

Antinomianism

Literally, *anti-law-ism*. In history this was the heretical and cultish doctrine that the moral law was not binding Christians as a rule of life. In recent eschatology the term has been adopted by some Dispensationalists to describe their belief that Christians are not under law since law pertains to an earlier dispensation.

Apostasy

Gk.: ἀποστασία. A spiritual falling away, i.e., a rebellion, as described in 2 Thessalonians 2.3.

Apostate

Adjective: having fallen away, died spiritually.

Automatic Handwriting

A means of communicating with spirits in which a person lightly holds a pencil or pen and allows a spirit to manipulate the writing hand. A practice like that of consulting the Ouija Board which is condemned with other occult activities in Deuteronomy 18.

Dispensationalism

A form of biblical interpretation derived from the teachings of JOHN NELSON DARBY (1800-82) of Dublin, Ireland, a leader of the Plymouth Brethren, and popularized by C. I. SCOFIELD (1843-1921) in his Scofield Reference Bible (1902-1909 and revised in 1917). It emphasizes the idea that God *dispenses* redemption differently in different eras, and maintains a rigid discontinuity between the different dispensations.

Eisogesis

Reading preconceived or foreign meaning into a text in violation of sound hermeneutics. (Cf. *Exegesis*.)

End Time(s)

The brief period of seven years or so during which Antichrist will rise to power and be finally destroyed by the second coming of Christ. For the biblical usage of this phrase see: Daniel 8.17,19; 11.35,40; 12.4,9.

Eschatology

The study of last things, that is, of the final events of redemption described in Bible prophecy.

Exegesis

Drawing the meaning out of a text, i.e., seeking to understand a text by applying the rules of hermeneutics. (Cf. *Eisogesis*.)

Foothold

A moral space, created by sin and which allows a demonic spirit to attach itself to and influence a person's life. (See Ephesians 4.26,27.)

Gnosticism

A belief system in which special knowledge is the key to salvation. Gnosticism plagued Christianity in the second century and has revived in our own time. The seven letters of Revelation seem to address certain tendencies of early Gnosticism.

Hades

Originally the name of the Homeric god of the underworld, a Greek word used to denote the state or place of the dead. All the dead alike go into this place. To be buried, to go down to the grave, to descend into Hades, are equivalent expressions. In the LXX this word is the usual rendering of the Hebrew Sheol, the common receptacle of the departed (Genesis 42.38; Psalm 139.8; Hos. 13.14; Isaiah 14.9). This term occurs rarely in the Greek New Testament, but now takes on decidedly punitive and Satanic connotations. Our Lord speaks of Capernaum as being “brought down to Hades”, i.e., to the lowest debasement (Matthew 11.23). Jesus also portrays Hades as a kingdom (or city) in opposition to the Church (Mat. 16.18), and in Luke 16.23 Jesus makes Hades the place of the rich man's doom and misery in contrast to the blessed state of Lazarus in the bosom of Abraham. In the Revelation, Hades personified hungrily follows behind Death as the latter rides forth to devastate the earth (6.8), and in the end is cast with Death into the Lake of Fire (20.14).

Hell

Derived from the Saxon *helan*, to cover; hence *the covered or the invisible place*. In King James Bible there are three words so rendered. (1.) Sheol, the place of disembodied spirits, which word is also often rendered “grave” (Genesis 37.35; 42.38; 44.29, 31; 1 Samuel 2.6, etc.). The inhabitants of Sheol are “the congregation of the dead” (Proverbs 21.16). It is (a) the abode of the wicked (Numbers 16.33; Job 24.19; Psalm 9.17; 31.17, etc.); (b) of the good (Psalm 16.10; 30.3; 49.15; 86.13, etc.). Sheol is described as deep (Job 11.8), dark (10.21, 22), with bars (17.16). The dead “go down” to it (Numbers 16.30, 33; Ezekiel 31.15, 16, 17). (2.) The Greek word *Hades* of the New Testament, which term has similar connotations to the *Sheol* of the Old Testament. It is a prison (1 Peter 3.19), with gates and bars and locks (Matthew 16.18; Revelation 1.18), and it is downward (Matthew 11.23; Luke 10.15). (3.) *Gehenna*, which in most of its occurrences in the Greek New Testament, designates the place of the lost (Matthew 23.33). The fearful nature of their condition there is described in various figurative expressions (Matthew 8.12; 13.42; 22.13; 25.30; Luke 16:24, etc.).

Hermeneutics

The science of interpretation, particularly of texts.

Last Days

The period of time that is bracketed by and includes the first and second sojourns of Jesus Christ on earth. In other words, the *last days* begin with Christ’s earthly ministry, and end with his earthly reign. For the biblical usage of this phrase see: Isa. 2.2; Hosea 3.5; Micah 4.1; Acts 2.17; 2Tim. 3.1; Hebr. 1.2; James 5.3; 2Pet. 3.3.

Millennial Kingdom

The thousand-year earthly kingdom set up by Christ at His second coming.

Millennium

The thousand-year period during which Christ will reign on earth after His second coming, and during which Satan will be bound.

Mystery

A *mystery* in the NT is not something obscure or incomprehensible, but rather a truth that can only be known by revelation or by special insight given to the initiated. See Rev. 10.7.

Narcissism

The egocentric love of self.

Occult

A word meaning *covered* or *secret* and used to refer to various activities involving magic or witchcraft.

Oppression

A word used to indicate any number of greater or lesser afflictions brought upon people by evil spirits.

Ouija Board

A game board inscribed with letters and numbers, and used to communicate with spirits. A practice like that of Automatic Handwriting which is condemned with other occult activities in Deuteronomy 18. Ouija Boards are sold as toys by Parker Brothers.

Phenomenological Language

Language which describes things, not so much as they actually are, but as they are perceived.

Possession

A word used to indicate that an evil spirit completely controls a person. In the New Testament it was more often used to say that a person possessed, i.e., had an evil spirit, and was therefore influenced in a greater or lesser way by it.

Problem Of Evil

The philosophical problem summed up in the practical question: How can a good God who is omnipotent allow evil to exist?

Spiritual Warfare

Equated by many with the casting out demons, but which in fact describes the whole Christian life and the believer's battle for intimacy with God.

Stronghold

A spiritual barrier to the knowledge of God, often reinforced in a person's life by evil spirits. (See 2 Corinthians 10.3-5.)

Syllogism

A form of deductive reasoning consisting of a major premise, a minor premise, and a conclusion; for example, *All human beings are mortal*, the major premise, *I am a human being*, the minor premise, therefore, *I am mortal*, the conclusion.

Syncretism

The blending of elements from two different philosophies or religions.

Terminus Ad Quem

The date before which an event must have occurred.

Terminus Post Quem

The date after which an event must have occurred.

Theophany

A vision or other manifestation of God.

Type

A person, thing or event in the Bible that foreshadows a greater person, thing or event. A sort of three-dimensional prophecy. This is simply another meaning of the word for printers' *type* and is derived from the phenomenon of correspondence between type and the impression it makes in printing.

Typology

The study of biblical types.

Personal Notes