

From the Pastor's Pen

In Defense of Christianity

The Christian faith is constantly under attack from all sides. As one noted defender of the faith has written, "Opposition to biblical Christianity comes to practical expression in a great variety of ways: popular media and entertainment, propaganda from cults and false religions, teaching in schools and colleges, remarks made by colleagues, neighbors, and friends, not to mention modern trends in psychology, politics, medicine, society, etc."

One example of such opposition was seen in a published interview of former Minnesota governor Jesse Ventura. He said that organized religion was "a sham and a crutch for weak-minded people who need strength in numbers."

Critics will often dismiss religion in general and Christianity in particular (since it is the only true religion) as wishful thinking. It is argued that people need something to provide hope, meaning and purpose for their life, so they create a god. Religious people are feeble, requiring faith in some 'higher power' to survive in the real world.

What should we say in response to this attempt to discredit Christianity? First, let me point out that this criticism is not an argument. It does not prove or disprove the truth of Christianity. It is merely an analysis of the psychological make-up of religious people, which may or may not be true. Christians may be weak-minded but so what? Does that imply that Christ is not the truth, the way and the life? Absolutely not!

The only thing that this kind of censure implies is that the speaker intensely dislikes Christianity. But of course, disgust for something does not make it untrue. As a child, I did not like winter squash.

Tragically, my abhorrence for it did not make it go away or disprove its existence!

Second, two can play at this psychology game. Atheism is a sham and a crutch for scared sinners who are running from God. They know God "since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them" (Rom. 1:19). Yet, because they are guilty and stand condemned before him, they suppress the truth in unrighteousness. They exchange the truth of God for a lie (e.g., atheism or agnosticism), and worship and serve created things (i.e., themselves) rather than the Creator--who is forever praised.

Third, it strains credulity to think that biblical Christianity is a fraudulent religion devised by men. What man could have and would have written the message of the Bible? What man would have exposed his depravity and wickedness and exalted God's glory, goodness, mercy, wrath, justice and love?

Finally, when someone raises this objection let us respond with a hearty "Amen!" Let us glory in our weakness that Christ might be exalted. It is true that we follow Christ because we are weak and needy. We are miserable, wicked sinners who desperately need a Savior.

"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: 'Let him who boasts boast in the Lord'" (1 Cor. 1:27-31).

-Pastor Ramsey

Announcements and Upcoming Events

- There is a monthly bible study in Jellico, TN, at the Boll home. Please contact John Boll for the date and time of the Bible study, which will generally meet near the end of the month.
- A London area bible study continues to meet on the first two Wednesdays of the month at the Anderson home. We are studying the book of Hebrews.
- During the last week of August (24-28), Pastor Ramsey will be presenting the morning radio devotions on WYGE 92.3 fm (9:45-10:00 am).
- A paper by Pastor Ramsey entitled “*Sola Fide Compromised? Martin Luther and the Doctrine of Baptism*” is published in the July 2009 edition of *Themelios* (<http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/publications/34-2/sola-fide-compromised-martin-luther-and-the-doctrine-of-baptism/>).
- Sunday School moving day, that is the day children can change classes, is September 6. Parents, please talk to the teachers to see if your child is ready to move up to the next class. Pastor Ramsey’s shorter catechism class will begin year II (questions 39-107) on September 6.
- A Ladies Retreat is scheduled for October 2nd and 3rd at Cleft Rock Retreat Center, Mt. Vernon, KY. Cost is \$50 per person for the overnight accommodations (rustic) and for 3 meals. For more information, please contact Kathy Corry.

Significant Sessional Actions

- Per their request, the session removed the Kern family from the roll of membership so that they might join Berea Reformed Evangelical Church in Berea, KY.

Book/Media Notes

- An audio recording of a debate on the existence of God involving Greg Bahnsen and Gordon Stein can be found here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6iEUanJb>

[sw&feature=PlayList&p=75F2FF36C0ECC4A2&index=0.](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/publications/34-2/sola-fide-compromised-martin-luther-and-the-doctrine-of-baptism/)

- A new book by the late Greg Bahnsen, one of the greatest apologists of the last century, has been published. It is entitled *Presuppositional Apologetics: Stated and Defended*. Of this book, Lane Tipton, professor at Westminster Theological Seminary, writes: “Both the beginner and the seasoned reader will benefit from Bahnsen’s lucid presentation.”

Financial Report

As of 06/30/09	Actual	Budget
Income:		
Expenses:		
Deacon’s Fund:	\$	

Denomination News

- There are numerous camps and conferences for youth and adults conducted by the OPC for the OPC. Visit this link to learn more: <http://www.opc.org/cce/camps.html>.

Thought of the Quarter

1 Peter 3:14-16:

“But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.”