



REVISITED

THE GREAT EXCHANGE

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Lesson 7

VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- ✘ **Romans 1:21-25** For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and **exchanged** the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they **exchanged** the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.
- ✘ Exchanged: *allasso*: to alter, to substitute one thing for another

VINTAGE FAITH

- ✘ Aesthetics is not an end in itself. But in our culture, which is becoming more multi-sensory and less respectful of God, we have a responsibility to pay attention to the design of the space where we assemble regularly. In the emerging culture, darkness represents spirituality. We see this in Buddhist temples as well as Catholic and Orthodox churches. Darkness communicates that something serious is happening. Dan Kimball
- ✘ **John 3:19** "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil."
- ✘ **Matthew 5:16** "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

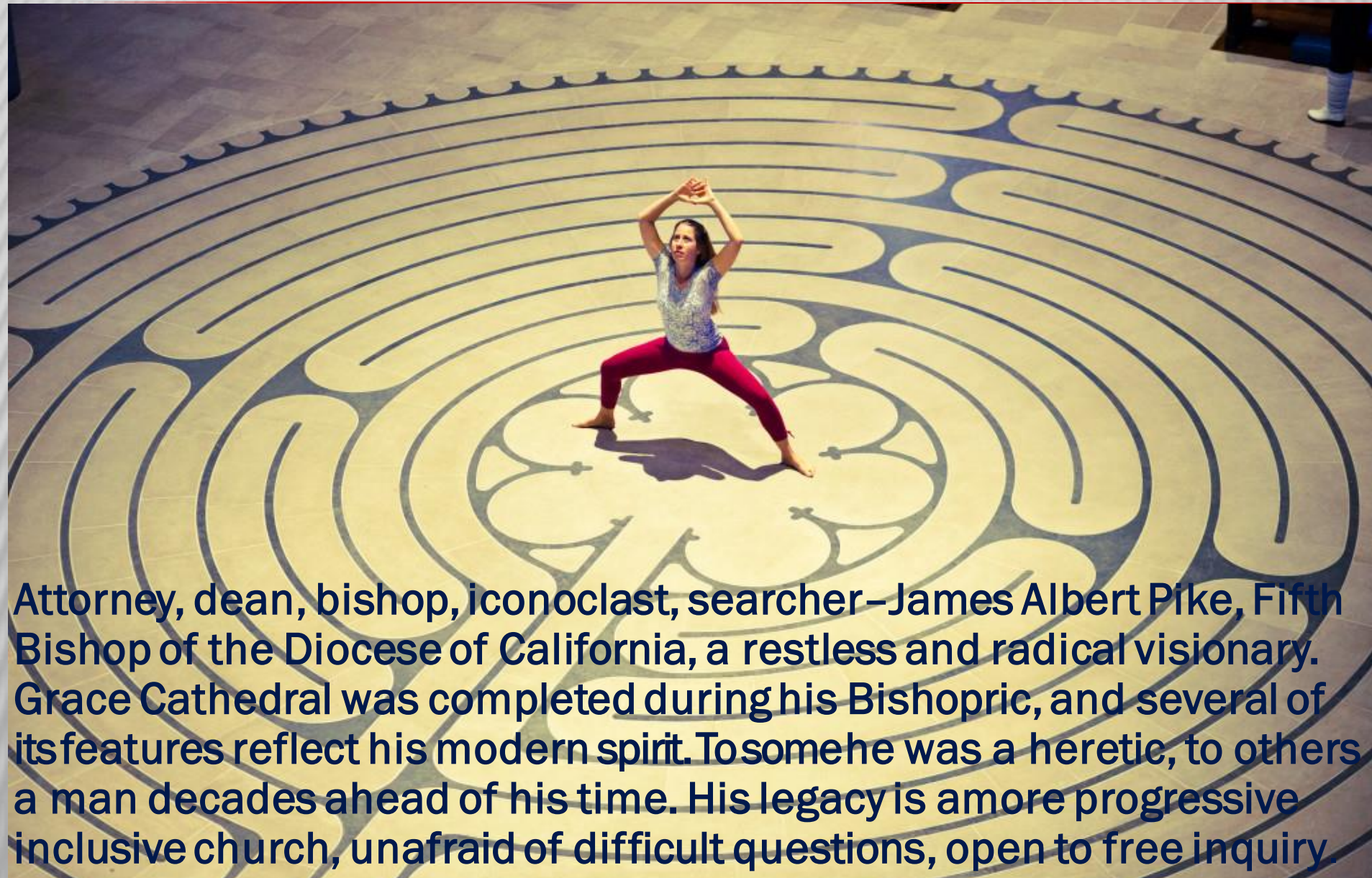
EARLY CHURCH FATHERS

- ✘ It is important to know about the early church and to read things written by early church fathers
- ✘ Much of what happens in the ancient-future position predates Christianity and much postdates Christianity
- ✘ In fact, not much is centered on the early church, as they would have you believe
- ✘ In a Pew Forum survey, 65% of U.S. adults (including those calling themselves Christian) accept elements of Eastern Faiths (New Age)
- ✘ Many in the Vintage Faith movement report finding “energy” in trees, mountains, streams; they are open to any method that helps find the energy
- ✘ This includes the mystics like John of the Cross

NEW AGE = VINTAGE FAITH?

- ✘ **Titus 1:12-13** One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." This testimony is true."
- ✘ The expression "evil brutes" describes the savage and cruel character of the Cretans of the days of Epimenedes and of the days of Paul and Titus
- ✘ This descriptive epithet may be an allusion to the mythical Cretan Minotaur, half bull half man, whom Minos hid in the Cretan labyrinth, where, until Theseus slew this monster, he devoured the Athenian youths and maidens sent as a tribute every nine years.
- ✘ The labyrinth became part of the New Age movement in the 1970's; the early church never practiced it in any form

GRACE CATHEDRAL



Attorney, dean, bishop, iconoclast, searcher—James Albert Pike, Fifth Bishop of the Diocese of California, a restless and radical visionary. Grace Cathedral was completed during his Bishopric, and several of its features reflect his modern spirit. To some he was a heretic, to others a man decades ahead of his time. His legacy is a more progressive inclusive church, unafraid of difficult questions, open to free inquiry.

CENTERING PRAYER

- × Also called “contemplative” prayer: the practice of relaxing, emptying the mind, and letting one's self find the presence of God within. It involves silence, stillness, patience, sometimes repeating something, and the practice of “not knowing” as the person seeks God's presence...it is a nonthinking, emptying of the mind that seeks to find God in a way that is “closer than consciousness itself.”
- × **Psalm 119:15,23,27** I will meditate on Your precepts and regard Your ways. Even though princes sit *and* talk against me, your servant meditates on your statutes. Make me understand the way of Your precepts, so I will meditate on Your wonders.
- × **Psalm 46:10** “Cease *striving* and know that I am God;

CHRISTIAN YOGA

- ✘ Yoga: from the Sanskrit yuj ("to yoke") – is generally translated as "union of the individual atma (translated to mean soul) with Paramatma, the universal soul."
- ✘ "Outstretched in Worship" introduced many to yoga
- ✘ Yoga originated in India sometime prior to 1900 BC
- ✘ Yoga as a means to enlightenment is central to Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Jainism; seen as inseparable from the religions of which yoga forms a part
- ✘ The Yogi reaches an enlightened state where there is cessation of thought and an experience of blissful union
- ✘ People have compared meditation with yoga mala beads to reciting prayers with a Catholic rosary. New age Yoga teachers have stressed that the point of the basic yogic principles is to enrich an individual's life and spirituality, regardless of what the person's faith might be.

DR. OZ AND REIKI

- ✘ Reiki attunement: an avenue opened within the body to allow Reiki to flow through and opens up psychic communication centers
- ✘ Many Reiki practitioners report verbalized channeled communications with the spirit world
- ✘ Beware: A Time of Departing by Ray Yungen: How ancient mystical practices are uniting Christians with the world's religions
- ✘ Dr. Oz is a Sufi (Islamic mysticism) who endorses Reiki
- ✘ "Within ourselves is the ability to heal ourselves"
- ✘ Reiki is often teamed up with Tantra, the ancient Hindu sacred texts; energies through the chakras and combining sex with a human partner as well as an "ishvara" a personal "god" or "spirit guide"

PROPER VIEW OF HEALING

- × Jesus healed people! The disciples healed people!
- × **Mark 6:13** And they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them.
- × **Luke 4:40** While the sun was setting, all those who had any *who were* sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and laying His hands on each one of them, He was healing them.
- × **1 Corinthians 12:8-9** For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit
- × It is also clear that our bodies often heal themselves;
- × What Oz is speaking of is a mystical, energy healing

SUMMARIZING

- ✘ **1 John 4:2-3** By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.
- ✘ Something that doesn't confess Jesus in the way described in the Bible should be avoided
- ✘ **Hebrews 13:7-9** Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today and forever. Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace...

DISCERNMENT IS IMPORTANT

- ✘ **Hebrews 5:12,14** For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food...But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.
- ✘ Discern: *diakrisin*: the act of judging
- ✘ Our ability to make such judgments is directly proportional to our knowledge of God's Word.
- ✘ **John 4:23** "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers."