

Hearts of Love

Tom & Debbie Tillman "to touch the world for Jesus Christ"

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What's Wrong with The Shack?

Hearts of Love is a non-profit ministry, dedicated to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ whenever and wherever we find open doors. Our first priority is to glorify God and lead whomever possible to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Please pray for us faithfully. We need your prayer, and we appreciate it more than we could ever say. Please consider us an extension of your ministry in this world, and support us with your prayer as such.

**May God richly
bless you!**

Tom & Debbie

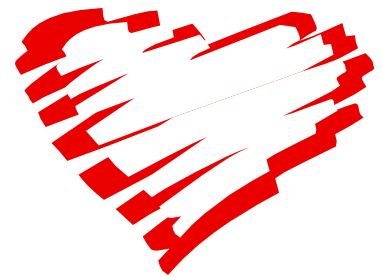
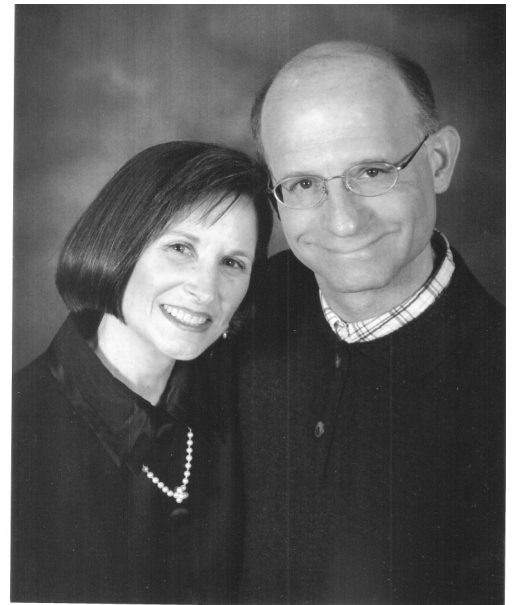
Soon we will again celebrate the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, the Way, the Truth and the Life, the only hope and way of salvation for sinful man. He is the Word of God made flesh.

We celebrate the pivotal person and event of human history at Easter once a year. Monthly or weekly, Christians remember and meditate on the same through observing 'communion' together. Jesus said, 'As often as you do this, do it in remembrance of Me.' But what are we to be remembering? We remember, we bring to mind, the Lord Jesus Christ and what He accomplished for us in His finished work on the cross.

This is the simple Gospel: All have sinned and the just penalty for our sin is death, eternal separation from God, but God so loved the World that He chose to send His Son to be born as a human, live a perfect, sinless life and then to be crucified on a cross, to pay the full penalty for sin of any and all who would **place their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior**. God then raised Him from the dead and He ascended to Heaven from where *He will soon return*, to gather to Himself all who have believed and trusted in Him.

Throughout the New Testament, one of, if not the most emphasized teaching to the Church is the warning against false teachers of false doctrine, especially during the 'last days' before Jesus' return, in the clouds, for the true Church, leading to the *Tribulation* and His physical return to Earth.

Jesus warned against false prophets who would come and mislead many. Most of 2nd Peter and all of Jude warn of coming false teachers. John's letters warn repeatedly of the same as well as Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus. Paul's last words to the elders at Ephesus in Acts 20 are, 'Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you



*He has committed to
us the word of
Reconciliation.*

*Therefore, we are
Ambassadors for Christ.*

2 Corinthians 5:19,20

overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.' To Timothy he wrote, 'For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and *will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.*' There is much more of the same warnings throughout the Word of God.

Christians can disagree on some areas of doctrine and still be saved, secondary issues such as, Church government, the nature of end times prophecy, baptism, spiritual gifts and such. There are, however, core doctrinal beliefs that determine if one is a true Christian in the Biblical sense. These core doctrines are what false teachers seek to undermine, they are what Satan, the father of lies, seeks to undermine. They teach contrary to foundational Biblical doctrines such as, the nature of God, the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, the essence and reality of Salvation and the sinfulness of man. We read of Lucifer's rebellion in Isaiah

14. He said, 'I will be like the Most High.' Obviously he wasn't foolish enough to believe that he, a created being, could actually be like Almighty God Who had created him. Rather, his plan was revealed to be that he would instead, attempt to bring God down to his level... he would remake God in his own image and he would teach man to do likewise.

That brings us to a recent *false teacher's false gospel* in the form of ***The Shack***, a multi-million dollar industry which is leading many into a false and deadly misunderstanding of God Himself. One of the B-grade *stars* to endorse the book wrote, ***'The Shack will change the way you think about God forever!'*** Whose plan, ultimately, do you think it would be for us to think differently about God? God... Who revealed Himself through His Word, the Bible, Who said that He never changes? To be able to accurately and honestly assess The Shack and Paul Young's teaching, I read it. But I've also read the Book which Paul Young attempts to discount and contradict with his book.

The Bible is our only source of Truth about God, Who He is, what He has done and what He has planned for us.

The Shack is not just a work of

'Christian fiction,' an endearing story with 'Christian themes.' 'But,' you ask, 'isn't The Shack sort of like The Chronicles of Narnia?' Does 'Christian fiction' really have to be doctrinally correct?

C. S. Lewis wrote some fantasy stories with broad Biblical themes, but you can always understand how he is pointing to the Bible and to the Lord Jesus Christ. He never intended that 'The Chronicles of Narnia' primarily teach doctrine. The Shack, on the other hand, is wholly doctrinal in that God, *herself*, is teaching Young's version of doctrine to Mack and, by extension, to us throughout the book and movie.

Just as the purpose of broadcast TV is to keep you glued to the television so you can be force-fed the doctrines of Hollywood and listen to their money making commercials, the purpose of The Shack's feel-good story of Mack, Missy, Papa and the rest is to keep you glued to the screen or turning pages so you can be force-fed Paul Young's next installment of anti-Biblical false doctrine.

Let's look at some of Wm. Paul Young's favorite false doctrines... (And keep in mind... if you know your Bible, nothing I say will surprise you. If you don't know your Bible... nothing I say will sway you. All of Paul Young's work clearly teaches the belief that eventually, everyone, every human and angel alike, will be *saved*. Young is always very slippery about this when interviewed because he knows if he admitted to belief in 'Universalism,' that *all will be saved*, he would lose a huge portion of his 'Christian' audience.

Young states that he believes Jesus' atonement embraced the entire cosmos... absolutely everything... every molecule in the Universe, every human and every spirit, seen and unseen. (do you recognize that includes Lucifer?) He believes that everything was created IN christ, that everything was crucified in christ and that everything was resurrected in christ. (tonykriz.com)

(I am referring here to '*christ*' because clearly, the *christ* that Young teaches is not the Lord Jesus Christ of the Bible, but rather, *another christ*.)

Young states, 'I don't believe in *Penal Substitution*... the Cross wasn't a place of

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punishment for our sin.' This is a direct quote... and a direct refutation of the clear Word of God as given to and taught by the Apostle Paul. Penal Substitution means that Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, took our rightful place of punishment on the Cross while God the Father, in His unfathomable love for us, laid on Him all of our justly deserved penalty for sin.

That is the absolute heart of the Gospel and the reality of Eternal Salvation, the gift of God. To deny it is to deny all reality as revealed by God Himself, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Word of God.

Paul Young joins the world in their *false conception* that the God of the Bible, the God of Christianity is an angry, petty, vindictive, spiteful old white man, demanding slavish worship, happy to send everyone to Hell, whose hateful wrath was only turned aside by Jesus' volunteering to let Himself be punished instead and because of Jesus selfless act, all the Universe would be reconciled back to God.

Young said, *'I think there are elements of the Christian religion that are flat out wrong... same as every religion. But there are also things about every religious system that are inherently true. Christian religious ideology doesn't necessarily lead to truth.'* (tonykriz.com)

Here are a few more falsities from The Shack with page #'s...

(I could fill several pages with these.)

God decides to relate to man on our terms p85.

All three persons of the Trinity were 'made flesh.' p101

All three were crucified together and bear the physical scars. P97

God says, 'I can't act apart from love.' The implication being that all *her* other attributes must be subordinated to *her* love.

The God of the Bible has revealed Himself to be and always refers to Himself as male... never female. The Shack presents God as a female goddess while calling herself Papa.

The 'Jesus' of The Shack tells Mack, I am the **best way** any human can relate to Papa or Sarayu. (The Shack's holy spirit). P112 The Lord Jesus Christ of the Bible claims to be the ONLY way anyone can come to and relate to God the Father or the Holy Spirit. Isn't the changing of just one word like that how you would expect Satan to deceive?

God is in all things and all things are in God. p114

I don't punish sin, I cure it. p122

I'm not a bully, insisting on my own way. p128

Evil and darkness do not exist. They are simply the absence of goodness and light. p138

Jesus became a servant... by His dependant life, He opened a door for us. p139 God submits herself to us and our

choices. p146

Everyone is a child of God. p164

The Cross is where mercy triumphed over justice. p166

The truth is, the Cross is where God's love, mercy, grace, justice, righteousness, wrath and holiness all came together to accomplish His perfect will.

The main problem with The Shack is its thorough lack of reverence and even denigration of the Bible and Christianity. Young puts a multitude of words into God's mouth but none of them are from the Word of God. He implies that the Bible limits God, that there is so much more to God to know if we weren't constrained by words on pages. He writes, **'Nobody wanted God in a box, just in a book...'** especially an expensive one bound in leather with gilt edges, or was that *guilt* edges? Young's 'Jesus' tells Mack, **'Who said anything about being a Christian? I'm not a Christian!'** He then says, 'Those that love me come from every system that exists... Buddhists, Mormons, Baptists, Muslims... **I have no desire to make them Christian!**' p184

Imagine that! The 'jesus' of The Shack doesn't want people to be Christians! I might as well end this here... what more needs to be said?

The only way for a child of God to be protected from lies and deception is to know what God has said to His children.

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The Harvest is Great, but the laborers are few. Matt 9:38

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