

THE CELESTIAL RAILROAD

April 7th, 2019 – The Celestial Railroad
Part 11 – A Modern Evil

A Modern Evil is today's message topic. Many thoughts and conclusions could race through your mind imagining what that might be as you perceive it. This evil that we're talking about today is so passive, seemingly so peaceful and non-offensive, yet the spirit behind it isn't and will bite like a viper. Please read it by [clicking on this link](#) and read 'A Modern Evil. If you'd like to review this part in Pilgrim's Progress, please [click on this link](#).

Before seeing what this modern evil is and to give a background, let's read in The Celestial Railroad; *“At the end of the Valley of the Shadow of Death, as John Bunyan mentions, a cavern, where, in his days, dwelt two cruel giants, 'Pope' and 'Pagan', who had strewn the ground about their residence with the bones of slaughtered pilgrims.”*

We read in the following in Pilgrim's Progress; *“Therefore in this light Christian came to the end of the Valley. Now I saw in my dream that at the end of this Valley there lay blood, bones, ashes, and the mangled bodies of men, even of pilgrims who had earlier come this way. And while I was musing over what could be the reason for these remains, I noticed a short way ahead a cave in which lived two giants, Pope and Pagan; here they had lived for a long time, and by power and tyranny had cruelly put to death the men whose bones, blood, and ashes lay before him.”*

There has been a countless number of martyrs from the time of Jesus to this present day around the world. Their lives have been cruelly taken because they are Christians.

[BunyanMinistries.org](#) says this; *“The gruesome collection of human remains described at the end of the Valley is no doubt prompted by Bunyan's esteem for Foxe's Book of Martyrs. This volume, and his Bible, were his only accompanying books while imprisoned at Bedford (Brown, John Bunyan, pp. 153-154). Especially in mind would have been the burning at the stake in England, such as at Smithfield in London and Oxford, of near three hundred Protestants by Queen (Bloody) Mary a hundred years prior to the writing of The Pilgrim's Progress.”*

Pilgrim's Progress continues with this; *“Yet at this place Christian passed by without much danger, and this somewhat surprised me. But subsequently I have learned that Pagan has been dead for many a day; and as for the other, though he is still alive, yet, on account of his old age and the many shrewd conflicts that he met with in his younger days, he has grown crazy and stiff in his joints. As a result he can now do little more than sit in the mouth of his cave, grinning at pilgrims as they go by and biting his nails, being frustrated because he cannot intercept them. So I saw that Christian went on his way, though at the sight of the old man that sat at the mouth of the cave, he could not decide what to think, especially because Pope was unable to approach him, though he threateningly spoke, “You will never mend, until more of you are burned.”*

It seemed as though at the time of writing Pilgrim's Progress, paganism was no more and Catholicism was losing its grip on society, but as we'll soon see, that is not the case today.

[BunyanMinistries.org](#) continues their commentary; *“The fact that these two tyrants have lived together indicates Bunyan's estimate that Romanism is at home with paganism, while paganism is happy to bed down with counterfeit Christianity. The cave, rather than an ornate palace, probably reflects the perceived fallen condition of these evil colossi. a. Pagan has died. Perhaps influenced by optimistic reports from the new American colonies, as well as the expansive influence of the Reformation and Christian literature, Bunyan wrongly concluded that paganism was on the retreat. The secularization of this twentieth century is sufficient proof of paganism's massive resurgence ...”*

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The original pagans were followers of an ancient religion that worshiped several gods (polytheistic). Today, pagan is used to describe someone who doesn't go to a synagogue, a church, or a mosque. It could be that they worship several gods at once, or they have no interest in a god at all.” It is pretty clear that these pagan practices are thriving around the world today.

Continuing to read in The Celestial Railroad; *“These vile old cave-dwellers are no longer there; but into their deserted cave another terrible giant has thrust himself, and makes it his business to seize upon honest travelers, and fatten them for his table with plentiful meals of smoke, mist, moonshine, raw potatoes and sawdust. He is a German by birth, and is called Giant Transcendentalism.”*

Here we now delve into A Modern Evil, transcendentalism. Reading from GotQuestions.org;

“Question: “What is transcendentalism?”

Answer: Transcendentalism is a philosophy that says that our knowledge of reality comes from an analysis of our own thought processes, rather than from scientific evidence. According to the transcendentalist, if God exists, He can be found through human intuition. Transcendentalism is most commonly associated with a philosophical/religious view developed in the mid-1800s by a group of mainly Unitarian and agnostic intellectuals in New England, including Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau.

This is during the Industrial Revolution and together with it, this evil of transcendentalism subtly moves in.

Some transcendentalists have claimed to be Christian; however, the idea that a human, intuitive understanding of “the transcendental” can bring us to the truth is misguided. Transcendentalism directly conflicts with the biblical command to “lean not on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5). But the transcendentalists did more than trust their feelings. They also received guidance from Romantic poets like William Wordsworth and from the sacred texts of Hinduism. Thoreau, in Walden, spoke of how “in the morning I bathe my intellect in the stupendous and cosmogonical philosophy of the Bhagavad Gita.”

The Bible is truth (John 17:17). The heart of man is deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9). Those who rely on their own intuition and “good sense” to lead them to spiritual truth will find themselves being led astray (Isaiah 53:6). To read the full article, click on this link GotQuestions.org

This philosophy or religion is totally based on oneself and independence, instead of laying down your life for God and becoming a servant as a Christian is to do. Transcendentalism is all about me, myself and I. Those who practice yoga, practice this. They're inseparable. We need Jesus Christ, we need the Bible to teach us how to walk humbly, to have a clean heart and steadfast spirit. Sin will always lead us away from Jesus being Lord of your life.

2 Peter 2:18-22 says this about false teachers; *“18 For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. 19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. 20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”*

Continuing in our story in The Celestial Railroad; *“But as to his form, his features, his substance, and his nature generally, it is the chief peculiarity of this huge scoundrel, that neither he for himself, nor anybody for him, has*

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ever been able to describe them. As we rushed by the cavern's mouth, we caught a hasty glimpse of him, looking somewhat like an ill-proportioned figure, but considerably more like a heap of fog and duskiness. He shouted after us, but in so strange a phraseology that we knew not what he meant, nor whether to be encouraged or affrighted."

The passengers on the train didn't know how to read this giant; was he a nice guy, an enemy, friend, foe, couldn't understand what he was saying, he seemed mystical with not a lot of substance. The last two giants, Pope and Pagan they knew clearly who they were, but not with this one.

The Apostle Paul says to Timothy in **2 Timothy 4:3-4**; *"3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."*

This giant would be a wolf in sheep's clothing. Those on the Celestial Railway are not able to discern the danger of the false teaching of Giant Transcendentalism, and this is simply because they are not Christians, not having the Holy Spirit dwelling in them to teach them truth from lies. They are Bible believers without the Holy Spirit because they're not born again. Believing is good, but you have to take the next step which is receiving Jesus into your heart, being born of the Spirit which makes you a Christian.

The Apostle John says in **1 John 4:1-6**; *"4 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. 4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. 6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error."*

This last statement where he says; *'He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us'*, is so powerful. If someone sits under the preaching of the gospel but does not hear and comprehend it, the word goes in one ear and out the other. It is a deaf and dumb spirit in operation. How many can leave church after the message is preached and while still in the parking lot don't remember the message? When you're born again, you have your mind on things above, not on things below. Your heart is set on the things of the Lord, and you want fellowship with other Christians. You hear and act on the word of God.

How many Bible believers today, who have not repented of their sins and become born-again, are in the same place as those on the Celestial Railroad and are not even able to discern the truth from the lies regarding the false teachings of Giant Transcendentalism. Ones like these can't even discern that it is a cult that is luring them away. They don't have the Holy Spirit as their guide who will give understanding to the Bible to flee false teachers as this.

How many professing 'Christians' are practising TM, transcendental meditation, on a daily basis while attending yoga classes? Chanting mantras, surrendering their spirit to the demonic.

One expert offers an extreme warning: *"I advanced in the occult sphere so fast that I soon became the youngest guru in the Western Hemisphere, and one of the most advanced and powerful. Twice a week I taught yoga on television. Hatha-Yoga sounds like a nice simple set of exercises; everyone thinks it is just gymnastics. I want to warn that it is just the beginning of a devilish trap. After I became an instructor in Hatha-Yoga, my guru showed me that the only thing these exercises do is open your appetite for the occult. They are like marijuana; they usually lead you on to a drug that is worse and stronger, binding you so completely that only Christ can deliver you. Many people think that occult power is just the power of the mind. This is not true. There is a point*

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beyond which the power of the mind ends and the demonic power takes over.” To read full article [click on this link](#).

Transcendentalists believe that society and its institutions—particularly organized religion and political parties—corrupt the purity of the individual. They have faith that people are at their best when truly "self-reliant" and independent! That is so opposite of what Jesus teaches us.

One thing can be clearly seen while reading on Transcendentalism, is that being "self-reliant" and independent are at the center of its teaching. In other words, me, me, me, and me. Instead of a servant spirit which Jesus taught us to have, it is the opposite. Christian, if you're into yoga, eastern cults and transcendentalism, flee now!

Galatians 2:20 says; *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”*

The Apostle Paul isn't talking about a physical crucifixion, but spiritually you have taken up the cross to follow Jesus.

Jesus also says this in **Luke 9:23-24**; *“23 Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.”* Now I believe Jesus is speaking figuratively here, but, there are many who are being martyred for their faith in Jesus who are losing their lives for Christ. Jesus wants all of our life, morning til night, to be His, to follow Him every day.

So, after reading this section entitled The Modern Evil, one would think that the Modern Evil discussed here is that of the Roman Catholicism and Paganism in John Bunyan's day, and Transcendentalism in Nathaniel Hawthorne's day. But it's clear to me that the Modern Evil in the Celestial Railroad, is that the passengers in their self reliance and independence, have not repented of their sins and become born again, but rather hold fast to a Bible believing traditional church system, that they believe ensures their salvation. That, I guess, we would call believism.

Those on the train on their pilgrimage believe in God, in the Bible etc., but have not received Jesus into their heart by becoming born again of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 20:28-30 says; *“28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.”*

God has given us His word today to warn us. Transcendentalism and yoga, candy coated to seem passive, mystical, spiritual and enlightening to make it go down so easy, is in Christian Evangelical churches. I've heard testimonies of Christians lured into it because they were not taught nor did they see the power and baptism of the Holy Spirit in their churches. They were looking for the supernatural power of God, but were being denied it in their Evangelical Church. The Holy Spirit is needed in the church today and only Him.

So, A Modern Evil is not only Catholicism, Paganism and Transcendentalism who are all fully flourishing today, but also, those on The Celestial Railroad, caught up in Believism, who think they're going to heaven, but they're on a fast train to hell.