

Religious Science OR Science of Mind

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Religious Science was begun by Ernest Holmes who was born on January 21, 1887, in Maine. To begin with, Holmes dropped out of school when he was 15 years old and did not return until 1908 for a short time to study public speaking. In his early years he became fascinated with Emerson and continued studying him throughout his life. He was also influenced a great deal by some fellow students who were Christian Scientists and became very interested in their thinking. His education consisted then of his own personal study of many religions and philosophies. In 1916 he began some public speaking about metaphysics and soon rented a hall in which to hold his lectures. In 1926 he published his best known volume, Science of Mind. Finally, in 1927 in Los Angeles, he incorporated as a non-profit religious and educational organization the Institute of Religious Science and School of Philosophy, Inc. which became the United Church of Religious Science. (sometimes called Science of Mind.)

Holmes claimed never to have invented a secret way by which mankind could partake of the unlimited good in the universe but he "sought only to explain the infallibility of the laws (of the universe) and express the essence of the ever-existent way." His church today claims, "No one before him had done that. His work was to make this modest man 'a man for the ages' - a pioneering guide to all mankind." They also boast that "he became an authority on the universal truths and imperishable ideas manifested through the ages in literature, art, science, philosophy and religion. He spent a lifetime synthesizing his discoveries." (It is fascinating they claim Holmes has explained Truth in a way no one has ever been able to do. I seriously doubt if Mr. Holmes can measure up to the unique exegetical work done by Jesus of Nazareth (John 1:18; 14:6).

Religious Science, "is a correlation of laws of Science, opinions of philosophy, and revelations of religions applied to human needs and the aspirations of man." The Religious Scientist uses the tool of Science of Mind to determine and recognize the Truth of the universe around him. The essence of Science of Mind in its broadest sense "includes the best in Science, religion, and philosophy," so they say. They claim it is not a personal opinion nor is it a special revelation but rather a result of the "best thought of the ages." They openly admit it borrows much of its light from other sources, for they feel Truth is universal and never personal. They claim Science of Mind gives us access to the entire revelation of the whole world. They rely upon the bibles of many religions to ascertain what the true reality of the universe is. In this syncretism they attempt to harmonize all the world's religions because they feel, since they all have much in common, whatever is in common among them must be the Truth. They state, "It is unreasonable to suppose that any one person or race encompasses all the Truth and alone can reveal the way of life for all others." They teach that the Judeo-Scriptures are, "in many respects, the greatest book ever written and truly does point 'a' way to eternal values" but that it is only one explanation and cannot be considered the supreme authority. They feel the other bibles of the world need to be consulted in order to weave the story of Truth into a complete and unified pattern: "Religious Science reads everyman's Bible and gleans the truths therein."

The entire theological structure of Religious Science is built upon this syncretistic base with one great twist - a metaphysical definition and interpretation of all Scripture. The Gnosticism of the first five centuries of church history is also a basic premise in the mystical maze of Religious Science. Like Christian Science, Unity School of Christianity, Divine Science and other Mind Science groups, Religious Science teaches the division between Jesus and the Christ. Jesus being merely a man, no different than any other, while the Christ, being separate from him, is a divine idea or an anointing that came upon the man Jesus at one point in his earthly life. This is fundamental in their theology as all men, they claim, can become, through intellectual realization, divine just as Jesus was. The Bible tells us there was something very unique about

Jesus who was born the Christ (Mt. 2:4) and was the only begotten (Greek - monogenes = an only or unique one) Son of God as well as God the Son (John 1:1; 5:18; 8:58; Col. 2:9; Heb. 1:3) throughout all eternity (Micah 5:2). Therefore, Biblically, Jesus Christ is much more than the good man who had a cosmic realiza-

tion of his and all men's divinity as Religious Science tells us.

The other doctrines of Religious Science are also a metaphysical conglomeration of Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Christian Science, Unity, neo-Platonism, Taoism, and other philosophies all sprinkled lightly with Christian terminology, stirred with the spoon of Gnosticism. They deny the Biblical doctrines of the Holy Trinity, the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, salvation by grace alone, eternal retribution of the wicked, and the Atonement of Jesus Christ as well as others. From a Scriptural standpoint, they also have an incorrect view of God (Pantheism and/or monism), man (calling him partially divine), man's destiny (belief in universal salvation), of evil and the existence of Satan (as not a personal being), of sin and its penalties (these can be overcome by mental exercise) and other basic teachings.

In conclusion, it is easily seen that the teachings of Religious Science are not those taught by the Triune God of the Universe Who has historically revealed Himself to mankind through the Person of His Son and the Judeo-Christian Scriptures but rather as Ernest Holmes himself admits, "is not a special revelation" but is a synthesis of "human thought of the ages". Religious Scientists have the complete freedom to believe as they wish but we in the Church of Jesus Christ must follow the Divine command of Jude 3 which tells us to "put up a stiff resistance for the faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints". The teachings of Religious Science are not in harmony with those of Christianity and nowhere enjoy sanction from Biblical authority. We are not attacking Religious Scientists, but rather the doctrine of Religious Science which so drastically undermines the stated authority of the Scriptures and of Jesus Christ Himself. Religious Science may be religious, and it may be scientific (in a metaphysical sense), but by its own definition it is certainly not Biblical Christianity nor is it in anyway compatible with it.

SOME SOURCES OF AUTHORITY FOR RELIGIOUS SCIENCE

Text of Taoism	The Apocrypha	Ramacharaka
Hermetic Teaching	The Talmud	Bhagavad-Gita
Sacred Books of the East	The Awakening of Faith	Upanishads
Zend-Avesta	Echoes of Gnosis	Pistis Sophia
Koran	Hindu Scripture	The Book of the Dead
Teachings of Buddha	The Bible	Qabbalah
Science of Mind	Fragments of a Forgotten Faith	The Vedas

The Bible Claims Authority TO THE EXCLUSION OF ALL OTHERS

- JOHN 17:17 - "Thy Word is Truth"
- JUDE 3 - "the faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints"
- PSALM 119:160 - "The sum of Thy Word is truth, and every one of Thy righteous ordinances is everlasting"
- ISAIAH 8:20 - "If they do not speak according to the law and the testimony then there is no light in them"

All of Scripture is Inspired

2 Tim. 3:16; 1 Pet. 1:20,21; Ps. 119:160; Jn. 10:35; Mt. 5:17,18

NO PROGRESSIVE REVELATION NEEDED

Lk. 16:19-31; Ps. 119:89; Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:6; Heb. 1:1,2

A DOCTRINAL COMPARISON BETWEEN RELIGIOUS SCIENCE AND THE BIBLE

RELIGIOUS SCIENCE

"The Father (is) the supreme creative Principle...and means Absolute Being" - 61
 "The entire manifestation of the Infinite in any and all planes, levels, states of consciousness, or manifestations, constitutes the Son" - 64
 "The Holy Ghost signifies the feminine aspect of the Divine Trinity. It represents the divine activity of the higher mental plane." - 65
 The Spirit is, "the supreme Law of Cause and Effect... the divine creative fertility of the universal soul when impregnated by the Divine Ideas." -65

THE TRINITY

God's Word

The God of the Bible is a cognizant reflective ego-Ex. 3:14 - He is a Person not a Principle.
 All three members of the Trinity manifest aspects of personality:
 MIND: F-Rom. 11:34; S-1 Cor. 2:16; H.S.-Rom.8:27
 WILL: F-Jn. 6:38; S-Lk. 22:42; H.S.-1 Cor. 12:11
 EMOTIONS: F-Jn. 3:16; S-Eph. 5:25; H.S.-Rom. 15:30
 They are also involved in subject-object relations (Mt. 3:17; Mt. 17:5) which is impossible for an impersonal Principle. The Holy Ghost is never referred to as feminine but always as a masculine (Jn. 16:7-14; 14:16,17,26) personality.

JESUS CHRIST

"Christ is the unseen principle in Man...Christ is the reality of every man, his true inner self."- 12
 "Christ means the universal Idea of Sonship; the entire creation, both visible and invisible."- 19
 "The sum total of all the Father's Divine Ideas constitutes the mystic Christ."- 19
 "Christ is Universal Idea...the Higher Self..." - 55
 "Christ is in everything...the supreme Ideal."
 "Jesus was a man, a human being..." - 19
 "Jesus never thought of himself as different from others..." - 19
 "As Jesus, the man, gave way to the Divine Idea, the human took on the Christ Spirit and became the voice of God to humanity."- 20

Christ was born - Mt. 2:4; Lk. 2:11
 Christ is a Son - Mt. 22:42
 Christ came at a point in history - Mt. 1:17
 Christ has a body - Rom. 7:4; & blood - Eph. 2:13
 Christ was from seed of David - Jn. 7:42
 Christ had both human & divine natures - Rom. 9:5;1:1-3
 Christ was crucified - 1 Cor. 1:23
 Christ suffered - Lk. 24:26; 1 Pet. 1:11
 Christ became a curc for us - Gal. 3:13
 Christ died - Gal. 2:21; Rom. 5:6,8; 8:34; 14:9,15
 Christ was raised from the dead - Rom. 6:4; 8:11
 Jesus claims to be fully God - Jn. 8:58; 5:18; 10:30
 Jesus is the Christ eternally - Mk. 14:61; Micah 5:2
 Jn. 20:31; Mt. 16:16,20; Jn. 22:27; Lk. 2:11; Mt. 1:16; Mt. 27:17,22; Mk. 8:29; Lk. 4:41; 9:20; Acts 2:36; 9:22.
 Jesus Christ has come in flesh & is God - 1 Jn. 4:2

SALVATION

"True salvation comes only through true enlightenment..."-25
 "We believe that the Kingdom of Heaven is within man and that we experience this kingdom to the degree that we become conscious of it."- 43
 Man is not God, but he has no life separate from the Divine..." - 55
 "The Kingdom of God is within you. This refers to a state of inner awareness."- 44
 "When any individual recognizes his true union with the Infinite, he automatically becomes the Christ."- 65
 "We are all in the process of spiritual evolution, but there is certainty behind us, certainty before us and certainty with us at every moment." - 89
 Salvation is universal: "We believe the ultimate goal of life to be a complete emancipation from all discord of every nature, and that this goal is sure to be attained by all" - 50
 "In the long run each will fully express his divinity, for good will come at last alike to all" - 21
 "To believe in eternal damnation for any soul is to believe in an infinite monstrosity..." (The Essence of Science of Mind by Ernest Holmes, p. 14.)

Knowledge is not salvation but coming only to the cross of Christ - Jn. 1:12; 5:39; Rom. 3:24,25
 You must be born-again to enter the Kingdom of God - Jn. 3:3-7; 1 Pet. 1:23; 1 Jn. 5:11,12; Rom. 10:9,10
 The correct translation of Lk. 17:21 is not that the kingdom is "within" but rather the Greek 'entos' means in the midst of you. If Jesus had meant it was 'within' He would have used the word 'eso' which literally means inside. Remember too, that He was speaking to self-righteous Pharisees who had rejected Christ. Light and darkness cannot dwell together (see 2 Cor. 6:14-16 & Mk. 3:24)
 Man is separated from God outside of Christ-Jn. 14:6; Rom.3:23; 6:23; 5:12,14,19,21; 1 Cor. 15:22.
 The only spiritual evolution that takes place is with the believer in sanctification - Rom. 6
 The unbeliever is totally depraved and not evolving spiritually - Rom. 3:10-12; 1:20; Rom. 5:12
 Because of this they have no certainty - Prov. 3:33
 No universal salvation: Mt. 25:41,46; 23:37
 Hell: Jn. 3:3-7; Heb. 9:22; Jn. 3:36; Mt. 25:32,33; Rev. 20:10; Jude 13; Dan. 12:2; Rev. 21:18, 20:15; Mt.10:28; 2 Thess. 1:9; Rev. 14:9-11; 19:20;Lk.16:19-31; Heb. 9:27; Jn. 5:28,29
 God won't leave the guilty unpunished: Rom. 14:12; 1 Chron. 28:9; Ex. 34:7
 Not all enter His Kingdom: Gal. 5:20-21; Eph. 5:5; 1 Cor. 6:9,10; 2 Pet. 2:17
 God condemns no one - Rom. 2:5-9, Mt. 12:37; Rom.1:18-20; Ac. 17:27,28.

All the above page numbers refer to What Religious Science Teaches, by Ernest Holmes.