

1-1-2003

## MS 680 ST 680 Contemporary Cults

Steven Tsoukalas

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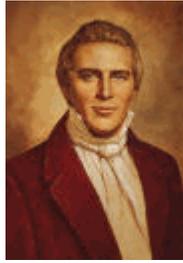
### Recommended Citation

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## MS/ST680 Contemporary Cults



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Email: For all emails to professor, use the "Office" Icon in our Classroom

**Very Preliminary Version. Subject to Modification.**

**Maximize Window for Proper Formatting.**

**Important:** "The development of this extended learning syllabus is intended for distribution to members of the course and others by my permission. It is not intended for general distribution on the internet. Permission to copy, in whole or in part, must be requested from the professor (Steven Tsoukalas)." **Thanks for honoring these instructions.**

**Welcome:** It is my privilege to welcome you to the study of Contemporary Cults. First, a little about myself. I earned the M.Div. from Gordon-Conwell Seminary and the Th.M. from Harvard University (in Religions of the World, Specializing in Hindu Studies). Currently I am a Ph.D. candidate in theology at the University of Birmingham. I have served as Adjunct Faculty at Gordon-Conwell Seminary

(1991-94) and am currently an Adjunct Faculty member here at Asbury Seminary. I am married to Professor Sandra Richter (also here at Asbury).

I have been researching pseudo- and non-Christian religions since 1986, and am Executive Director of Sound Doctrine Ministries, which is based in Exeter, New Hampshire <sdmin.com> OR <sdmin.org> Since 1986 I have served as a missionary to people involved in various religious movements, visiting, for example, Kingdom Halls of Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormon Wards, New Age gatherings, and Christian Science churches. At these meetings I engage in Christian apologetics and evangelism so that cultists might come to know Jesus.

Presently I have four books published: *Masonic Rites and Wrongs: An Examination of Freemasonry* (Presbyterian and Reformed, 1995), *Knowing Christ in the Challenge of Heresy: A Christology of the Cults, a Christology of the Bible* (University Press of America, 1999), *Christian Faith 101: The Basics and Beyond* (Judson Press, 2000) and *The Nation of Islam: Understanding the 'Black Muslims'* (Presbyterian and Reformed, 2001). I have also authored several booklets on pseudo-Christian religions.

My calling, by God's grace, includes reaching cultists with the Gospel of Christ, and equipping Christians to do the same.

Having been a researcher of the cults and a missionary to the cults since 1986, I have met many interesting people. One of them was the apostle John, whom I met at a Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge in Woburn, Massachusetts! I do hope to share that experience with you all when we study the New Age Movement.

Perhaps you have heard the analogy of training to recognize counterfeit bills. All one does, the analogy goes, is handle the real thing (real money) for a time. The conclusion is that if one knows the word of God (the real thing) well, one will never be fooled by a counterfeit. This analogy and conclusion is fine, but when it comes to actual outreach (apologetics and evangelism) it is only half the story. In addition to knowing God's word well, one must, by God's grace, seek to replace the counterfeit embraced by another with the real thing, and that involves outreach.

Finally, I want to share with you one specific promise from this course (one that is implied in the course objectives below): This course will give you a hermeneutic (or lens) of discernment, by which you will be able to determine whether or not a religious group or individual is either inside or outside of classical Christian orthodoxy revealed in the scriptures. So, buckle up, work hard, and have fun!!!

**Office Hours:** I will be checking email almost daily, and interacting with other components of this course daily (except for times when I am traveling -- I will inform students of these times). This does not guarantee that I will respond to

emails on the day they were submitted, though students can expect a response in 1-3 days.

### **ExL Support Team:**

Technical Difficulties: Andy Adams, [exl\\_support@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:exl_support@asburyseminary.edu)

ExL Coach: Amy Jo Adams, [exl\\_coach@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:exl_coach@asburyseminary.edu)

Interlibrary Loan Information: [dorothy\\_james@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:dorothy_james@asburyseminary.edu)

Library Reference: [hannah\\_kirsch@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:hannah_kirsch@asburyseminary.edu)

Bookstore: [exlbooks@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:exlbooks@asburyseminary.edu)

Obtaining Library Materials and Reference Assistance: All ExL students are encouraged to make use of their local library. However, if such services are unavailable or inadequate, ExL students may also obtain library books and journal articles through the mail from Asbury Theological Seminary's B. L. Fisher Library. All requests for books and journal articles should be emailed to the ExL Reference Librarian, Hannah Kirsch ([Hannah\\_Kirsch@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:Hannah_Kirsch@asburyseminary.edu)). Hannah is also available to assist ExL students with reference requests such as how to find citations for books and articles, how to use the various online databases available to ExL students, or how to begin looking for information on a specific topic.

To request material from the B.L. Fisher Library, begin by searching the library's WebPac (online catalog of the library's holdings) or one of the journal databases available on the ExL Virtual Library webpage (found in the Resource Center of your ExL classroom). Then send an email to Hannah citing the sources that you would like to request. If you need help searching the databases, do not hesitate to ask. Please allow 5-10 business days for all requests to be filled. ExL students are billed for the cost of photocopies (5 cents per page) and the cost of shipping. Express mail services (price varies according to weight) and faxing (\$1.50 for the first page and 25 cents for each additional page plus photocopy charges) are also available, but material will generally take 1-2 days from the receipt of the request to be processed.

Plan ahead and make your requests early.

### **Windows and Icons:**

The Course Center will contain a copy of the syllabus as well as all class modules.

The Discussion Center will be used for all public communications. Anytime you have a question or comment about the course, the modules, the assignments, or

anything else which would be of interest to your classmates and the professor, you should post to the Discussion Center.

The (Class Number) Office is for private correspondence between you and the professor. This will contain items that you do not want to appear publicly before all of your classmates.

The Archives Center will be used for storing conversations that have already taken place during the course of the semester. This keeps the Discussion Center from becoming too unmanageable.

The Chat Center is intended primarily for real-time interaction among students. You can get together with other members to study, ask questions, or to explore topics. Remember: None of the conversations carried on in this location are ever saved.

The Resource Center provides access to a number of specific tools available to all ExL students. These include access to the B.L. Fisher Library, chapel services in Estes Chapel, ExL Updates, Guidelines for Success, Helpful Hints, Interesting Links, a Powerpoint Viewer, and a Real Audio Player.

**ATS Catalog Course Description:** A study of the historical and theological origins and development of cultic phenomena in contemporary American religion.

**Additional Comments on Course:** The thrust of this course is theology (both cultic and Christian), apologetics and evangelism, with a secondary emphasis on the histories of certain cultic movements. The histories of several movements are provided by Tucker in *Another Gospel*.

**Course Objectives:** After successfully completing this course, students should be able to . . .

1. Generate a working definition(s) of pseudo- and non-Christian cults and engage critically other definitions.
2. Discern the major theological errors of cults (and some aberrant groups) and engage critically their beliefs and practices from the standpoint of biblical faith / classical Christian orthodoxy.
3. Show familiarity with the history and basic beliefs of several cultic groups.
4. Demonstrate awareness of the sociological atmosphere of various cults.
5. Utilize all the above to . . .

- A. Know God more deeply by better understanding certain essential doctrines of Christianity.
- B. Develop strategies for presenting the biblical Christ and his gospel to adherents of these groups.
- C. Be able to equip the body of Christ for the same.

**Grading:** Students are referred to the 2001 - 2003 Asbury Theological Seminary Catalog, page 28, for grading standards. See also various standards for each of the course requirements (below).

### **Course Requirements:**

1. Class Interaction: This is a vital aspect of the course. (35% of overall grade)

Note carefully the following:

(A) The professor will post discussion questions in the DISCUSSION CENTER by 12:00pm EST on Tuesdays, the first day of all modules. Students are required to post responses (250 words maximum for each response) to the professor's questions in the DISCUSSION CENTER before 12:00pm EST on Saturdays. Any late responses will be graded "0".

(B) From Saturdays at 12:00pm EST through Tuesdays at 12:00pm EST, students are required to respond at least two times to student responses and/or to the professor's responses (250 words maximum) in the DISCUSSION CENTER. Do not submit these responses before Saturdays at 12:00pm EST (though you may prepare and save early responses to send at the appropriate time). Any late responses will be graded "0". At the close of each module I will move all discussion into an appropriate archive.

(C) In all responses students must interact with (1) the required reading (if required reading pertains to issue) by mentioning at least one citation (include author, book and page number), and/or (2) online reserve materials or quotes of primary source cultic literature provided by professor (if reserve materials or quotes pertain to issue; at least one citation with author, book and page number), and/or (3) class lectures (if lecture is given and pertains to issue) by mentioning at least one aspect. Avoid making mere quotations without any input on your part, or with superficial input on your part. Rather, make the citation from the reading, online reserve or quotes, or class lecture and interact with the citation. A high grade results if there is interactive, deep, and probing thinking on the part of the student.

(D) Students and professor are expected to act with courtesy in all class discussions. It is fine (and expected) to challenge, for that is an important aspect of the academic and growth process, but challenge with courtesy. Non-incarnational dialog (characteristic of all E-discussion) is by definition dialog void of body language and voice tone, so be careful with what you submit.

2. Required Reading: There are 1,277 total pages of required text reading. Students are required to submit a reading report at the end of the semester. The deadline for reading report submission is Thursday, May 22, 4:00pm EST. See information for required reading report at the end of this syllabus. (20% of grade overall grade)

Note the following:

(A) Your class interaction and research paper grades will be lower if you fail to interact with the required reading texts where appropriate.

(B) In addition to these required texts (totaling 1,277 pages), students must interact with primary source cultic literature toward the submission of a research paper. There is no grade for primary source reading as far as the required reading grade is concerned, but again, note that your grade for your research paper will be lower if you do not evidence interaction with primary sources.

3. Make one visit to a cult meeting or service and submit to the professor (via email using the "Office" icon in the classroom) an observation / reflection report on your visit (600 - 900 words). Your report must include certain ethnographic information (see below). This is due anytime during the semester, but no later than Tuesday, May 6, 11:59pm EST. Failure to submit will result in a "0" for this course segment. You will also be penalized for an excessive amount of grammatical errors and an excess of typos. (10% of grade)

Include the following ethnographic information:

(A) Name of group observed

(B) Location / date of visitation / time of visitation

(C) Approximate number of persons attending

(D) Approximate age group breakdown (children, teens, 20-30 year-olds, 30-40 year-olds, etc.)

(E) Who led the meeting? Were there any visible and official leaders?

(F) To what degree did the congregation participate in the meeting? How? How did participation serve to bond people to each other and to the organization? What kinds of barriers to Christian evangelism might be erected as a result of these?

(G) What was taught? How was it taught?

4. A research paper (10-12 pages, 1-inch margins all around, and double-spaced with 12-point Times New Roman font) on **one** area of doctrine of a cult. (35% of grade)

Note carefully the following:

(A) Students are required to discuss their paper topic with the instructor (either by phone or email via the "Office" icon in the Classroom) before starting research.

(B) Interaction with the required reading (where pertaining), with the cult's primary source material (students must obtain these), and with other secondary literature (again, students must obtain these) is expected, along with biblical responses. No bibliography is required.

(C) Proper footnoting (please use footnotes, not endnotes) and style as found in Carole Slade's *Form and Style* (New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2000), 11th ed., chapter 7 ("Chicago Manual of Style"), is strongly suggested (see also pp. 34-38). Or, students may use the *Chicago Manual of Style* rather than Slade. Note that titles of books, journals, etc. may be italicized rather than underlined if you desire. Also note that you will suffer loss of grade points due to an excessive amount of grammatical errors, inability to form a sentence, poor flow of thought, grossly incorrect style, and an excess of typos.

(D) Papers are due by Thursday, May 22, no later than 4:00pm EST. Mail via US Postal Service directly to Steven Tsoukalas -- 119 Trotter Way -- Wilmore, KY 40390. **No download papers.** Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope so that your paper can be returned to you. Students who fail to do this will not receive their papers back. Any paper postmarked after above-mentioned time will be considered late. Postmarked after 4:00pm on May 22 is one day late. Postmarked after 4:00pm on May 23 is two days late, etc. There is a ten-point-per-day loss of grade.

Additional note: Start your research early. Online courses by definition place you outside the seminary campus, and therefore obtaining books can be a lengthy process. Also, consider using libraries close to your home.

**Required Reading:**

Sire, James W. *Scripture Twisting: Twenty Ways the Cults Misread the Bible*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1980.

Stark, Rodney, and William Sims Bainbridge. *The Future of Religion: Secularization, Revival, and Cult Formation*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985.

Tsoukalas, Steven. *Knowing Christ in the Challenge of Heresy: A Christology of the Cults, a Christology of the Bible*. Lanham, Md.: University Press of America, 1999.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Masonic Rites and Wrongs: An Examination of Freemasonry*. Phillipsburg, N.J.: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1995.

Tucker, Ruth. *Another Gospel: Alternative Religions and the New Age Movement*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.

### **Recommended Reading:**

Martin, Walter. *The Kingdom of the Cults*. Revised, updated and expanded. Hank Hanegraaff, gen. ed. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1997.

### **Required Reading Report:**

Note carefully the following.

(1) All required reading reports must be emailed to professor no later than Thursday, May 22, 4:00pm EST. Send the report via email to the professor via the "Office" icon in the Classroom. The professor will respond to each student by email, informing that the reading report was received. If any student does not receive confirmation by 5:00pm EST on the above date, the student should call the professor at his home.

(2) Students must include the following simple information: **Number of pages read** of required reading texts. You will be graded on the percentage of pages read. For example, if you have read the 1,277 pages of required texts, you will receive "100" for this portion of your overall grade. If you have read 1,213 pages, you will receive a "95." If you have read 1,149 pages, you will earn "90," and so on. Your report should not be lengthy. All that is needed is "I have read \_\_\_\_\_ pages of the required reading."

## Course Schedule:

### Module 1: February 11 - 18 (Introduction to the Cults; the Person of Christ)

#### SECTION ONE

(A) Prayer: Father, we praise you and thank you for the eternal life you provide through your Son, the Lord Jesus. We thank you and praise you, Lord Jesus, for who you are and what you have done for the salvation of your people. We thank you and praise you, Holy Spirit, for your ministry of sanctification, allowing us to conform more and more to the image of Jesus.

We pray, our great Triune God, that you might graciously allow us to learn more about you during this course of study. That in these months to come we might enjoy you and grow in you, and that you might use what we learn to work through us for the salvation of people that are snared by false doctrine.

Knowing, Lord God, that you are merciful and just, we marvel at the fact that you would make us your children and use us for your purpose, this in spite of ourselves. So, thanks be to you, almighty Lord of Glory. All this we pray in the name of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, amen.

(B) Course Introduction: Read course syllabus thoroughly. Email questions to professor via the "Office" icon in the Classroom.

(C) Tell Us Who You Are: In 150 words or less, tells us a bit about yourself and why you are interested in this *course*. *Submit this to the DISCUSSION CENTER* by 9:00pm EST on Monday, February 10.

#### SECTION TWO

(A) Introduction to the Cults: Read *Knowing Christ*, xiii - xxviii; Tucker, 11-30.

(B) Additional Reading: (All additional reading for all modules is required reading.) Sire, 7-39. (If you have the time, Tucker, 93-116)

(C) Discussion Question:

#### SECTION THREE

(A) The Person of Christ: Read *Knowing Christ*, 15-32.

(B) Discussion Question:

## **Module 2: February 18 - 25 (Jehovah's Witnesses)**

### SECTION ONE

(A) Prayer: Our great Triune God, we thank you for the life you give us, and for eternal life through our amazing Savior, Jesus. Father, as we study the beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses, give us, through your Holy Spirit, eyes and ears of discernment, that we may rightly divide truth from error. Grant us the grace that this would not only be a pouring forth of information, but also a tool by which we might reach these lost people with the truth about who Jesus is and what he has done for the salvation of all who call upon his name. Holy Spirit, sanctify us that we may approach each and every Jehovah's Witness as you desire, and that we might see these people through the eyes of Christ, our Lord, amen.

### SECTION TWO

(A) Videotape: View primary source videotape titled *Jehovah's Witnesses: The Organization Behind the Name* (approximately 1 hour in length).

(B) Reading: Tucker, 93-116, 390-91; *Knowing Christ*, 1-3; 33-34.

(C) Discussion Question:

### SECTION THREE

(A) Jehovah's Witnesses' Beliefs and Christian Response. Part 1: The Deity of Christ: Online reserves contain primary source material that documents Jehovah's Witnesses' beliefs.

(B) Reading: Tucker, 117-48, 392-93.

(C) Additional Reading: *Knowing Christ*, 55-66; Sire, 41-50.

(D) Discussion Question:

## **Module 3: February 25 - March 4 (Jehovah's Witnesses, cont.)**

### SECTION ONE

(A) Prayer: Our great God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to you we give thanks and praise for your creation, and for the truth that it all belongs to you. We thank you for making us your children by adoption by grace through faith in the Lord

Jesus Christ. We thank you that it is your good pleasure to work through us for your glory. We therefore ask you, Lord, to use us greatly for the salvation of Jehovah's Witnesses. May you, Holy Spirit, guide us as we digest this material, and use it to convict these lost souls of the truth of who Jesus is, for it is in his name that we pray, amen.

## SECTION TWO

(A) Jehovah's Witnesses' Beliefs and Christian Response. Part 2: The Deity of Christ, cont.: Online reserves contain primary source material that documents Jehovah's Witnesses beliefs.

(B) Reading: Portions of *Knowing Christ* listed in the General Index on pages 238-39 under the heading of "Jehovah's Witnesses," only the subsections beginning with "on." For example, "on Isaiah 9:6," "on Zechariah 12:10."

(C) Discussion Question:

## SECTION THREE

(A) Jehovah's Witnesses' Beliefs and Christian Response. Part 3: The Trinity: Online Reserves contain primary source material that documents Jehovah's Witnesses beliefs.

(B) Reading: *Knowing Christ*, 217-24.

(C) Additional Reading: Sire, 51-74; Tucker, 231-43; *Knowing Christ*, 66-80.

(D) Discussion Question:

## **Module 4: March 4 - 11 (Jehovah's Witnesses, cont.)**

### SECTION ONE

(A) Prayer: Lord Jesus, for your bodily resurrection and ascension we thank you. May we rightly and better understand who you are and what you have done, that we may more deeply worship you and be enabled to proclaim and defend your great work to Jehovah's Witnesses. In your name we pray, to the glory of the Father and the Spirit, amen.

### SECTION TWO

(A) Jehovah's Witnesses' Beliefs and Christian Response. Part 4: The Resurrection of Christ: Online Reserves contain primary source material that documents Jehovah's Witnesses beliefs.

(B) Reading: *Knowing Christ*, 159-215.

(C) Discussion Question:

### SECTION THREE

(A) Additional Reading: Sire, 75-125.

(B) Discussion Question:

## **Module 5: March 11 - 18 (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints -- Mormonism)**

### SECTION ONE

(A) Prayer: Our Father in heaven, we thank you that you, by your grace, have allowed us to call you Father, through the precious blood of Jesus. We praise you, Lord Jesus Christ, because we who were once estranged from the true and living God have been reconciled to him because you, the true Israel and the second Adam, are the unblemished sacrifice offered to the Father for us.

Holy Spirit, we ask you not only to continue your sanctifying work in our lives, but to include in that work a giving of a certain desire to us all, and that is that we might possess love and compassion for cultists in greater measure. We ask now for continued knowledge of the beliefs of Mormons, that by your grace we may be used to proclaim the vast gulf that exists between Mormon beliefs and Christianity, and that Mormons would cross that gulf with faith in the biblical Jesus.

All this we ask in the matchless name of the risen Lord of glory, Jesus Christ, amen.

### SECTION TWO

(A) Mormonism: Beliefs and Christian Response: Online Reserves contain primary source material that documents Mormon beliefs.

(B) Reading: Tucker, 49-91, 389-90; *Knowing Christ*, 4-6, 35-37, review 163-66.

(C) Discussion Question:

### SECTION THREE

(A) Additional Reading: Sire, 127-63; *Knowing Christ*, 81-95

(B) Discussion Question:

## **Module 6: March 18 - 25 (Mormonism, cont.)**

### SECTION ONE

(A) Prayer: Our Lord and our God -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -- once again we praise you for who you are and what you have done for the salvation of your people. Give us discerning eyes and ears as we view this Mormon videotape, and use it, we ask, to further our knowledge of what Mormons believe, so that we may be better evangelists and apologists.

(Lord, I pray that you continue to bless the students, meeting their needs in Christ Jesus, and growing them in knowledge of you toward a more intimate relationship with you.) In the name of Christ, amen.

### SECTION TWO

(A) Videotape: View primary source videotape titled *Our Heavenly Father's Plan* (approximately 30 minutes in length). Download professor's document titled "Accompanying Comments to Video." Watch videotape with this in hand.

(B) Discussion Questions:

### SECTION THREE

(A) Additional Reading: Stark and Bainbridge, chapters 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 10 (discussion questions occur in Module 9).

## **Module 7: March 25 - April 1 (the New Age Movement)**

### SECTION ONE

(A) Prayer: All glory, honor and praise be to you, Lord God. We thank you, Lord Jesus, that all the universe is held together by the word of your power, and that

you are its resurrected and ascended sovereign. Convict us all of the truth that you will one day come riding on the clouds of heaven as the divine judge, so that we may strive for living lives perfected in love.

As we examine New Age beliefs, grant us again, Holy Spirit, wisdom and discernment. And use what you've given us, Lord, to reach those snared by this philosophy and theology. We pray that through discerning the lies of Satan, we may be granted the opportunity to counter compassionately with biblical truth, for the salvation of souls. In the name of Jesus we pray, amen.

## SECTION TWO

(A) The New Age Movement: Basic Beliefs and Christian Response: Online Reserves contain primary source material that documents New Age beliefs.

(B) Reading: Tucker, 319-55; *Knowing Christ*, 8-9, 40-41; review 173-74.

(C) Discussion Questions:

## SECTION THREE

(A) Additional Reading: Stark and Bainbridge, chapters 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 21 (discussion questions occur in Module 9).

### **Module 8: April 1 - 8 (Reading Week)**

### **Module 9: April 8 - 15 (Stark and Bainbridge Discussion; Scientology)**

## SECTION ONE

(A) Scripture Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

11 And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## SECTION TWO

### (A) Stark and Bainbridge (S&B) Discussion Questions

1. What do you think about the S&B definition of a cult (and sect)? (In answering, note what you think their worldview is, and how their worldview and discipline [sociology] affect their definition of a cult.)
2. S&B write about "secularization." In their view, what does secularization cause? How does this figure in their conclusion that where conventional churches are strongest, cults are weakest, and vice versa?
3. Summarize and interact with S's & B's view of "compensators." (Again, keep in mind the worldview and discipline of S&B.)

## SECTION THREE

(A) Scientology Beliefs and Christian Response: Online Reserves contain primary source material that documents Scientology beliefs.

(B) Reading: Tucker 299-318.

(C) Discussion Question:

## SECTION FOUR

(A) Additional Reading: *Knowing Christ*, 95-119; Tucker, 267-84 with 397-98, 357-88.

## **Module 10: April 15 - 22 (Wicca; Freemasonry, Part 1)**

### SECTION ONE

(A) Prayer: Eternal God -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -- you alone are worthy of worship. You alone are the only true and living God. Blessed be the LORD of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Our great God, as we learn of Wicca and Freemasonry, burn within us a sense of urgency for the souls of these people. Minister to us the strength to address the

issue of the Masonic Lodge in our churches. Strengthen us to stand for Jesus Christ and his Church. Never allow us to forget, Lord, that you desire healing and repentance on the part of Masons that claim your name, and mold us into servants who have this first and foremost on our hearts. And if they will not listen, Father, equip us to discipline these unrepentant men, that they might turn to you. All this in the name of Jesus we pray, with thanksgiving, amen.

## SECTION TWO

(A) Fundamental Beliefs of Wicca: Online Reserves contain primary source material that documents Wiccan beliefs.

(B) Videotape: View the primary source videotape titled *Witchcraft: Yesterday and Today*, hosted by Raymond Buckland.

(C) Discussion Questions:

## SECTION THREE

(A) Freemasonry, Part 1: Online Reserves contain primary source material that documents Masonic Lodge beliefs.

(B) Reading: *Masonic Rites and Wrongs*, ix-xii, 1-123.

(C) Discussion Questions:

## **Module 11: April 22 - 29 (Freemasonry, Part 2)**

### SECTION ONE

(A) Scripture Reading: Acts 20:28-31

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

## SECTION TWO

(A) Freemasonry, Part 2: Online Reserves contain primary source material that documents Masonic Lodge beliefs.

(B) Reading: *Masonic Rites and Wrongs*, 127-228.

(C) Discussion Questions:

## SECTION THREE

(A) Additional Reading: *Knowing Christ*, 121-29.

### **Module 12: April 29 - May 6 (Christian Science; Unity School of Christianity)**

#### SECTION ONE

(A) Prayer: Gracious Lord, we give you praise and thank you for yet another day of life in you. For all these students, who are first and foremost your people, I pray for growth in closeness to you, a deeper knowledge of you, deeper worship of you, and as a result a deep desire to reach the lost with the gospel of Christ.

Lord, Christian Science and Unity set forth a counterfeit Christ. Give us eyes and ears of discernment in order to effectively proclaim who you really are to members of these two groups. In Jesus' name, amen.

#### SECTION TWO

(A) Christian Science beliefs and Christian Response: Online Reserves contain primary source material that documents Christian Science beliefs.

(B) Reading: Tucker, 149-76, 393; *Knowing Christ*, 6-8, 37-40, review 166-69.

(B) Discussion Questions:

#### SECTION THREE

(A) Unity School of Christianity, Additional Reading Only: Tucker, 177-90, 394 with *Knowing Christ*, 170-73.

(B) Discussion Questions:

## SECTION FOUR

(A) Additional Reading: *Knowing Christ*, 43-46, 129-37; Tucker, 245-66, 396-97 with *Knowing Christ*, 10-11, 41-42, review 175-78.

### **Module 13: May 6 - 13 (the Word-Faith Movement)**

#### SECTION ONE

(A) Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:15-23

15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

#### SECTION TWO

(A) The Word-Faith Movement: Beliefs and Christian Response: Online Reserves contain primary source material that documents Word-Faith beliefs.

(B) Reading: *Knowing Christ*, 47-48, review 184-87.

(C) Discussion Questions:

#### SECTION THREE

(A) Additional Reading: Tucker, 217-30 with *Knowing Christ*, 10, 42; Tucker, 285-98 with *Knowing Christ*, 9-10, 42-43, review 183-84.

(B) Discussion Questions:

**Module 14: May 13 - 20 (More Reading and Discussion Questions; Complete Course Evaluation Form)**

SECTION ONE

(A) Scripture and Prayer: Revelation 21:1-7

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty, to you we give thanks for the new Eden, in which those who believe in who you truly are and what you truly have done will dwell forever in your presence, in your place, as your people. Help us to remember, Lord, that one day you will make all things new. Make us rejoice in this wonderful truth of living forever in your presence in resurrected bodies.

As this semester's time together comes to a close, enable us to remember all that we have learned, and to put it into practice. May we continue in your good and perfect love by your Holy Spirit. In the glorious name of Christ our Lord, amen.

SECTION TWO

(A) Reading: *Knowing Christ*, 11-13, 48-54, 139-58.

(B) Discussion Questions: **The UPC**