

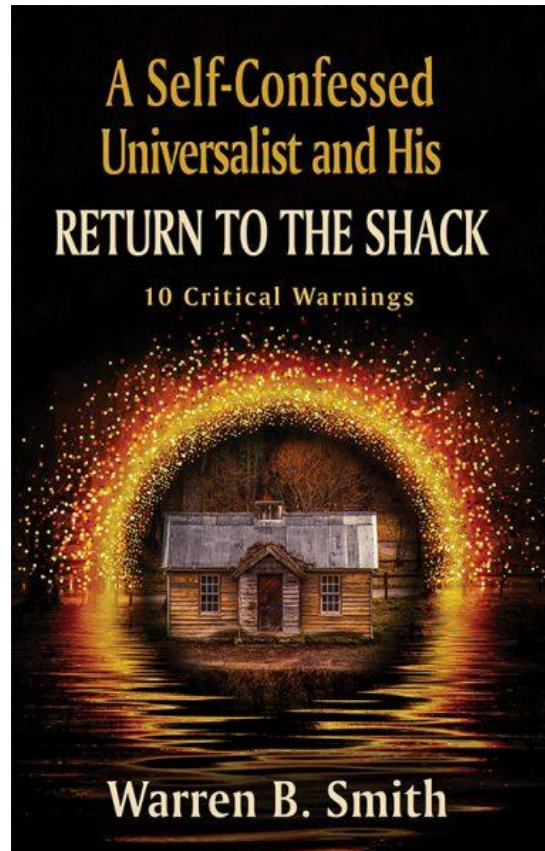
Lighthouse Trails Editors - October 6, 2026

A Self-Confessed Universalist and His RETURN TO THE SHACK (10 Critical Warnings)

Lighthouse Trails is pleased to release our latest topical booklet, *A Self-Confessed Universalist and His Return to the Shack* (10 Critical Warnings) by Warren B. Smith. The booklet is 18 pages long and sells for \$1.95 for single copies. Quantity discounts are available. Our booklets are designed to give away to others or for your own personal use. Below is the content of this new booklet. To order copies of *A Self-Confessed Universalist and His Return to the Shack* in booklet format, [click here](#).

Publisher's Notes: 1) Today, October 6th, William Paul Young's new book, *Return to the Shack*, was released. Upon request to the publishers, Lighthouse Trails obtained a review copy of the book prior to this date, and our writing team was able to read the book ahead of time, which enabled this booklet to be completed by today. 2)

Shortly before this booklet went to press, Warren Smith learned of the failed execution of Christa Pike at the Riverbend prison in Tennessee. He has referenced that event in this booklet because of the indirect connection to Young and his new book.



A SELF-CONFESSED UNIVERSALIST AND HIS RETURN TO THE SHACK

(A review of *Return to the Shack* and the teachings of William Paul Young)

By Warren B. Smith

One of the marvels about writing fiction is that you can take all sorts of license that you cannot in nonfiction.¹ —Wm. Paul Young

The Shack is back! And with Young's new book *Return to the Shack*, so is the heresy and deception. Filled with drama and emotion, *Return to the Shack* is already a best-selling novel—even though it was just released.*

With regard to the quote above, taking “all sorts of license” in creating a work of fiction is *exactly* what Wm. Paul Young did in his best-selling novel *The Shack*. And he continues to do so in his 2026 book, *Return to the Shack*. But there is nothing commendable about taking unwarranted license to write “Christian” novels that play upon one's emotions to make the case for a “new” kind of Christianity that is no Christianity at all.

On the surface, *Return to the Shack* is a story about the power of forgiveness and the need to abolish capital punishment. The plot evolves as its main character, Mackenzie Allen Phillips, meets with his daughter's killer who is awaiting execution in a Nashville prison.

In referring to the novel, Young writes, “Hopefully, what I have written may at least spark many wonderful conversations.”²

However, in any “conversations” about Young's new book, it would be easy to only focus on the issues of forgiveness and capital punishment. That's especially likely when you consider that just days before *Return to the Shack*'s release, the botched execution of convicted murderer Christa Pike occurred at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution in Nashville, the very same prison where *Return to the Shack* takes place. Such a “coincidence” will no doubt give a publicity boost to Young and his new book, but “conversations” about *Return to the Shack* will almost for sure be missing the crucial issue that revolves around a single sentence presented at the end of *Return to the Shack*. After all of the story's tears and drama, and with his unsuspecting readers being open and vulnerable to suggestion, Young drops his heretical New Age bomb. Quoting his friend C. Baxter Kruger, Young writes:

The recognition of the sacred presence of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in every person, place and event, is the beginning of Wisdom.³

By stating that God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are “in” every person and that this understanding is “the beginning of wisdom,” Young would have his readers believe this false teaching is true. However, this is the same foundational lie that is at the very heart of the New Age movement. It is completely contrary to the Bible, which states that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Proverbs 9:10), *not* Young and Kruger's New Age perversion of that important Bible verse. It seems obvious these men have no fear of the Lord as they put their own chosen words in the mouths of whomever they choose—whether that be God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit—or their next door neighbor. The following

verses are just a few of the many in the Bible that show that the Holy Spirit is not “in” everyone—but is a “gift” *given* to those who believe in and follow the Lord:

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? (Luke 11:13)

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:38)

And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. (Acts 5:32)

This booklet is divided into ten critical warnings that address Wm. Paul Young’s effort to introduce false New Age doctrine into the world and into the church.

—10 Critical Warnings—

1. Young Endorses Universal Salvation

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name [Jesus Christ] under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)

In his book, *Lies We Believe About God*, Young describes himself as a universalist—one who believes in universal salvation. In fact, he states that one of the “lies” people believe about God is to tell someone, “You need to get saved.”⁴ In that book, Young asks himself two rhetorical questions: “Are you suggesting that everyone is saved? That you believe in universal salvation?”⁵ He answers, “That is exactly what I am saying!”⁶ Young goes on to state the basis for his belief that all are saved when he says, “every single human being is in Christ” and “Christ is in them.”⁷

However, the Bible does *not* teach that Christ is “in” everyone—but the New Age *does*. The following Bible verses contradict Young’s “Christ in everyone” false teaching:

[E]very man at his best state is altogether vanity. (Psalm 39:5)

But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man. (John 2:24-25)

Shall a man make gods unto himself, and they are no gods? (Jeremiah 16:20)

Put them in fear, O Lord: that the nations may know themselves to be but men. (Psalm 9:20)

The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. Therefore let no man glory in men. (1 Corinthians 3:20-21)

And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted. (Matthew 23:12)

Thus saith the Lord God; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God. (Ezekiel 28:2)

The Bible is very clear that the Trinity is not “in” everyone and everything as Young and Kruger contend.

Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man. (Romans 1:22-23)

2.Young’s “Jesus” Teaches God is “in” everything

For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him. (2 Corinthians 11:4)

In his first book, *The Shack*, Wm. Paul Young puts *the* foundational teaching of the New Age movement—God is “in” everything—right in the mouth of “Jesus” himself. His “Jesus” states:

God, who is the ground of all being, dwells in, around, and through all things.⁸

This false New Age teaching contends that because God is “in” everything, all creation is divinely connected—therefore, “We Are All One.”⁹ And because we are allegedly all “One,” God is not *separate* from His creation. Because of this false contention, *Oneness*—God “in” all things—becomes the New Worldview. However, most people reading *The Shack* don’t recognize Young’s “God in everything” New Age lie. But this heretical utterance from the mouth of Young’s “Jesus” makes it obvious that *The Shack*’s “Jesus” is a false Jesus—“another Jesus”—a “Jesus” who is not the true biblical Jesus Christ. It should also be noted that Young identifies his “Jesus” only as “Jesus” but *never* as Jesus Christ. In fact, the word “Christ” cannot be found in either *The Shack* or *Return to the Shack* stories. Young has the wherewithal to name the family cat Judas (in *The Shack*), but he never refers to his “Jesus” as Jesus Christ in his novels. And this is because Young’s “Jesus” is not the true Jesus Christ.

3.Young and His New Age Leaven

Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. (Galatians 5:7-9)

Before anyone is too quick to dismiss the spiritual danger of Wm. Paul Young's New Age leaven, the Bible reminds us that even a *little* leaven can leaven the whole lump. Young's New Age leaven, if popularly accepted, could leaven the church into a deceptive paradigm shift and total apostasy. Most people don't realize that it took very little to sink the mighty *Titanic*, and it would also take very *little* to sink an unsuspecting and undiscerning church.

The Titanic and the Church*

After the *Titanic* sank, it was generally believed the iceberg had sliced a 300-foot-long gash piercing the ship's hull. However, a decade after the *Titanic* was finally located in 1985, a scientific expedition found out what really happened. The title of an April 8, 1997 *New York Times* article read—"Toppling Theories, Scientists Find 6 Slits, Not Big Gash, Sank *Titanic*." The account that followed revealed that the shipwreck was not the result of the 300-foot-long gash previously theorized. Rather, it described how an international team of scientists, using sound waves to penetrate the mud covering much of the ship's hull, discovered the damaged area to be no more than "12-13 square feet." Just like a little leaven can leaven the whole lump, it was concluded that it only took "a series of six thin openings" totaling less than the size of "two sidewalk squares" to sink the *Titanic* in less than three hours.¹⁰

At the time of its sailing, it was almost inconceivable that the "unsinkable" *Titanic* could be shipwrecked at all, much less by an area no larger than the size of a refrigerator door—"two sidewalk squares." Thus, history now records that it took only a little leaven to sink the biggest, grandest ship of its time. In similar fashion, it will only take a little leaven—like the false New Age/New Gospel teaching that God is "in" everyone and everything—to propel the church into a New Age/New Worldview/New World Religion. *Titanic* author and researcher Walter Lord wrote the following in his book *The Night Lives On*:

Just 20 minutes short of midnight, April 14, 1912, the great new White Star Liner *Titanic*, making her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York, had a rendezvous with ice in the calm, dark waters of the North Atlantic. She brushed the berg so gently that many on board didn't notice it, but so lethally that she was instantly doomed.¹¹

And so it is with today's church. It has already brushed up against the "God in everything" iceberg "so gently"—like in *The Shack* novels—that most people haven't even noticed, but "so lethally" that it can shipwreck the faith of those who do not recognize it, renounce it, and flee from it.

Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck. (1 Timothy 1:19)

4. Young and "Oneness" vs. "Separation"

Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices. (2 Corinthians 2:11)

From a New Age perspective, “Oneness” vs. “Separation”¹² juxtaposes two prevailing but opposing worldviews. “Oneness” (God is “in” everything) is described by New Agers—and New Age sympathizers like Wm. Paul Young and C. Baxter Kruger—as the loving and spiritually correct worldview that will produce global unity, world peace, and a happy humanity. Contrarily, “Separation” (God is *not* “in” everything) is also described by New Agers—and people like Young and Kruger—as a hateful, spiritually divisive worldview that prevents global unity, prevents world peace, and produces a fearful unhappy humanity.

As seen in the following quotes, the false New Age Christ makes his case for “Oneness” as opposed to “Separation.” At the same time, this false Christ goes on to threaten those who are into “Separation”—those who do not believe that God is “in” everyone and everything. In other words, biblical Christians, and any others who believe that God and His creation are *separate* from each other and *not* One, are disparagingly referred to as being into “Separation.” Thus, “Separation” is just a very diabolical way of referring to biblical Christians. The channeled New Age Christ states:

The recognition of God is the recognition of yourself. There is no separation of God and His creation.¹³ (i.e., God is “in” everything.)

The [O]neness of the Creator and the creation is your wholeness, your sanity and your limitless power.¹⁴ (i.e., God is “in” everything.)

Let us together show the world: that the need for war is past; that the instinct of man is to live and to love; that hatred is begotten of separation.¹⁵ (i.e., Hatred originates with biblical Christians.)

I shall drive from this Earth forever the curse of hatred, the sin of separation.¹⁶ (i.e., I will drive all biblical Christians from this Earth.)

The mind can make the belief of separation very real and very fearful, and this belief is the “devil.”¹⁷ (i.e., Those who do not believe that “God is in everything” are of the devil.)

It is utterly perverse that the words “separation” and “separate” are imbued with such evil connotations, particularly in regard to Christians who believe in the literal truth of the Bible. God is God, and His creation *is* definitely separate from Him.

Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man’s sake. (Luke 6:22)

5. Young and Kruger's "Lie of Separation"

Trinity Broadcasting Network televised a twenty-part *Shack* series featuring Wm. Paul Young called *Restoring The Shack*. On the March 12th, 2017 fifth episode, Wm. Paul Young used the same spiritual terminology that agrees with and supports the New Age *Doctrine of Oneness vs. Separation*. With a scenic Montana backdrop, Young made his case for what he calls the "Lie of Separation" by recounting what his friend and fellow New Age sympathizer C. Baxter Kruger claimed to be shown in a vision from the Lord. Young explained:

And Baxter had a visual, and he was looking at this massive mountain range, and he could see a beaver dam that was big enough to block the entire Mississippi—massive—and he asked the Lord, "What is that?"

And he heard the response inside his heart, "That is the lies of pastors and theologians and the institutional church system that has been damming up the rivers of living water in the western world."

And Baxter was looking at the very bottom where these huge monster redwoods [lay]—and there was one at the center of the bottom, and Baxter said, "What is *that*?"

And he heard, "*That* Baxter is *the Lie of Separation*. The western world has convinced itself that it has separated itself from God. There has never been separation. That is absolutely a myth. You take that one out, and the whole beaver dam will start to crumble." Because for a lot of us, the gospel was about separation. That was the assumption.¹⁸

Incredibly, Young was telling his countless TBN viewers that this vision came to Kruger directly from the Lord. He was saying God Himself told Kruger it has been this "Lie of Separation" that has undermined the "true" gospel of "Oneness." It is this "lie" that is "damming up the living waters in the western world." Yet this "Lie of Separation" is *exactly* what New Age leaders and their channeled New Age teachings are presenting.

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. (2 Peter 2:1)

6. Young: His Theology Is Wrapped in a Story

Many *Shack* enthusiasts tell Wm. Paul Young's detractors that his book is "*just a novel*." However, in Young's foreword to C. Baxter Kruger's book *The Shack Revisited*, Young corrects any misunderstanding that *The Shack* is "*just a novel*." He writes:

Please don't misunderstand me; *The Shack* is theology. But it is theology wrapped in story.¹⁹

If you want to understand better the perspectives and theology that frame *The Shack*, this book [*The Shack Revisited*] is for you. Baxter has taken on the incredible task of exploring the nature and character of the God who met me in my own shack.²⁰

What becomes clear is that Young's theology is a combined universalist *and* New Age theology. His *Shack* novels are nothing more than what the Bible refers to as "cunningly devised fables."

For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. (2 Peter 1:16)

7. Young's "Conversations with God"

Wm. Paul Young made some interesting comments on his personal blog back in August 2007. He explained that *The Shack* is a story, but it is a story based on "real" conversations that he was "mostly" having with God. However, the question necessarily arises, just what "God" was he listening to? Young writes:

Remember, I am thinking about writing this for my kids, so I am searching for a good vehicle to communicate through. I figure a good story would be great . . . but I didn't have one. So I started with what I did have . . . conversations. So, off and on, for about three months I wrote down conversations; *conversations that I was having with God mostly*, but which often included friends or family.²¹ (emphasis added)

Is the story "real"? The story is fiction. I made it up. Now, having said that, I will add that the emotional pain with all its intensity and the process that tears into Mack's heart and soul are very real. I have my "shack," a place I had to go through to find healing. I have my Great Sadness . . . that is all real. And the conversations are very real and true. . . .

So is the story true? The pain, the loss, the grief, the process, the conversations, the questions, the anger, the longing, the secrets, the lies, the forgiveness . . . all real, all true.²²

Somehow, Young's readers are supposed to believe that in these "conversations" he was allegedly having with God, his "God" conveyed the false New Age teaching that God is "in" everyone and everything. The Bible warns that there will be great deception in the last days—and Young's *Shack* books are an important part of this ever-growing deception.

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils. (1 Timothy 4:1)

8.Young's "Beautiful Heresy"

The following material in this section is excerpted from a booklet that I wrote in 2017 titled *Shack Theology*:

In a February 16, 2008 post on a blog called "Christian Universalism: The Beautiful Heresy," an avowed "friend" of Paul Young corroborates Young's 2007 blog post about his conversations with God. Her tongue-in-cheek positive reference to "Christian Universalism" as a "Beautiful Heresy" is reminiscent of New Age author Marilyn Ferguson favorably calling the New Age teaching of "God in everyone" a "great heretical idea."

Young's friend describes how the conversations Young's main character, Mack, has with "God" in *The Shack* are "real conversations" that Young actually had with God. She reveals how these conversations "revolutionized" Young, his family, and friends such as herself. She says that the "radically dangerous" teachings that Young put in his novel have become her new "systematic theology," and *The Shack* is her new "systematic theology handbook." The following are her exact words and punctuation as they were originally posted on the Christian Universalism blog (italics are mine):

I know the author well—a personal friend. (Our whole house church devoured it [*The Shack*] last summer, and Paul came to our home to discuss it—WONDERFUL time!) *The conversations that "Mack" has with God, are real conversations that Paul Young had with God . . . and they revolutionized him, his family, and friends (Paul had a very traumatic past, raised by missionary parents, who left him in the care of the stone-age Dani tribe, while they did "God's work." He was abused by them [the Dani tribe], in the process—and there were other tragedies in his life, later on. When he was a broken mess, God began to speak to him).* He wrote this story (rather than a "sermon") to give the real conversations context—and because Jesus also used simple stories to engage our hearts, even by-passing our objective brains, in order to have His message take root in our hearts, and grow. . . .

I had already come to believe all the "radically dangerous" teachings within this book—so it mostly confirmed what I already believed. But, it most definitely highlighted the reality that I don't yet KNOW (KNOW!) how much God loves me. I want the relationship with God that I see in Paul Young's life. . . . This was the first book that I read strait [*sic*]through 4 times. First to absorb it. Secondly, to underline. Third to highlight. Fourth, to put "headers" on the top of each page, so that I could find certain passages again. It's become my new "systematic theology" handbook.²³

Apparently, Young was originally going to call his book *Conversations with God*, but he discovered someone else had already written a book by that name. What irony! The book

he referred to was a best-seller written by New Age channeler Neale Donald Walsch who received that same heretical “Oneness” teaching that “God is in everyone and everything” in his own purported conversations with “God.”²⁴

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

9. “I want to be more like Oprah”

Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets. (Luke 6:26)

Oprah Winfrey interviewed *Shack* author Wm. Paul Young on July 9, 2017 on her Super Soul Sunday program broadcast on her OWN television network. Young and Oprah were like two peas in a pod as they seemed to mutually marvel at the other’s spiritual insights. At one point in their conversation, Young answered his own rhetorical question regarding where Jesus dwells. He stated that “Jesus dwells in our hearts.” Later, on his personal blog, Young wrote—“I want to be more like Oprah.”²⁵

With Oprah having done as much as anyone in the last forty years to publicly promote and monumentally further New Age occultism, Young’s open adulation of this New Age leader was very telling. For him to identify with a woman who has introduced and endorsed so many false New Age teachings is a very sad statement on where Wm. Paul Young is spiritually. Young says he is a Christian but only if the definition of “Christian” fits in with his own heretical beliefs.²⁶ Clearly, his “God in everything” “Oneness” theology redefines what it means to be a Christian. One thing is for sure, a biblical Christian would not want to be spiritually yoked with a New Age leader like Oprah Winfrey.

Oprah is not the only New Age influencer with whom Wm. Paul Young has yoked himself. For a number of years now, Young has shown great affinity and has collaborated with New Age sympathizing panentheistic Roman Catholic priest Richard Rohr. For example, Young wrote the foreword to Rohr’s 2017 book, *The Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation* (where Rohr says that God is “indwelling . . . in all things”²⁷); and on at least two occasions, Young was a featured speaker at Rohr’s New Age-oriented Center for Action and Contemplation.²⁸

Richard Rohr, like Wm. Paul Young, sounds just like Oprah. The following quote by Rohr is just a small sampling of his “God-in-everything” beliefs:

God's hope for humanity is that one day we will all recognize that the divine dwelling place is all of creation. Christ comes again whenever we see that matter and spirit co-exist. This truly deserves to be called good news.²⁹ (emphasis added)

On Rohr's website, he has an article titled, "The Cosmic Christ," which is his description of a "christ consciousness" that he says indwells every person.³⁰ Rohr also wrote a book titled *The Universal Christ*, which further amplifies his belief that God is in everything and everyone. Rohr, like Oprah Winfrey, is a very popular and very deceived New Age advocate and teacher.

By yoking himself with New Age advocates like Oprah Winfrey and Richard Rohr, Wm. Paul Young clearly demonstrates that he himself is a sadly misled New Age teacher.

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? (2 Corinthians 6:14)

10.Shack Therapy for Young's "Great Sadness"

Wm. Paul Young is very open about the traumatic abuse he suffered as a child—what he calls the "Great Sadness" that pervaded his life. He has incorporated many of his own personal feelings into the story lines of both of his *Shack* books. He has described how he went to his own "inner shack" for the refuge and healing he needed so badly. And it was there that he claims to have met God and had "real" conversations with him.

Today, Young believes he got significant healing from this "God." He shares what he experienced through his books, podcasts, public appearances, and his special TBN series. However, much of what he and his friend C. Baxter Kruger share is unbiblical and totally New Age.

Like so many of us who went to the "God" and "Jesus" of the New Age movement for our spiritual growth and healing, Young seems to have been similarly deceived. Unaware of, or simply ignoring the Bible's warnings about seducing spirits and their false teachings, many of us were seduced by our spiritual experiences, channeled readings, and *alleged* conversations with God. And what many of us came to eventually learn is that the Holy Bible is full of holy warnings about an unholy Spiritual Adversary.

The real "Great Sadness," I believe, is that Young's very subjective and emotional novels are leading people astray by what his house church friend called the "radical teachings" of his "Beautiful Heresy." The problem is that his "Beautiful Heresy" is sounding more and more New Age as he leads countless people astray through his deceptive novels.

What becomes apparent is that Wm. Paul Young and C. Baxter Kruger are point men for a “new” Christianity that would fit right into a New World Religion that says you can be a Buddhist, a Hindu, a Muslim, a Christian, or whatever you want to identify with—as long as you subscribe to God “in” everything “Oneness” and that you see “Separation” as a lie.

Wm. Paul Young and C. Baxter Kruger would be wise to reconsider what they are calling spiritual wisdom when they say, “The recognition of the sacred presence of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in every person, place and event, is the beginning of Wisdom.” Otherwise, they will find themselves standing in front of the Lord one day having to account for all the precious souls they deceived and misled.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:10)

Conclusion

If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do? (Psalm 11:3)

One does not usually expect a “shack” to be built on a strong foundation—and Wm. Paul Young’s two *Shack* books definitely are not. His “God in everyone and everything” false teaching is foundational to both of his *Shack* books. But they are more than just Young’s false teachings—they are the foundational false teachings of the New Age movement and the coming of the ultimate false Christ—Antichrist.

Return to the Shack’s focus on forgiveness and the death penalty provides a smokescreen for Young’s ongoing effort to instill the heretical “God in everyone” teaching into the unsuspecting minds of *Shack* readers. Young admits that both of his *Shack* novels are “theology wrapped in a story.” However, what most readers never recognize is that his foundational theology is a universalistic/New Age theology cleverly wrapped in a cunningly devised story (2 Peter 1:16). As pointed out in this booklet, Young had the audacity to put his God “in” everyone and everything false teaching right in the mouth of *The Shack*’s “Jesus.” In this second *Shack* book, *Return to the Shack*, he presents this same false teaching in an even broader way. He concludes his novel by quoting his friend C. Baxter Kruger stating that the whole Trinity can be found in each and every person everywhere. And Young has stated that it would be a “lie” to tell anyone they need to get saved because they already have Christ and the rest of the Trinity dwelling within them.

When the real Jesus—not Young’s “Jesus”—was asked what would be the sign of His return and the end of the world, He said, “Take heed that no man deceive you” (Matthew 24:4). He specifically warned not to be deceived by false Christs—like the “Christ” that Young says is

already “in” everyone. The Bible is clear that as the true Christ’s return draws near, things will get worse and worse, not better and better.

But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. (2 Timothy 3:13)

The Book of Revelation, given by Jesus Christ to the apostle John, is prophecy—it’s *going to happen* (Revelation 1:3). Things are moving rapidly, and all the deceptive pieces are being readied and put into place. Antichrist is well on his way. Men’s “souls” are being *merchandised* (Revelation 18:12-13), and all nations are in the process of being deceived by sorcery (Revelation 18:23)—and cunningly devised fables like *The Shack* and *Return to the Shack*.

And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the Lord. (Jeremiah 9:3)

To order copies of *A Self-Confessed Universalist and His Return to the Shack* in booklet format, [click here](#).

*This section is excerpted from my book *The Titanic and Today’s Church*.

Endnotes:

1. William Paul Young, *Return to the Shack* (New York, NY: Apiary, imprint of Hachette Book Group, 2026), p. 252.
2. Ibid., p. 255.
3. Ibid., p. 246; Young does not give the source of this quote from Kruger; however, one place Kruger stated this is on his Instagram account:
<https://www.instagram.com/p/BZr8hiEFuv/?hl=zh-cn>.
4. Wm. Paul Young, *Lies We Believe About God* (New York, NY: Atria Books, an Imprint of Simon & Schuster, 2017), chapter 13 title in *Lies We Believe About God* is “You need to get saved,” which is one of the lies Young says we believe about God.
5. Ibid., p. 118.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid., p. 119.
8. Wm. Paul Young, *The Shack* (Los Angeles, CA: Windblown Media, 2007), p. 112.

9. Neale Donald Walsch, *Friendship with God: an Uncommon Dialogue* (New York, NY: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1999), p. 375. Italicized words are all caps in original text.
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