blend with everyone's breathing. Then she instructed us to start squeezing the muscles in our toes, then our feet, on up our legs, abdomen, and finally our faces. What a sight we all must have been lying there, our bodies rigid and our faces forced into Jim Carrey-like contortions. "Now fall back into the earth," our instructor commanded. We repeated this bizarre exercise about three times, and then, the instructor told us to come back into our body.

It was not a happy reunion. My body ached from the wicked chair—or was it the twisted chair? And my spirit was out of sorts. Scenes of saluting the sun and leaving my body played in my mind as I drove home. Would I be able to stay in yoga without compromising my Christian beliefs? I wondered.

Sun worship? What about the other poses?



Sun Salutations



A Christ Centered approach to things abominable to God?

“... yoga postures are offerings to the 330 million Hindu gods”

With some research under my belt, I'm sure many readers would be surprised to realize that the yoga postures are offerings to the 330 million Hindu gods (manifestations of Brahman). As you perform the yoga poses, you are in essence worshipping a false god.

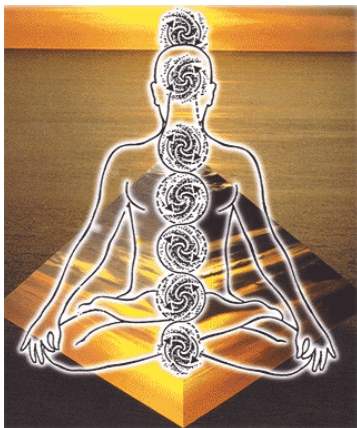
The second commandment reads,

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,” - Exodus 20:4-5

And the Apostle Paul would say to us,

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God...” - Romans 12:1

Note also from the *Christianity Today* article quoted above that the author mentions, “come back into our body?” Leaving our bodies and going to our quiet place? I wonder who checks in, while the yoga student checks out?



Kundalini which means 'coiled up' or 'coiled like a snake'

Yoga means “union” or “yoked” in Sanskrit. “Union and yoked with what?”. you might ask. Well, as mentioned earlier, it is one of the ways of knowledge to become in union with Brahman. As yoga is an arm of Hinduism, its ultimate goal is to help you reach union with Brahman, your higher self, god, or the universe, depending on your interpretation of ‘god in us’.

The practice of yoga, the positions and breathing prepares the body for the occult changes that will arouse the coiled power (kundalini) at the base of spine. This power can travel up the spine passing through the chakras to the top of your head (Crown Chakra). It is the ultimate goal for the kundalini (Coiled or Serpent Power) to reach the brain. The “OM” which is repeated over and over again is to empty the mind of thought so that a new spirit can enter.

What kind of spirits? I'm sure you

guessed it from the words ‘serpent’ power. (Rev 20:2)

Swami Narayananda describes some of the possibilities:

“These hot currents that reach the brain center heat the brain, make the mind fickle, bring insomnia, brain disorder, insanity and incurable diseases. For the hot currents keep the mind wide awake and if a person does not know how to check the currents and to bring down the partly risen kundalini shakti to safer centers, one suffers terribly and it may ruin the whole life of a person or lead one to insanity. This is why we see many become insane, many get brain defects, and many others get some incurable diseases after deep sorrow.”³

Gopi Krishna, founder of one of the many kundalini research centers, records his own experience:

“It was variable for many years, painful, obsessive, even phantasmic. I have passed through almost all the stages of different mediumistic, psychotic, and other types of mind; for some time I was hovering between sanity and insanity.”⁴

I have personally heard reports and read documentation of yoga participants experiencing some or even all of the following as a result of their seemingly harmless ‘exercise’ program: Fear, uncontrollable laughing or weeping, intervals of ecstasy, tremors, spasms, and violent shaking. In some cases the guru or instructor can impart these manifestations in mass, to his/her students, leaving them writhing on the floor helpless.

We must ask the question again. When someone takes part in yoga (union), with what are they becoming in union with?

New-Age techniques almost always involve some form of meditation that is to bring you into a state of peace, enlightenment, open the door of psychic knowledge, and promise extraordinary power. But this power is an illusion of self-worship. It is occult and very dangerous because the spirit you invite is a demonic one. You are NOT uniting

with a higher-spirit, an ascended master or a spirit-guide. Instead you are uniting with a counterfeit spirit who is delighted to deceive you into thinking it is a positive force, but in truth it is demonic and an abomination to God.

“There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD...” - Deuteronomy 18:10-12

At its roots, yoga and Hinduism teach that the self is God. In Christianity, one denies self. The differences are polar opposites and cannot be reconciled.

“Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” - Luke 9:23

A Christian should not and can not take part in something so distasteful to God whom we profess to love. Even if one removes the spiritual aspects of yoga (which evidence would suggest is impossible) and fools themselves into thinking it's only exercise, the truth of the matter is that regardless of your intent, to the outside world you look like you are condoning yoga - all aspects of it. Your actions could very well be a stumbling block to others and causing others to fall into the trap of occultism, new-ageism and idolatry.

“For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.” – 1 Colossians 8:10-12

We are to abstain from those things which could make our brother stumble. We are to walk diligently in the world, but yet set apart from the world. We don't desire the things of this world, but

rather the things of the heaven. In my opinion this would include those 'Christian' alternatives to yoga which are popping up. True they may not be actually yoga in concept and teaching, yet they still 'look' like yoga to an outside and unbelieving world. If the world sees a Christian doing something that looks like yoga, they might therefore believe that yoga is safe and condoned by the church, thereby falling into a trap that leads to destruction.

Yoga is everywhere. It's on television, it's being taught in church basements, at fitness centres and even in video games (a place Hinduism and new-age thinking likes to hide as well). The very popular video game Wii Fit contains elements of exercise that is very good for the fitness of an individual, unfortunately it is also packaged with a plethora of yoga stretches and poses to help obtain your fitness goals. Within the very city where I live there is a non-profit group called *Yoga for Youth* whose sole purpose is to get yoga into all of the public schools as a regular program⁵ - and it seems to be working. My kids report back to me the presence of yoga in their physical education classes. My kids of course abstain, and have so far been left unharassed by their teachers, fellow students and school administration, but I wonder for how long? Many of the Christian parents we talk to do not have any problems with their kids taking part in yoga at school – after all, it's just exercise right? I wonder how long before our family's voice will be deemed as one of an extreme minority whose petty intolerance to things condemned by the Bible is outdated, and unconstitutional.

I hope this article has it least won some of you over to the reality that yoga is occult and an abomination to God whom we profess to love.

It's time for the Church to stand up, dust off their swords and be counted for truth and righteousness. Are we just going to continue to allow Satan to have a field day in our public schools and communities, or are we going to let our voice stand, and abstain from these types of activities and teachings? For every community group that promotes occult activities, the Church could raise

“... yoga is occult and an abomination to God whom we profess to love.”



*Yoga on the Wii
Video Game System*



A Silent Church

up a valid and justified counter argument. However, it repeatedly remains silent. Perhaps if abstinence and letters of concern were sent in response to these types of programs, there would be far fewer of them permeating our society. I wonder if the same would hold true to the television programming and other media venues such as Hollywood? (A good subject for another article).

Christ spoke plainly,

"But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." - Mat 10:33

And so I must ask the pertinent question...

Where is the Church today?

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather

expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." - Ephesians 5:11-16

Until Next time,

Serve Your King.

- J.R. Hall

Footnotes:

1. <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1098937,00.html>
2. http://www.christianitytoday.com/tcw/2001/sep/oct/3_50.html
3. Swami Narayananda, "The Primal Power in Man", pg. 60
4. Gopi Krishna, "The Awakening", p. 124
5. "Yoga session goes Green", The Star Phoenix, July 27, 2009

References:

1. Ray Comfort, "World Religions in a Nutshell: A Compact Guide to Reaching Those of Other Faiths", 2008



Berean Watchmen Ministries is proud to present the 4th Annual Saskatoon Bible & Prophecy Conference.

Date: October 16th – 12:30pm to 9pm
October 17th – 8:30am to 9pm
October 18th – 10:30am to 4pm

Location: Erindale Alliance Church
310 Perehudoff Cr
Saskatoon, Sk, Canada

Speakers Include:

Dr. David Reagan – Lamb & Lion Ministries – www.lamblion.com
Gary Fisher – Lion of Judah Ministry – <http://www.lionofjudahministry.org>
Dr. Thomas Sharp – Creation Truth Foundation - <http://www.creationtruth.com/>
Dr. Randall Price – World of the Bible Ministries - <http://www.worldofthebible.com/>
J.R. Hall – Berean Watchmen Ministries – <http://www.bereanwatchmen.com/>

Topics Titles Include:

"The Rapture", "Creation, Evolution & The 2nd Coming of Christ", "Saving Faith", "Searching for the Original Bible", "50 Reasons Why We are Living in the End Times", "Searching for the Ark of the Covenant", "The Miracle of Israel", "Evolution: The Greatest Deception of all Time", "What on Earth is Going On", "Is their Faith on Earth", "The Middle East Crisis in Biblical Perspective", "A Little Bit of Leaven", "Where is the Promise of His Coming?", "Searching for Noah's Ark", "Living on the Edge of Eternity"

Please come and join us. Registration is **FREE!!**

News Bites

"Christians" Celebrating Ramadan?

August 25, 2009
By Joel Richardson

As the Islamic observance of Ramadan begins this year, an increasing number of Christians will also be entering into 30 days of prayer and fasting. Across the world, a growing number of Christians have been joining the movement led by the 30-Days Prayer Network, which calls Christians to pray and fast for Muslims during the month of Ramadan.

... a smaller left-wing Christian sect, often referred to as "the emerging church," is now also taking a very different approach. This year, a group of emergent Christians led by one of the United States most influential pastors, Brian McLaren, has

announced that it will actually be "observing" the Muslim holy month, along with a Muslim "partner." Ramadan is the month that Muslims thank Allah, their god, for revealing the Quran to Muhammad, their prophet. On McLaren's personal blog, he recently announced his intentions: "We, as Christians, humbly seek to join Muslims in this observance of Ramadan as a God-honoring expression of peace, fellowship, and neighborliness." But does such an interreligious observance go beyond mere "neighborliness" and cross the line of religious compromise and syncretism? Does observing the religious

holy month of Ramadan create the impression of an endorsement of Islam?

Continued online at:
<http://www.wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=107812>

Editor's Note: Brian McLaren is now endorsing and taking part in Ramadan?

How can it be possible that someone who calls himself Christian, and whom many will call Christian, can take part in an idolatrous act of fasting to honor the moon god Allah?

I am absolutely sick to my stomach.

What's next on Brian's agenda? Séances with Wiccans and Mediums?

Please come Lord Jesus.



Brian McLaren now endorses fasting with our Muslim brothers and sisters during their Muslim Holy Month of Ramadan

Lutherans to Allow Sexually Active Gays as Clergy

August 21, 2009
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) -- The nation's largest Lutheran denomination took openly gay clergy more fully into its fold Friday, as leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America voted to lift a ban that prohibited sexually active gays and lesbians from serving as ministers.

Under the new policy, individual ELCA congregations will be allowed to hire homosexuals in committed relationships as clergy. Until now, gays and lesbians had to remain celibate to serve as clergy.

The change passed with the support of 68 percent of about 1,000 delegates at the ELCA's national assembly. It makes the group, with about 4.7 million members in the U.S., one of the largest U.S.

Christian denominations yet to take a more gay-friendly stance.

"I have seen these same-gender relationships function in the same way as heterosexual relationships -- bringing joy and blessings, as well as trials and hardships," the Rev. Leslie Williamson, associate pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Des Plaines, Ill., said during the hours of debate. "The same-gender couples I know live in love and faithfulness and are called to proclaim the word of God as are all of us."

Conservative congregations will not be forced to hire gay clergy. Nevertheless, opponents of the shift decried what they saw as straying from clear Scriptural direction, and warned it could lead some congregations and individual churchgoers to split off from the ELCA.

Continued online at:
<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2009/08/21/us/AP-US-Lutherans-Gays.html>

Editor's Note: *I can't believe this is even a subject for debate in the church today.*

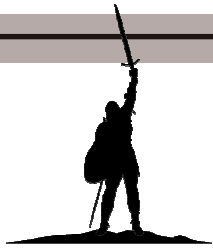
All one would have to do is open the Bible to end it.

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor Sodomitites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God." – 1 Cor 6:9

So if homosexuals won't enter the Kingdom, why would we make them PASTORS?!?



Oh what would Martin Luther say?



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*"...Now these [beregans] were more noble... in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so."
- Acts 17:10-11*

Berean Watchmen Ministries is a non-profit charitable corporation registered under the Province of Saskatchewan, Canada

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.bereanwatchmen.com

Letter's from our Readers

Q: I understand that there will be a Millennial Reign of Christ on earth, but I'm confused as to what God's purpose for this Millennium will be. Why is there this 1000 year period of peace and then the devil is released again?

- M.W.

A: Although we cannot know the mind of God, we can perhaps take a really good guess as to why the Millennium is part of His plan.

From Scripture we can see that the millennium will serve at least four important functions in the eternal plan of God.

1) **To Reward the Faithful:** In the millennium the saints will be awarded positions of authority based on their faithfulness in life (Luke 19:16-19).

2) **To Redeem Creation:** The current earth is not the original one God created. If you recall, after the fall of Adam and Eve God pronounced 5 curses (Gen 3:14-19). The earth was the last one. That curse was described well in Romans 8:19-22. Isaiah 11:6-9; 35:1-7 and Ezek 47:8-12 paint some wonderful pictures of the redeemed earth of the millennial kingdom.

3) **To Recognize the Promises of God:** God made three unconditional and eternal covenants that will be fulfilled in the millennial kingdom. These are the covenants made with Abraham (Gen 12:1-3;15:18-21), David (2 Sam 7:12-16; Ezek 37:22-25; Amos 9:11-15; Zeph 3:14-17) and the nation of Israel (Jer 31:31-34; Ezek 36:24-26).

4) **To Reaffirm the Total Depravity of Man:** God's Word clearly teaches that man is sinful by nature and practice.

After the thousand year reign, Satan will be loosed for a season and will be able to gather a rebel army who apparently never truly repented and submitted to Christ as Savior.

It seems hard for us to imagine that there would be people who live on earth when Christ Jesus reigns from David's throne in Jerusalem who, even though seeing His glory and wonder, can end up denying Him and siding with Satan in the end.

God will give mankind the perfect environment of the Millennium to live and dwell in for 1000 years. God will live among men, and yet men will deny God. Amazing to consider. It is staggering to

think we are capable of such audacity, and yet, history does repeat itself.

Did not the Israelites have God living with them in the tabernacle in the wilderness and then they too denied Him? They cried out for an earthly King to lead them. God Himself was their leader, but they wanted a carnal one. And worse then that, they ended up following after other gods and becoming as heathens among the heathens. No wonder God's punishment of scattering them among the nations was so severe.

What wretched beings we humans are. To think that we can live with God, and deny Him while emersed and present to His glory.

The millennium will remove any doubt from the world about the essential fact that "All have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God". It will be proved without a doubt that regardless of heredity, circumstances or environment conditions - man is sinful apart from God's saving grace.

- J.R. Hall

Upcoming Events...

4th Annual Saskatoon Bible & Prophecy Conference:

We are in the planning stages for this event and have the following speakers booked: Dr. David Reagan (Lion & Lamb), Dr. Randall Price (World of the Bible), Gary Fisher (Lion of Judah Ministries), Dr. Thomas

Sharp (Creation Truth Foundation), J.R Hall (Berean Watchmen)

The date for the event is set for October 17,18 & 19, 2009.

We have more information online including topic titles and times, and there will be more detailed mention in our next newsletter.

Check out

<http://www.bereanwatchmen.com/> for more information and updates!

Overheard

"The Word of God well understood and religiously obeyed is the shortest route to spiritual perfection. And we must not select a few favorite passages to the exclusion of others. Nothing less than a whole Bible can make a whole Christian."

- A.W. Tozer