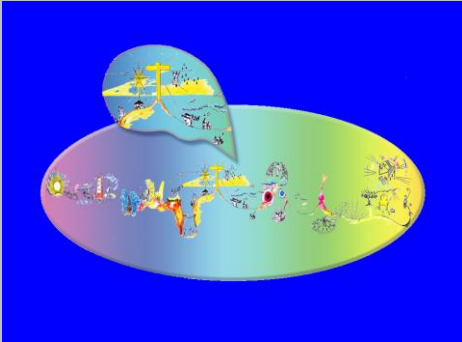


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We believe in one GOD, in three persons; FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT. We regard the Bible (both Hebrew Bible and New Testament) as the only infallible authoritative WORD OF GOD.

HULDAH MINISTRY aims to return to the Word Of God, founded on Hebrew background and to interpret it from Hebraic perspective, acknowledging that Jesus is a Jew and the Jewish-ness of His teaching as a continuation from the Hebrew Bible. The Ministry also aims to put His teaching into practice, to have a closer relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ, and to regularly have a Christian fellowship so that this-worldly kingdom of God will materialise in the midst of the followers of Jesus here and now, as well as earnestly seeking Christ's Return to establish the otherworldly Kingdom of God on earth.

All activities are free of charge and no obligation whatever. Just enjoy our fellowship!

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HULDAH MINISTRY

LETTER TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

【 “DOCTRINES OF DEVIL” AGAINST “GOD’S WORD” 】

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were “unclean”, that is, unwashed. (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the market-place they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with ‘unclean’ hands?”

He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “ ‘These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.’ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.”

And he said to them: “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! For Moses said, ‘Honour your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.’ But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: ‘Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban’ (that is, a gift devoted to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.’

Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said,

“Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a man can make him ‘unclean’ by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him ‘unclean’,”

After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. “Are you so dull?” he asked. “Don’t you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him ‘unclean’? For it doesn’t go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body,” (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods “clean”).

He went on: “What comes out of a man is what makes him ‘unclean’. For from within, out of man’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man ‘unclean’.” MARK 7:1-23.

The Pharisees and religious leaders in Jesus’ day were bound by a traditional belief that unless they were ceremonially washed after any contact with the Gentiles, or Jews who did not observe the ceremonial law, they themselves became ceremonially unclean. When they condemned Jesus’ disciples’ unlawful activities because some of them did not observe the ceremonial law, Jesus, having quoted a passage from Isaiah, explicitly admonished them of their hypocrisy by contrasting the difference between ***‘the commands of God’*** and ***‘the traditions of men’***. As an example of their hypocrisy, He points out their cunning escape of the responsibility for their parents on the pretext of ***“Corban”***. They excused themselves from the observation of the fifth commandment: ***‘Honour your father and your mother’***, by appealing their observation of the “Corban vow” according to another command of the Lord: ***‘When a man makes a vow to the LORD or takes an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must to everything he said’*** (Nu.30:2). Nevertheless, the fact was that the money put aside as ***“Corban”*** was not necessarily used for religious purposes. Here Jesus categorically rejected such practice of using a biblical teaching to nullify another. Their hypocritical legalism was a way of keeping laws externally while breaking them inwardly. In other words, they merely followed the letter of the law by ignoring its spirit.

After His condemnation of such hypocrites saying ***‘and you do many things like that’***, Jesus further referred to the then falsely spread idea that defilement came by violation of external rules. He corrects it with the truth that defilement comes from an impure heart, that is, “sin”. His statement: ***‘For from within, out of man’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man “unclean”’*** is very important and it is this truth we should hold on to whenever we are troubled by negative emotions or negative thoughts. This teaching concerning man’s nature should also be the solid foundation of biblical counseling. Jesus never encouraged His followers to blame their problems on external, hidden or unknown things of the past. Instead, He clearly pointed at the core inner problem of man’s heart, for which no man can put the blame on somebody- or something-else. The Scripture does not teach us to attribute our failure, depression, and dissatisfaction to bad luck, unfortunate circumstance, evil environment or somebody else.

Despite the biblical teaching that the Word of God alone is completely sufficient and authoritative for all things in our lives as Peter stated: ***‘His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires’*** (2Peter1:3-4), the modern church has adopted alternative ways of dealing with one’s problems apart from God’s Word. One of them is the use of psychology. While the majority of evangelical churches have broadly accepted psychological counseling, believing that psychotherapy (including psychological counseling, clinical psychology and non-biological psychiatry) is scientific and able to supply the resolution for man’s mental, emotional and behavioral needs, there is yet a few who warn of its potential danger. They argue that while

psychotherapeutic concepts regard humanity as intrinsically good, its basic theories are contradictory to biblical teaching regarding man's nature, and God's solution for his/her mental, emotional and behavioral problems. Psychotherapy attempts to improve the "self" by endorsing self-love, self-esteem, self-worth, self-image and self-actualisation with a sharp contrast to the Bible which claims that "self" is man's core problem. When Jesus taught '***If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me***' (Matt.16:24), He meant that His followers should cease to make "self" the object of his/her life and actions, and rather willingly suffer and die for His sake. While the Bible teaches that the reconciliation to the Father God through Jesus Christ is the only way to restore one's mental, emotional and behavioral problems, contradictorily, psychotherapy attempts to offer insights into man's nature and even methods for improvement.

Among those who warn of the danger of psychologising of Christianity, T. A. McMahon depicts three erroneous ideas that the church has believed: (1) Psychotherapy is a scientific endeavour, (2) Counselling is for professionals only, (3) Christian psychology reconciles science and faith. He argues that if our minds that are nonphysical cannot be ill, so the term "mental illness" is a myth. As man's thinking or behaviour cannot be literally ill, so, this means that counseling is not for professionals only. Anybody can help those in need. Actually, what psychotherapists do is nothing special but a routine, in that the patient speaks about himself and the therapist speaks about the patient. Among many researches, a lengthy research of comparing trained and untrained psychological counselors by Dr. Joseph Durlak has concluded that there were no significant differences between the two, but rather nonprofessionals have been found significantly more effective. A similar result is also mentioned in the book '*The Shrinking of America: Myths of psychological Change*' by Dr. Bernie Zilbergeld. McMahon also argues that, as for the third erroneous idea of the church, there is no recognised branch or stream of psychology identified as Christian [Further information: '*Psychology and the Church: Critical Questions...Answers*' at www.theberean.org. '*A Friend in Need*' by Selwyn Hughes (Kingsaway) is also recommended].

Since its introduction to the church in the last half-century, psychology is today said to be the second most popular career choice for students at Christian colleges in the US and probably this would be the case in other countries. However, a warning continues by some biblical watchmen. They say that many of the psychological counseling practices, its roots and concepts come from "seducing spirits" and "doctrines of the devil". As Paul prophetically warned about the coming of later times when '***some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons***' (1Ti.4:1), so the church seems to have already been affected by "doctrines of the devil". One of the devil's main aims is to undermine what is taught in the Scripture. He is an initiator of casting doubts towards God's Word and offering alternative ways away from God. He approached the first human beings with lies, in that he suggested their self-improvement, enlightenment, knowledge, immortality, and higher potential like God. Deceived by his attractive temptation, man fell into depravity, when tragically a way of his/her ego-seeking, self-interests, self-protection and so on has started. Separated from God's truth man has become dead by sin.

What the devil offered to Eve here are the very foundational teachings of "doctrines of the devil". McMahon argues that these Satan's primary lies are clearly revealed even in a cursory review of psychotherapeutic concepts: (1) "immortality" by teaching a judgment-free mortality, or, claiming to evolve to a higher consciousness or to reincarnate into an improvement (2) "enlightenment", by knowing the self; who we are, and why we do what we do in order to establish our mental wellbeing, and by blaming past traumas, parental upbringing, environment, oppression by religious dogmas and so on as a cause of our problems (3) "Godhood" by deifying the self, whether directly or indirectly, by means of self-actualisation, and ultimately by dejecting any need for salvation (4) "knowledge" by plumbing the depths of the unconscious, which psychology regards as the infinite reservoir of all mysteries of life. He also argues that

psychotherapy is a modern form of “shamanism”, quoting from *The Mind Games: witchdoctors and psychiatrists* (Emerson Hall, 1972) by psychiatrist E. Fuller Torrey: ‘The techniques used by Western psychiatrists are, with few exceptions, on exactly the same scientific plane as the techniques used by witchdoctors [medicine men and shamans]’. Carl Gustav Jung is far more popular today among professing Christians than Sigmund Freud, the atheist, however, McMahon says that Jung’s teaching are “doctrines of demons” gleaned directly from seducing Spirits and he promoted occult, including astrology, alchemy, the I-Ching, mysticism, necromancy, visualization, dream interpretation, the active imagination, yoga, meditation and so on. Needless to say, it is a well-known fact that some of them have actually been practiced in evangelical Christianity. Ignorance among Christian leaders seems to have promoted demonic lies to widely spread. The following article is excerpted from “*WHAT IS THEOPHOSTIC COUNSELING?*” by Jan Fletcher (a Christian journalist who has reported on TPM since June 2003. Her research is on the web at www.lyingspirits.com).

Theophostic Prayer Ministry (TPM) is taking thousands of churches by storm around the world. This fast-growing inner-healing technique is an offshoot of Agnes Sanford’s teachings. Sanford, deceased for over two decades, advocated healing of the memories through mystical prayer. She taught that one should visualize a past situation, and then envision Jesus coming into the memory to solve the problem. In TPM, a Theophostic-trained facilitator asks the ministry recipient to drift back and identify the first memory he or she can remember in which was felt the same negative emotion that has been “triggered” in the present time and is the current source of trouble. The facilitator helps to identify a lie embedded in that memory, such as, “I’ll never be safe.” The recipient then prays to Jesus to reveal the truth with the expectation that both the lie and the emotional pain will be vanquished.

Ed Smith, who launched Theophostic Prayer Ministry in Campbellsville, Ky., in 1996, says Theophostic facilitators “ask the Lord to reveal His truth” as clients “watch for, listen [to] and feel” a special revelation from Jesus, who “has the ability to enter into our historical moment and reveal truth in the experience” [Ed M. Smith, *Basic Seminar Manual* (2005), New Creation Publishing, 137-138]. The TPM facilitator then declares that the source of the revelation is actually Jesus.....In Smith’s view, preaching, teaching, and discipleship-non-mystical means of receiving God’s truth-do not enable believers to fulfill Col. 3:15’s command to “let the peace of God rule in your hearts....” However, this verse follows Paul’s commands in the previous verses to “set your affection [to exercise the mind] on the things above”; to “mortify [subdue] therefore your members which are upon the earth” and “put on...mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another....” Smith claims that these cognitive activities are useless in obtaining the peace of Christ.....

Smith previously developed a new theology he calls “lie-based theology,” which stands in contrast to “sin-based theology [which] believes that the root of my problem is my sin.” Smith said he realized sin-based theology “is a misconception and a grave error,” because, he notes: “it doesn’t work” [Smith, *BTR*, 224-25]. In his 2005-revised training manual, one of Smith’s original nine Theophostic principles-“God heals the lost and saved equally with no preference over either”-quietly disappeared [Ibid., 116]. Smith says of TPM, “People consistently say it was from God. This is even the case with those who do not profess any relationship with God” [Ibid., 136]. And, later he says, “God does not seem to require confession of sin from a nonbeliever” [Ibid., 147]. But how can a lost person have the “peace of Christ”-that which Smith defines as the end result of Theophostic healing? If a lost person can have it, and claims that God showed it to him, then it’s not the peace of Christ: it’s a false gospel! If a lost person gets a word of truth from Jesus without repentance, it’s a false Jesus!

Smith has consistently shifted his terminology, switching from “genuine recovery” to “genuine renewal,” and repackaging his concepts to stay ahead of critics, and also to ensure that TPM remains appealing to conservative churches. Don’t be fooled by cosmetic changes! Theophostic Prayer Ministry’s core premise [CRI’s Elliot Miller claims there is nothing unbiblical about the “core Theophostic theory and method” in his two-part evaluation on TPM, published in the *CRJ*, Vol. 29, numbers 2 and 3] continues to promote a false Jesus and a false gospel.’