

The Latest Witchcraft Craze

There is intense interest in the occult, spiritualism, witchcraft, and talking to the dead. I have just discovered that a major talk show host, Oprah Winfrey, has decided to initiate her vast audience across America into acceptance of psychic mediums, spiritualism, and conversing with the dead. This is indeed a tragedy; for many of us have looked to her as a leader in sensible, sane, down-to-earth goodness!

In this brief report I will provide you with several quotations which will reveal the extent of this problem. Many others could be cited.

As you know, Satan intends to bring about an intense revival of spiritualism, in connection with his drive to force everyone to sacredly keep Sunday.

He is now using the book, *A Course in Miracles*, along with its *Workbook*, to help accomplish this.

In 1965 **Helen Schucman**, an Associate professor of Medical Psychology at Columbia University in New York, began receiving channeled messages from a speaker who identified himself as Jesus Christ. A hand would move her hand in writing three books: ***A Course in Miracles***, its ***Workbook***, and its ***Manual***. This book was quietly circulated among spiritualists and New Agers and studied.

In 1992, **Marianne Williamson** published the book, ***A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of A Course in Miracles***, which became a best seller. Williamson was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show, which received more favorable viewer mail than any other show for 1992. One lengthy item which I did not quote below: Oprah wanted to do more telecasts of this, but her producers said the sponsors and audience were not ready for it yet. However, the recent success of Harry Potter indicates they are ready now. So the 2008 XM daily series will be a test run.

Then, in January 2008, Oprah, along with Marianne Williamson, began a yearlong teaching of the *Course in Miracles* and its 365-page *Workbook* on her one-hour, daily XM satellite radio broadcast. This will show her, her directors, and sponsors that the public is ready for full-fledged spiritualism instruction on her television shows.

We have been warned that this kind of thing would happen. Read the *Great Controversy* quotation at the end of this four-page report.

The remainder of this report is going to reveal what is being taught. Yet it closely matches the complete unveiling of satanic claims and errors as is given in *Great Controversy*, 505-562.

“Russ Wise, A Course in Miracles: A Biblical Evaluation, Probe Ministries, Richardson, TX—In 1965 a Jewish atheistic psychologist, from Columbia University, began to channel messages from a spirit she believed to be Jesus. She ultimately produced, or she says Jesus revealed to her, well-over a thousand pages of revelation during the next seven years.

“According to her testimony, Helen Schucman had a difficult relationship with her department head at the university. In an attempt to move beyond their differences, they set out on a journey to find a base of common agreement. Schucman began having ‘highly symbolic dreams’ and experiencing ‘strange images.’ Her colleague encouraged her to transcribe the content of these phenomena, so they might understand them better.

“As she began to write, she was surprised to see ‘This is a course in miracles’ appear on the paper. She went on to say that this was her introduction to the ‘Voice.’ This voice began to give her rapid inner dictation that she took down in shorthand.

*“According to the dictated material, the voice of *The Course* was Jesus. As a result of the influence Christianity has had on humanity, *The Course* chose Christian terminology to convey its message. A 1977 pamphlet, published by the *Foundation for Inner Peace*, states ‘its only purpose is to provide a way in which some people will be able to find their own Internal Teacher’—in other words, their personal ‘Spirit Guide.’*

*“There are several individuals who play key roles in spreading the message of *The Course*. Perhaps the most prominent is Marianne Williamson. A former lounge singer and now its most celebrated guru, she has become *The Course’s* media star, appearing on numerous television programs. Her most-watched and persuasive appearance was on *Oprah*. She has been Oprah’s guest on several occasions.”*

“Let Us Reason Ministries, 1998—This new revelation began in 1965 when Helen Schucman, an Associate professor of Medical Psychology at Columbia University in New York, began receiving channeled messages from a speaker who would later identify himself as Jesus Christ.

“The messages began with the words, ‘Please take notes.’ This was not optional. So Helen Schucman, an atheist Jewish psychologist, began writing. And, for the next ten years, the voice is said to have dictated ‘in an inaudible voice’ over 500,000 words con-

2 tained in the three volumes. This was done through the process called *automatic handwriting* (in which a spirit entity guides the hand) and *clairaudience* (hearing from a disembodied spirit). Schucman wrote this hefty volume. And she claims the source of the words was Jesus Himself.

“The *Course* is a spiritual/psychological book put in a systematic teaching, consisting of three books (altogether 1,188 pages): a 622-page *Text*, a 478-page *Workbook for Students*, and an 88-page *Manual for Teachers*.

“Dr. William Thetford was one of her colleagues, a clinical psychologist at Columbia University. While he never heard the voice, he was instrumental in the publication of the *Course*. Raised in the Christian Science church, Thetford believed the *Course* was a representation of the ‘original teachings of Jesus’ (*The Holy Encounter*, Sept./Oct. 1990, p. 5).

“Schucman and Thetford met Dr. Kenneth Wapnick, of the *Foundation for Inner Peace*, in 1972. The copyright for the *Course* was turned over to Wapnick and his organization in 1975. In September of the same year the publication of the first edition of *A Course in Miracles* began. Schucman died in February 1981 and Thetford in 1988.

“The primary reason for the *Course* is the ‘Correcting of the errors of Christianity . . . To foster spiritual development through the study and practice of *A Course in Miracles*, a set of three books channeled by Jesus . . . to teach the *Course*’s reinterpretation of traditional Christian principles such as sin, suffering, forgiveness, Atonement, and the meaning of the Crucifixion . . .’ (*Foundation for A Course in Miracles*, “*Forgiveness*,” pp. 3-4).

“From its inception, the *Course* has no qualms, saying it is to challenge the Word of God written down by the apostles who personally knew Jesus.

“The *Workbook* includes 365 lessons, one for each day of the year.

“‘This *Course* is a beginning, not an end . . . No more specific lessons are assigned; for there is no more need of them. Henceforth, hear but the Voice for God . . . He will direct your efforts, telling you exactly what to do, how to direct your mind, and when to come to him in silence, asking for his sure direction and His certain word’ (*Workbook*, p. 477).

“The *Course* uses common Christian terms with a completely new meaning that is metaphysical, with the intent of correcting errors in the Bible that have offended unbelievers because of their ‘narrow mindedness.’ ‘There is no separation of God and His creation’ (*Text [A Course in Miracles]*, p. 147). The underlying theme of the *Course* is Hinduism, disguised in Christian terminology. It teaches that all roads ‘lead to God in the end.’

“One learns all this by ‘Revelation induces only experience’ (*Text*, p. 7). ‘When revelation of your oneness comes, it will be known and fully understood’ (*Workbook*, p. 324). This is the mystical pantheism

experience, where one’s worldview changes by new knowledge, called the paradigm shift.

“According to the *Course*, Jesus is merely ‘an elder brother entitled to respect for his greater experience.’ The Jesus of the *Course* explains, ‘There is nothing about me that you cannot attain. This leaves me in a state which is only potential in you. I bridge the distance as an elder brother to you, on the one hand, and as a Son of God on the other’ (*A Course in Miracles*, Vol. 1, p. 5). ‘Jesus is a man, who is like all other men, and the Christ idea which all men possess and must eventually demonstrate. He becomes the pattern for all of us. Jesus, the man, was used by the Christ to demonstrate the illusion of the world. In actuality, man is still in heaven. It is simply the illusion of sin and death that have caused false senses of reality. However, when man gains his Christ consciousness as Jesus did, then man will also discover the illusion of sin.’

“So, when you are enlightened, you find that sin was never really a part of your nature. But what kept you was ignorance of your divine self.

“‘The *Course* teaches that Christ is not the only begotten son . . . Jesus became what all of you must be . . . Is he the Christ? Oh yes, along with you . . . Is he God’s only Helper? No, indeed. For Christ takes many forms with different names’ (pp. 83-84).

“‘The Son of God . . . is not Jesus but our combined Christ consciousness.’

“The *Course* teaches that there is no personal unique ‘only begotten Son of God.’ But that includes everyone. The *Course* separates Christ from the person who is the only Christ—Jesus, the Son of God. ‘Jesus was an historical person, but the Christ is an eternal transpersonal condition.’

“‘The name, Jesus, refers to one who was a man but who saw the face of Christ in all his brothers . . . So he became identified with Christ, a man no longer at one with God.’

“We are told that The Name of Jesus Christ is only a symbol. ‘It is a symbol that is safely used as a replacement for the many names of all the gods to which you pray’ (*Manual*, p. 58). So it does not matter what name is used for God. Jesus is only one name among the many. ‘For Christ takes many forms with different names’ (pp. 83-84).

“The *Course* also denies the reality of sin, death, and evil. If we could prove that the cause had no effect, then the cause can no longer exist. If something is not a cause, it is not real. Because everything that is real must be a cause and thus have an effect. If we remove the effect we are also eliminating the cause. These books teach that we live in a world that is an illusion or dream-state. Then, by necessity, everything that the physical body does in this make-believe world must also be an illusion. This would necessarily include the ‘false concepts of sin and death.’

“As *Volume 2* of the *Course* demands, ‘Sin is not real. And all that you believe must come from sin will never happen; for it has no cause’ (p. 179). A similar

parallel is made about death. 'Death is the central dream from which all illusions stem' (*Vol. 3, p. 63*). 'There is no sin; it has no consequence' (*Workbook, p. 183*).

"But contradicting this, it teaches 'Sin is defined as 'lack of Love.' Since love is all there is, sin in the sight of the Holy Spirit is a mistake to be corrected, rather than an evil to be punished' (*A Course in Miracles, p. 8*).

"In 1992, Marianne Williamson published *A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of A Course in Miracles*, which 'occupied the number one position on the Publisher's Weekly nonfiction best-sellers' list for eleven weeks!' (*The Holy Encounter, July/Aug. 1992, p. 2*).

"Williamson has also been featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show, which received more proviewer mail than any other show for 1992. She also appeared with Barbara Walters on the ABC television news show 20/20 (*ibid., July/Aug. 1992, p. 2; July/Aug. 1993, p. 9*). Oprah plugged the book . . . announcing she'd personally bought 1,000 copies for distribution to the spiritually needy. This sent the book soaring to the top of the *New York Times* best-seller list.

"*Newsweek* magazine reported that the book became the fifth best-selling nonfiction work of 1992.

"The *Course* has been taught at Robert Schuller's Crystal Cathedral and has been embraced by psychologists and even theologians. Many Christian churches, unaware of its danger, have incorporated its teachings."

"*Oprah Now on XM teaching her New Age Christ, News4TheMasses.com, Friday, December 28, 2007—Oprah & Friends* to expose millions to New Age Christ on XM Satellite Radio starting January 1.

"Oprah Winfrey will be letting out all the stops on her XM Satellite Radio program this coming year. Beginning January 1, 2008, *Oprah & Friends* will offer a yearlong course on the New Age teachings of *A Course in Miracles*. A lesson a day throughout the year will completely cover the 365 lessons from the *Course in Miracles Workbook*.

"For example, *Lesson #29* asks you to go through your day affirming that 'God is in everything I see.' *Lesson #61* tells each person to repeat the affirmation, 'I am the light of the world.' *Lesson #70* teaches the student to say and believe 'My salvation comes from me.'

"By the end of the year, *Oprah & Friends* listeners will have completed all of the lessons laid out in the *Course in Miracles Workbook*. Those who finish the *Course* will have a wholly redefined spiritual mindset—a New Age worldview that includes the belief that there is no sin, no evil, no devil, and that God is 'in' everyone and everything. *A Course in Miracles* teaches its students to rethink everything they believe about God and life.

"The *Course Workbook* bluntly states: 'This is a course in mind training' and is dedicated to 'thought reversal.' Teaching *A Course in Miracles* will be Oprah's

longtime friend. And also special XM Satellite Radio 3 reporter Marianne Williamson—who happens to be one of today's premiere New Age leaders.

"She and *Conversations with God* author Neale Donald Walsch co-founded the American Renaissance Alliance in 1997, that later became the Global Renaissance Alliance of New Age leaders, that changed its name again in 2005 to the Peace Alliance.

"This Peace Alliance seeks to usher in an era of global peace founded on the principles of a New Age/New Spirituality that they are now referring to as a 'civil rights movement for the soul.' They all agree that the principles of this New Age/New Spirituality are clearly articulated in *A Course in Miracles*—which is fast becoming the New Age Bible. So what is *A Course in Miracles* and what does it teach? *A Course in Miracles* is allegedly 'new revelation' from 'Jesus' to help humanity work through these troubled times.

"This 'Jesus'—who bears no doctrinal resemblance to the Bible's Jesus Christ—began delivering his channeled teachings in 1965 to a Columbia University Professor of Medical Psychology by the name of Helen Schucman. One day Schucman heard an 'inner voice' stating, 'This is a course in miracles. Please take notes.' For seven years she diligently took spiritual dictation from this inner voice that described himself as 'Jesus.' *A Course in Miracles* was quietly published in 1975 by the Foundation for Inner Peace. For many years 'the Course' was an underground cult classic for New Age seekers who studied 'the Course' individually, with friends, or in small study groups. Here are some quotes from the 'Jesus' of *A Course in Miracles*:

"• 'There is no sin.' . . .

"• 'A slain Christ has no meaning.'

"• 'The journey to the cross should be the last useless journey.'

"• 'Do not make the pathetic error of clinging to the old rugged cross.'

"• 'The Name of Jesus Christ as such is but a symbol . . . It is a symbol that is safely used as a replacement for the many names of all the gods to which you pray.'

"• 'God is in everything I see.'

"• 'The recognition of God is the recognition of yourself.'

"• 'The oneness of the Creator and the creation is your wholeness, your sanity, and your limitless power.'

"• 'The Atonement is the final lesson he [man] needs to learn; for it teaches him that, never having sinned, he has no need of salvation.' "

"*The Swift Newsletter, March 2, 2007—*'Recently, Oprah Winfrey aired a lopsided interview with 'psychic/mediums' John Edward and Allison DuBois. Oprah began by describing human life as 'vibrating energies.'

"The first guest to join Oprah on the stage was John Edward, a popular self-proclaimed psychic. Each time he either related a 'supernatural' experience from his

4 past or a videotaped segment of one of his 'readings' was shown.

"Oprah related how some people believe that Harpo Studios (where Oprah tapes) is haunted by the spirits of the people who died when the Eastland ferry sank and the building was used as a temporary morgue to house their bodies. The videotape was shown of various staff members claiming to have heard, seen, or felt a supernatural presence while working in the studio alone late at night. Then the videotape was shown of one of the 'psychics' on the show, walking around Harpo Studios late at night with a film crew, claiming to be experiencing precisely the very things the staff members had.

"When asked about how the dead people looked, the 'psychic' said they appear to her as whitish energy blobs. Oprah chose this moment to admit, a bit hesitantly, that she herself had been visited once in the middle of the night by a presence that looked exactly as the psychic had just described!

"After the two shows were finished, they continued to tape the 'after show' segment. All three 'psychics' claimed to possess these 'abilities' because of their personal and special connection to God. They insisted that their ability to speak with the dead, or predict the future, or get into a criminal's mind, was a God-given gift that they constantly improved and perfected through meditation and prayer.

"Oprah's last remark to the audience before she left the stage was her admission that she believes in the supernatural."

"Warren Smith, Crossroads, January 3, 2008—On New Year's Day, New Age leader Marianne Williamson got the new year off to a rousing start on Oprah & Friends XM Radio, as she began to systematically teach the New Age principles of *A Course in Miracles*. While most of the Christian world was relaxing, Williamson was hard at work teaching this occult *Course* on her radio show. Her program, which now airs each weekday for an hour, is completely devoted to teaching *A Course in Miracles*. Both Oprah Winfrey and Marianne Williamson have openly stated that they believe its principles can change the world.

"*A Course in Miracles* is reputedly 'new revelation' from 'Jesus,' channeled through a university professor in New York City by the name of Helen Schucman. *But the Course* is actually the Bible turned upside down, as it teaches that 'a slain Christ has no meaning' and that 'the journey to the cross should be the last useless journey.' Its teachings state that 'there is no sin' and that 'the recognition of God is the recognition of yourself.'

"Kicking off the new year in high gear, Williamson cleverly avoided any direct reference to biblical Chris-

tianity, when she stated that over the coming months on her program she would be methodically 'dismantling a thought system based on fear.' She emphasized that the dismantled thought system would be replaced by 'a thought system based on love'—a thought system that would be inspired by the New Age teachings of *A Course in Miracles*.

"In introducing *A Course in Miracles* to her Oprah & Friends listeners, Williamson was careful not to alienate anyone. She skillfully avoided discussing the origin of *A Course in Miracles*: how it was dictated to Helen Schucman from an 'inner voice' and a guiding hand, claiming to be Jesus."

In the book, *Great Controversy*, we are told:

"Satan's agents are constantly working under his direction to establish his authority and build up his kingdom in opposition to the government of God . . . **Satan summons all his forces and throws his whole power into the combat. Why is it that he meets with no greater resistance?** Why are the soldiers of Christ so sleepy and indifferent? . . .

"There is little enmity against Satan and his works, because there is so great ignorance concerning his power and malice, and the vast extent of his warfare against Christ and His church. Multitudes are deluded here. They do not know that their enemy is a mighty general who controls the minds of evil angels, and that with well-matured plans and skillful movements he is warring against Christ to prevent the salvation of souls. Among professed Christians, and even among ministers of the gospel, there is heard scarcely a reference to Satan, except perhaps an incidental mention in the pulpit. **They overlook the evidences of his continual activity and success; they neglect the many warnings of his subtlety;** they seem to ignore his very existence . . .

"Satan is continually seeking to overcome the people of God by breaking down the barriers which separate them from the world . . . **The tempter often works most successfully through those who are least suspected of being under his control.** The possessors of talent and education are admired and honored, as if these qualities could atone for the absence of the fear of God or entitle men to His favor. Talent and culture, considered in themselves, are gifts of God; but when these are made to supply the place of piety, when, instead of bringing the soul nearer to God, they lead away from Him, then they become a curse and a snare . . .

"From the days of Adam to our own time, our great enemy has been exercising his power to oppress and destroy. **He is now preparing for his last campaign against the church.**"—*Great Controversy*, 507-510.