

“Uncovering the Truth behind *The Secret*”

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Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.” (Colossians 2:8)

“You are the most powerful magnet in the universe . . . so as you think a thought, you are also attracting like thoughts to you.” All you have to do is “put in your order with the universe,” think positively that you will receive whatever it is you desire, and you shall have it.

Such is the philosophy of the latest publishing phenomenon to hit the American scene. The book is called “The Secret.” Its author, an Australian television producer named Rhonda Byrne, claims to have discovered, “for the first time in history,” the secret of the universe. That secret, she claims, is the “law of attraction” and it is a natural law as “precise” as gravity. But, unlike gravity, which happens without your participation, it is up to you to tap into the “law of attraction.”

So, how do you tap into the “law of attraction”? You determine what it is that you want in life and then you think it into existence. The universe is at your beck and call. It has no choice but to respond to your thoughts. If you want to be rich, you need only think of yourself as rich and the universe will make it a reality. As Byrne states, “The only reason any person does not have enough money is because they are blocking money from coming to them with their thoughts.” If you are sick, it is because you have failed to think of yourself as immune to any and every cause of sickness, for “you cannot ‘catch’ anything unless you think you can.” If you are unsuccessful, it is because you have not thought of yourself as successful, and so on.

Can you hear Disney’s “If You Wish Upon a Star” playing in the background? I hope so, for “The Secret” is nothing but pure fantasy. That should go without saying, but, evidently, it needs to be said, since millions of Americans are buying into this “hollow and deceptive philosophy.” “The Secret” continues to top the New York Times Bestsellers list under the category of “Advice.” Bookstores around the country are selling out of this book left and right. People are standing in long lines just to get their copy. The fervor around this book (and its accompanying DVD) is reminiscent of the fervor generated by Dan Brown’s “The Da Vinci Code.” And, the spiritual danger to those “taken captive” by “The Secret” is just as serious as it was, and remains to be, to those “taken captive” by “The Da Vinci Code.”

You see, the real secret behind “The Secret” is that old evil foe, the “father of lies,” Satan himself. From the beginning, his goal has been to tempt human beings to believe that they can be “just like God.” This was the content of the “hollow and deceptive philosophy” he employed to tempt our first parents in the Garden of Eden. “Did God really say? You won’t die. God is holding out on you, for He knows that when you eat of that tree, you will be just like Him” (cf. Gen. 3). Of course, Satan’s real aim is to get human beings to deny that there is a God and to see themselves as gods. Thus, if he can convince you that you can be just like God, he knows it will not take much more to convince you that there is no God but yourself.

My friends, you cannot be a Christian and accept the “hollow and deceptive philosophy” promoted in “The Secret.” To believe that you have the power to think what you want into existence; to think

health, wealth, and success into your life is to believe that you are God. You are not God. You are not in control of the universe.

“The Secret” claims that “imperfect thoughts are the cause of humanity’s ills.” That is a lie from the pit of hell. Sin is the cause of humanity’s ills and no amount of positive thinking will ever overcome sin.

But, the Good News is that Jesus Christ has overcome sin. He has defeated sin, death, and the devil by His salvific death on the cross. Faith in Him, and Him alone, brings forgiveness, life, and salvation. However, contrary to popular belief resulting from the teachings of many false teachers in the world today, faith in Christ does not bring instant health, wealth, and success in this world. The Bible teaches us time and time again that Christians will suffer in this world. In fact, the Bible assures us that life in this sinful world will be more difficult for believers than for unbelievers. As believers “take up their crosses and follow Christ,” they should expect difficulties and persecution from the sinful world which sees the cross of Christ as foolishness. But, “our present sufferings are not worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:18).

“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy.” Instead, trust in Christ. Your reward will come and it will not be temporal, but eternal. In Jesus’ Holy and Precious Name. Amen.

In Christ,

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