

I. Know the Plan - 2 Peter 3:16-18: Gnosticism

Principles on Gnosticism

The term Gnosticism is derived from the Greek word *gnostikos*: “one who knows.”

What he knows is gnosis: knowledge of an esoteric nature.

The gnosis claimed by the Gnostic was considered different from other kinds of knowledge and allegedly derived not from ordinary sources but from special divine revelation.

Gnosis was viewed as knowledge of the divine mysteries reserved for the élite.

Salvation was therefore associated with the attainment of this esoteric knowledge.

Gnosis, or knowledge, originated from the divine being through what the Gnostics called “emanations,” and thus was different from ordinary human knowledge.

As one mastered these gnostic emanations the more knowledge he possessed and thus was able to acquire salvation.

Gnostic doctrine was a synthesis of Greek philosophies with Jewish monotheism, Babylonian astrology, and Iranian dualism.

From this matrix came such Gnostic writings as The Gospel of Thomas, The Gospel of Philip, The Apocryphon of James, The Acts of Peter and the Twelve Apostles, and The Apocryphon of John.

This Gnostic religion and its writings were in their formative stages during the Incarnation of our Lord and is therefore the Satanic counter attack against the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the New Testament Scriptures.

As New Testament doctrine was being revealed through the epistles, the Apostles were confronted with individuals who, if not in Gnosticism, were influenced by its teachings.

Thus, the Apostles sought to present the truths of Christianity within a *Zeitgeist* which was influenced by Gnosticism.

Inspired by the genius of Satan himself, Gnosticism presented to the heathen mind a system of salvation based on the acquisition of esoteric knowledge.

Acquisition of this knowledge was available only to the élite, the select few who were able to master the emanations from the divine source of gnosis.

Of course, this gnosis was nothing more than the philosophies and opinions of men presented within a mixture of established religions.

Two passages from Paul illustrate his opposition to Gnosticism as a major field of study in the Satanic Academy.

Colossians 2:8 - See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy [Aristotle, Plato, et al.] and empty deception [Eastern religious beliefs], according to the elementary principles of the world [rationalism and empiricism], rather than according to Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:9 - Things [knowledge] which eye has not seen and ear has not heard [empiricism], and which have not entered the heart [stream of consciousness] of man [rationalism], are the doctrines that God has prepared for those who love Him.

Paul then goes on to explain the process by which divine knowledge is really acquired beginning in:

1 Corinthians 2:10 - But to us [believers filled with the Holy Spirit], God has revealed them through the Holy Spirit. The human spirit investigates all things [all knowledge], even the deep things of God [advanced knowledge].

1 Corinthians 2:11 - For what man understands the things of man except man's spirit within him [futile attempts by the unbeliever to understand spiritual phenomena], even so, the things of God [divine truth] no one has known except the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:12 - We have not received the world's spirit [cosmic systems of perception such as rationalism or empiricism] but the human spirit from the source of God [the Holy Spirit] in order that we might have a permanent knowledge [*oida*: a synonym for *epignosis* or full knowledge] of things that have been graciously given to us by God,

1 Corinthians 2:13 - which things [systematic theology] we [the Flag Apostles] also speak, not by teaching [*didaktos*: by means of the Satanic Academy's system of rationalism and empiricism] from the source of man's wisdom, but by teaching [*didaktos*: by means of the Divine Academy's system of grace] from the source of the Holy Spirit, bringing together spiritual truth [Bible doctrine] to a spiritual system [*pneumatikos*: in the neuter referring to a system, i.e., GAP].

1 Corinthians 2:14 - The soulish man [the unbeliever] does not accept things [cannot learn truth] from the Holy Spirit [His teachings are not accessible] for to him they [Biblical truth] are foolishness, furthermore, he is not able to even acquire academic understanding [*ginosko*] because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 2:9-1 Corinthians 2:14 is a dissertation by Paul on how the unbeliever cannot even acquire academic understanding of spiritual truth since he does not have access to the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit.