

# Seven Men Who Rule the World from the Grave ~ Summary

There is a war going on in this world. It is a war of ideas - Satan and his thousands of little fiery darts versus the Bible, the Word of the Almighty. Satan has used many promoters of ideas to conquer and deceive the world, in a "death by a thousand cuts." Dave Breese of Christian Destiny Ministries, Hillsboro, Kansas, has written a most thought-provoking book, entitled *Seven Men Who Rule the World from the Grave* (Moody Press, 1990). The ideas of these men literally rule the world. Their concepts affect everyone, even the Church of God. You may never have to study Darwin, Marx, Wellhausen, Freud, Dewey, Keynes and Kierkegaard, but the principles these thinkers promoted are now affecting your life and may have insidiously infected your mind.

## **Charles Darwin, Devolution into Depravity**

Instead of staying in science, the theory of evolution is now thought to apply to society at large. "Social Darwinism" is a foundational belief of our culture. This concept says that the social structure is engineered and controlled by impersonal forces, natural selection, and the survival of the fittest, rather than by a personal God. Society has become secularized, and God is resented and opposed at every opportunity. Along with this, Social Darwinism has overthrown the authority of the Bible, made religious belief pluralistic, and destroyed the family and morals. Social Darwinism says society is moving upward from a mean past to an improving future. Utopia, the Millennium, comes not by the Messiah but through biological evolution ever upward, from "slime to divine."

## **Marx: Discredited, But Socialism is Alive and Well**

Rather than learning the lesson that state control by wicked men results in disastrous consequences, the governments of the western "democracies" continue the path toward more socialism, more government control, more corruption in high places, more crimes being committed in the name of the country!

## **Wellhausen: Higher Criticism, Religious Liberalism**

Religious liberals spawned by Wellhausen and others accepted biological evolution as a fact. They carried evolution to a next rational step: Man's ideas have evolved upward from the primitive to the complex. And so, the religious liberal says that our ideas of God have evolved and are continuing to evolve. Religious change is the evolution of ideas, part of the natural order and survival of the fittest. We used to think of God as a judgmental ruler of the universe, but now know Him as a God of love. Hence, there is no sin of violation of God's law. To the liberal theologian, sin is only lack of maturity, lack of proper evolution. The answer to sin is not the redemption of Jesus Christ, but education, man directing and controlling his own evolution. As mankind in enlightened, we will do away with war, hatred, famine and greed (see J.G. Machen, *Christianity and Liberalism*).

## **Freud: Looking for the Truth Within**

The basis for Freudian thinking is the idea that the driving force behind all human action is the sexual instinct or urge. What we do, and the cause of our mental problems, stem from repressed sexual urges or desires. We need to talk about those repressed urges, and get them out in the open. The way to salvation is to be analyzed by a Freudian psychologist. Expressing contempt for all religion, which Freud saw as "mental infantilism" or "mass delusion," the essence of psychology is the belief that God does not intimately interact with man, and that there is a force, or libido, within mankind that, properly analyzed and controlled, will lead him to greater social progress. Freud opened the door for the New Age Movement, which insists that man can discover and control his own "life force" and obtain a utopia. The Freudian influence from 1890-1930 led to the permissive society, where sexual urges and wrong desires are not only talked about openly, but practiced without society's judgment. Christianity in general has moved along the Freudian path.

## Dewey and Humanistic Education

Dewey's educational philosophy can be summed up in one word: *experience*. Truth, he believed, was only found in experience. We must not concern ourselves with truth, but with meaning. What it means to you might be different than what it means to me. Final truth is illusory and we shouldn't bother finding the impossible. Dewey presided over a "vast emergence" of ideas in the Twentieth Century which revolutionized education. Rather than instilling morals in students, teachers were led to teach by experiment, to mold students to be servants of the state. "Progressive education" took over not only public schools, but also churches and most of religion.

## Keynes: The Government is God

In the wake of the devastating global depression of 1929 through the 1930's, economist Keynes came up with a recommendation to solve economic woes. His ideas were readily accepted by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and formed the basis for socialistic governments around the world. To get the economy moving again, Keynes taught, it was the responsibility of government to create full employment, even if it had to borrow money and assume mounting debt to do so. Rather than get rid of the sins which cause economic depression, *vanity, jealousy, lust and greed*, Keynes promoted the idea that government had all the answers. In the short term, Keynesian policies of excessive government spending and mounting public debt, appear to do some good. But in the long term, Keynesian economics only make worse the inevitable collapse of the whole nation. Keynes knew this, but did not care, for as he said, "In the long term, we are all dead."

## Kierkegaard: Confusion Everywhere

His mission was plain: "I conceived it as my task to create difficulties everywhere." He intended to create religious confusion, and he has. Why did Kierkegaard take the religious world by storm? They needed his message. Religious liberals, unwilling to repent and obey the Bible, and abhorring the idea of Messiah's return to quell evil and rule the earth with a rod of iron, seized upon Kierkegaard's philosophy of *existentialism*. The essence of Kierkegaard is expressed in the title of one of his books, *Truth is Subjectivity*. The refusal to belong to any school of thought, repudiation of any body of beliefs whatever, that is the heart of existentialism. The only thing that is real is "the moment." If it feels right, do it, now! This is insanity dressed up in a tuxedo, yet existentialist philosophy is the base of every department of philosophy in every major university in Western civilization. Existentialism is not just another point of view, it is a denial of all points of view. There is no truth, no right or wrong, only the moment, without causes and consequences. Moral relativism and situation ethics are the harvest of Kierkegaard.

## Conclusion: We Must Defend the Truth

Dave Breese concludes that these seven men rule the world because they astutely gave people what they wanted to hear. There was no forceful rebuttal from those who believed in the Word of God. These seven men rule the world not through fair speeches but through the sustained impact of the printed page.

Let's not roll over and play dead. Unless we challenge the theories of **Darwin, Marx, Wellhausen, Freud, Dewey, Keynes and Kierkegaard**, their philosophies may yet undo us. We had better be able to defend ourselves against these "black belt" philosophical masters. We highly recommend you read **Seven Men Who Rule the World from the Grave**, written by Dave Breese. Ω

