

Palisades Community Bible Church

Online Sunday School

Imagine There's No Heaven. It's Easy If You Try Pt. 2

October 11, 2020

This series was interrupted by a timely piece on the first Presidential Debate and what it means to Christians. If you did not get it, please request it through the office. If you're just joining in, please request the first installment of this series in order to have the foundation for this session. If you've been hanging in there all along, we are now resuming this study on the American "counter culture" and how it became mainstream. The focus is on what this means to Christians.

Largely, the wildly popular band, The Beatles, ushered the Baby Boom generation into a new mindset that has affected so much of our social development. As a recap, we highlighted John Lennon's song; "Imagine" in which he pines for a social structure without structure. It foments the elimination of Heaven, hell, religion and property ownership. It promotes the idealism of valuing nothing so much as to warrant living or dying for it. And, it promotes a life of communal living in which all are equally without possessions...and blissfully happy.

So, where did Lennon GET such ideas and ideals? I did not have the context to answer this question when I started this study. However, in God's providence (providence is different from a miracle – look in your dictionary), I accidentally tuned my radio in to an interview with a woman who was THERE through The Beatles' transformation from simple rock band to cultural revolutionaries. Normally, I'd have skipped right past that conversation, but I listened to it, and it supports our lesson for today! Praise God!

I did not get the woman's name – not crucial. She began by explaining how she had endured an abusive childhood and tried to deal with her pain through drug abuse. This was in the early 60s and she was in her teens. As she struggled to use LSD as a vehicle to find peace and pleasure, she was not successful until the third time. THEN, she had a pleasant “high” which gave her “hope” that there really might be a form of salvation from her demons. As she intensified her search, some of her drug friends introduced her to “Transcendental Meditation.” She found that TM was helpful in clearing her mind of “life damaging” thoughts and giving her the relaxation and peace, she was seeking.

As a young adult, she pursued TM more fervently, and came across a US based “Yogi” who taught and coached others in the art. She described the most powerful moment in her life when she went into this man's studio and saw a poster of the **Maharishi Mahesh Yogi** (a high order master of TM based in India). She breathlessly recounted how the mere SIGHT of this Yogi's image thrilled her heart. She became instantly devoted to the goal of meeting MMY in India and becoming his disciple. She passionately described how she worked to get there and how meeting him for the first time felt like she was in the presence of a true deity.

From the hymn; My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less - **“My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus Christ, my righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name.”**

She lived in the Yogi's ‘compound,’ studying and practicing TM, and eventually becoming a teacher and coach herself. Enter; the Beatles.....

By now, the Beatles had been completely overwhelmed by their amazing success. Millions of fans, mind boggling recording and TV deals, insane concert schedules all bore down on their young lives causing them to seek some sort of ‘peace’ for themselves. Lennon had

become acquainted with TM and influenced the group to take a trip to India for some training in, and application of, the promises of meditation. This woman became an integral part of their indoctrination and coaching.



She explained how the group took to the program favorably, and John Lennon seemed to be the most positively affected. He would invite his cohorts to intense meditation sessions, followed by songwriting marathons. During their time in India, she said, they composed hundreds of new songs. Only about 80 were shown to record companies, and only about a dozen made it on to albums. One song she mentioned, which was fully inspired by their TM experience was “My Sweet Lord,” which was almost as popular as “Imagine.” Here is a taste of the lyrics:

[Chorus]

My sweet Lord. Mmm, my Lord. Mmm, my Lord

[Verse]

I really wanna see you. Really wanna be with you. Really wanna see you, Lord, But it takes so long, my Lord

[Chorus]

Mmm, my Lord (Hare Krishna), My, my, my Lord (Hare Krishna), Oh, oh, my sweet Lord (Krishna Krishna) Ooh (Hare Hare)

[Verse]

Now, I really wanna see you (Hare Rama), Really wanna be with you (Hare Rama), Really wanna see you, Lord. But it takes so long, my Lord

[Post-Chorus]

My sweet Lord (Krishna Krishna). Ah, oh, my Lord (Hare Hare)

Mmmmm (Gurur Brahma). Mmmmm (Gurur Vishnu)

Mmmmm (Gurur Devo). Mmmmm (Maheshwara). My sweet Lord (Gurur Sakshaat). My sweet Lord (Para Brahma)

Now, I'm going to speak in defense of the bygone fundamentalist pastors who so strongly objected to "rock music" as the "devil's property." I especially identify with those who resisted the introduction of what was called "Contemporary Christian Music" because the idea was that it was a similar sound, but with different words. While appreciating the need to modernize worship services for emerging generations, there MUST be strong filters in place to make sure that Christians aren't being deceived. I'm so thankful that PCBC has those filters. Not many of the churches I've visited do. 'Nuff said.....

So, let's take a helicopter ride and look down on this process from a higher view. These young people, who had almost zero Godly influence

in their lives (other than the empty voids), were suffering the exact same consequences of their sins as described in God's word.

Isaiah 59:2 - But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that he will not hear.

Proverbs 14:12 - There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Joshua 23:12-13 For if you turn back and cling to the remnant of these nations remaining among you and make marriages with them, so that you associate with them and they with you, know for certain that the Lord your God will no longer drive out these nations before you, but they shall be a snare and a trap for you, a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good ground that the Lord your God has given you.

This woman also shared the many OTHER activities in which this group indulged of a very sinful nature. This was NOT Christian programming. I won't go into detail. However, when this group returned to the multitudes of their adoring fans, they had a new vitality...a new perspective....a new message. The springboard created by "Hard Day's Night" and "I Wanna Hold Your Hand" was the launching point for Eastern Mysticism and a brand of Cultic, demonic religion that swept much of the nations' youth.

I praise God that I was a redneck farm boy in the panhandle of Texas and that the tractor did not have a radio!! If I'd had an iPhone with Bluetooth earbuds during those long summer days I spent plowing and chopping the weeds out of many square miles of cotton fields with a hoe, my mind might have been twisted by that stuff as well. I consider it God's providence that I was raised on my Mother's gospel piano and

the many times she played records by Mahalia Jackson, the Stamps Quartet and so many other Gospel music greats.

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

So, what did all this Eastern Mysticism do to America? Not that much, if that's all that was going on. As we've studied in previous Sunday School lessons, there was also a major change going on in the educational philosophies of our university professors. As science matured, God's existence, His importance, His purpose, were being challenged and negated. The master educators were un-teaching Godly principles in institutions of higher learning. The products of those institutions found their way into finance, business, government and other educational institutions.

The Boomer generation was being "raised" by parents who had grown up in far less threatening, purer, environments. Our parents and grandparents did not even suspect what was going on underneath their noses. As children, we were often entertained for hours by television, we got radios and phonographs for Christmas, went to concerts, studied subjects in school that most folks learned from life on the farm. Our minds were skewed by society on a magnitude that nobody was even measuring....at the time.

Our parents, and we, took jobs in companies that fostered socialistic values. A man pretending to be female necessitated that the entire company also pretend. We capitulated our values one at a time as political correctness rubberized our spines. Our employment became our idols and we traded our values for money.

Fast forward to today. Our children and grandchildren are being polled by political operatives and about 40% consider a 'utopian society' to be good for America. Godless people have had a massive influence on our society through all the most powerful change agents possible, and here we are: on the brink of losing what America was founded upon. We could spend a week studying it, but we would not change the fact of where we stand, today.

I'll repeat Senator Ron Paul in his farewell speech to the Senate: **I am amazed at how hard it is to sell freedom to the American people.**

Hey! Weren't the Beatles seeking freedom? Weren't the Yogis offering freedom? NOPE! They were seeking CONTROL. The followers of the Yogis wanted to control their own lives. The Yogis offered them the tools. In other words; IDOLS. The Beatles, and all their followers were seeking to control their own destinies, their own lives and they very specifically did not want God involved. That is what the wizards of education started teaching, that is what they taught leaders to believe, that is what they taught teachers to teach, that is what cults have been offering humanity ever since the Garden of Eden was closed up; IDOLOTRY.

Satan FIRST offered this power to Eve when he said; **Genesis 3: 5 "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.**

Let me re-word: Satan did NOT really "offer power" to Eve, he enticed her to give HER power to HIM. And, she did. Satan has continued to "offer power" to every generation, and too many give their power to him. Satan says; **"God says this is bad. It's not. Taste it and see that**

it's pleasing!" In tasting, you give your power to Satan. Every sinner forgiven by Christ knows this!!

1 Corinthians 6:16 "Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, "The two shall become one flesh."

So, why do I continually bring up the effects of all this social degradation on our nation? Unlike every nation in which God's people lived, as recorded in both the Old and New Testaments, God's people lived under the tyrannical rule of despots. They had no real effect on the government under which they lived. Yes, they had a "witness" but they were not able to influence power. America is different. Our nation was founded by Godly people who were, first and foremost, seeking the freedom to worship God. That has never existed in history prior to our founding! Do you think God cares about America's future? Do you think God is going to judge those who allow it to be scuttled?

As Christians, we are called on to love, to care for the lost and the poor and the weak. We are commanded to share the Gospel. As a Christian nation, America has done this on a global scale which no other nation has come close to approximating. If a child can be raised up to honor God, can a NATION be raised up to do the same thing?

If a child can be neglected, and turn to drugs, prostitution, crime and self-destruction, can a once-free and Godly nation also be destroyed?

Shame on us for letting our godless neighbors walk another step without hearing the Gospel! Shame on us for driving by a church flying the 'rainbow flag' and not praying for them. Shame on us for living peacefully in our secure homes, attending our nice little church, and not being involved in the schools, and local governments that shape our communities! Shame on us for having the solution and not sharing it!

In our hearts, we magnify the personal risk and discomfort of obeying the Great Commission.

I listened to President Trump speak for two straight hours on a radio program on Friday. In that discussion, he explained his experience with Covid. He said he had some very bad days, but the new treatment for it caused a rapid turn-around. This was less than a week after he was admitted to the hospital! He did not cough, or clear his throat one time in that two hours of speaking. He told of how appreciative he is of the treatments and his devotion to making it available to every medical facility in the nation. He is an evangelist for trying to wipe out this virus because he believes it can be done. Are you an evangelist for the Gospel...because you believe?

Don't leave it up the Pastor. You and I are individual Christians with different circles of influence. Yet, we have the same mandate; share Jesus. What if that young lady in the Beatles' history had been a devoted Christian in their midst? What if she had shared the Gospel with them? What if they'd realized they did not need meditation, but a savior?

Romans 12:2 "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--His good, pleasing and perfect will."

I shall never forget the Presidential election of 1992, when the pro-life, pro-religious freedom, pro-family values, pro-constitutional candidate lost by a small margin. I remember hearing Dr. James Dobson literally yelling at his radio audience the following day because the Christian voter did not show up to vote. I'd listened to that gentle man of God almost every day for over 20 years and that is the ONLY time I ever heard him severely chastise his audience. He spoke truth.

“Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing.” John Stewart Mill

The occupants of a ship at sea have a vested interest in keeping it afloat! If America goes down, so does the Christian church in America. Just look at China; burning Bibles and churches every day. Look at the nations that would imprison, punish...or worse, the Christian. If you don't think America is worth some blood and sweat, take a trip. Go see what the lack of God does to a nation. Go visit the reason so many want to come here. How about North Korea...

"When we gather together we close all of the windows and all of the blinds," Roli described. "We don't have curtains over there but somehow we cover up the windows and we send all of the children outside. You cannot gather with many people ... maybe three or four.

"We pray together, we sing praises, and then we read John 3:16-18. We also read I Corinthians 1:18-26. We talk from Genesis. We say that man was created from dust, so we have to believe in Jesus to go to heaven."

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom repeatedly has recommended that the U.S. Department of State list North Korea among its "countries of particular concern" for its "egregious and systematic human rights violations" including policies that disallow any Christian faith.

There are estimates of tens thousands of Christians detained in prison camps just for their faith. Sometimes entire families are imprisoned because of a statement from just one member, reports said."

www.northkoreachristians.com

In our next study, we're going to look at the next logical step from where America is, today, to where almost half the voters of our nation want us to be. It's not pretty. Would God that it may never be!

**O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.**

Amen!