

THE SERVANT

WINTER EDITION

1989

Walter Martin, Ph.D.

The Bible Answer Man comes to Tucson

Speaking at Casas Adobes Baptist Church 2131 W. Ina Rd., Sunday, January 22nd at 6:30 pm and also January 23rd & 24th at 7:00 pm. Don't miss America's foremost authority on the Cults as he teaches on:

The Cult's Influence on the Family

The New Age Religion

The Cult of Liberalism

Christianity Today has called Professor Martin "the most productive evangelical scholar writing in the field of the sects today." Dr. Bernard Ramm of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary writes: "I have examined the writing of Walter Martin... and I can recommend them to the Christian reading public. I have noted that Mr. Martin writes squarely from within the Orthodox Christian position.

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AND MORE.....

**CHRISTIAN
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Dear Friends and members of the **Christian Awareness Fellowship**:

As we look forward to serving our Lord in 1989, we would like to say **THANK YOU** for supporting us in 1988. Your Prayers and Gifts help shine His Light into a dark world. Because of your love we have been able to accomplish the following in 1988:

A Closer Look, our daily radio program, is currently heard on 16 stations across the country. The deception of the cults and the occult are addressed from a Biblical perspective. Free literature is always offered at the end of each program.

Church Presentations have kept our volunteer teachers busy with about two presentations every week since this summer. The Lord opened the doors to dozens of churches (14 demominations!) this past year. The Love Offerings provided by the members of these churches have met most of our financial needs, including our publications, radio programming, and office rent. Praise the Lord!

Counseling opportunities have helped those confused and hurt by false religions. We have seen God restore marriages, bring believers back into their churches, and turn those involved with the occult to Christ.

Information about the cults has been provided to hundreds of interested people by mail and telephone.

A **Bible Study** entitled "Essentials of the Christian Faith," is being taught Tuesday nights at our new office. We hope to help those involved in the cults and those interested in learning basic Christian doctrines.

The Servant, our quarterly newsletter, exposes the false teachings of contemporary religions, and also informs readers of C. A. F. activities. In order to continue providing *The Servant* free to those who would like it, we are updating our mailing lists. If we haven't heard from you in the last year, please take the time to fill out the form below and send it to us.

We're looking forward to hearing from you!

Cut along this line

YES!, I'm interested in the **Christian Awareness Fellowship's** ministry. Please keep me on the mailing list to receive *The Servant*.

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Please send info on C. A. F. church / organization presentations.

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The Christian Awareness Fellowship, Inc. is a non-profit, inter-denominational Christian ministry supported by your prayers & gifts. Write us at: Box 35335, TUCSON, AZ 85740 (602) 742-3032.

Martin

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The Reverend Walter Martin holds four earned degrees and has authored 12 full-length books. Dr. Martin's classic book, *The Kingdom of the Cults*, is listed by NEWSWEEK as, "one of the 10 best selling spiritual books in America." The late Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse once wrote of him, "I know of no one who equals him in this field." Dr. Martin is the founder of Christian Research Institute and has been its director for 26 years.

Walter Martin is perhaps most well known for "The Bible Answer Man" program, a two-hour, live telephone show in which Professor Martin answers questions about the Bible and related subjects. The program has been recognized by the National Religious Broadcasters as "one of the newest and most controversially stimulating programs in Christian radio!" "Dateline Eternity" is another radio program (one-half hour in length) which includes the best Bible questions and answers from the live "Bible Answer Man" program.

Professor Martin appeared for over ten years as a regular panel member on the largest night-time discussion program in our nation, "The John Nebel Show" heard in 43 states, six days a week over the NBC Radio Network. Professor Martin has also appeared on the "Donahue" show, "Kelly and Company," "Vox Populi," "The 700 Club," "100 Huntley Street," "The John Ankerberg Show," Trinity Broadcasting Network, The Canadian Broadcasting Network and many other syndicated radio and television programs.

"Walter Martin is one of the most articulate spokesmen for evangelical Christianity that I know."

- - Dr. Billy Graham

WILLOW

An Old Story with a New Twist
by Duane L. Burgess

"Exciting, entertaining, a triumph of good over evil"...such are likely appraisals of the film Willow by its viewers. But these assessments are subjective, and thus, incomplete. God calls believers to evaluate all things objectively, measuring them according to the standard of scripture.

Willow may be broadly categorized as a New Age film for its emphasis on spiritism, the occult and a pantheistic philosophical perspective and world view. The film features seers, wizards, sorcerers, casting of spells, and magic, to name a few of the occultic practices, all of which are Biblically unacceptable.

Willow is a Lucasfilm production and in many ways is a remake of Star Wars in a time without spaceage technology. Lucas was quoted in TIME magazine as saying that STAR WARS was a religious statement reflecting his personal belief that God is an impersonal force of good and evil, and that it is better to tap into his good side.

The film's main character, Willow, is a dwarf who desires to be a sorcerer's apprentice. "Magic is the bloodstream of the universe," he is told. His children find a baby floating down the river (a la Moses). Willow reluctantly assumes the responsibility of returning the baby to her people. Unfortunately the wicked queen of the empire, Bavmorda, is seeking to destroy the child. A seer has prophesied that a child would be born who would overthrow the queen. This draws a remarkable parallel with the biblical account of the incarnation of Christ. However, unlike Herod's mass slaughter of children, this baby is born with an identifying mark and is being sought out specifically. Despite Willow's best efforts, the baby is captured and taken to the Queen who prepares a ritual of black magic to send the child's spirit to the netherworld. In a battle of "black and

(see "Willow," p. 4)

One God In Three Persons

by Tom Campbell

The Scriptures make it unquestionably clear that there is only one God. Isaiah 45:5 states, "I am the Lord and there is no other; apart from me there is no God." Chapter 43 verse 10 makes it clear that there never has been, nor ever will be another. In fact, in just six short chapters (Isaiah 43-48), we find ten explicit statements attesting to his existence as the only true God.

In addition to the truth of God's oneness, the Scriptures also refer to **three distinct persons** as God. Passages such as John 6:27 present a person called the *Father* as God. John 1:1, on the other hand, declares *The Word* to be God and goes on in verse 14 to reveal *The Word* to be the *Son* of the Father. Further study reveals the Son to be none other than Jesus Christ (Matt 16:16), who is God himself, who took on a body of flesh (Phil 2:6-8). And finally, the Scriptures reveal a third person designated as God--the *Holy Spirit* (Acts 5:3-4).

One may be inclined to surmise here that the one true God simply has three names by which he reveals himself, and that these names do not infer three separate persons. The Scriptures, however, clearly prove this idea false, as all three persons are shown interacting together. In Matt 3:16-17, for example, Jesus is being baptized, the Holy Spirit is descending, and the Father is verbally asserting his love for and pleasure in his Son. In contrast, the Worldwide Church of God would say here that though the Father and Son may be persons, the Holy Spirit is just a force sent from God. This is easily refuted, however, by the fact that the Holy Spirit can be lied to (Acts 5:3), he can be grieved (Eph 4:30), and he has a will and an intellect whereby he makes decisions based on that will (I Cor 12:11).

Summarizing these truths is difficult for the finite mind. One God is easily comprehended as are three persons, but comprehending both truths as existing in harmony is very difficult. As a result, many often turn to analogies used as explanations, but these always fall short.

It is not wrong to try to summarize these truths, provided neither is diminished by the harmonization of the two.

Virtually every cult, however, has emphasized one to the detriment of the other, as has every heretical movement in the history of the Church. The goal of all of these groups has been to limit the existence of God to the level of **human** understanding. Their beliefs are typically categorized as either, one God with three names, as taught by the followers of William Branham; three separate Gods, as the Mormons teach; or one God with Christ being a lesser god, as the Jehovah's Witnesses believe.

The problem is, of course, that none of these express the scriptural view. In fact, there is only one word that has been able to adequately express God's existence without diminishing either truth. This word has stood the test of centuries of attempts to find a better word. The word is *Trinity* and simply denotes one essence existing in three eternal persons who are distinct but equal, and are in complete unity. Many complain that the word is not found in Scripture, and therefore should not be used. The truth remains, however, that the **meaning** of the word *Trinity* is found in scripture, and the view expressed therein is the only one accepted by historical, Orthodox Christianity.

Whether or not a person or movement needs to accept the word *Trinity* is debatable. What is not debatable, however, is that any concept of the existence of God other than the one expressed by the word *Trinity* is unscriptural and therefore heretical and stands condemned by the word of God and Orthodox Christianity.

For those who belong to God through Christ, it must be remembered that it is Satan who seeks to pervert men's understanding of God. The goal of evangelism is to introduce lost people to the one true God. To allow him to be portrayed as anything other than who he is, is to fall short of that goal. □

Krishna Temple Opens in Tucson

Last year The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) dedicated new temples in Tucson and other cities across the U. S. The Hindu cult, with its international headquarters in New Vrindabad, West Virginia, is trying to change its image after being plagued with internal feuds, murders, and drug trafficking charges. ISKCON's head guru, Swami Bhaktipada, (and his armed body guards and attack dog) visited Tucson for the temple dedication.

Baktipada (formerly Gregory Detamore, a son of a Baptist minister) seized control of the sect after numerous splits and dissensions. At the opening of the \$145,000 Tucson temple, prospective converts were served a vegetarian dinner. According to Tucson's swami, Dasarath Pundit (formerly Charles Cooksey), the commune will open a cafe and a clothing & book shop to help raise financial support. Pundit said in an interview in the Arizona Daily Star that students of the University of Arizona have been very receptive to the cult's beliefs, with one or two dozen people visiting them daily. ■

WILLOW

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white" magic, Bavmorda is vaporized into the cosmic eternity.

But the battle of good and evil falls far short of conformity to biblical truth in the process. The outcome is undetermined; either good or evil may triumph. Philosophically the film points to latent human potential within man as Willow is told, "All creatures of good heart need your help, but the choice is yours."

For objective consideration the film is built on the following anti-biblical content: supernatural powers; sorcery; casting of bones to read the future, white & black magic; occultic rituals; mental telepathy; and pantheism, just to name a few. The Bible condemns these practices in Deut. 18:9-14. ■

WITNESSING TIPS

by Jack Gracie

Witnessing to someone deceived by a non-Christian cult can be an interesting experience. However, for some Christians, this experience can be extremely frustrating -- it's entirely different than witnessing to someone who is lost but not deceived by cultic teaching.

The Bible gives us great insight about what happens spiritually to people who believe and receive false cultic doctrines. I Tim. 4:1 calls them 'doctrines from demons'. Paul, in his letter to the church in Corinth (II Cor 4:1-4), explains that if someone deliberately perverts the Word of God or blatantly changes the message of the Bible by handling it deceitfully, they become spiritually blind to God's truths-- so blind that they can't see or understand the gospel of Jesus Christ no

matter how clearly it is presented. A common characteristic of non-Christian cults is handling the Word of God deceitfully.

What is a Christian to do? Number one, we must realize the cultist is spiritually blinded by the adversary and our war is not "against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers," meaning the spiritual realm. Secondly, everything we say and do must be undergirded with prayer. Prayer is important before we witness, while we witness, and after the deceived person leaves. Finally, it is the job of the Holy Spirit to convict one's conscience of sin. Our job as Christians is to be God's messengers, delivering the good news of the risen Saviour. ■

Jack can be heard weekdays on the radio program "A Closer Look," which is aired on the following stations:

ARIZONA

KFLR	90.3 FM	Phoenix
KFLT	830 AM	Tucson
KTBA	1050 AM	Tuba City

CALIFORNIA

KCLB	91.9 FM	Santa Rosa
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GEORGIA

WSML	88.9 FM	Athens
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IOWA

KNWS	105.5 FM	Ames
KNWS	102.0 FM	Waterloo

KANSAS

KNGM	91.9 FM	Emporia
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MICHIGAN

WUFL	1030 AM	Detroit
WUNN	1110 AM	Mason
WUGN	99.7 FM	Midland

NEW MEXICO

KFLQ	91.5 FM	Albuquerque
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NORTH CAROLINA

WYCV	900 AM	Granite Falls
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OREGON

KHPE	107.9 FM	Albany
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TEXAS

KTXO	1500 AM	Sherman
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WEST VIRGINIA

WBKW	99.5 FM	Beckley
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Please contact the station in your area for program times. Be sure that you take a closer look at the Bible's perspective on cults!

For further information on how to evaluate the media, request our free tract, "A Closer Look at the Media."