

# Cults, the Occult, and False Religions of the World

BIOMA TH 401

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Textbooks: World Religions and Cults Vol. 1-3 by Bodie Hodge and Roger Patterson, Master Books, Green Forest, AR (Note: These books and supplemental material I will present will serve as the textbooks. Their inclusion is not a complete endorsement of all positions taken by the authors, but they perhaps the best available sources at the present time. Their choice of Bible versions other than that of the King James Version and their treatment of the Roman Catholic Church as a denomination rather than a cult are areas where we differ with the authors. Nevertheless, these books take a strong Biblical stand and are otherwise sound.)

## I. The Genuine Faith Expounded, Explained, and Explored

A. 359 Ways to Be Wrong, One Way to be Right – the Issue of Exclusivity in an Inclusive Society

B. Man's Religion vs. God's Revelation

C. Organizing the Fundamentals – What to Die for

1. A Triune, Transcendent, Caring God

a. The Sovereign Father

1.) His Divine Attributes

2.) His Dynamic Activities

3.) His Deserving Adoration

b. The Savior Son

1.) Eternal Existence

2.) Creative Activity

3.) Hypostatic Union

4.) Miraculous Incarnation -Virgin Birth

5.) Vicarious Atonement

6.) Bodily Resurrection

7.) Immanent Return

8.) Eternal Glorification

c. The Silent Holy Spirit

1.) Disclosing Revelation

2.) Directing Inspiration

3.) Dynamic Preservation

4.) Driving Redemption

5.) Doing Regeneration

6.) Directly Indwelling

2. A Trustworthy, Preserved and Authoritative Bible

3. A Created Young Earth

4. A Real and Dangerous Enemy

5. A Fallen Humanity

6. A Plan of Redemption

7. An Eternal Destiny

D. A Short History of the True Faith

1. The Early Church

2. The Martyr Church

3. The Compromising Church

4. The Remnant Church

5. The Reforming Church

6. The Missionary Church

7. The Apostatizing Church

E. Denominations Differences – Where Good People Disagree

1. On Questions of Philosophy
  - a. Reformed, Calvinistic, Covenantal Theology
  - b. Arminianism
  - c. Dispensationalism
2. On Questions of Polity
  - a. Episcopal (Bishop)
  - b. Presbyterian (Elder)
  - c. Pastor-Teacher
  - d. Congregational
3. On Questions of Practice - Sacraments vs. Ordinances
  - a. On Baptism'
    - 1.) Pedobaptism
    - 2.) Trine Baptism
    - 3.) Modes
      - a.) Sprinkling
      - b.) Pouring
      - c.) Immersion
  - b. On the Lord's Supper
    - 1.) Consubstantiation
    - 2.) Memorial
4. On Questions of Prophecy
  - a. Amillennialism
  - b. Post-Millennialism
  - c. Pre-Millennialism
5. What is in a Name – The Good, The Bad, and the Disobedient

- a. High Church
  - 1.) Anglican
  - 2.) Episcopalian
- b. Liturgical Church
  - 1.) Methodism/Wesleyan
  - 2.) Presbyterian
  - 3.) Congregationalists
- c. Evangelical Church
  - 1.) Baptist
    - a.) Regular Baptists
    - b.) Freewill Baptists
  - 2.) Non-denominational Church
- d. Charismatic Church
  - 1.) Nazarenes
  - 2.) Church of God

## II. The False Faiths Organized, Explained and Evangelized

### A. Counterfeit Christianity

- 1. The Original Counterfeit – Roman Catholicism
- 2. The “Orthodox” Counterfeits
  - a. Greek Orthodox
  - b. Russian Orthodox
- 3. The Campbellite Heresy
  - a. Liberal -Disciples of Christ
  - b. Conservative – Church of Christ

### B. Completed by Christianity -Judaism

1. "Orthodox" Judaism
2. Reformed Judaism
3. Messianic Judaism

C. Corruptions of/or Competitors of Christianity

1. Islam
  - a. Sunni
  - b. Shite
  - c. Others
2. Jehovah's Witnesses
3. Mormonism
4. Seventh Day Adventism
5. Baha'i Faith
6. Deism
7. Satanism
8. Freemasonry
9. Zoroastrianism
10. Worldwide Church of the Creator
11. Unification Church (Moonies)

D. Eastern Mysticism

1. The New Age Movement
2. Taoism
3. Hinduism/Hare Krishna
4. Jainism
5. Sikhism

E. Moralistic Religions

1. Paganism
2. Voodoo
3. Wicca/Witchcraft
4. Druidism
5. Spiritism/Animism
6. The Polytheism of the Ancient Egyptians
7. Norse/Germanic Mythology
8. Greek Mythology
9. Latin American Religions
10. Stoicism
11. Epicureanism
12. Shinto
13. Buddhism
14. Confucianism
15. Unitarianism

F. Reaching the Religious but Lost of Humanity

G. Secular and Atheistic Religions

1. Atheism
2. Agnosticism
3. Secular Humanist
4. Nazism
5. Scientology
6. Communism
7. Post-Modernism
8. Evolutionary Religions

9. Dualism

10. "Christian" Syncretism and Evolution

11. Naturalism

12. Materialism

13. Empiricism

H. Conclusions and Strategies -Back to the Book, the Blood and the Blessed Hope