

I have a friend who writes about theosophy. I was a very liberal sort of Christian and I even let him do my birth chart. Will God forgive me?

The apostle John said, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 Jn 1:8–9)."

Believers must discern truth from error (Php 1:9-10). There are false teachers (2 Pe 2:1). Often, they try to disguise themselves as ministers of light (1 Co 11:14). The apostle Paul told Timothy to "guard the treasure" which had been entrusted to him (2 Ti 1:14). Jude said, "Contend" for the faith (Jud 1:3).

Regarding the origins of Theosophy Brooks Alexander, Marcia Montenegro, Eric Pement and Marcelo Souza wrote:

Theosophy (from *theosophos*, "one wise about God" or "divine wisdom") is an esoteric philosophy and movement tracing its modern origin to Helena P. Blavatsky (1831-1891), also known as "Madame Blavatsky" or HPB. In 1875 she founded the Theosophical Society in New York with Henry Steel Olcott (1832-1907). Four years later, the Society moved to India where it grew quickly, eventually becoming the fountainhead of the "ancient wisdom" doctrine within Western occultism.

Some key beliefs include:

... "Ancient wisdom" teachings hold that the world's religions (Greek, Egyptian, Christian, gnostic, Buddhist, etc.) originally taught the same core truths, but were corrupted by the development of organized religion. The oldest scriptures (the Hindu Vedas) contain the kernel truths and the others carry parts of this core: monism, reincarnation, yoga, evolution of consciousness, psychic powers, etc.

Invisible to us, the evolutionary progress of Earth has been directed for thousands of years by a seventiered hierarchy of Masters or superior beings. Some were originally human, died, and now "Ascended Masters" (also known as the "Great White Brotherhood"); others are still alive; some never had human embodiment. The Masters reveal themselves to a few select souls, either in remote parts of the world (China, Tibet) or through psychic communication, giving guidance to those who are prepared for it. Blavatsky claimed communication with several of these so-called Masters, as did most of her immediate successors. Jesus is considered the fifth incarnation in the Arya race of the Christ, or supreme "World Teacher." Theosophy rejects Jesus' atonement and states that man brings about his own salvation through repeated incarnations; every human being is a potential "Christ."¹

Occultic practices are forbidden (Deut 18:10, 14, 1 Sa 15:23, 2 Ki 21:6, 2 Chron 33:6, Mic 5:12, Nah 3:3-4, Ga 5:19-21).

¹ Alexander, Brooks; Montenegro, Marcia; Pement, Eric; Souza, Marcelo. "Christianity, Cults & the Occult." 2006. *Rose Publishing Inc.*, www.rose-publishing.com.

Christians can judge themselves so that God will not have to (1 Co 11:31). When one missteps, he can pray (Jer 10:24) and correct his error (2 Ti 3:16). Restoration with the Lord restores joy (Jb 5:17) and brings rest (Pr 29:17). Rejoice in God's lovingkindness (Ps 63:3, 69:16).