

THE ORTHODOX SURVIVAL COURSE

Lecture Eight: The Age of No Reason

The Post-Modern Paradigm

- I. The movements of Scholasticism and the Enlightenment completely altered man's world-view and made it incomplete, giving birth to movements that attempt to repair the void man has fallen into, but these movements inevitably fail.
- II. **Modernism** relied on empirical scientific data, buying into Marx's lie that everything is material and there is nothing more—this leaves man malnourished spiritually.
 - a. This age attempted to destroy the Church by making the reality that it preaches obsolete.
- III. **Post-modernism** reacts against the "data" because it does not satisfy him. The system before him does not work, so post-modern man attempts to find a solution by means of self-will.
 - a. This age attempts to destroy the Church by enthroning self-will.
 - b. This is the age of "self-discovery," "self-help," etc.
 - c. Religion (particularly traditional Christianity) are rejected because they subject fallen human will to a tradition which heals. It does not allow someone to do whatever they want and does not tolerate the "religious cafeteria."
- IV. Post-modernism opens the portal for occultism, because it is all about self-will.
- V. Invasion of PopCulture:
 - a. In the so-called "spiritual vacuum" our society finds itself in, the occult fills the void.
 - b. It enters into popular culture: TV shows, boardgames, children's cartoons, and lives of celebrities.

Occultism

- I. Meaning literally "what is hidden."
- II. It is based on the idea that there are impersonal hidden forces or beings in the world that can be harnessed by a practitioner for the purpose of enhancing self-will.
- III. Three categories of practice (each with their own pitfalls of pride):
 - a. Sorcery
 - i. The use of spells from books and ritual objects
 - ii. Actions include: energy manipulation (reiki), lifting curses, and full demonic conjuring of spirits.
 - iii. Pride: An initiation into the supposed "secret knowledge"
 - b. "Natural" Abilities
 - i. People who end up practicing because they are sensitive to the "paranormal."
 - ii. Actions include: Mediumship and precognition.
 - iii. Pride: A superior or special state of existence.
 - c. Witchcraft

- i. The combination of the categories above: Those with “natural” abilities delve into and become initiated into sorcery.
 - ii. Produces witches “covens” to train and initiate new members.
 - 1. Covens usually have devotion to a specific spiritual entity (a demon).
 - 2. In reality it is a demonic church with specific rites and ways of worship.
 - iii. Pride: Initiation into “secret knowledge,” having a “special state” of existence, and actively seeking to gain control and power to subvert traditional norms.
- IV. Main assumption of all three (to some degree or another): that these spirits or energies have no ownership and are impersonal forces.
 - a. The thought that there are depersonalized energies to harness in this world and God is either just a general force in nature or a removed (disinterested) being.
 - b. That one can use all of these “powers” without any debt being paid.

Truth About the Spiritual Realm

- I. God created everything and it belongs to Him.
- II. The Fathers teach that there is no force that is depersonalized. Everything is attached to a person.
- III. Therefore, Christians must inevitably ask: “Where/who do these powers come from?”
 - a. They are subversive powers of demons that give the appearance to a practitioner that *they* [the practitioner] are doing something.
 - b. Therefore, in thinking that there is no debt to be paid, the practitioner attracts demonic powers and attaches them to himself.
 - c. One inevitably encounters what he thought were “neutral forces” and (whether he realizes it or not) they prove to have motive of control and require obedience.
- IV. Obedience:
 - a. This is the main question one must ask, because if we are not in obedience to the Church (which is to be obedient to Christ), then what are we paying tribute to?
 - b. This is the *core* of witchcraft and magic, that one is obedient to the force(s) that give them power.
 - c. You’re obedient to the spell, your obedient to the practice.
 - d. It is very different than obedience to the Church because the practices of the Church do not rely on self-will because we know that the will of man is fallen and needs to be healed.
- V. Do these things exist? Are these happenings real?
 - a. What we have to ask is: “Who is doing them?”

Iconic Figures and the Assault on Christianity

- I. Helen Blavatsky
 - a. Medium and Occultist, founder of the Theosophical society
- II. Alice Bailey
 - a. Subversion of Christianity: Satan as the emancipator
 - b. The “Lucifanic Age”
- III. Aleister Crowley

- a. Occultist who founded Thelema (to will)
 - b. Inspired the beginnings of Wicca and other Satanist variations
- IV. Gerald Gardner
 - a. “Made Wicca public” in 1954 (mixture of freemasonry and teachings of Crowley)
- V. Anton LaVey (“father of Satanism”)
 - a. “Rationalistic Satanism”: Self-religion
- VI. Temple of Satan
 - a. Political activists that fall under the category of “rationalistic satanism”
- VII. Order of Nine Angels
 - a. “Theistic Satanism” that gained popularity in the 1980’s
 - b. Everything is a subversions of Christianity:
 - i. “Mass of Heresy”
 - ii. Neo-nazism
 - iii. Anarchism
 - iv. Disruption and Dismantling of Christian society.
- VIII. Marina Ambramovic
 - a. “Spirit Cooking”

The Orthodox Answer

- I. The case of Aglaias and Sts Cyprian and Justina
- II. The blessings of the Church
 - a. Casting out of demons and sanctification of objects
- III. The healing of the human will
 - a. We cannot heal ourselves
- IV. The spiritual void ceases
 - a. The Church holds the answer for spiritual mal-nourishment
- V. We have already won
 - a. We do not need to be anxious or troubled about dark spiritual matters, because Christ has already conquered them. We should however, be aware and be prudent. The Church provides healing through prayers.