

The Believers Greatest Danger - Part 2

BY TOM WATSON

In the previous article we stated that deception is the greatest danger the believer faces prior to the coming of Christ. We looked at the deception that comes through politically correct Bible translations. Now we will consider deception that comes through books. There are many avenues to bring deception into the life of the believer – the internet, television, the pulpit and certainly the popularity of books.

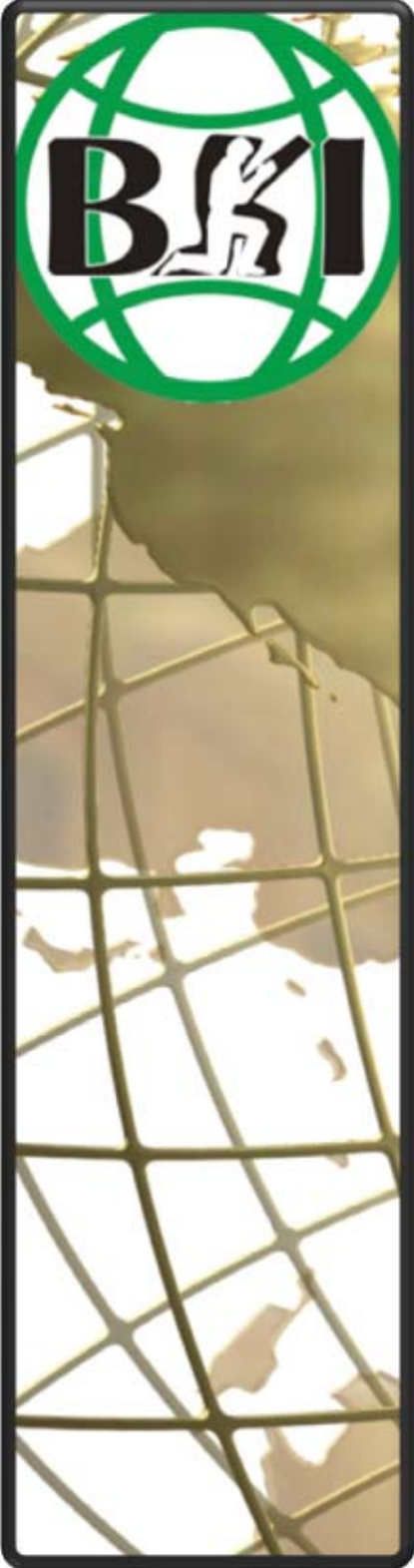
The greatest deception will be from books that are labeled “Christian” and contain a mixture of truth and error. Dr. Harry Ironsides warned that “truth mixed with error is equivalent to all error, except that it is more innocent looking and therefore, more dangerous.” ¹

In this article we will examine Sarah Young’s mega best seller, *Jesus Calling*, selling over 15 million copies since first published in 2004. Over the past twelve years it has taken the church by storm. The popularity of this book reveals much about the spiritual condition of the church. We can apply the words of Isaiah when he wrote, “For they are not a people of discernment.” ² Sadly, it was not the church – pastors, theologians or church leaders – who first alerted the public to the problems of *Jesus Calling*, but it was the secular press. ³ Although the Bible warns over and over again about deception, apparently many of our churches and parachurch ministries are not passing along the warning.

Today, almost any “... fabrication about Jesus Christ can be published and offered for sale, with a host of dubious ‘modern scholars’ testifying to its possible authenticity, and can quickly run to the top of the best-seller lists, put therein part through the ignorance and gullibility of devout and committed Christian people.” ⁴

When *Jesus Calling* was first released, it was clear that Young was greatly influenced by *God Calling*, a channeled New Age book, that she had a very mystical conversion and the book contained numerous examples of New Age teaching. In the latest editions Young and the publisher have made many deletions. These changes involved removing the paragraph that connected Young to *God Calling*, removing much of the mysticism surrounding her conversion and deleting some of the text with New Age connotations.

Publisher Thomas Nelson made no public announcement about the changes and their spokesman even denied that the original edition contained New Age beliefs which is, in and of itself, quite deceptive. Of course, Thomas Nelson Publishers are trying to protect their multi-million dollar cash cow where money speaks louder than truth.



Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

“Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.”

James 1:16

Originally, Young stated that **God Calling**, a channeled New Age book written by two anonymous women in the 1930's, was the inspiration for her listening to Jesus with pen in hand. ⁵ She writes that Jesus told her “to be a channel of My loving presence” (pg. 94). Channeling, forbidden in Scripture, means to serve as a medium for a spirit. We are told in the Bible to “test the spirits to see whether they are from God”. ⁶ Much of what Young writes fails the test because it contradicts what Jesus said as recorded in the Word of God.

One needs to ask the question, ‘What Jesus was Young listening to’? There are only two ways to know for sure: 1) if anything she says came from the Lord is contrary to Scripture, then it is not of the Lord; 2) if anything she say in relation to what she claims is misleading, then it is not from the Lord. ⁷ **Jesus Calling** fails the test on both counts.

Young, not satisfied with the sufficiency of the written Word, sought for that not revealed in Scripture. She wrote, “I knew that God communicated with me through the bible, but I yearned for more”. (p. XII) Be careful what you yearn for. Is the Bible sufficient for you? We live in a time where people want a study Bible more than a Bible, they want a book rather than the Book, and they begin their day reading their favorite blog before coming, if they do, to the Scriptures. Do you see the danger in that?

Young embraces New Age teaching when it comes to co-creation, meditation, visualization, immanence (the belief that God is in every one) and pantheism (the belief that God is in everything). For example she claims Jesus said to her, “I am above all as well as in all”. (p.199)

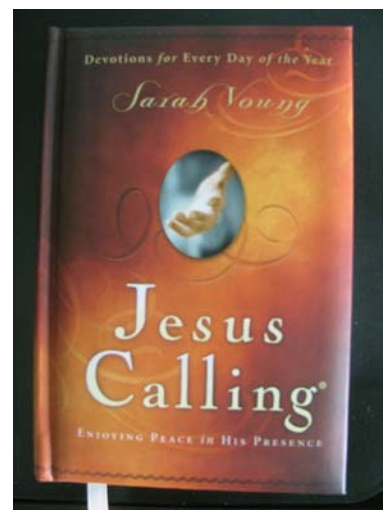
The New Age implications become clear when she claims Jesus told her we will be co-creators with Christ. She writes, “This is a very practical way of collaborating with Me. I, the creator of the Universe, have deigned to co-create with you (p. 362)”. This comes from the New Age concept that man will reach godhood and together with the New Age Christ bring peace to this world. That we, along with Christ will determine the future.

Her claim parallels New Age beliefs like author Neal Donald Walsh who writes:

Yet let me make something clear. The era of the Single Savior is over. What is needed now is joint action, combined effort, collective co-creation. ⁸

Or, New Ager Ellyn Davis:

It shouldn't be a stretch for us to believe that, as “observers” to whom Jesus gave all power in heaven and earth, we can, through faith, intent, prayer and declaration, call things into existence. ⁹



But the idea that we will become gods, have the power of God and be co-equal with God did not begin in the New Age movement. False religions, such as Mormonism, teach that God was once a man, and therefore, as men we can become gods. Or, Hinduism, from which comes yoga with its common greeting, “Namaste” meaning the god in me greets the god in you. ¹⁰

But this concept goes even further back. As we read in Isaiah that Lucifer, in his fall, said, “I will make myself like the most High”. ¹¹ Satan would like to convince mankind that he can become like God. When Satan tempted Eve in the form of a serpent, he deceived her by saying, “you will be like God.” ¹² And someday Satan will raise up a man who will “take his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. ¹³

God's plan from the beginning is for man to see himself as a sinner in need of a Savior. Satan's plan from the beginning is for man to see himself as becoming like God with no need for a Savior.

Anyone who comes to you with the claim of a new truth that contradicts or cannot be confirmed by Scripture is a false teacher. In *Jesus Calling* Sarah Young presents to the reader a false Christ that Jesus warned about in Matthew 24. The Scripture warns us about those who are “deceiving and being deceived.”¹⁴ So, is Sarah Young intentionally deceiving millions or is she just self-deceived? Pastor Erwin Lutzer writes, “We are experts at deceiving others and ourselves too!”¹⁵

Be careful what you read. Today, we find many books although bearing the label “Christian”, either embrace the occult and New Age thought or at best the wisdom of men. If anyone claims to know more than God has revealed in His Word it is time to close the book.

ENDNOTES AND SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

1 Dr. Harry Ironside, *The Berean Call*, April 2008, “Exposing Error: Is it Worthwhile?”

2 Isaiah 27:11

3 Ruth Graham, *The Daily Beast*, February 23, 2014, “The Strange Saga of ‘Jesus Calling’

4 *The Journal*, April 2006 p. 3

5 Warren B. Smith, *The New Age Implication of Jesus Calling*, 2014 p. 4,5. Interview with the Christian Broadcasting Network

6 1 John 4:1

7 *Media Spotlight* Vol 37, No. 1, Spring 2014 p. 9

8 *Lighthouse Trails*, Jan/Feb 2015 p. 19

9 *Media Spotlight*, Special Report 2015 p. 9

10 Kevin Reeves, *D is for Deception*, 2016 p.13

11 Isaiah 14:14

12 Genesis 3:5

13 2 Thessalonians 3:5

14 2 Timothy 3:13

15 *Frontline*, May/June 2014 p 25

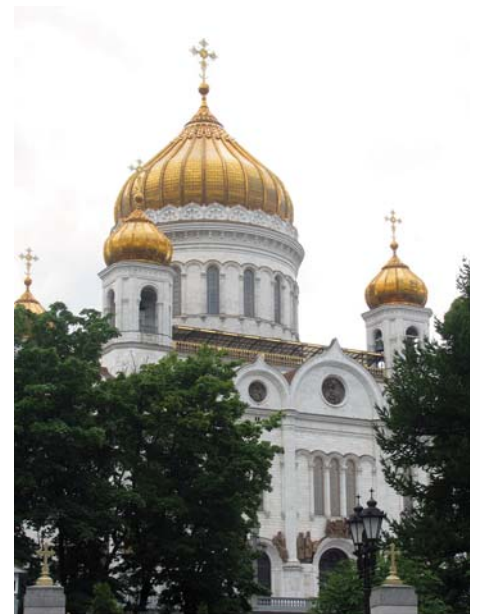
Russian Atheist Faces Prison

The Media Spotlight (Spring 2016) reported that Viktor Krasnov, a Russian Atheist, is facing up to a year in prison for saying on the European social networking V Kontakte, “there is no God” and that “The Bible is a collection of Jewish fairy tales.”

Krasnov, 38, is on trial in his native city of Stavropol, Russia. Russia’s Investigative Committee accused Krasnov of “offending believers’ feelings”. Offense against religion was criminalized in Russia, in 2012, when a punk rock band performed an anti-Putin song in Moscow’s Cathedral of Christ the Redeemer. Krasnov is being prosecuted under a 2013 law, known as Article 148, which criminalizes acts that insult peoples’ religious feelings and beliefs.

What a change in a nation that once exalted Atheism, put to death millions who identified with Christianity and even made claims it would stamp out Christianity. We need to understand that the law is designed to benefit Vladimir Putin and the Russian Orthodox Church which he promotes and not evangelicals. The Russian Orthodox Church remains the greatest hindrance to evangelicals and their proclamation of the Gospel and establishment of churches. Keep in mind that Russia remains an ungodly nation with only a very small percentage considered born again Christians.

However, contrast the change in Russia to a growing intolerance of Christianity right here in America where believers find themselves in trouble with the law by living according to their convictions. In our once so-called “Christian” nation we have those who are calling for churches to lose their tax exempt status and to make it unlawful for a pastor to preach against sins that are politically correct and culturally acceptable.



**Russian Orthodox
Christ the Redeemer Church**

Native American Ministry 2016

We remain thankful for the opportunity to minister among the indigenous people of the Southwest. In June, we will be in Tuba City, Arizona on the Hopi Reservation for a Native American Leadership Luncheon and Seminar. In July, we will be in Sanders, Arizona to teach, minister to children and help complete a new church building at Lichii Deez ahi Bible Church. This will be a joint effort with Cornerstone Bible Church of Southlake, Texas. In September, we will have an evangelistic outreach at the Navajo Nation Fair in Window Rock, Arizona and in October, a Native American Leadership conference in Window Rock, the Navajo Nation Capital.



We give thanks to the Lord for your prayers and support of the ministry of Bended Knee International.



BENDED KNEE INTERNATIONAL

Pastor Tom Watson

P.O. Box 1325

Roanoke, Texas 76262

www.bendedknee.org

