

Counterfeit Sermon Series
Part #1 – Authentic: One Savior, One Truth, One Way
2 Peter 2:1-3

Matthew 24:4 – Watch out that no one deceives you...

Series Summary

Are there many ways to heaven? Do all religions lead to the same place? This sermon series will begin on Easter Sunday and it will examine the different counterfeit religions that claim to give you power to overcome death and live for eternity. We will begin this series by examining the one authentic way as we strive to follow the one authentic Savior.

Sermon Summary

Oprah Winfrey is the most popular television personality in the world but do you know what she believes and how she promotes her beliefs. Oprah has tremendous influence upon the people in our nation. Some people might say that her religious beliefs have no bearing on her role as the most popular television personality in the world but we must understand that our beliefs shape our worldview which influences what we promote to others. What is the religious belief system of Oprah Winfrey? Oprah will often speak of her Christian heritage but she is not a Christian according to a Biblical perspective and she would even agree with this statement. Oprah has adopted a new religious belief system that is commonly known as New Age Religion which is counter Christianity.

**Big Idea – Open Your Eyes and Guard Your Heart...
Counterfeit Teachers are All Around You**

Main Passage

2 Peter 2:1-3 – ¹But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves. ²Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. ³In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

Three False Teachings of the Church of Oprah

- **Oprah Winfrey, "Oprah talks to Eckhart Tolle," O: The Oprah Magazine, May 2008, p. 298.** – Oprah speaks about the author Eckhart Tolle on her webcast in March of 2008: "I think he is a prophet for our time."

False Teaching #1 – God is Who You Want Him to Be = You Are God

- ^{1a}**But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies...**
- **Oprah Winfrey Show, April 09, 2008.** – "And I love this quote that Eckhart has, this is one of my favorite quotes in chapter one where he says, "Man made god in his own image, the eternal, the infinite, and unnamable was reduced to a mental idol that you had to believe in and worship as my god or our god."

- **John 17:3** – Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.
- **Key Point** – The first false teaching of New Age religion that we will encounter is that we are all one with the universe and that God can be who or what you want him to be because you are god. There is no higher divine being, no creator of the universe, there is just us existing together and we are all one.

False Teaching #2 – Salvation comes from Enlightenment not Jesus

^{1b} ...even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—
bringing swift destruction on themselves.

- **Oprah Winfrey Show, April 09, 2008.** – “It's been a journey to get to the place where I understand, that what I believe is that Jesus came to show us Christ consciousness. That Jesus came to show us the way of the heart and that what Jesus was saying that to show us the higher consciousness that we're all talking about here. And when I started to recognize that, that Jesus didn't come in my belief, even as a Christian, I don't believe that Jesus came to start Christianity. So that was also very helpful to me. Well, I am a Christian who believes that there are certainly many more paths to God other than Christianity.”
- **Acts 4:12** – “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”
- **John 14:6** – Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
- **Key Point** – The second false teaching of New Age religion that we are saved from our ignorance through enlightenment. There is no such thing as sin in the New Age religion nor is there a need for Jesus as a Savior because Jesus is just one of many prophets that came to tell us about this enlightenment.

False Teaching #3 – All roads lead to God

²Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.
³In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

- **Oprah Winfrey Show January 03, 1994 – Interview with Betty Eadie author of “Embraced by the Light.”** – Oprah states: “I believe that there are many paths to God. Or, many paths to the light. I certainly don't believe there is only one way.”
- **Oprah Winfrey Show January 03, 1994 – Interview with Betty Eadie author of “Embraced by the Light.”** – Oprah states: “One of the mistakes that human beings make is believing that there is only one way to live...there are millions of ways to be a human being, and many ways, many paths to what you call God. And her (*Eadie*) path might be something else. And when she gets there, she might call it the light. But her loving, and her kindness, and her generosity—if it brings her to the same point that it brings you, it doesn't matter whether she called it God along the way or not.”

- **Oprah Winfrey Show January 03, 1994 – Interview with Betty Eadie author of “Embraced by the Light.”** – Oprah states: “There couldn’t possibly be just one way [to God]. There couldn’t possibly be with the millions of people in the world. There couldn’t possibly be...Does God care about your heart, or does God care about if you call his Son Jesus.”
- **Romans 10:13** – For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
- **Matthew 7:13-14** – ¹³"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.
- **Key Point** – The final false teaching that we will examine comes to us from statements that are often made by those involved in New Age religion. One of the most popular and most appealing statements that is made is that all road lead to god because we are one with god. Finding god is not about our belief in god but about us feeling his presence and experiencing him.

Memory Verse

John 11:25 – Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;

Application

Counterfeit Challenge – Take the Counterfeit Sermon Series Challenge. Throughout this series, take advantage of the free booklets that are offered and study through them to strengthen your faith and determine the authenticity of Jesus Christ as the one and only Savior of the World!

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