

# Studies in Truth

Knowing Cults...

## Review:

- A system of religious beliefs and rituals with a body of adherents deeply devoted to an extra-biblical person, idea or thing; it cultivates worship in a religion that, with reference to its basis for man's salvation, is considered to be unorthodox, spurious, or false, thereby insulating its members against true salvation in Christ...all cultic deviations tend to down play the finished work of Christ and emphasize the importance of earning moral acceptance before God thru one's own religious works.

# Summary:

- Cults and false teachers prophesied in Scripture:
  - Jer 23; Ezk 13; Matt 24; Col 2; 2Th 2; 2Ti 3; 2 Peter 2
- We see growing evidence of pseudo-religions / cults
- “Watered-down” gospel messages and ministries
- Is there a response to the needs of these people?

# When encountering a cultist:

- (1) He must strive to direct the conversation to the problem of terminology and maneuver the cult adherent into a position where he must define his usage of terms and his authority, if any, for drastic, unbiblical redefinitions, which are certain to emerge;
- (2) the Christian must then compare these “definitions” with the various contexts of the verses upon which the cultist draws support of his doctrinal interpretations;

# The Serpent of Semantics

Cult	Term	Cult Definition	Christian Definition
Mormonism	God	Many gods	One God
Jehovah's Witnesses	Jesus Christ	Not god, created by Jehovah	God the Son, Creator of all
Christian Science	Sin	Illusion, error, not real	Disobedience to God
New Age	Salvation	Becoming One with the Universe/God	Reconciliation with God by means of Christ's atonement

## When encountering a cultist:

- (3) he must define the words “interpretation,” “historic orthodoxy,” and standard doctrinal phrases such as “the new birth,” “the Atonement,” “context,” “exegesis,” “eternal judgment,” etc., so that no misunderstanding will exist when these things come under discussion, as they inevitably will;
- (4) the Christian must attempt to lead the cultist to a review of the importance of properly defining terms for all important doctrines involved, particularly the doctrine of personal redemption from sin, which most cult systems define in a markedly unbiblical manner;

# When encountering a cultist:

- (5) it is the responsibility of the Christian to present a clear testimony of his own regenerative experience with Jesus Christ in terminology which has been carefully clarified regarding the necessity of such regeneration on the part of the cultist in the light of the certain reality of God's inevitable justice.

## C.S. Lewis

- “A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher, He would be either a lunatic – on a level with the man who say he is a poached egg – or else the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool; you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God.”