

**T**HE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY may be classified as the next to final chapter in mankind's return to Babel. It began with each nation clinging to its nationalist pride and ended with the birth and maturation of globalization. This has been anti-Christ's design from the time that God scattered the people from building the Tower of Babel:

And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and they lived there. And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly."

And they had brick for stone, and they had slime for mortar. And they said, "Come, let us build us a city, and a tower whose top may reach to the heavens, and let us make us a name lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."

And YHWH came down to see the city and the tower that the children of men built. And YHWH said, "Look, the people are united, and they all have one language, and this they begin to do. And now nothing that they have imagined to do will be restrained from them. Come, let us go down, and there confound their language so that they may not understand one another's speech."

So YHWH scattered them abroad from there upon the face of all the earth, and they stopped building the city.

Therefore the name of it is called Babel, because YHWH confounded the language of all the earth there. And from there YHWH scattered them abroad upon the face of all the earth. (Genesis 11:1-9)

Mankind's ability to imagine and create, imparted to us by the only true God, YHWH, when He breathed into Adam the breath of life, allows us to achieve astounding works according to our imaginations. The problem is that because of man's sin nature, man's imagination, unless submitted to God's Holy

Spirit, is evil (Genesis 6:5; 8:21), and it works against the will of God. Look up every instance of the word "imagination" in Scripture, and it's not a pretty picture.

We are not to be led by our imaginations, but by the Spirit of God. This is true of all things we do, including the "creative" aspects of our service to Him. Men pride themselves on their imagination to create; this is true of many Christians as well. We see this in how so many Christians imitate the world in their worship of the Lord, incorporating dissonant sounds meant to pass as music, in pageants and rituals designed to move God, in art and architecture meant to inspire awe, and in many other ways.

Given enough time, nothing man imagines would be restrained from him. Anti-Christ is well aware of this god-like quality, and he has worked for some 6,000 years to bring all of mankind into the unity necessary for mankind to achieve total rebellion against God. The 20<sup>th</sup> century demonstrates how far man has come in his quest for godhood, rising from the dust of the earth to set foot on the moon in a scant 69 years from the beginning of the century.

Amazing, yet carnal, accomplishments were achieved in communications that shrank the world even more than had happened in all the centuries previous. To name a few: Guglielmo Marconi, in 1901, made the first trans-Atlantic radio transmission using the Morse Code letter "S"—three short dots or "dits." By 1920, the first radio broadcasts in the United States would lay the foundation for communication into every home that desired and could afford radio sets and, later, television sets.

In 1903 the Wright Brothers made the first powered flight at Kittyhawk, North Carolina, setting the stage for man's rapid transit around the world via airplane. It also set the stage for aerial warfare, something that greatly pleases anti-Christ. The science of aerodynamics led from the first rickety air frames of bi-planes to rocketry and jet propulsion, which would greatly increase man's reach not only around the world, but into space.

Perhaps the greatest advances in communications would come toward the end of the century. These include personal computers that are used for social networking, surfing the Internet, and writing in general. But again, these are used far more for the enhancement of man's ego than for God's glory. The single largest genre of use for the Internet is pornography, even in the "Christian" United States, much to the delight of anti-Christ.

Add to these means of communications the proliferation of personal cell phones, language-translation software, and many other electronic marvels too numerous to mention, and we see how Babel has been erected slowly but methodically by the anti-Christ. Truly, the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the Age of Invention and a time for the burgeoning of man's imagination. The evidence is overwhelming that we are fast approaching the end of this age according to the prophet Daniel:

"And at that time Michael shall stand up—the great prince who stands for the children of your people—and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who shall be found written in the book.

"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

"And those who are wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever.

"But you, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end. Many shall run back and forth, and knowledge shall be increased." (Daniel 12:1-4)

Man's knowledge has increased exponentially in the past two centuries, and never as much as in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and these early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Mankind traverses the globe (back and forth) for business, pleasure and mischief, with hundreds of thousands of people—approaching one million—in the air and on the seas at any given moment. This was never possible before the 20<sup>th</sup> century with the many material wonders that were developed during that time.

It isn't that these material wonders are evil in themselves; they certainly are not. The problem is how they are used. It may be said with certainty that the vast majority of man's inventions are consumed upon man's own lusts for power, money, illicit sex and personal aggrandizement. The amount used for God's glory is miniscule, and much that is claimed to be for His glory is really used to satisfy man's religious spirit.

Along with these material achievements, man took giant strides in the development of so-called science, alluded to by the apostle Paul in his letter to Timothy:

O Timothy, keep that which is committed to your trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and opposition from science falsely so called, which some professing have erred concerning the faith. (1 Timothy 6:20-21)

The so-called science of which Paul wrote is not merely the concept of evolution, particularly of man, but man's philosophy that addresses "behavioral science"—psychology in particular. Man's desire to heal the psyche in order to bring mankind into the unreachable state of godhood is reflected in psychoanalysis and psychotherapy. And there are almost as many theories of psychology as there are psychologists, all of which are diametrically opposed to the Word of God.

In 1900, Sigmund Freud, an Austrian neurologist, published his first thesis on psychoanalysis—a term he coined in 1896 in *Zur Aetiologie der Hysterie* (*The Study of the Causes of Hysteria*), where he developed his theory of repressed memories. That thesis on psychoanalysis, *The Interpretation of Dreams*, emphasized the role of the unconscious mind in determining one's psychological state. In her analysis of Freud's work, Kendra Cherry, a "psychology expert" writing for *About Education*, states:

The book [*The Interpretation of Dreams*] outlines Freud's belief that dreams are highly symbolic, containing both overt meanings (manifest content) as well as underlying, unconscious thoughts (latent content). Dreams, he suggested, are our unconscious wishes in disguise. Despite Freud's tendency to over-generalize, his lack of scientific evidence, his overemphasis on sex, and his frequently chauvinistic viewpoints, this seminal work remains important in the history of psychology. *The Interpretation of Dreams* marked the beginning of psychoanalysis and is a fascinating text revealing Freud's unique talent as a writer and ambitious theorist.<sup>1</sup>

Since Freud, many other "scientists of the mind" began to get in on this new field of study, among these Carl Jung who founded analytical psychology. Jung attributed his inspiration to a muse—a familiar spirit named Philemon (Deuteronomy 18:11).

If there is one area of human imagination that can be called the greatest threat to the faith in these last days, it is psychoanalysis and its accompanying humanistic attempt to overcome the curse of sin, psychotherapy. (See our special report *Psychology: Science or Religion?* authored by Martin and Deidre Bobgan.) Yet to address issues of the soul, psychological methods are widely employed by churches in lieu of ministry from the Word of God. Even so-called Christian psychology is rooted in Freud, Jung and other ungodly, atheistic purveyors of this "science" falsely called. One cannot meld God's Word with humanistic theories in order to arrive at truth. A truth mixed with a lie equates to a lie. Can a barrel of clean apples change the rotten apple in its midst? Would not the rotten apple rather corrupt the clean apples? The same is true of trying to mix human wisdom with God's wisdom:

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return to YHWH, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says YHWH. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:7-9)

<sup>1</sup> <http://psychology.about.com/od/sigmundfreud/gr/interpretation.htm>.

Today, many pastors shunt their congregants to “Christian psychologists” and/or “Christian counselors” rather than minister from God’s Word through the power of the Holy Spirit. In some cases, pastors attempt to incorporate psychological theories into their own counseling. Required courses in psychology are *de rigueur* in almost all Bible schools and seminaries now.

Christians who think they can meld man’s thoughts with God’s thoughts are self-deceived, and they are leading astray those under their influence.

With each succeeding generation, the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw a great departure from the purity of the Faith. Modernism, which took root in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, took off in earnest with the advances in technology and communications. A philosophical movement that rejected Enlightenment thinking and religious belief, Modernism began to influence all art forms—painting, sculpture, architecture, literature, philosophy, social organization and even religious faith.

At the turn of the century, at least in the West, a deep-seated faith in Christ characterized the average home, even as Modernism was flourishing among the elite. But with the advances in communications, the anti-Christ’s voice began to invade the consciousness of Christians everywhere. The arts, in particular, became a venue for soulish departures from the prior realism that reflected God’s hand in nature. Art merely reflected Modernism’s reach into virtually every discipline of creativity, philosophy, and religion. As we look at the 20<sup>th</sup>-century art movements we understand that these forms of communication establish the basis for all the evils that ensue; the greater exposure to ungodly ideas, the further from godliness man strays. In the process, we get a better picture of Western society’s descent into anti-Christ thinking.

**Painting**

As early as 1907, cubism was spawned through the imagination of avant-garde artists such as Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque—later entered into by others in the European art community. Although some cubism is pleasing to the eye, the art form itself distorts reality and appeals to the unregenerate spirit. Particularly as it relates to the depiction of man who is made in the image and after the likeness of God, cubism is a perversion of the nature of God as reflected in man.



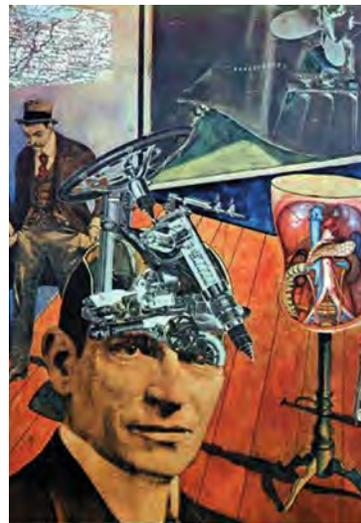
Picasso - Dans un Fauteuil

Although much art is produced by individuals who just like to express their creativity, when it comes to movements within the artistic community art is not merely for art’s sake; it reflects the philosophical underpinnings of the artists’ belief systems. What makes an artist popular is not so much his talent as his

political connections within the world system which, remember, is Satan’s domain as the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4).

The further from realism art strays, the less it reflects God in nature, and the more it reflects the anti-Christ spirit. As far from realism that cubism strayed, it merely laid the groundwork for other even more perverse art forms in the future.

From 1916 to 1922, another new art form known as Dada emerged. Dada was a protest against the established order—a form of artistic anarchy that reflected hatred of the social, political and cultural establishment of its time. Starting in Zurich, Switzerland, Dada spread throughout Western Europe and into the United States. Among the more famous Dada artists were Max Ernst, Marcel Duchamp, Raoul Hausmann, Jean Arp and Kurt Schwitters.



Hausmann - Tatlin at Home

While Dadaism was a protest, surrealism became the rage, particularly the works of Salvador Dali, a Spanish Catalan painter. The tremendously talented Dali influenced not only painting,

but sculpture, photography, motion pictures and other media. For a period of time, Dali’s art was influenced by Freud.



Dali - Persistence of Memory

Although it was not as anti-establishmentarian as Dada, Surrealism combined elements of realism

with abstract images, again distorting the realism created by God.

Following Surrealism was Abstract Expressionism in the 1940s and 50s, the first movement from America to influence the international art community. Foremost among the Abstract Expressionism artists was Jackson Pollock who is credited with revolutionizing all contemporary art that followed.



Pollock - She Wolf

The process for Abstract Expressionism is wide ranging as demonstrated by Pollock’s method: placing unstretched raw canvas on the floor, approaching it from all sides, and in a haphazard manner using

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dripping, throwing and brushing paint as well as other media. Most Abstract Expressionism artists of its heyday were influenced by the era's anti-Christ Marxist philosophy and political radicalism.

The latest trend in the arts is defined as Postmodernism, which continues the departure from realism and incorporates diverse media blended to achieve humanistic expressions of revolt against "social norms." These diverse media include performance art and "happenings," assemblage art (which combines the assemblage of large physical objects, painting, photography, and even stuffed animals), pop art that celebrates consumerism, and several other expressions of "art" as defined by the cultural elite.

Although the term "postmodern" was first used in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century by John Watkins Chapman who suggested a "Post-modern style of painting" to replace French Impressionism, it wasn't until the 1920s that postmodernism was used in reference to new forms of expression in the arts, and particularly in the criticism of religion (read Christianity). Used throughout the early and mid-twentieth century to describe the emerging movements in art, architecture, music, theater and other art forms, Postmodernism really came into its own in the field of painting in the 1970s, particularly through the works of Jasper Johns.

### **Motion Pictures**

Postmodernism continues to find expression in the theater, motion pictures and various other media through the use of nudity, profanity and anti-social messages. Contrary to popular belief, the early motion picture industry was not so pristine. From the very beginning, film was used to convey ungodly attitudes. Nudity, violence, even profanity were common. In 1922, because movies in the United States were becoming more risqué, and scandals involving beloved Hollywood stars were making the news, the major film studios called upon a Presbyterian elder, Will H. Hays, to clean up the industry's image. This led to the establishment of the Motion Picture Production Code—a set of moral guidelines for films released in the United States by major studios. Known as the Hays Code, it was meant to establish a more moral basis for the production of films in the U.S. European filmmakers were not bound by the Code, and their productions were considered more avant-garde and "sophisticated."

Even as Hays was enlisted to clean up the movie industry, anti-Christ knew how to temper any real reform. For his efforts, Hays was paid the then-lavish sum of \$10,000 per year to act not so much as a reformer as a mediator between the industry and its critics. For the 25 years he held the position as president of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America (MPPDA), Hays "defended the industry from attacks, recited soothing nostrums, and negotiated treaties to cease hostilities."<sup>2</sup> Again, Mammon ruled. As a result, the movie industry did little more than stifle the off-screen scandals of its major stars, believing that such scandals would hurt their pocketbooks. It wasn't too long before the industry realized that such scandals played to the lascivious nature of the populous and would actually increase interest in their products.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Doherty, *Pre-Code Hollywood: Sex, Immorality, and Insurrection In American Cinema, 1930-1934* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999), p. 6.

So ineffectual was the Motion Picture Production Code that the same ungodly content continued unabated, if slightly downplayed. Local censorship boards developed by civic leaders were also largely ineffectual. The anti-Christ spirit within the industry knows that the sin nature of man naturally tends toward lasciviousness. As part of the anti-Christ world system, the movie industry is one of the most effective media for promoting ungodliness. All attempts to reign in the ungodliness permeating the industry met with failure. By the late 1960s, the Code was abandoned and replaced by a new rating system which allowed for any content imaginable, only with ratings designed to assuage the concerns of parents and morally-minded people about the content of particular films. But the rating system has undergone drastic changes since it was first introduced. Today, even G- and PG-rated movies contain many ungodly expressions. Especially onerous is the use of our Lord's name as an expletive.

### **Television**

For a long time the television industry held more strict standards than did the movie industry, but over time it, too, has succumbed to the same ungodly elements and to the same degree, especially on cable and satellite channels. But even network television has succumbed to using the Lord's name as an expletive, even in news coverage. Everything that has been stated above about the movie industry is now relevant to the television industry. Only now the anti-Christ spirit does not have to be sought out by traveling to the local multiplex; it can be accessed in the comfort of one's living room.

### **Music**

The field of music found different expressions as well, all progressively ungodly, reflecting the free spirit of unregenerate mankind. Worldly entertainment has always been linked with the excessive use of alcohol, and none more so than music and dancing, both on stage and on the ballroom floor. Music is unsurpassed as a means to express feelings and emotions both good and bad. Combined with lyrics, music can convey messages of love or lust, hope or despair, joy or sorrow, life or death, even godliness or ungodliness, and myriad other emotions. Contrary to those who excuse any form of music as an offering to God, musical styles are not neutral. From ancient times music has been used by the elite few to move the souls of the masses.

Music has been intimately associated with religion, including occult religions and magic. Beginning with simple instruments, over time, music evolved into more complex forms that incorporate many diverse instruments working in harmony. This required the talents of artists who could master their instruments almost to perfection.

Music reached its peak of artistic expression within Western Civilization which had been touched by the Gospel more than anywhere else. Even though mankind's sin nature rules for the most part, the truth is that the more man has understood and adhered to God's Word, the greater man's arts and sciences flourished; the Gospel reached into every area of human existence to bring a quality of excellence previously unknown, even as most people were not truly born from above through the Spirit of God. Yet it remains that most of man's musical expressions are used for soulish purposes rather than godly purposes.

The Renaissance brought recognition of music's power to exalt the human spirit. The excellence of art, including music, though talents bestowed by God, fell victim to man's pride. Building on the earlier excellence of those who strove to glorify God in their arts, ungodly men began to use the arts for personal profit. Perhaps the one art most used for profit is that of music, especially during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Anti-Christ knows how to move the masses through the medium of music, from military marches to the cacophonous, discordant noises that rule the entertainment scene today.

More than in any other field of expression, Mammon rules the music industry. Anti-Christ plays upon the greed of men who see how huge sums of money can be gained from producing sounds that work people into frenzy, but cost little to produce. The rich tones of orchestral compositions gradually gave way to less sophisticated sounds, particularly in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The progression from godly to ungodly music, in Western Civilization especially, followed thusly:

At the turn of the century, Jazz was popularized as Western society began to throw off the Victorian conventions that ruled for the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The preceding period known as "the Gay Nineties" laid the groundwork for Western Civilization's transformation from largely religious to irreligious attitudes. "Gay Nineties" is a nostalgic term for the 1890s that were influenced by the decadent art of Aubrey Beardsley whose works were based on occult and erotic themes. Oscar Wilde's irreverent plays became popular, and society scandals filled the newspapers. It was also the beginning of the suffragette movement which successfully sought to establish women as not only equal to, but in many cases dominant over men.

Music during the Gay Nineties departed from the more staid and formal toward more expressive sounds. Jazz grew out of the disparate groups that experimented with brass and percussive instruments, largely eschewing strings and the more mellow reeds. Nightclubs sprang up as venues for the new sounds, and contributed to the souliness that came to characterize Western Civilization as the 20<sup>th</sup> century progressed. Despite how Jazz and some of its later innovations, such as big band and even 50s rock music, contributed to more worldly attitudes, the quality of musicianship remained. It still took a lot of talent to put together compositions that were pleasing if not classified as godly.

I admit that I like just about every genre of music, provided it isn't ungodly, but at the worst neutral. Just as eating and drinking are not always for nutrition, but may also be engaged in for pleasure, so different musical styles can be enjoyed as long as the thoughts and emotions they engender are not sinful or do not lead to the appearance of evil. This applies to all forms of music that are soulish in nature, including that to which the artists claim they are glorifying God. As much as I enjoy big band music, I would in no way suggest that it is a genre that should be used in worship of our God. But today, churches incorporate into their worship, hip-hop, grunge, acid rock and other sounds that are far more removed from worshipful attitudes than even big band music. And just as the music moguls of the world know how to make large sums of money off of cheaply-made noise, so too do many Christian music purveyors know how to capitalize on the worldly attitudes of today's youth

culture. The raucous, discordant sounds that characterize much of today's Christian music scene do not glorify God—regardless of what those who promote those sounds say. God's nature is one of peace, joy, love—look at the fruit of His Spirit. His nature is opposite that of man's sinful nature, and man's sinful nature makes every excuse why it should be able to offer impure sacrifices to Him. How well this pleases the anti-Christ spirit that rules every facet of this world system including religion—including Christianity.

### **Devolution Into Idolatry**

Just as the arts of man have devolved from the influences of the Gospel to influences of the world under anti-Christ's control, so too have the "Christian" arts in the churches.

There are other artistic disciplines that form sub-sets of the aforementioned, all of which express human imagination, the vast majority of which works contrary to the Spirit of God. Although God's Word tells us to live in the Spirit, many producers of contemporary Christian music cater to the flesh.

Critics of those who lament the influence that art has on society claim that art in all its forms merely reflects the condition of society. The truth is that art influences society, which in turn influences art in its successive forms. This is especially true of the performing arts— theater, motion pictures, television, radio. For the most part, people are influenced more by their feelings than they are by reason and logic, and certainly more than by God's Word. That is how despots gain control over the masses; they know how to manipulate people's emotions to follow them. Think of Adolf Hitler, Josef Stalin, televangelists, and every cult leader from Jim Jones to the Pope of Rome. It doesn't matter what the truth is; the lie that appeals to the emotions takes the prize.

This is idolatry in its more perfect expression. When juxtaposing images of Hitler swaying huge throngs of Germans, with images of today's popular entertainers performing before their hysterical fans, we find little difference. There is good reason one of the most popular television shows of late is called *American Idol*. Those working the masses into frenzy know exactly what they are doing. And this is where the little truth that is found in psychological theory is clearly evident: media moguls know how to use psychological techniques to garner huge followings for people who are no different, really, than those who idolize them. And at the core of all this idolization is Mammon, anti-Christ's most effective tool to lead people away from worshiping only the true God.

As man has thrown off true worship of the true God, he has produced a century of ungodliness that has witnessed the worst of mankind's nature in every aspect of man's endeavors.

These many-faceted approaches to communications across ethnic and nationalistic boundaries laid the groundwork for virtually all the evils of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including the devolving of Western Civilization's politics, which has led to greater bloodshed in unceasing warfare. As we continue to look at the 20<sup>th</sup> century we will see how mass communications has played a major role in every aspect of man's expansion of evil designs.