

*What are the "Ascended Masters" and how should a Christian view this topic?*

Ascended Masters are part of the New Age movement who are said to live on an astral plane as non-physical entities beyond time and space. They are supposed to be more spiritually aware than others and have the ability to channel truths by occult techniques.

Regarding these so-called masters, John MacArthur wrote:

...The ascended masters, they call themselves, these gurus, these mystics, these people who are the enlightened in the religious world. Well, they were around in [the apostle] John's day. They were sort of what we know as pre-Gnostics. Gnostic is something that came in a couple of centuries later and Gnostic comes from *gnosis*, *to know*. They were in the know. They had the secret knowledge. Remnants of the Gnostic mentality is found in modern New Age and modern philosophy, psychology, even shows up in places like the Masons, secret knowledge. It's in all kinds of religions. ...[T]here were people in John's day who thought they had the secret knowledge, the transcendent knowledge. They had elevated themselves above the hoi-polloi, above the crowd, above the motley people who were the riff-raff of life. It was really a system of salvation by knowledge and it was a self-knowing. They had a system of self-salvation through attaining knowledge.<sup>1</sup>

Man is not in need of more knowledge (Gen. 3:5). He is in need of a Savior (Mt 1:21). Knowledge puffs up (1 Cor. 8:1). Wisdom is given to believers by: God (Eph. 1:17), Christ (Luke 21:15) and his Spirit (1 Cor. 12:8).

Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Jn 14:6. He came into Israel legally (Jn 10:1–5) as foretold in the scriptures (Is. 7:14). His wisdom was: predicted (Is. 11:1, 2), realized (Luke 2:52) and displayed (Matt. 13:54). It is available to all men who trust in him (1 Cor. 1:30). He is wisdom personified.

Anyone who attempts to come to him or to wisdom in another way is a thief and a robber (Jn 10:1). Ascended Masters are destitute of truth (1 Ti 6:3-5). Gnostics, in all their modern forms, were expected at Christ's return (2 Ti 4:3,4). God does not use them to share his wisdom. In fact, the apostle Paul wrote that God has chosen "not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;" rather, he "has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise." 1 Co 1:26-17.

John wrote, "You don't need anyone to teach you what is true." 1 Jn 2:27b. Ascended Masters have nothing to offer a bible-believing Christian. Paul wrote of these types, "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools (Ro 1:22a)." Men must humble themselves before the Lord; or, they are warned that they will be given up to vile affections by God (v. 26a). Adrian Rogers said, "'The opposite of truth is not error. It is sin.'" Ro 1:18.

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<sup>1</sup> Grace to You: Certainty of Christian Assurance, The Part 1 | 1 John 2:3 | Code: 62-11

