

The NEW AGE of *Alpha*

A critique of the Alpha Course for those who know their Bible

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THE Alpha Course has swept the globe and is being used by an incredibly wide range of groups – including Anglicans and Roman Catholics, Methodists and Seventh Day Adventists.¹ Where *other* evangelistic initiatives have petered out very swiftly, Alpha has done the opposite. From its roots in the late 1970s, Alpha has grown to stunning proportions today and millions have already participated. What is the secret of its popularity – and what issues does this raise?

THE SECRET

Nicky Gumbel, Alpha's leader since 1990, puts its wide appeal down to a completely new approach for a 'post-Christian age'. Not only has he overhauled the *cosmetics* of the program

in order to make it more relaxed and pleasant, but he has even revised the Course *content* for this same reason: "[T]he **talks themselves** were [made] ... as **attractive** as possible".² Thus Alpha is now able to be advertised as "a gentle and enjoyable experience",³ and attendees report that "The **whole** thing was just **so** easy going, so much **fun** ... It was genuine **fun**".⁴ Indeed, sometimes folks on Alpha do not liken the Course to evangelism at all, but to being "a bit like a free weekly **therapy** session".⁵

¹ *Alpha News* #16, p10, proudly reports that "six churches including the Roman Catholic church, the church of Scotland, and the Seventh Day Adventist, are joining together to run ... Alpha".

² *An Introduction to the Alpha Course*, official HTB booklet, (no date, 24-page, white cover, A4), p5. Note how the Course content was *not* changed to make it as *biblical* or as *convicting* as possible.

³ *The Good News*, (an advert comprising a special insert for the *Aberdeen Evening Express*), Summer 1998, p5.

⁴ *Alpha News*, Mar – Jul 2000, p11. Note that all emphases in quotes are our own.

⁵ Report by Julia Llewellyn-Smith, *Daily Express*, 16:Nov:98, quoted in HTB's *UK Focus* newspaper, Dec 1998, pp4-5.

Alpha's attractiveness is a key issue. As one Roman Catholic Bishop, and high-profile supporter of the program, states, "[Alpha] meets people where they are; it **befriends** them. They feel **affirmed** and they **enjoy** it. Because they **enjoy** it and are enthused by it, they invite their friends to attend the next course and **so it grows**".⁶

THE ISSUES

The problem is that the full gospel is **not** very enjoyable, for the full gospel tells unbelievers they are on their way to a *lake of fire*. (Regrettably, this is not yet stated on Alpha.) The gospel does *not* "affirm" us; it warns us that God is almighty and frighteningly holy and that we, in contrast, are wretched sinners.⁷ It informs us that, unless we repent of our sinful nature then we are under God's wrath and utterly without hope. It teaches us that God's infinite purity means there was only one way we could ever be forgiven – i.e. if God Himself came to earth as a man, lived a sinless life, and allowed us to torture and crucify Him in our place. If folks hear these things, *and do not harden their hearts*, the gospel humbles them – and ultimately *breaks* them. Either way, the complete gospel can hardly be described as "**fun**".

⁶ RC Bishop Ambrose Griffiths, quoted in *New Christian Herald*, 04:Oct:1997.

⁷ See our book, cited later, for evidence.

Alpha's guests often testify to feeling 'changed' after the Course, but many people testify to precisely these same changes after *secular psychotherapy* sessions too. From each, participants come away feeling affirmed, valued, loved and, as Nicky Gumbel happily quotes one Alpha participant putting it, "accepted **for who I am**".⁸ But *only the Lord Jesus* is acceptable to God, which is why we need to abide in Him. The Bible informs us that even faithful believers are still "sinners" and "un-profitable", thus any gospel having the affirming effect seen above *cannot* be the complete gospel. Alpha is highly 'soothing'⁹ – hence it can change us – but salvation is much more than this.

THE DOCTRINES

In what ways, then, have the Course materials been made as inoffensive, and hence attractive and popular, as possible? Let us see, in no particular order, some of the topics discussed in Alpha resources – and compare Nicky Gumbel's position with the teaching in holy scripture...

⁸ Talk 8, Edn. 2.1. (Edition '2.1' refers to the original Edition 2 video set. Edition '2.2' refers to the video set released in transcript form by HTB in the Summer of 2000. All quotes in this booklet are from the latter edition unless otherwise stated.)

⁹ As such, many become '**Alphaholics**' – attending the program over and over.

Other Religions:

“Jesus said ‘I am the Way’ ... but it doesn’t mean to say you write off other religions” ¹⁰	“The nations pray unto a god that cannot save” (Isa. 45:20); “[A]ll the gods of the nations are idols ” (Psa. 96:5). See also 1 Cor. 10:14.
“There is validity in pretty well all religions” ¹¹	“[T]he Gentiles ... sacrifice to devils and not to God” (1 Cor. 10:20). <i>Table footnotes for many rows give more.</i>
“[T]here is only one source for all healing” ¹²	“[F]alse Christs ... shall shew great signs and wonders” (Matt. 24:24). See also 2 Thess. 2:9; Mark 13:22 etc.

Roman Catholicism:

“ Peter of course was ... the one of whom Jesus said, ‘On this rock I will build my Church’” [Talk 12]	“[W]ho is a rock save our God ?” (Psa. 18:31); “[Peter] is ... [just] A stone ” (John 1:42). See also 1 Cor. 3:11; Acts 4:10-12 & Eph. 2:19-20.
“[I]t doesn’t matter whether you are a Roman Catholic or a Protestant” ¹³	“[N]o ... idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom” (Eph. 5:5). <i>See also the footnote for this row, as per others.</i>
“[T]here are 18 hundred million Christians in the world today” [Talk 14]	“[N]arrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Matt. 7:14). See also Matt. 7:22-23.

The Bible:

“There are moral problems with the Bible, there are [also] historical problems” [Talk 5]	“Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35); “The words of the LORD are pure words” (Psa. 12:6-7).
“God has given us his guide book” [Talk 5]	“[T]he things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord” (1 Cor. 14:37). See also Psa. 19:7 etc.
“ Common sense is the way in which God will direct us over ... the big decisions” [Talk 7]	“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psa. 119:105). See also 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Psa. 119 etc.

¹⁰ Final part of *Alpha: Will it Change Their Lives?*, a UK TV series on ITV1, broadcast on 18:Nov:2001. Also c.f. Acts 4:10-12; Exo. 23:13; Deut. 11:16-17 etc.

¹¹ *Ibid.* Also c.f. 2 Cor. 6:14-18; Deut. 8:19-20, 11:16-17; Psa. 106:35-37 etc.

¹² *Searching Issues*, (2001), p79. (This book is HTB’s answer to seven objections to Christianity. It fails to deal with each.) All our book citations refer to UK editions.

¹³ Talk 9, Edn. 2.1. Also c.f. Isa. 8:20; Gal. 2:16, 3:10, 4:9-11, 5:4; Eph. 2:8 etc.

Self-Esteem:

“Jesus ... made it possible for God to accept us just as we are ” ¹⁴	“God ... commandeth all men every where to repent ” (Acts 17:30); “Ye must be born again ” (John 3:7).
“[We] find true happiness ... [through] high self-esteem ” ¹⁵	“[T]he fruit of the Spirit is ... joy, ... [and] Meekness ” (Gal. 5:22-23); “[Be] in lowliness of mind” (Php. 2:3).
“ Jesus sets us free ... to love ourselves in the sense of accepting ourselves as we are ” ¹⁶	“[I]n me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing” (Rom. 7:18); “[B]e clothed with humility ” (1 Pet. 5:5).

The Last Days:

“[T]he church will be unstoppable ” ¹⁷	“And it was given unto him [the final Antichrist] to make war with the saints, and to overcome them” (Rev. 13:7).
“Satan ... [is] defeated ... and we are now involved in the final mopping-up operations” ¹⁸	“[B]ecause iniquity shall abound , the love of many shall wax cold ” (Matt. 24:12); “[M]any ... shall deceive many ” (Matt. 24:5, see also v11).
“[God is] concerned ... with the whole transformation of society ” [Talk 12]	“Satan ... deceiveth the whole world ” (Rev. 12:9); “[T]he world passeth away ” (1 John 2:17). See also 2 Pet. 3:10-12; 2 Cor. 6:17 & Rev. 21:1.

Hell:

““Hell ... [is an] empty town ”” [Talk 11]	“[W] hosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire ” (Rev. 20:15, see also 21:8).
““All hell is smaller than one pebble ... smaller than one atom ”” [Talk 11]	“[B] road is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat” (Matt. 7:13).
“[For] those who reject the gospel, it will be a day of destruction” [Talk 13]	“[T]hese shall go away into everlasting punishment” (Matt. 25:46). See also Rev. 14:11, 20:10; Mark 9:44-48; Jude 1:7 & 2 Thess. 1:7-9.

¹⁴ *30 Days*, p31. Also c.f. Col. 3:3-4; Eph. 4:21-24; 2 Cor. 3:5, 5:17; Rom. 6:6 etc.

¹⁵ *Ibid*, pp75-76. Also c.f. Jas. 4:16; Job 42:6; 1 Pet. 3:14, 4:14; 2 John 1:4 etc.

¹⁶ *Ibid*, p64. Also c.f. Acts 20:18-19; Rom. 5:15-18, 6:18-22; John 15:5 etc.

¹⁷ Talk 12, Edn. 2.1. Also c.f. Dan. 7:21,25; Matt. 24:1ff; 2 Thess. 2; 2 Tim. 3:1-5.

¹⁸ *Questions of Life*, (2001), p168. (Alpha in book form.) Also c.f. 2 Tim. 3:13.

The Church:

“The church is the place ... where he [God] lives” ¹⁹	“[God] dwellest in the heavens ” (Psa. 123:1). See also Acts 7:47-50.
“[T]he Church is Christ” [Talk 14]	“[W]e are dust ” (Psa. 103:14). See also Eph. 5:23-24, 1:20-22; Isa. 64:6 etc.
“God’s ... plans for a united Christian universe are in the hands of the church ” ²⁰	“[E]xcept those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved” (Matt. 24:22). See also Mark 13:8-13; 2 Thess. 2:7-12, 1:4-10 etc.

Unity:

“Methodist or ... Roman Catholic ... These are not the significant things” ²¹	“ [F]lee from idolatry” (1 Cor. 10:14); “ [Y]e should earnestly contend for the faith [singular!]” (Jude 1:3).
“[T]he movement of the Spirit will always bring churches together . He is doing that” ²²	“[W]hen he, the Spirit of truth , is come, he will guide you into all truth ” (John 16:13). See also 2 Thess. 3:14; Eph. 5:5-9; John 4:23-24 & 17:17-20.
“We can’t settle for anything less than the visible unity of the church” [Talk 14]	“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth ” (3 John 1:4). See also 1 Cor. 5:11-13; Eph. 4:3-5; Prov. 23:3; 2 John 1:9-11 etc.

Israel:

“The first eleven chapters of Romans are all about what God has done for us ” [Talk 15]	“I could wish that myself were accursed ... for my ... kinsmen according to the flesh: ... Israelites ” (Rom. 9:3-4). See the rest of Romans 9-11 also!
The empty “grave” of Jesus is “in Palestine ” ²³	“I shall bring you into the land of Israel ” (Ezek. 20:42). See footnote too.
““[T]he new Jerusalem ”, that’s the church ” [Talk 14]	“Boast not against the branches” (Rom. 11:1-32!). See also Rev. 21:24-27.

¹⁹ Talk 14, Edn. 2.1. Also c.f. Psa. 2:4; 1 Ki. 8:27,30,39,43,49; 2 Chr. 30:27 etc.

²⁰ *30 Days*, (2001), p52. (This book claims to be a “practical introduction to reading the Bible” but actually *damages* faith in the Bible.) Also c.f. Luke 17:26-30.

²¹ Talk 14, Edn. 2.1. Also c.f. 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Rev. 21:8 & 22:14-15.

²² Article in Wallace Boulton, Ed., *The Impact of Toronto*, (1995), p82.

²³ *30 Days*, p75. (‘Palestine’ derives from the word ‘Philistine’ and was invented by Israel’s *enemies* to dissociate the nation from the land God gave them.) Also c.f. Psa. 83:4; Judg. 13:5; Psa. 105:6ff; Gen. 48:4; Jer. 7:7, 30:3; Ezek. 36:28, 37:21-25 etc.

Fear of the Lord:

“[Adam] was afraid ... [of] God ... and that’s not how it’s meant to be” ²⁴	“Sanctify the LORD of hosts Himself; and let Him be your fear , and let Him be your dread ” (Isa. 8:13).
“Jesus set us free from ... all fear” [Talk 11]	“ Fear Him, which after He hath killed hath power to cast into hell ; yea , I say unto you, Fear Him ” (Luke 12:5).
“[W]e have nothing to fear” ²⁵	“God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints ” (Psa. 89:7).

The Christian Life:

“It may involve some sacrifice ... [I]t may mean giving up things ... we know are wrong” ²⁶	“[W]hosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple” (Luke 14:33).
“[A] party ... This is a picture of the Christian life ... Don’t miss out on the party ” ²⁷	“[W]e must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22b). See also 2 Cor. 11:23-28.
“God ... wants us to have fun ” [Talk 5]	“I die daily” (1 Cor. 15:31b). See also 1 Cor. 4:11-13, 13:11, 15:19; Titus 1:16-2:4; Eph. 4:14; Luke 6:25; Jas. 4:9 etc.

Jesus Christ:

“Jesus himself is here right now ... [P]icture him ... standing in front of you” ²⁸	“[I]f any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not ” (Matt. 24:23); “Thou shalt not ... set thee up any image” (Deut. 16:21-22).
“Jesus ... [is] not identical to God” ²⁹	“Emmanuel, ... being interpreted is, God with us” (Matt. 1:23).
“[W]hatever happens to Christ happens to you ” [Talk 14]	“[T]hey ... worshipped Him” (Matt. 28:9); “[He is] by the right hand of God exalted” (Acts 2:33). See also 1 Pet. 3:22; Col. 1:18; Rev. 4:10-11; Eph. 1:22; Heb. 7:26 etc!

²⁴ Talk 11. Also c.f. Eccl. 12:13; Psa. 111:10, 147:11a; Prov. 1:7; Mal. 3:5 etc.

²⁵ *30 Days*, p46. Also c.f. Jer. 5:22; Job 37:22-24; Psa. 2:11-12, 34:9-11, 76:7-11; Deut. 5:29; 1 Sam. 12:24; Mal. 2:5; Heb. 12:28-29; Acts 5:1-11, 9:31.

²⁶ Talk 15. Also c.f. Php. 3:7-15; Heb. 12:14; Rom. 6:15ff; Rev. 2:1-5 etc.

²⁷ *30 Days*, p37. Also c.f. Eph. 4:17-24; John 16:33; Eccl. 1:18, 7:4; 1 Pet. 4:12-13.

²⁸ Talk 1, Edn. 2.1. Also c.f. Deut. 4:15-19; Col. 3:1; Acts 3:20-21; Php. 3:20 etc.

²⁹ *Searching Issues*, p113. Also c.f. 1 John 3:16 (KJV); Isa. 9:6; Acts 7:59 (KJV) etc.

THE “AGE TO COME”

Unfortunately, these tables only hold a *fraction* of the erroneous teachings given by Nicky Gumbel. Far more is revealed in our book *Alpha – the Unofficial Guide: Overview*.³⁰ The preceding tables also supply only a small proportion of all the Bible passages which could be brought to bear in opposing these errors.³¹ A more chilling observation still is that all of the above statements by Nicky Gumbel are in full agreement with the ‘New Age’ movement and its imitation gospel.

This slant is seen in many other facets of the Alpha program. For example, Nicky Gumbel encourages the New Age belief in baptismal regeneration; he also uses a Bible with a distinct New Age bias;³² he lends substantial credence to the New Age view on creation; and he repeatedly undermines the biblical order with regard to gender – in favor of the androgenous New Age idea.

Further tables could have demonstrated the same New Age tendency in Alpha’s

³⁰ See the final page of this booklet for outlets. (We may differ with some of our stockists on a few issues, but we appreciate their support.) We allow a few quotes from the *older* videos for several good reasons – e.g. because Alpha’s doctrine hasn’t changed and because we have never heard HTB apologize for Alpha’s past phraseology.

³¹ Please see our book for other verses.

³² See chapter 10 of our book *Alpha – the Unofficial Guide* for evidence.

teachings about: social action or eternal security, holy communion or ‘criticism’, Satan or the Ascension – and so on.

Indeed, if one studies the entire body of material offered by Alpha on *any* given subject, serious examination reveals that the program’s doctrine on *every one* of them is significantly slanted towards the New Age position. Even the discussions following each talk of the fifteen-session Course are regulated by New Age ‘group consensus’ techniques rather than by Spirit-inspired preaching of the Word;³³ hence Nicky Gumbel’s espousal of New Age ‘Process theology’ (where salvation is no longer an event, but a “process”³⁴).

THE SPIRIT

Some readers may feel led to argue that participants frequently have *supernatural* experiences during the Course. Various supernatural manifestations are indeed seen, and these are recorded in official publications from Alpha’s home church (i.e. Holy Trinity Brompton, a.k.a. ‘HTB’). These include: uncontrollable shaking or jerking, uncontrollable laughter, painful burning sensations, white lights in the head, a voice in the head, and electric shocks. Many supporters believe these experiences to be proof of baptism in the Holy Spirit – and thus proof of salvation. But there are at least five fundamental problems here:

³³ See chapter 16 of the main ‘World’ volume of our book for more on this.

³⁴ Gumbel, final part of *Alpha: Will it Change Their Lives?* See earlier for ref.

1) These manifestations often happen to participants *before* they ever make *any* commitment to God. Our book gives a number of examples, two of which are presented below. Since the Spirit of God is only given to *believers* (Acts 5:32), the following testimonies *cannot* represent the *Holy* Spirit.

“I **had** to grab hold of both doors to stay **upright** ... I **felt** the Spirit of God and it was incredible. But ... I **still wasn't a Christian**.”³⁵

“I had an **amazingly** powerful encounter with the Spirit, but being a bit of a **skeptic**, I went away **without** giving my life to Jesus.”³⁶

Indeed, many participants are so *certain* that they were not saved prior to these manifestations, they actually assume the strange experience *was* conversion:

“I felt an incredible tingling in the back of my **neck** ... [S]uddenly I had had this instant **conversion**”³⁷

“It's **not about** what you **think** is it? It's about **feelings** really ... All the ... **shaking** on that Saturday ... It just came over me”³⁸

³⁵ Elsdon-Dew, Ed., *The God Who Changes Lives*, Vol. 2, (2001), p139.

³⁶ *Alpha News*, Mar – Jun 1998, p4.

³⁷ *UK Focus*, (an HTB supplement to *Alpha News*) Mar 1999, p2.

³⁸ David Richardson, Alpha – the Omega in Evangelism?, *Prophecy Today*, Vol. 13, No. 5, p7.

This cannot be the Holy Spirit, since we are spiritually *dead* to God before we are converted (John 14:17).

2) The fruit of the Spirit of God includes *self-control* (Gal. 5:22-23; 1 Cor. 14:32), yet Alpha guests regularly describe their experiences as being *uncontrollable*, and even as being wholly unrelated to their emotions – unlike folks in, say, Jonathan Edwards' day who trembled as a result of actual *fear of God*, or cried with *relief* because they knew real salvation. On Alpha, however, many experiences have no apparent reason or purpose. Neither can they be stopped at will. This is not how God deals with His servants in the Bible, yet Gumbel encourages the wrong view by describing the Holy Spirit as a “**controlling** Spirit”.³⁹

“[S]uddenly ... I began to laugh **uncontrollably**.”⁴⁰

3) God manifests Himself to our *spirit*, not to our soul or body. His presence is therefore discerned *spiritually*. There is no case in scripture of anyone feeling the Holy Spirit with the physical senses, but the Alpha Course generates many such testimonies.

“I **felt** a **physical** presence.”⁴¹ “I **felt** the Holy Spirit **enter** me” [Talk 8].

³⁹ *Questions of Life*, p113.

⁴⁰ *Alpha News* #13, p9. For another, see Gumbel, *Telling Others* (2001), p124.

⁴¹ Elsdon-Dew, Ed., p139. (HTB books comprising official Alpha testimonies.)

“[The] Holy Spirit came ... It was a ... **physical** sensation.”⁴²

4) The Alpha spirit can be “channeled” to others.⁴³ This ‘catchability’ is just *not* a feature of the true Holy Spirit. It is not possible to transfer spiritual cleanness from one human to another – although it *is* perfectly possible to transfer spiritual **uncleanness** in such a way (Hag. 2:11-14 etc).

5) The above manifestations simply do not happen to God’s people in Scripture. (Gumbel surely knows this, because he attempts to justify these experiences by teaching, in Talk 8, that “the Holy Spirit wants to bring **new** things to the church” – as if the Bible isn’t complete, or God couldn’t write a Bible that was applicable today.) Such manifestations do, though, happen biblically to those folks who are *disobeying* God’s commands. (See, for example, Jer. 51:35-39 & vv51-58.)

Such manifestations also occur in *pagan* religions including New Age activities like Reiki therapy and Kundalini yoga. They are seen on *Alpha* because it teaches a different, non-fearsome, ‘God’ from the true, and then encourages metaphysical techniques (including visualisation) for accessing the spirit realm. A number of Gumbel’s books are even promoted on the *basis* that they are metaphysical.⁴⁴

⁴² *Alpha News*, Jul – Oct 1999, p11.

⁴³ Jeremy Jennings, *The Church on its Knees*, (HTB Publications, 1998), p9.

⁴⁴ “Gumbel’s combination of ... **metaphysics** ... and complex theology

THE ‘BLESSING’

Of course, these manifestations⁴⁵ were also seen in the ‘Toronto Blessing’ (TB) of the ‘90s. (Visit Part Five of our book for more on this.) HTB was a very major center for dispensing the Toronto spirit in Europe, and it openly promoted the TB in Alpha’s original videos. The following quote shows that the Toronto spirit, and therefore the Alpha spirit, is New Age:

“Benjamin Crème [a senior New Ager] was recently asked what he thought of the TB. His response was that he thought the TB was a **good** thing: it is, according to him, the **method being used by his spiritual Masters to soften up Christian Fundamentalists to accept the New Age Christ when he appears**”.⁴⁶

So, a New Ager *praises* the spirit behind Alpha. But what, if anything, does *Alpha* say about the so-called ‘dawning of the New Age’? Almost unbelievably, Nicky Gumbel employs this very terminology to describe the days before the coming of *his* Christ:

are ... compelling”. Quote from *The Observer* newspaper which appears on the back of Gumbel’s book *A Life Worth Living* (2001) – among other books.

(All newspapers cited are UK ones.)

⁴⁵ See our book for many documented quotes. (Note: Since its initial release in 2001, our book has seen a huge number of improvements and additions.)

⁴⁶ Nick Needham, *The Toronto Blessing*, [www.geocities.com/bob_hunter/needham2.htm].

“There is also a present aspect of the Kingdom ... [T]he **dawning** ... of the Kingdom ... the **new age**”,⁴⁷
“We live in the **age** of the **Spirit**”
[Talk 8]⁴⁸

“[T]he **age** to come **has begun**. ... The **age** to come has **broken into history** ... [T]he **powers** of the **new age** have erupted into this age.” [Talk 13]

THE ‘BOTTOM LINE’

The New Age ‘version’ of Christianity is the religion of Babylon in pseudo-biblical garb. Babylon’s religion was invented to be a subtle counterfeit of the true way to God and to be very popular and pleasing to the soul (just as Alpha is popular and pleasing to the soul). The ‘spiritual’ king of Babylon is *Lucifer*,⁴⁹ and senior New Agers today – including Benjamin Crème – *admit* that their religion is Luciferian. Since every significant facet of the Alpha Course leans toward the New Age, the appalling implications are clear. (A less obvious, but similarly undeniable, result from this is that Alpha *cannot* safely be ‘adapted’, just as the religion of Babylon and Rome cannot safely be ‘adapted’.)

THE PROBLEM

We believe that the Lord God wanted us to communicate just how dangerous this

⁴⁷ Talk 13, Edn. 2.1.

⁴⁸ For New Agers, Aquarius represents the *spirit*, thus they would readily agree with Gumbel that we should ‘move on’ from being *Christ*-centered to ‘living in the **age** of [Aquarius] the **spirit**’.

⁴⁹ Isaiah 14:4-14, KJV.

program is. Readers must not imagine that many folks are being saved through Alpha. Of the *hundreds* of testimonies we have checked, only a handful show any of the biblical hallmarks of genuine conversion. Also, readers shouldn’t see Alpha as a passing fad, for it has already outlived most of the ‘new’ things invading the professing church over the last fifty years. And please don’t believe Alpha is harmless. It is deceiving the unsaved and is either: **(a)** turning them into false brothers who will persecute the remnant church – i.e. those of us who remain true to the whole Bible – or **(b)** making them very gospel-hardened. Either way, it is sending them to a tormented eternity. Likewise, it is deceiving many *believers* – not least by causing them to accept the One World Church and its Antichrist (2 Thess. 2:3-12), making them enemies of God and of His people. We need to act.

THE SOLUTION

It is one thing to recognize the true spirit behind Alpha. It is *another* to recognize how people can be rescued from its grip.

Some readers may be tempted to send this brief and uncompromising booklet to churches running Alpha, but we would **BEG** you not to do so. **You** have been prepared to read thus far either because you know – and *believe* – your Bible, or because you were already very skeptical about Alpha and you knew about the last days deceptions, or maybe because you are extraordinarily open to correction. None of this is true of Alpha’s devotees. The first couple of pages alone of this booklet would incense the vast majority

of those caught up in Alpha's deception – and would cause them to stop reading and harden their hearts rather than open up to you and to the help you can offer.

These folks are not only terribly deceived and (generally) *very* closed to correction, but most have been spiritually blinded such that they are effectively *unable* to discern the unvarnished truth when it is presented to them, as per 2 Thess. 2:11-12. Beyond even this, these sincere but deluded folks already have a worldview that, to them, is perfectly consistent and reasonable. Their 'gospel' even comes complete with remarkable manifestations – and various other 'signs and wonders' – to confirm it (seemingly) as the truth...

Furthermore, because the worldview to which they hold predicts a huge revival, which they suppose Alpha is helping to produce, the Course has now become a central part of their belief-system. These people would thus not have the slightest interest whatsoever in reading anything which criticized the program so strongly. Indeed, a friend of ours was terribly hurt by some women (actually members of a *remnant* ministry!) who were absolutely enraged that anyone could believe Alpha was flawed. These people were even angered merely by the idea that anyone would bother to evaluate the concerns that *other* folks had expressed about the program.

In the eyes of many, Alpha is a *really* wonderful evangelistic Course which is saving souls all over the world – and is

therefore patently a gift from God. How DARE we seek to check if Alpha is okay! (The Alpha spirit is the same false spirit behind Rome, Toronto, antisemitism and so on, and it causes equally vehement rage, even in the nicest people, when it is in danger of being exposed.)

Alpha supporters are usually unfamiliar with Scripture. They have certainly been taught an inconsistent – and thus false – interpretation of the Bible. Hence, if we are hasty in bringing correction, we will cause them not only *embarrassment* but also serious confusion – since they will know of no other foundation on which to stand. These people need to be offered an alternative *worldview* (i.e. the biblical one which says that the church will *not* be 'taking the nations for Christ' during the last days) **before** we let them know the truth about Alpha.

If a person firmly believes, as many do, that the Church is soon going to rule the world, it will be utterly incomprehensible to that person for anyone to claim that Alpha is doing the exact opposite and is actually leading Fellowships throughout the globe into *apostasy*. It would be like trying to claim that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Devil and then expecting to get a hearing. In other words, rescuing people from the false spirit and false teachings of the Alpha Course is a *tremendously* delicate process and needs both prayer and care...

Please see overleaf for a solution to this whole problem.

THE END

For the reasons above, we recommend obtaining our book – not least because abundant prayer and care was employed in its creation. It fully exposes Alpha, but it also provides the biblical answers to a very large number of possible objections. Thanks to the Lord God alone, our book is structured so as not to force people to pre-judge anything, and we have worked

extremely hard to ensure that it is written with grace and sensitivity.

A few of the current outlets for our book are listed below, but additional ordering details – along with electronic copies of this booklet – can be obtained from the ‘Better Than Rubies’ section of our web site (www.bayith.org). May the Lord God bless you for your love of the truth.

Bayith Ministries

Some ways you can obtain copies of *Alpha – the Unofficial Guide: Overview*

Americas	Europe	Australasia	Africa
Christ The Way 43120 Eastwood Square, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada Tel: +1 519 576 2600 ctwpub@yahoo.ca	St Matthew Publishing 24 Geldart Street, Cambridge, CB1 2LX, UK Tel: +44 1223 504871 PF.SMP@dial.pipex.com	CWM P.O. Box 353, Loch Sport, Victoria 3851, Australia Tel: +61 3 5146 0280 christian-witness.org	Discernment Ministries P.O. Box 2336, Krugersdorp 1740, S.A. diakonia@icon.co.za discernment-ministries.com
UnderstandThe Times P.O. Box 27239, Santa Ana, CA 92799, USA Tel: +1 800 689 1888 understandthetimes.org	B. McCall Barbour 28 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1ES, UK Tel/Fax: +44 131 225 4816	Margaret Godwin P.O. Box 112, Trafalgar, Victoria 3824, Australia Tel/Fax: +61 3 5633 2300 marg@moriel.org	Elijah Ministries P.O. Box 55468, Northlands 2116, Jo'burg, South Africa Tel: +27 11 788 5733

Closing note

You are most welcome to copy and distribute this booklet for non-profit purposes, but *only* in its entirety – and *only* to people who are definitely capable of coping with it all! Unfortunately, copying *parts* of this booklet has to be strictly prohibited. This limitation is made because, although the booklet you are holding was partly designed to inform sound believers about the Alpha Course, it was also written to be a vehicle for making our **book** known. We want those in apostasy to have a strong chance of rescue, and we honestly feel our book represents that. (Please note that we are not saying this for financial reasons – we receive no royalties from the book.) Eight man-years of work went into the volume and we believe the Lord has enabled the result to be not only a *comprehensive* assessment of Alpha, but also one which is actually able to rescue souls caught up in the program. Partial copying of the booklet you are holding would inevitably undermine a major purpose of it. **(Incidentally, we urge you to read the *Overview* volume yourself before passing it on, for it genuinely contains vital material rarely taught today, well beyond exposing Alpha.)** Very many thanks for your understanding – and for helping to get the whole, crucial truth known about this dreadful program.

James 5:19-20