

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO OPRAH

Ed Dye

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Oprah of whom we speak is Oprah Winfrey who is:
 - a. One of the richest women in America.
 - b. One of the most admired women in this nation, perhaps even in the world.
 - c. One who has risen to unparalleled success and influence in her field from the most obscure and humble origins, from a divorced family, reared by her father, and sexually abused by a male relative when she was a small girl.
2. She is one of the most powerful individuals in this country, evidenced by the fact that she can:
 - a. Make careers, such as that of Rachel Ray, Dr. Phil, and Dr. Oz.
 - b. By her recommendation can make a book an instant best seller.
3. She has no doubt helped many people in many places in many areas by her influence and by her wealth.
4. However, as is the case, one with such powerful influence can also do much harm when improperly using such power in the lives of others, which she is now beginning to do.
5. She is presently venturing into the area of spiritual instruction, expressing her views, or as we have indicated in our lesson topic, preaching the gospel according to Oprah.
6. She has been called “The most influential spiritual leader in America today.”
7. I don’t listen to or watch her programs but I read after her on things I’m dealing with in this lesson.

II. DISCUSSION

A. THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO OPRAH IS BASED ON A WORKBOOK CALLED A COURSE IN MIRACLES.

1. Oprah says this is one of her favorite books which she has bought and handed out to her studio audiences gratis, as well as encouraging all listeners to her program to purchase, as well as

- promising to make available an audio version of the book on compact disk read by Richard (“John Boy”) Thomas.
2. In January of 2008, on her daily radio program, she began a yearlong course of **THE NEW AGE CHRIST** for 365 days based on this book.
 3. Popular author Wayne Dyer told his PBS audience that the “*brilliant writing*” of this book would produce more peace in the world.
 4. This book:
 - a. Proudly states, “This is a course in ‘*mind training*’ and is dedicated to ‘*thought reversal*.’”
 - b. Is allegedly a “*new revelation*” which began to be “*channeled*” in 1965 to a Columbia University Medical Psychology Professor, Helen Schucman, who claimed she received messages from an “*inner voice*” from a person calling himself Jesus, and he asked her to write them down.
 5. The following are some of the fallacious, dangerous doctrines found in this book that Oprah endorses.
 - a. “There is no sin.”
 - b. A “slain Christ has no meaning.”
 - c. “Do not make the pathetic error of ‘clinging to the old rugged cross’”
 - d. “The journey to the cross should be the last ‘useless journey.’”
 - e. “The name of Jesus Christ is just a symbol. It is a symbol that is used as a replacement for the many names of all the gods to which you may pray.”
 - f. “The Atonement is the final lesson he (man) need learn, for it teaches him that, never having sinned, he has no need of salvation.”

B. AGAIN, THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS OPRAH HAS MADE ON HER PROGRAMS ARE STATEMENTS REPRESENTING THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO OPRAH.

1. She has said, “Who you are requires no belief.”
2. She said she took “God out of the box.”
3. “God isn’t something to believe in. God is a feeling experience, not a believing experience.”

4. “My mind is part of God, my holiness is my salvation – it comes from me.”
5. She said, “Christians are confused,” and a big mistake many Christians make is to believe “there is only one path to God,” and “There couldn’t possibly be only one way to God.”

III. CONCLUSION

1. This is the gospel according to Oprah which is “another gospel,” a perverted gospel. See Gal.1:6-12,23; Eph.4:4-6; Mk.16:15,16; Ac.2:36-38,41,47; 1Cor.15:1,2; 2Th.1:6-10; Heb.5:8,9.
2. There are shades of Modernism, Pantheism, Humanism, Skepticism, Agnosticism, and Atheism in the gospel according to Oprah.
3. There is no telling how many people are listening to and being influenced by Oprah rather than God, Jesus Christ and the gospel of Christ.
4. No telling how many people are reading and being influenced by the workbook called *A COURSE IN MIRACLES* Oprah so enthusiastically recommends as one of her favorite books as she preaches the gospel according to her.

(All emphasis mine)

(source, The Gospel According To Oprah, by Dr. Sellers S. Crain, Jr., Rocky Mountain Christian, Vol. XXXVI, No. 9, Aug.2008,p.9)