Lecture I

New Age Movement

I. What is the New Age Movement?
   A. Eastern religion in Western clothes
   B. The core is clear but the edges are unclear.
   C. Examples
      1. Shirley MacLaine – New Age author and film star
      2. USA Today – the Christ is now here
      3. Atmananda – reincarnation and meditation
   D. Common values – all is one. Common vision – coming new age

II. Why do we need to know about it?
   A. It has exploded onto the scene in the United States and internationally.
   B. Is it growing? – 23–25% of people in America and Western Europe believe in reincarnation.
   C. Can’t avoid it forever
      1. Films – Star Wars trilogy – Joseph Campbell and George Lucas
      2. New Age books increasing
      3. Psychology – Transpersonal and Human Potential movement. Note Carl Jung and Abraham Maslow
      4. Science – New Age Physics – Capra the Tao of Physics
      5. Business – New Age management seminars
      6. Education – visualization techniques
      7. Medicine – holistic health
      8. Politics – New Age Politics by Mark Satin
      9. Sports – tennis, golf, and others
     10. Religious movements – infiltrating other countries subtly yet voraciously
D. Biblical Call

1. Col. 2:8 Beware of Philosophy - Be aware of it.
2. 1 Peter 3:15 Be able to give a reasonable defense.

III. How can we recognize the New Age Movement?

A. All is one - (non-distinction)

1. Only one species on this planet - life on earth
2. Consciousness has no skin
3. Good and evil are one
4. All truths are one - leads to relativism

B. You are divine

1. Shirley MacLaine - "I am god, I am god"
2. You are part of God - meant to be supreme compliment

C. The purpose of life is to alter our consciousness

1. Our most basic problem is ignorance
2. Use of psychotechnologies - methods of altering the consciousness
   a. Sensory deprivation
   b. Seminars - Forum, Lifespring, Sylva Mind Control, etc.
   c. Types of yoga
   d. Holistic health methods
   e. Various therapies - Gestalt

D. Result - unlimited power

1. You create your own reality.
2. You can have it as you imagine and as you will.
3. Examples - firewalking, levitation, healing
IV. Other Aspects of Movement

A. Channeling

1. Spirits - teaching New Age philosophy through channels
2. J. Z. Knight channels Ramtha - 35,000 year old Hindu warrior
3. Jack Pursell - Lazarus
4. Penny Torres - Mafu - last incarnated as a leper in Pompeii
5. Seth series - Jane Roberts
6. A course in miracles - Helen Schucman - supposedly from Jesus

B. Neo-Paganism

1. Book Drawing Down the Moon, Margot Adler
2. New witchcraft
3. Leaders - Starhawk, Z. Budapest
5. Much like the paganism of Old Testament times - worship of the goddess
6. Occult Principle - As above so below.
7. Promises power - uses rite and ritual to alter consciousness to see you are divine and all is one

V. Important contrasts between New Age and Christian beliefs

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Age</th>
<th>Christian</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All is one</td>
<td>Creation is real and good</td>
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<tr>
<td>You are divine</td>
<td>You are a creature created by</td>
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<td>God in His image</td>
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Lecture I page four

New Age
Purpose - alter consciousness

Christian
Purpose - alter the direction of our existence - from opposition between our will and God's will. Repentance - Metanoia - 180° turn - to bring our will in line with His will

Promise - unlimited power for man
Promise - limited power for man - only God has unlimited power

VI. Biblical Response

A. Promise of deity - most basic sin
1. Gen. 1 - You shall be as gods
2. Idolatry - worshipping anything in the creation
3. Romans 1: Worshipping the creature rather than the Creator

B. Perfectionism the ultimate illusion
1. We are limited, finite, fallen people. We cannot ultimately be in control of our lives.
2. God is unlimited, infinite, holy, sovereign