

19. The Book of Romans 1:21-25-Part 3

Paul's Epistle to the Romans

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We are currently in the section in Romans Chapter 1 where Paul is proving that the pagan is condemned by God—but in so doing he gives us insight into a religious deception that is coming upon the world in these last days.

Romans 1:21–23 (NKJV)

²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

In other words, when people reject the God of the Bible, whose truth is spiritual Light—the darkness of demonic spiritual deception takes hold of their minds and they become slaves to Satan's lies (2Tim. 2:24-26).

This will reach a climax during the Tribulation Period when the Antichrist becomes the leader of the one-world government, and most of the people of this fallen world will embrace his 'gospel' and worship him as God:

2 Thessalonians 2:3–4, 9-11 (NKJV)

³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God... ⁹ The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie...

Paul's statement in 2 Thessalonians 2:11 is a prophetic warning that many people during the Tribulation Period will embrace Satan's gospel preached by the Antichrist—a gospel that Paul calls "the lie."

This is what occultists and New Agers have called the 'Cosmic Gospel'—a counterfeit gospel that has damned to hell billions of people down thru the centuries—and will be used to condemn billions more to hell during the Tribulation Period.

The prophecy Paul shared with the Christians in Thessalonica dovetails with the teaching he presented to the Christians living in Rome—

Romans 1:22–25 (NKJV)

²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. ²⁴ **Therefore God also gave**

them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

In both Romans 1:25 and 2 Thessalonians 2:11 Paul made reference to "the lie"—not "a lie" as in one of many, but "the lie"—as in the 'mother of lies!'

As we said last time, the world is full of lies—but there is one lie that is the 'mother' of all spiritual lies that the father of lies (Satan) introduced into the human race in the Garden of Eden.

This main lie is made up of four parts that we started looking at in our previous study in Romans.

Genesis 3:1-5 (NKJV)

¹ Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ "but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' " ⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

This lie that Satan told Eve was made up of 4 different false doctrines:

1. God is not personal but an impersonal force that fills the universe and everything and everyone in it.

When Satan came to Eve one of the things he subtly planted into her mind was the concept that—the Person she had come to know as God was not God because of *who He was*, but was God because of *what He knew* —"***you will be like God knowing***"(v.5)

In other words, He had learned (gained knowledge) on how to tap into a force that made Him God and now He was trying to keep her from understanding what this 'God-force' was because He did not want her to find the same divinity that He had found.

So here you have the first part of the lie—God is not personal but is an impersonal force that fills the universe and flows through everything and everyone in it.

2. The second element of the lie that Satan told Eve was that there is no ultimate death.

When Satan told Eve, "***You will not surely die***" he was saying to her, "*Eve there is no penalty for disobeying God (no judgment)—no death (ultimately speaking).*"

God told them in the day they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil '*they would surely die*' (Genesis 2:17)—but Satan told Eve God lied about the consequences of disobeying Him—there is no death.

This became the basis for the doctrine of *reincarnation*.

3. The third element of the lie that Satan told Eve was that she could become a god.

"For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God..."

Or in other words, Satan told Eve she would ascend to godhood—but only after her eyes were opened (after she was enlightened)! Since we are all a part of this God-force that flows through everything (people, rocks, trees, animals etc.), then that means that *‘all is God’*—this is what is known as *‘pantheism.’*

According to pantheism, *“God is in all”* and therefore *“all is God”*, and if all is God, then that means that—I am God!

Which is exactly what Shirley MacLean (prophetess for the New Age) declared in the movie, *‘Dancing in the Light’*—she said:

- *“I know that I exist, therefore— I AM.”*
- *“I know that the God force exists, therefore— IT IS.”*
- *“Since I am a part of that force, then— I AM that I AM.”* (the name of God)

Of course, this was at the heart of the great rebellion of Lucifer where he led a revolt in heaven in an attempt to defeat God, usurp His throne and replace Him as the ‘Great I AM.’

This was a rebellion that God recounts thru the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 14:

Isaiah 14:12-14 (NKJV)

¹² "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! ¹³ For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

Look, if I am God then I’m free to worship myself, live for myself and answer to no one but myself—which is very appealing to the selfish heart of fallen man!

And that is why the human race will embrace the devil’s false gospel so enthusiastically during the Tribulation Period—it feeds into something that man has wanted from the beginning of time—to be God! Whether we realize it or not—the greatest scourge facing the human race is the sin of man worshipping himself as God (Rom. 1:23)—a sin rooted in pride and self-love.

This was the first sin ever committed by man on earth (Mr. and Mrs. ‘Man’ —Adam and Eve).

I believe that this will become the ultimate sin on the earth during the Tribulation Period—giving rise to many other sins that will flow from it before Jesus returns to destroy these little demigods and establish His Kingdom.

4. The fourth element of the lie that Satan told Eve was that godhood could be achieved through the tree of knowledge.

Or in other words, the path to godhood is through enlightenment.

As Satan’s lie to Eve progressed, he told her—***“You will not surely die for God knows that in the day that you eat the fruit of that tree your eyes will be opened (you will be enlightened) and you will become like God (ascend to godhood).”***

Those involved in Hinduism and the New Age Movement (pantheism) believe that although man *is* God—he has *forgotten* that he is God! Therefore, since he is a ‘*forgetful god*’—he/she must come to a ‘*higher level of enlightenment*’ (of consciousness)—to the realization of his own divinity or “*Higher Self*.”

This enlightenment can be achieved through various means—Transcendental Meditation, hallucinogenic drugs like LSD, visualization, yoga or some other technique (in Eve’s case by eating from the tree of knowledge).

Whatever the technique, they all promise *enlightenment* and claim to be the path to godhood. You see the only obstacle (these New Age gurus tell us) that stands in the way of you reaching godhood and your full potential is the way you *think*—the way you perceive reality.

The problem is that you *misperceive* reality and impose upon it your own *limitations*. What you need to do is come to the realization, to the awareness, that you have infinite potential within—because the God-force flows through you!

You must understand (these guru’s tell people) that you’ll never start enjoying your full God-potential until you embrace your divinity and believe you are God! That’s why Shirley MacLaine takes the first five minutes of every day reminding herself that she is God (she’s not much of a god if she has to keep reminding herself that she is God!).

Now once you realize that you are God with the God-force flowing through you and that you have unlimited power and potential—then you can begin to use this power to work miracles, overcome weaknesses, heal sicknesses, gain wealth and success—in short create your own reality and change the world for the better.

(Listen: Talk about the Hindu belief that what we perceive as ‘reality’ is nothing more than an illusion created by the mind called a ‘maya’).

The New Age Movement’s beliefs are not new at all—they’re a westernized version of Hinduism which has its roots as far back as the Garden of Eden.

C.S Lewis traced all major religions and cults back to two primary sources—Judeo-Christianity (God’s truth) and Hinduism (Satan’s lie)—both of which started in the Garden of Eden.

Once again, both Hinduism and the New Age Movement (now called the “New Spirituality”) teach that the only obstacle that stands in the way of you reaching godhood and your full potential is the way you think—the way you perceive reality.

Again, they teach that most people don’t believe they’re God (which they call ‘heinous pride’)—and therefore impose their own limitations upon their reality (which hurts and limits everyone, because everyone is bound together in the divine consciousness/collective and what affects one, affects all).

What a person needs to do to start tapping into the infinite power of the god-force within them and use it to conquer sickness, poverty, bad habits, and other human failings—is to realize that they are God—until then they will continue to remain a failure in life.

In that regard—you are your own worst enemy they tell people—you are fighting against yourself!

Remember the scene in one of the Star Wars movies where Luke Skywalker has a vision he was in a cave and was confronted by his arch enemy Darth Vader? Luke decapitates him with his lightsaber only to see that the head in the helmet is actually himself and not Vader. (Explain)

The only one hindering you from achieving complete divinity (godhood) is *you* because you place limitations upon yourself by the way you think! This was something that Yoda (the yogi of the force) tried to teach Luke by having him lift his starship out of the swamp using the power of his mind.

When Luke failed, he told Yoda that he *"Asked the impossible"*—at which time Yoda levitated Luke's spaceship from the swamp using the power of his mind.

Luke exclaimed, *"I don't believe it!"* to which Yoda responded—*"That's why you failed, because you don't believe."*

In a lecture that Dave Hunt gave years ago at a pastor's conference I attended, he made reference to a book called *"Jonathan Livingston Segal"*—he said:

"Jonathan Livingston Segal was a book written in 1970. Tens of thousands of copies were sold in Christian bookstores. It was Hinduism dressed up in 'Positive Mental Attitude/ Success Motivation/Psychological terminology.

Richard Boach, the author, said it was all dictated to him by *"a disembodied spirit out on the astral plane"* (*"...seducing spirits and doctrines of demons"*)

The book was read by thousands of Christians—especially Christian businessmen who had copies in their offices with a picture of Jonathan flying through the air with the caption underneath—*"I can because I think I can."*

Do you know that there are many sincere and well-intentioned Christians who think that's what faith is—you pray and believe and if you believe hard enough your faith will make it happen.

Of course, this is another element of the lie that has infiltrated into the Church. The doctrinal cornerstone of the lie, which is also the doctrinal cornerstone of Hinduism and the New Age Movement among others, is that man is really God or is evolving into godhood."

As I said earlier, I believe that the very lie Satan introduced into the human race in the Garden of Eden will be the lie the Antichrist will use to deceive the human race with when he comes on the world scene.

So, the very lie that caused the human race to fall in the beginning, I believe, is going to be the ultimate deception that Satan is going to use against the human race in the end. In that the Antichrist's religion will be rooted in the belief that mankind can become a super-race of God-beings that will live forever.

This has been the goal of Hinduism, Mormonism, the New Age Movement and many others—those who believe that we are really God and all we need is to be enlightened and then the human race will take a 'quantum leap' in the evolutionary process to godhood.

➤ You say, *"Do they really believe this stuff?"*—you bet they do!

In the mid-eighties New Age groups all over the world simultaneously came together for what they called the 'World Peace Movement' with the hope of bringing peace to the world through collective meditation. It was a process they called 'harmonic convergence.'

The idea was that if enough people all over the world would simultaneously visualize world peace at exactly the same time—12 noon Greenwich mean time, their combined positive mental energy would create a critical mass of consciousness which would in turn catapult the world into a New Age.

Nothing happened and so critics called it the ‘moronic convergence.’ Although 4 years later when the Soviet Union fell these folks took credit for it.

Those involved in the movement are looking for a new messiah to come who will be the latest reincarnation of the ‘Christ spirit’, the same spirit that inhabited Jesus who was the Messiah for this present age (the Piscean Age), this new messiah will be the messiah for the New Age—the Age of Aquarius.

They believe that when he comes, he will unite the world into one single, unified, global community and bring to mankind a beautiful ‘new age’ (hence the name) of peace and prosperity.

We Christians know that the Bible predicts this and calls this leader the Antichrist.

It’s interesting that this idea (that man is on the verge of godhood) is being promoted today in scientific circles even as it has been for centuries in religious circles—not through religious *techniques* but through technology.

Those in the scientific community are telling us that the human race is on the verge of godhood.

One of the hottest fields in genetics today is *transhumanism*. Transhumanism has two main branches—

1. **Cybernetic transhumanism** (combining the human body with a machine (cyborg = ‘cybernetic organism’); or man’s consciousness with a machine)

Using mechanical prosthetics as a replacement for human limbs has been around for a while (popularized by the TV series ‘Six Million Dollar Man’ and the movie ‘Robocop’)—but the fusing of the human consciousness with a robot called the ‘singularity’ is only a fantasy at this point.

I believe it is entirely possible that this will be the message the Antichrist will preach to the world during the Tribulation Period.

A message that man’s consciousness can be ‘downloaded’ into a robot or machine to give him or her the ability to live forever in a mechanical avatar containing incredible strength as well as having a super-computer for a brain connected with every other person on the planet (via some kind of global linking system) giving mankind the ‘*collective consciousness*’ it has always dreamed of (think of the Borg on the TV series ‘Star Trek—Next Generation”).

Could this technology be used by the Antichrist during the Tribulation Period and be the basis for his new religion—that man can become a god by having his or her consciousness downloaded into a robot (a mechanical avatar)—what is called ‘cybernetic transhumanism’?

And if you think I’m crazy and am guilty of wild speculations that have no basis in biblical truth—check this out.

Revelation 13:12-15 (NKJV)

¹² And he [the False Prophet] exercises all the authority of the first beast [Antichrist], in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast...¹⁴ telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image [robot?] to the beast...¹⁵ He was granted *power* to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

Could this be some kind of robot that they are able to infuse with human consciousness so that it actually comes alive (not just turns on like a machine)?

Does the Antichrist demonstrate this to the world by downloading *his* consciousness into this image (possibly a robot of some kind) and then declaring himself to be God? If so, could this be the prototype of a super race that will have incredible power and intelligence—a race of people that will be the perfect combination of man and machine who will live forever as gods upon the earth (or at least that’s what they’re going to believe)?

I mean could this be the message the Antichrist will preach to the people of the world and why they so enthusiastically follow him and destroy all those who oppose him? (“Their monotheism is holding the world back from realizing its own divinity!”)

2. **Biological transhumanism** (splicing together the genes of man with animals)

The idea is to make superior human beings by splicing human DNA with animal DNA in an attempt to create human beings that have the eyesight of an eagle, the hearing of a dog, the ability to regenerate limbs like a starfish, and be cancer free like a shark etc.

Some want to take it even farther and create half-man, half-animal demi-god hybrids called Chimera.

I firmly believe that genetic engineering through gene splicing is going on in secret across this planet.

I shudder to think what hideous, genetically altered creatures are locked up in cages, as we speak, in laboratories sprinkled throughout the world. This kind of genetic manipulation (splicing human DNA with animal or even demon DNA) is nothing new—it was going on in the days of Noah and led to God destroying the world with a flood.

If you’re interested in this topic —listen to our study in [Genesis 6:1-8](#); [2 Peter 2:4-5 \(Part 1\)](#) and [2 Peter 2:4-5 \(Part 2\)](#); [Jude 1:4-5](#) and [Jude 1:6-7](#)

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

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