

Counsel the Word

The Institute of Soteric Counseling

Editorial

By Lynda Allison Doty

We at ISC are absolutely thrilled with the response to the Institute of Soteric Counseling. We receive phone calls, emails, and letters every week from all parts of the country. There are many people hungry for the Word of God and for truth. The apostle Paul predicted that false teachers would come into the church. The apostle Peter (2 Peter 2) said that “many would follow their pernicious ways.”

I am alarmed as I observe so many of our churches inviting psychological principles into their midst. We should oppose the *religion* of psychology, called psychotherapy, which is not scientific in the least, and yet we have been lured into believing that it is.

As our students will attest, there are four primary myths of psychology. Let me briefly list them here, as described by Pam Peffer of Illinois: The first myth is that psychological counseling is science. The supposition is that since psychotherapy is “science,” it is truthful and objective—simply another acceptable means of understanding and helping humanity.

The second myth is that the best kind of counseling utilizes both psychology and the Bible [integrating the two]. Those psychologists who are also Christians generally claim that they are more

qualified to help people than persons untrained in psychology. The name put on this is “Christian psychology.”

The third myth is that people who experience mental/emotional/behavioral problems are mentally ill. They are supposedly psychologically sick and therefore need psychological therapy. The common argument is that the doctor treats the body, the psychologist treats the mind, and the minister deals strictly with spiritual things. Ministers are then supposedly unqualified to help people suffering from serious problems of living, unless they are psychologically trained.

The fourth myth is that professional psychological counseling produces greater results than other forms of help, such as that provided by family, friend or pastors. This promotes a further belief, that psychological counseling can be more effective in helping Christians than biblical counseling. There is not a shred of evidence to support this teaching.

We appreciate all of those who are diligently working toward certification. We look forward to the day when we will have soteric counselors in every state.

June 1, 2006

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The Source of Spiritual Healing

By J. R. Ensey

It is great comfort to know the true source of our help and strength: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1). Refuge, strength and help...a holy trinity that each of us will need at some time in the future.

As our culture gradually closes in around us, applying pressure like we have never known in the past, we will be looking for the refuge that is not found in therapy, the strength that is not experienced in drugs, and the help that isn't available in the spate of psychology books at Barnes and Noble.

How do we tap the true source of spiritual healing? Paul shares the open secret with the Ephesians, chapter 3, verses 14-21:

“For this reason...”

Paul explained in the preceding verses about the will of God being done in his life, even though it involved some suffering. He did not want them to be discouraged because of his problems (v. 13). People can easily become disillusioned if they don't think properly about the ebb and flow of life. They can even become depressed when they don't feel life has been fair. This is why he said,

“I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.”

Paul was aware that “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17). He knew the source of all healing—physical or spiritual.

“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.”

Glorious riches are abundant, plentiful, and sufficient. They come with strength. We usually call them by a single name: grace! The power flows

through His spirit into our inmost being where the real need is. How out of the will of God it would have been for him to advise them to find a certain mushroom or a particular root and chew it until their mind and mood was altered. Or consult a shaman who would examine a goat's liver in an attempt to discover why their problems were mounting. No... God's grace was sufficient. Paul had learned that lesson well. Grace and faith combine to maintain the presence of Christ in our hearts.

“And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fulness of God.”

A temporary feeling of defeat, a sense of personal loss, a questioning of circumstances—all are a part of every person's existence at times—can be balanced with a grasp of the continuing love of Christ. That level of love is incomprehensible for the natural mind, but it allows believers to be filled with God's fulness.

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

Our finite minds cannot comprehend the extent of God's abilities. We cannot imagine any sickness or weakness, either of mind or body, that is beyond the Great Physician to heal. His balm, described by Paul in these verses here—riches, power, strength, faith, love—if allowed to work uninhibited within us, will supply all of our needs.

God is calling for soteric counselors to minister to those who have lost their vision of His love and grace. Some are even now in a place where it is difficult to see God's hand at work in their lives (Job 23:8-10). The application of the Word of God is an eye-opener. It shines a light on God's grace. Mercy and the providence of God can be seen through the lens of the Word. When you need an answer from the Word, here is a prayer to pray: “Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law” (Psalm 119:18).

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There is healing and wholeness in faith, in grace, in the treasures of the Word. This is why Paul said, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16).

FYI

What will antidepressants do next?

Former All-Star Booked and Released - Former national league all-star relief pitcher Jeff Reardon was arrested on charges of robbing a jewelry store in Palm Beach Gardens, FL. "Reardon blamed medication for depression," police said. Reardon's attorney said he had been on antidepressants since his son's death in 2004. He has also been taking additional medication since surgery last week. "He wanted his fans to know this is something involved with his medications," his attorney said. "It was not him."

-*Houston Chronicle* 12/28/05, C-11

Pastor's wife and family pays dearly for man's depression

On 5/25/06 the news reports stunned us again with the story of Lanny Barnes of Covington, GA who drove into a group at a McDonald's restaurant, injuring four persons and killing a little 2-year old child. One of the injured persons was a pastor's wife. He has been charged with assault and murder.

"All indications are that he intentionally hit them," Assistant Police Chief Almond Turner said. Witnesses said the car went over a curb as the victims left the restaurant, hit them and the building before backing up and hitting them again, police said. The driver, Lanny Barnes, 36, was said by witnesses to have been smiling throughout the ordeal. Barnes' mother, Mary, said her son has battled mental illness. It will be interesting to discover whether he was on psychiatric medication at the time of the incident.

One of the injured persons was a pastor's wife.

Study estimates ADHD drugs send almost 3,100 to ERs

According to Linda A. Johnson, AP newswriter (5/25/06), the side effects and overdoses are stirring new debate over the drugs like Ritalin, Concerta and Adderall. Serious heart problems, including heart attacks and strokes, have been reported, plus a number of deaths. Thousands are sent to hospital emergency rooms every year.

Many doctors and counselors are strongly recommending that "black box" labeling be placed on drug packages as a warning. Dr. Steven Nissen, cardiology chief at the Cleveland Clinic, who had pressed for the warning, said, "ADHD drugs are powerful stimulants and inherently risky." He and other doctors say the drugs are being prescribed to some who don't need them. An FDA advisory panel voted 8-7 in favor of such a warning. The step was opposed by the heads of the American Psychiatric Association and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry saying that it would discourage use of the ADHD drugs. Surprise, surprise.

God, open the eyes of our Apostolic families. If an ADHD panel of secular observers can see the dangers, it looks like *we* should be able to see them!

Think—Speak—Act Biblically

Think Biblically

(Phil. 4:8; Ps. 23:1-6) We are to think biblically that God has promised to care for us in any situation, no matter how unsettling it may seem. Discipline your mind to honor and glorify God, to please Him in all situations. "Think" kind and tender thoughts toward the very person with whom you are or have been irritated. Focus your thoughts on solving the current problem (James 1:5; James 3:13-18).

Speak Biblically

(Ps. 51:1-4; James 5:16; 1 John 1:9; Phil. 3:13-14) We are to speak biblically, confess sins to the Lord and to those whom you have failed to love in a biblical manner. Don't talk about your past accomplishments, sorrows or defeats, hurts and pains but talk about the goodness of God in your life. Do

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not slander, gossip or use words that do not edify (Prov. 10:18; Eph. 4:29).

Act Biblically

(Col. 3:13; James 1:21) Forgive others readily as God has forgiven you. Meditate on Scriptures related to overcoming anger and bitterness to remove the root of the foul spirit within.

(Ps. 1:1) Identify all danger signals, such as situations, places and personal contacts that bring temptation.

(Matt. 5:23-24) Make amends for wrongdoing and seek reconciliation.

(1 Pet. 3:8-9) We are called to be a blessing especially to those who revile us.

From the *Biblical Counseling Manual*, by Adam Pulaski, Certified Nouthetic Counselor, <http://www.ecoin.net/bc>

FDA: Antipsychotic Drugs, Diabetes Linked

September 18, 2003 | Mark Jewell | AP

Federal regulators have asked the makers of a widely used class of six antipsychotic drugs to include labeling language about a possible link with diabetes, Eli Lilly & Co. said Wednesday.

Lilly's antipsychotic Zyprexa is the company's top selling drug, accounting for about one-third of the firm's sales. It is also the category's top seller.

The Food and Drug Administration's request, made in a letter received this week by the drugs' producers, follows several recent studies exploring a possible diabetes link. Label warnings already have been required for some of the drugs overseas.

The FDA's labeling request "levels the playing field among all atypical antipsychotics" in the debate about a possible diabetes link, said analyst Robert Hazlett of SunTrust Robinson Humphrey.

U.S. sales of the six leading antipsychotics totaled \$5.4 billion in the 12-month period ended Aug. 31, with 22.7 million prescriptions written, according to NDCHealth, a health care research company. Zyprexa was the top seller, with nearly \$2.4 billion in U.S. sales.

FROM OUR STUDENTS:

Prior to taking the *Christian Counseling from Scripture* course, I struggled with believing that the solutions to all my problems could truly be found in the Word of God. Now that I have taken the course, it has helped me in situations that have arisen. It has helped me know that God does have an answer for every problem that we face, no matter how simple or complex it is.

One thing that I have struggled with is not understanding why certain things have taken place in my life. I was praying one evening, "Lord, I just don't understand!" God answered me, and told me that the peace of God passes all understanding. I knew I had read this scripture before but could not remember where it was located. Since I did not have a Bible handy, I just started praying that God would please give me that peace because I did not understand. Later, I looked up this scripture, in Philippians 4:7 *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.* I thought how beautiful this was because no matter what comes along, God's peace will pass all my understanding or lack thereof, and He will keep my heart and my mind through Him. Yes, my answers are all found in the Word of God!

--Denise Lee, South Carolina

NEW INSTRUCTORS!

Welcome to our newest Instructors! ISC is delighted to announce that we now have two new instructors. These precious ladies have completed the Christian Counseling from Scripture course and are now willing to assist in grading assignments coming in from our students. They will be assigned their own students, and our past association with them tells us they will do a wonderful job.

Students using "snail mail" will be assigned to Denene Pelkey. Students using email will be assigned to Juli Kimbley. Sis Pelkey lives in Massachusetts and is an avid promoter of ISC principles and practices. Sister Kimbley lives in California, has homeschooled five children, and is a staunch believer in the principles of soteria counseling.

Anne Richardson from New Brunswick, Canada, has been assisting all along in the grading process, also, and we appreciate all the help she is giving us. Thank you, Anne, Juli, and Denene! And may God bless you richly for the work you are doing for the Kingdom!

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FLASH NEWS:

J.R.ENSEY ministered soteric counseling principles at the PUSH Singles Conference in West Monroe, LA. the weekend of May 27.

DENENE PELKEY set up a table at her district's Ladies Conference. Here is her report: "It was a great success. People kept coming up to me and saying, 'I've been looking for something like this,' so I was able to hand out all the literature I brought. It was awesome to share my testimony of how much this course helped me to help others. So we will see the results of it. Praise God for He is worthy of all the glory."

LYNDA ALLISON DOTY has been ministering soteric counseling principles at the United Pentecostal Church in Rock Hill, SC. for the past four months, with one more month to go.

Let us know YOUR news! Send to counselor@soteric.org

Special THANKS! to our own webmaster, Brenda Story of Rolla, MO. Brenda, also a graduate of *Christian Counseling from Scripture*, is a real jewel—talented and easy to work with. You can tell her heart is in this work.

Counseling from Scripture Course



"Christian Counseling from Scripture"

An alternative to the psychological way! This course is a major part of the certification process for those who wish to become soteric counselors ministering to troubled individuals in the interest of spiritual wholeness. www.soteric.org

"I have enjoyed and appreciated your *Christian Counseling from Scripture* a great deal. It fills the gap I have encountered in pastoring." --ID

"*Christian Counseling from Scripture* is designed to take back the sacred ground that the church has lost (or, given up) over the past decades. The myth of psychology is exposed for what it really is. Well-documented material is offered to bring out this truth. Every pastor and church leader should take this course as soon as possible. No more sacred

ground should be given up." --SC

"This course should be a part of every District's requirements for licensing!" --CA

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The 5th Annual ISC Training Conference!

This year our conference will be held

October 26, 27, 2006.

Make Reservations Today!! Rates are \$62.95 per night. Tell them you are with ISC or Advance Ministries.



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miles from Interstate 45 and Interstate 59. The address is 15321 Vantage Parkway East, Houston, TX 77032. Superior full-service accommodations include **free airport shuttle, free deluxe continental breakfast, free local calls, and fitness center and outdoor pool with hot tub.** This Houston hotel provides business travelers with modern amenities like wireless **high-speed Internet access, business center** and meeting room. In addition to standard amenities, every suite comes equipped with microwaves, refrigerators, separate living rooms and bedroom. Two-room Suites and Whirlpool Suites are available.



At the 2005 ISC Training Conference, Pastor Patrick Hancock of Taylorville, IL receives his Certification as a soteric counselor. "Congratulations, Brother Hancock!"

The Institute of Soteric
Counseling

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The 5th Annual ISC Training Conference will be
held

October 26, 27, 2006.

Contact Lynda Doty at
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