

An Argument Against William P. Young's "The Shack":

Review by Barbara Carmack

You already know that this book is fiction, even though from the very beginning, it sucks the reader in with great emotional and descriptive writing. Although it's fiction, you must be reminded that the author, Mr. Young purports to be a Christian, and because of that you must see that what he does in the name of good reading is dishonoring to the GOD he says he serves. When Mr. Young espouses that his god says, **"Those who love me come from every system that exists...I have no desire to make them Christian..."**, he is really showing the reader that he is anything but a Christian.

When Jesus came to earth, He implemented what He and His Father had planned - to redeem man from the fallen state in which he found himself. Jesus came to bring freedom and institute a New Covenant for the repentant man - the "born again" experience (Galatians 5:1, John 3:3, **"truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of GOD."**). As you read this, may the eyes of your heart be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints (Ephesians 1:17-18).

1) The disrespect of GOD Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth

Page 82 - Mr. Young's description of God is a mockery to the GOD of the Bible: "...the door flew open, and he was looking directly into the face of a large beaming African-American woman." On **Page 86**, this one who represents God in Young's book goes on to say, **"Okay, we know who you are, but we should probably introduce ourselves to you. I am the housekeeper and cook. You may call me Elousia (a humanistic name that Young gave his god. In the Bible, the name of GOD revealed is ELohim in Genesis 1:2). William Young's god then tells Mack on page 86, "You don't have to call me Elousia; it is just a name. So, you can call me Papa."**

Page 90 - When Mack asked Papa what she was listening to, she remarks, **"West Coast Juice, a group called Diatribe and an album that isn't even out yet called Heart Trips. Trust me, it's not [religious]. More like Eurasian funk and blues with a message, and a great beat."** Now, remember, this is Young's take on God, in the form of a heavy-set black woman, who listens to humanistic funk and blues.

Papa goes on to say on **Page 91**, **"I listen to everything and not just the music itself, but the hearts behind it. Don't you remember your seminary classes? These kids ain't saying anything I haven't heard before; they're just full of vinegar and fizz (no mention of sin). Lots of anger and, I must say, with some good reason too. They're just some of my kids, showin' and spoutin' off. I am especially fond of those boys, you know."**

Papa puts no accountability on the actions of the young people she's talking about, telling Mack, **"they're just spoutin' off"**. This is a watering down of consequences of sinful lifestyles and actions that accompany rebellious attitudes.

Page 93 - Papa says, **"I am neither male nor female...to help you keep from falling back into your religious conditioning."** Mr. Young wants us to relinquish the traditional teaching of the Bible.

Page 99 - Papa tells Mack, **"When we three spoke ourself into human existence as the Son of God, we became fully human."** but John 4:24 tells us that **"GOD is Spirit and we must worship Him in Spirit and in truth."** Mr. Young has a very limited knowledge of Who GOD really is. He is and always will be the **"I AM that I AM"** in Exodus 3.

2) GOD's Word being belittled (remember, Jesus is the Word - John 1:14)

Page 65 - "In seminary he (Mack) had been taught that God had completely stopped any overt communication with moderns....God's voice had been reduced to paper, and even that paper had to be moderated and deciphered by the proper authorities and intellects. It seemed that direct communication with God was something exclusively for the ancients and uncivilized while educated Westerners' access to God was mediated and controlled by the intelligentsia. 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?"** So demeaning! Hebrews 4:12 tells us that **"GOD's Word is alive and active and sharper than any two-edged**

sword...able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart!"

Page 107 - Mack is remembering the Bible stories told him as being "the same old answers to the same old Bible story questions."

Page 109 - The Jesus in "The Shack" is clarifying Mack's remark by declaring that the Word (Jesus) created, but now that he is human he sees it all as a human, "I created it as the Word, before the Word became flesh. So even though I created this, I see it now as a human." The fallacy is in the fact that Jesus was transformed and is seated at the right hand of GOD the Father. He is no longer human as we know that term. When we die, we will have new bodies unlike the ones that we live in now. Jesus goes on in page 110 by saying, "Since I am human, we have much in common to begin with," taking away Jesus' deity.

3) The mockery of Holy Spirit

Page 87 - "And I am Sarayu, keeper of the gardens, among other things." Sarayu is from a Hindu Sanskrit.

Page 106 - "We have limited ourselves out of respect for you." Holy Spirit is never limited!

Page 110 - Mack asks Jesus if Sarayu is Holy Spirit and he replies, "Yes. She is Creativity; she is Action; she is the Breathing of Life; she is much more. She is my Spirit." It is all so trite and disrespectful of whom GOD and Holy Spirit are.

Page 131 - Sarayu, speaking to Mackenzie, "A created being can only take what already exists and from it fashion something different." This is in direct conflict with what GOD told Abraham, that he can call into being that which does not exist and GOD will bring it to pass, and what is explained in Romans 4:16-17, "It is by faith, that we are all certain to receive {the promise}, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham's, who believed in the GOD Who brings the dead back to life and Who creates and calls into being that which does not exist." We can, by faith, expect GOD to work in our lives bringing forth the super-natural into the natural. We do not have to tolerate "business as usual."

4) No Mention of Sin

Page 99 - Failing to call sin sin: "When Adam chose to go it on his own, as we knew he would, and everything got messed up."

Page 120 - Papa is saying to Mack, "I don't need to punish people for sin. Sin is its own punishment, devouring you from the inside. It's not my purpose to punish it; it's my joy to cure it." First of all, one does not cure sin; one does away with sin. Secondly, Hebrews 12:6-11, "For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives. It is for discipline that you endure; if GOD doesn't discipline you as He does all of His children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really His children at all. GOD's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in His holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening - it's painful! But after ward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way." This tells us that when we sin, as believers, there are consequences.

Page 135 - Sarayu, Young's holy spirit says to Mack, "It is you who determines good and evil." This is a lie because evil was determined when Lucifer fell from Heaven described in Isaiah 14:12.

Page 136 - Papa says to Mack, "Mackenzie, evil is a word we use to describe the absence of Good...."

People are so reticent of saying that evil is the work of the devil; Mr. Young's writings are such a cop out.

Derek Prince wrote in his book, "Blessings and Curses," "Included under the heading [of "Divination"] are false religions that claim supernatural revelation but contradict the Bible....once a standard is established as "straight", anything departing from that standard is crooked. Whether it varies by 1 degree or 90 degrees, it is crooked. Some of the subtlest deceptions are those that appear to differ only a little from the Bible."