

Nature as God?

Commentary for January 18, 2011 — The Apostle Paul Was Correct

Every six months or so I like to check out the free New Age magazines that come to my local library. I do this to see what are the current topics and trends of New Age and occult thinking. Emotional and physical health and energetic medicine seem to be the popular topics in such magazines these days. Former topics such as UFOs are no longer to be seen, and even articles on angels and spirits are rare in these publications. However, one topic that remains in these publications is old fashioned pagan mysticism.

One Oregon publication is called *Alternatives Magazine*. The lead article for the Winter '10-'11 issue was by Hank Wesselman, Ph.D., edited from his website. The original article is titled "[The New Mysteries: An Indigenous Prophecy](#)." At the beginning of the article Wesselman writes that **"the primordial spirituality would re-emerge and re-establish itself."** This spirituality involves **"direct revelation,"** meaning that spirituality is given to an individual through expanded states of awareness or through states of consciousness from a spiritual source or entity or force, and not through the writings of a scripture, and not from the Bible.

"The first thing they discover when they do so is that these inner worlds are inhabited, for there they encounter spirits — the spirits of nature, the elementals, the ancestors [supposedly], and the higher, compassionate transpersonal forces, many of whom serve humanity as spirit helpers, guardians, teachers and guides."

• *Wesselman, "An Indigenous Prophecy"*

This is foolishness, yet this is the supposed way to enlightenment, the path of the shaman, in Wesselman's opinion and experience. The purpose of the exercises and various disciplines is to train the body to accept and not reject these entities (which the body and spirit of man naturally wants to do because they are so alien),¹ overcoming the normal fear and bodily response to reject such entities. This is, of course, pure paganism and Dr. Wesselman is proud of it. Toward the end of the article he identifies the core of the primordial spirituality:

"Through an enhanced mystical connection with Nature, we become aware that Nature is a complex mosaic made up of many nations, only some of which happen to be human. And as our understanding of our relationship with these nations deepens, we begin to comprehend something that the Pagan pre-Christian peoples of our world understood well — that Nature ... the infinitely creative and universal principle infusing everything on our beautiful planet with life force and ever-increasing diversity... is God."

• *Wesselman, "An Indigenous Prophecy"*

¹ Ecclesiastes 3:19-21:

"For that which befalls the sons of men befalls beasts; even one thing befalls them: as the one dies, so dies the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man has no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knows the spirit of man that goes upward, and the spirit of the beast that goes downward to the earth?"

This is entirely wrong, but did you note this? **"Nature ... is God."** Indeed, I believe this is the main point of the article. Wesselman also says that **"Pagan pre-Christian peoples"** understood that point very well. I agree with his statement. This is what New Age spiritual beliefs come down to: that all is God or that each person is a piece of God. This mistakes the spirit of life (which comes from God) as being God. This is thought to be so because that spirit of life is so powerful, so energetic, and it seems to have life itself within it, that many have mistaken that life spirit for God Himself, just as Mr. Wesselman has done.

"It has been my direct experience ... that what most Westerners think of as the father (or mother) God is actually a beginningless and endless field of light that some know as the Source or the Tao, a vast sea of timeless energy that is charged with potential."

• *Wesselman, "The New Mysteries"*

This is exactly what the apostle Paul warned against in the first chapter of the epistle to the Romans:

"For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse; for although they knew God they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking and their senseless minds were darkened.

Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man or birds or animals or reptiles. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed for ever [for the eon]! Amen."

• *Romans 1:19–25 RSV*

God is separate from His creation. (It came out of him.) Wesselman and those like him worship the creation, as Paul says, **"the creature rather than the Creator."** Their thinking is futile and their minds have been darkened and senseless. They become fools.

On the other hand, **"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth"** (John 4:24).² That truth comes through His written word, the Bible. Pontius Pilate asked Jesus **"What is truth?"** Earlier the previous day in the upper room Jesus prayed to His Father on behalf of His disciples: **"Sanctify them through your truth: your word is truth"** (John 17:17).

Truth does not come through direct revelation from a spirit entity. It comes through the Word of God. Our task is to rightly divide that word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15), because that **"word of truth [is] the gospel of your salvation"** (Ephesians 1:13, see also Colossians 1:5).

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² The opposite is not true: all spirit is not God, even though all spirit (and spirits) comes from God.