

Banner of Truth

"The truth shall make you free." (John 8:32)

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THE INCREASING DANGER OF THE EVIL RELIGION OF ISLAM

The grave danger we are facing involves not only the well-being of our country, but even more importantly the priceless spiritual blessings which are available to those who believe in and respect the one and only true God. Are we overlooking the danger we are facing, as we did the danger at Pearl Harbor? May the Lord help us to awake from our slumber of deadly unconcern. The time may well come when it will be too late.

Since the beginning, inspired history shows that God's people have been beset by various evil forces, varying both in extent and severity. Over the course of time we have seen both the ebb and flow of evil. By that I mean that at times God's people have faced the enemy boldly causing evil to ebb; yet, at other times they have failed to stand, thereby allowing the flow of evil to prevail with frightening success. The success of the evil opponents of God has been measured, not only in the loss of material and physical things, but more importantly in the eternal loss of the souls of men. No greater loss for mankind can there be.

As evil and as great were the powers opposing God and His people in the past, none has been

greater in our lifetime than The Increasing Danger of the Evil Religion of Islam. Many, even among us, may be surprised at and disagree with this assertion. Such surprise and disagreement may, I believe, be attributed to a number of things: 1. A failure to know what the religion of Islam is. This can be due to a failure to take the time to consider the abundance of information which is available. 2. A failure to follow God's word which commands us to "walk circumspectly" (Eph. 5:15); that is, be watchful, look around as to what we face or what is happening. This involves not only reading the Bible, but also other sources. When the Bible was completed, Islam did not exist. The same is true of many of the evils we face →

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today. 3. A lack of concern as to what is going on in the realm of spiritual things, in other words, *indifference*. Many are affected by this malady, but there is a cure, *study*. 4. A lack of teaching by preachers, elders, Bible class teachers. For example, just how many of our preachers, elders and teachers could present a worthwhile lesson on the subject of the evils of Islam?

We consequently find ourselves in a frightening situation due to the rapidly increasing danger of the evil religion of Islam. Let us then turn our attention to a more detailed discussion of the subject at hand.

I. WHAT IS THE EVIL RELIGION OF ISLAM?

I have been in the world since 1925 and I do not remember early on anything being said about Islam, much less the danger of it. How times have

changed. For the past few days newspapers, magazines, radio and TV news sources have been filled with some kind of news about Islam, and most often it involved terrorism. This is not to say by any means that news about Islam is only of very recent origin. For a few decades now, we have been hearing about Islam and its support of terrorism. It is only within relatively recent times that it has reached an unprecedented crescendo.

Let me hasten to add that some of the news heard lately is misleading in that it endeavors to play down the true threat of Islam. We shall have more to say on that later.

In no sense of the term do I claim to be an expert on the subject of Islam, but I have spent quite a bit of time in research and study of the subject. I have noted many articles on the subject from different sources. On the basis of the teaching of the Koran (I have a reputable copy of it) I can see many errors in writings on the subject. Some of this may be due to a lack of knowledge, but some of it is obviously intentional. We need to know the facts.

In this process of specifying and defining the religion of Islam, I am going to reprint some of the information from past Banners of Truth. I did articles on The False Religion Of Islam in the October and November issues of BOT in 2001, and An Update On The False Religion Of Islam, January 2003.

Some of the excerpts from the above issues will be brief, since I do not have the space to include all that I would like. They will also be brief because I suffered a recent fall and fractured a rib and a bone in my left forearm. Typing with one hand has slowed me somewhat.

The excerpts from the above issues will be noted with an asterisk * at the beginning and at the end of the cited segment. This may make some of the discussion seem a little more disjointed than it would be otherwise, but it will make it a little easier for me. ↑

***The Beginning of Islam.** The information as to the time, place, and persons involved in the beginning of Islam, seems to be quite uniform. Most encyclopedias provide that information. One thing it has in common with many other false religions is the claim of inspired revelation other than the Bible.

The story of Islam begins in 570 A.D. in the central part of the Arabian peninsula at a place called Mecca, where Mohammed was born. His father was Abdulla and his mother was Aminah...He was raised by an uncle and his grandfather, who was said to be a high priest in a pagan religion.

The religion of Arabia was dominated by Semitic influence which included a wide variety of idolatry. Although the religion was overwhelmingly pagan, there were some Jews and "Christians" in Arabia. Even among the pagans there was an idea emerging of one god, the creator of all things, Allah. In Mecca was a sanctuary called the Kaaba. The Arabian tribes visited the Kaaba, a cubical building known as "House of Allah," though it contained 360 idols. It also contained a black stone which had supposedly been brought down from heaven. Of course the Bible knows nothing of such a story. When Mohammed declared himself a prophet of Allah, things were somewhat favorable for the acceptance of Allah and Mohammed as his prophet.

Mohammed was a person of little education. He was given to moodiness and restlessness, spending much time in meditation. When he was about 25 he married a wealthy widow some fifteen years older than he. After her death, he took several wives, one reportedly only seven years old.

When Mohammed was around 40, he claimed that while he was meditating the angel Gabriel appeared to him in a cave announcing that Mohammed was God's messenger. Some say he was not "at himself" when he supposedly received

these revelations. From this point onward for about twenty-two years, Mohammed claimed to regularly receive revelations from Allah. These supposed revelations make up what is called the Qur'an, or Koran, as it is typically written. This is the Muslim's "Holy Book." *

For Mohammed's first few years as a so-called prophet, he had little success. In fact, he had to flee to Medina. Now, note what took place at Medina and then Mecca, and the means used to propagate his false religion.

*At Medina, Mohammed had great success and converted most of the city. He reportedly had all those who would not convert to his teaching murdered. In 639 A.D., he gathered an army of several thousand and set out to take Mecca. Most of the city agreed to accept his teaching, thereby preventing warfare. One source says that Mohammed claimed he had been commissioned to steal from caravans which passed through the country. The Koran reportedly records sixty-six battles by the Muslims in which many thousands were murdered. This shows that from early on Muslims have been known for their murders and evil deeds against those who are not Muslims.

As we go back and review the history of Islam, there is good reason to be concerned with what the Muslims are thinking and planning, to say nothing of the evidence which has been brought to bear so heavily in recent times. All Muslims are not alike, but how does one know what is in the mind of a particular individual?*

Islam is still the evil and radical religion it was in its earlier days. As we continue our discussion, we will be pointing out various things which will shed more light on the true nature of Islam, and why it is such a danger to people who love freedom, and especially the freedom to worship the one and only true God.

If space allowed we would trace some of the historical items of interest relative to Islam, from its early beginning until more recent times. →

This would include the early spread of the religion and then its waning in the 16th and 17th centuries. We do want to include a few paragraphs relative to a new growth of Islam.

*THE RESURGENCE OF ISLAM. Some efforts to revive Islam were being put forth as early as the late 1700s. The Nineteenth Century would see greater efforts devoted to this accomplishment. More serious efforts were put forth to throw off outside domination and enjoy independence. The Twentieth Century would see an increase of opposition to British rule in India.

Between World War I and World War II, pressure for independence from foreign domination grew as never before among Muslims. With the Arabs a spirit of nationalism had been growing for quite some time.

After World War II, a powerful spirit of revival became a reality in Islam. A number of countries gained their independence from the British and others. The independent states now had the opportunity to contribute to the resurgence of Islam in a powerful way through political control and other means. They took advantage of that opportunity. Some have called this a renaissance of Islam. The present growth of Islam far outstrips anything seen by anyone living today.*

It is needful that we move on to another very important matter concerning Islam. It will help us to get a better understanding of Islam, to consider just some of the abundance of error which is taught and practiced by that religion.

***II. ERROR TAUGHT BY THE KORAN**

The Deity of Jesus Christ

“...The Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, was only a messenger of Allah, and His word which he conveyed to Mary, and a spirit from Him. So believe in Allah and His messengers, and say not ‘Three’ – Cease. (it is) better for you.—Allah is only One God...” (Surah 4:171).

Jesus the Son of God

“And they say: The Beneficent hath taken unto Himself a son. Assuredly ye utter a disastrous thing. Whereby almost the heavens are torn, and the earth split asunder and the mountains fall in ruin, That ye ascribe unto the Beneficent son” (Surah 19-88-91).

Existence of Jesus Christ

“Lo. the likeness of Jesus with Allah is as the likeness of Adam. He created him of dust, then He said unto him: Be. and he is” (Surah 3:59).

Obtaining Salvation

“And as for him that believeth not in Allah and His messenger—Lo. We have prepared a flame for disbelievers” (Surah 48:13).

The Crucifixion of Jesus

“And because of their saying” We slew the Messiah Jesus son of Mary, Allah’s messenger—They slew him not nor crucified, but it appeared unto them; and lo. those who disagree concerning it are in doubt thereof; they hve no knowledge thereof save pursuit of a conjecture; they slew him not for certain” (Surah 4:157).

Murder and Other Violence

“And slay them [disbelievers] wherever ye find them, and drive them out of the places where they drove you out, for persecution is worse than slaughter...” (Surah 2:191). “Then, when the sacred months have passed, slay the idolaters wherever ye find them, and take them (captive), and besiege them, and prepare them each ambush...” (Surah 9:5). “O ye who believe. Fight those of the disbelievers who are near to you, and let them find harshness in you...” (Surah 9:123).

The Treatment of Women

“Men are in charge of women, because Allah hath made one of them to excel the other, and because they spend their property (for support of women)...As for those from whom ye fear

rebellion, admonish them and banish them to beds apart, and scourge them..." (Surah 4:34). "Allah charge you concerning (the provisions for) your children: to the male the equivalent of the portion of two females..." (Surah 4:11).

Marriage and Wives

"...marry of the women, who seem good to you, two or three or four, and if ye fear that ye cannot do justice (to so many) then one (only) or (the captives) that your right hand posses..." (Surah 4:3).

The Exercise of One's Will

"Lo. this is an Admonishment, that whosoever will may choose a way unto his Lord. Yet ye will not, unless Allah willeth. Lo. Allah is Knower, Wise. He maketh whom he will to enter His mercy, and for evil—doers hath prepared a painful doom" (Surah 76:29-31).

When The Judgment Comes

"And the foremost in the race...Those are they who will be brought nigh In gardens of delight...On lined couches, reclining there face to face, There wait on the immortal youths With bowls and ewers and a cup from a pure spring Wherefrom they get no aching of the head nor any madness. And fruit they prefer...And (there are) fair ones with wide, lovely eyes, Like unto hidden pearls. Reward for what they used to do. Lo. we have created them a (new) creation and made them virgins, Lovers, friends...(Surah 56:10-12, 15-20, 22-24, 35-37).* [NOTE: In the original writing, I gave a response to each of these errors. Space limitation precludes repeating them here.]

This is only a small sample of the error taught in the Koran. There is yet much error taught by some Muslims which is not found in the Koran. Relative to this, it is in order to consider:

***THE ERROR OF ISLAMIC AUTHORITY.**

We often hear of errors of Islam which are said not to be upheld by Koran. The reason for this should be understood if we are to get a true picture of Islam.

The Sunna is a collection of things which were supposedly said by Mohammed., but were never written down and are not a part of the Koran. With some Muslims these "traditions" which vary, are as authoritative as the Koran. Just imagine what would happen to unrecorded things which were passed on by word of mouth for fourteen centuries. In the first place, if the "traditions" were actually spoken by Mohammed they would still be the words of a false prophet and should be rejected as such.

When we think of "tradition" as a source of authority, we should be aware that just about anything can be authorized by tradition. There is no better example of this than the Catholic Church. It is the position of Catholicism that their "traditions" are equally authoritative as is the Bible. Anyone who knows anything about the Catholic Church and the Bible knows that the Catholics teach a great many things which could never be found as authorized in God's word. They are upheld by "tradition." *

***III. WHAT IS "RADICAL ISLAM"?**

Many in the public arena often refer to *radial* Islam. This is an oft used description of the Taliban, which means "students of Islam." ...Is the Taliban the epitome of true Islam? Nowadays when people speak of radical Islam, they are implying a distinction between this and *true* Islam. Much of what has been seen at the hands of the Taliban, is in keeping with the teaching of the Koran, and the Sunna with all its "traditions." In other words, much of what has been practiced by the Taliban under the leadership of Mullah Mohammed Omar and Usama bin Laden and their supporters, has been practiced before by true Islam.*

If space permitted we would delineate some of the things which are now practiced under Islamic rule, which were practiced centuries ago. To those who know anything to speak of about Islam, →

they know that the true Muslim is a radical in the sense of what he is taught. It is only the *liberal* Muslim who does not practice what his source of authority teaches. Some people even speak of the religion of Islam being “hijacked by radicals.” No. It is not a matter of hijacking; it is a matter of practicing true Islam. Those who cannot see this must not be familiar with the facts of the matter, or else for some other reason simply do not want to be realistic relative to what they know.

IV. EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE THE DANGER OF THE EVIL RELIGION OF ISLAM

When the terrible clouds of World War II began to appear, we seemingly covered our heads and did nothing by way of preparation to meet the enemy. Our failure to recognize that evident danger and doing something about it, made us pay a terrible price in the long run.

Do we not realize that the same thing can, or is, happening with regard to Islam? If we realize the danger, why are we not facing up to the fact? The conquering power, in this case Islam, likes nothing better than weakness demonstrated on the part of those they wish to conquer.

An example of minimizing the danger of Islam is seen in an article by Alan Fram, of Associated Press, in an article in the *Murray Ledger & Times*, May 30, 2007. The title of the article, “Poll: Most young Muslim Americans reject bombing tactics,” is indeed a case in point.

The Poll referred to in the article is by the “Pew Research Center,” and will be referred to in an article by another columnist, which we shall consider after reference to the above article by Alan Fram.

Now, with regard to the Fram article, note the fact that the title says, “Most young Muslim Americans reject bombing tactics.” “Most” could refer to only 51 percent. But the poll reveals a percentage much more than that. Let us bear in mind, however, the frightening fact shown by the

poll. Consider two paragraphs from the Fram article:

While nearly 80 percent of U.S. Muslims say suicide bombings of civilians to defend Islam can not be justified, 13 percent say they can be, at least rarely.

That sentiment is strongest among those younger than 30. Two percent of them say it can often be justified, 13 percent say some times and 11 percent say rarely.

The percentage of those younger Muslims who say suicide bombing is sometimes justified amounts to 26 percent. The number of Muslim-Americans is estimated at “roughly 2.35 million.” Given the number of young Muslims in our country, 26 percent amounts to a frightening number. Just think: According to the poll, there are thousands of Muslims in our country who are, or would be suicide bombers. To make a statement that “Most young Muslims reject bombing tactics,” could lead people to ignore the real danger of that 26 percent.

This survey of Muslims also showed that “only 40 percent said they believe Arab men carried out the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.” This shows that a sizeable majority of the Muslims in America do not believe in facts, or are unwilling to accept the same. Of the above survey it is said: “By six to one, they say the U.S. was wrong to invade Iraq...”

From this and other mountains of evidence, one can see that the Muslim’s allegiance to his religion is strong indeed. We would do well not to let ourselves be fooled.

In another article, based on the same Pew Research Center study, additional important matters are brought out. This article entitled “Muslim study alarming,” is by columnist Kathleen Parker, and was carried in *The Paducah Sun*, May 30, 2007.

Columnist Parker starts off by responding to the Fram article we discussed above. Note her comments: ↓

What a relief to read in a new Pew Research Center study that Muslims are “largely assimilated, happy with their lives, and moderate with respect to many of the issues that have divided Muslims and Westerners around the world.”

Phew. Praise Allah. No more worries.

On the other hand, the study’s findings may depend on how you define “largely.”

Here’s another way of putting the Pew results: While a majority of older U.S. Muslims have largely assimilated, more than a few younger Muslims think suicide bombings are justified.

Columnist Parker brings out some things that were missing in the other article. The difference between the articles is due to one writer having eyes open to reality while the eyes of the other writer were closed. Note some other points along this line, which are worthy of serious consideration.

Parker also said,

Sixty percent of the young group consider themselves Muslims first, American second. Among all young Muslims, 26 percent think that suicide bombings are justified often, some times rarely. Another 5 percent said they ‘do not know’ or refused to answer.

She concluded that if there are 2.35 million Muslims in America, that would amount to 219,000. Muslim organizations putting the number of Muslims in America at about 7 million “based on mosque attendance.”

Another point by Parker is: “While a majority of Muslims view al-Qaeda ‘very unfavorable’ (58 percent), an alarming number seem to be ambivalent. A whopping 27 percent said they did not know how they felt toward the terrorist organization or refused to answer the question.”

Anyway one looks at it, if he is honest and informed at all, Islam is a great threat to our coun-

try and the privilege we still have to worship the one and only true God.

Another article, by Eric Gorski (Associated Press), “Poll pinpoints frustrations of young Muslims in U.S.,” was carried in *The Paducah Sun*, June 8, 2007.

This article is based on the same Pew Research Center poll as the other two articles. It does not deny that “26 percent of young Muslims ...expressed sympathy for suicide bombers,” but primarily offered certain justifications as to why they have this sympathy. One thing which was conspicuously absent was that the evil actions of Muslims are upheld by their religious teachings. This is the same thing that so many want to do, rather than to be realistic about the matter of what Muslims are taught.

V. TERRORIST ACTIVITIES SOON FORGOTTEN

Given the almost continual of coverage of terrorist activities by the news media, this may seem to be an unreasonable worry; yet, I have in mind the overall picture and long term concerns.

Consider the 9/11 terrorists, three of whom were illegal aliens, who killed 3,000 innocent people. Thousands were injured suffering untold pain and misery. This is not to mention all the great loss of property. Yes, people were stirred up for a while, and some even thought about God. Today, that tragedy has been largely forgotten by many. Some are acting as though it never happened, and others are so bold as to say it was our fault in the first place. Then there are the bizarre conspiracy lovers who say that our government planned it all.

Just as the slogan, “Remember Pearl Harbor,” spurred us on to victory, so should the remembrance of the September. 11, 2001 tragedy spur us on to victory against the evil religion of Islam. Those who forget the dangers they →

face are seldom victorious.

The horrific act of terrorism by Islam, which occurred on September 11, 2001, is just one of the many which have occurred within the past few years. As tragic as it was, it has been virtually forgotten by many. And, acts which happened before that date are so rarely mentioned that they have little effect on our slumber of unconcern. Note the following list of pre-9/11 terrorist acts:

1. Bombing of Pan Am Flight 103?
2. Bombing of Marine barracks in Lebanon?
3. Bombing of World Trade Center in 1993?
4. Bombing military barracks in Saudi Arabia?
5. Bombing of American Embassies in Africa?
6. Bombing of the USS Cole?

Since 9/11, the U.S. and other countries have been battling Islamic forces in Afghanistan and Iraq. Thousands have been killed by the terrorists. A terrorist attack in England killed more than 50 people. Recent plots have been discovered which could have inflicted great damage and loss of life. The Fort Dix Army base was the target of six men, who are described as “radical Islamists.” The plot was discovered in time. A plot to blow up a jet fuel pipeline at New York’s Kennedy International Airport was disrupted. It has been reported that various terrorist plans have been thwarted. There were the failed bombings in Glasgow and London.

I am trying to make the point that these terrorist acts, or attempts, are so soon forgotten. Yes, the news media coverage is almost continual for a little while, but these acts of terror or the attempts, are soon shut up in our closets of forgetfulness, as though they were no more than a dream. But the evil plans of our enemy continue to stay very much alive. This forgetfulness constitutes a great danger, closely related to another danger to which we shall give attention. Just what will it take to open our eyes?

VI. OUR DISPLAY OF WEAKNESS

Weakness usually encourages the attack of an enemy, whereas strength serves as a good defense. This has been demonstrated many times in the realm of physical warfare, but it works the same in the area of ideas or philosophies of a religious nature, Islam being a good example.

It is a fact that we have shown weakness in standing up to Islam. Let us consider a few examples of our weakness. To begin with, as noted, the pre- 9/11 terrorist attacks against us received virtually no response from us.

An ongoing worldwide conflict. Many of us fail to realize that the present conflict with the terrorists of Islam is worldwide, and is in fact an ongoing struggle for world domination. Abundant evidence testifies to this reality. Islam claims this has made its intentions known. A few of us are becoming more aware of this, but not nearly as many as should. Islam has cells in a great portion of the world. Who would doubt in view of all the evidence that these cells have within them would-be suicide bombers when time is ripe and they are called to action?

Our failure to stand strong from the political standpoint. Our nation is run by a political process. We, as Christians, are a part of that process. Not only should we use our power and influence to encourage that which is most in keeping with the living of the Christian life and the furtherance of the gospel, we have a responsibility to oppose that which is evil and encourage that which is good (Rom. 12:9). Our political powers determine much of what our country will do under most circumstances, and that includes our response to Islam.

Our political powers are largely made up of two parties, known as the conservative and liberal parties. Of course there are some who kind of play both sides of the fence. But it is common knowledge that one political party is known as being more conservative and the other as being

more liberal.

What does this have to do with “The Increasing Danger Of The Evil Religion Of Islam,” one might ask? Very much. The way our government deals with this religion will have much to do with our future. If we should come under the evil rule of Islam, we would have to go underground to worship and serve the true God. At my age I do not see that happening to me, but I have children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. And if time stands, there are generations yet to come.

I have heard people say, “Oh, the church is not going to go out of existence.” That, in principle, is true. The seed, the word (Lk. 8:11), will never be destroyed (Matt. 24:35), but the church, its influence, and impact, can be greatly diminished. History reminds us of that fact.

Liberal party displays weakness against Islam. Let me say right here that high government officials have shown weakness. This is inexcusable. But a case in point with regard to the more liberal party involves the six Muslims who, as they were returning from a conference of Islamic clerics in Minneapolis, were removed from a US Airways flight on November 20, 2006. The Muslims are suing the passengers who reported their strange and suspicious behavior. They are suing them as “John Does,” rather than individuals by name.

A bill was introduced recently which protected “whistle blowers” from prosecution. The bill was voted down by the more liberal party. This party has opposed measures which are needed to help identify terrorists. The party has been strong in denouncing the prison at Guantanamo Bay, where those who were involved in a war against our fighting men are being held. The liberal party, and to a great extent also, our President, tried to pass a bill which did little or nothing to protect our borders.

A good example of what one of those running for President, from the liberal party, feels about the terrorists, is Barack Obama. Note what he said, and the implications of it. In a forum spon-

sored by “Sojourners/Call to Renewal,” Obama was asked whether he agreed with President Bush’s “portrayal of the current global struggles in terms of good versus evil.” Obama said, “There is a risk in viewing the world in such terms.”

Whereas Mr. Obama did say that he believes “the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, were the result of evil.” Yet, as though to imply some moral equivalence, he also said, “the United States’ treatment of prisoners at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay is unjust.” Whatever happened at Abu Ghraib or Guantanamo came after 9/11, not before. Obama’s implication is clear that since the U.S. is “unjust” that such things as 9/11 can be expected. Is he not also implying that the terrorist attacks on the U.S. are justified? This is a member of the liberal party, who is putting forth every effort possible to become the President of our country.

That such a person as Obama can get as far as he has in an effort to become the President of the U.S., should serve as a dire warning that we are not at all serious about standing against the evil of Islam.

Another sign of weakness against Islam by the liberal party has been demonstrated by the demand to “cut and run” from the conflict in Iraq, allowing the terrorist to prevail, and continue their goal of the conquest of the world for Islam. A powerful example of giving hope to the terrorist (a true name rather than “insurgents”) is that of the leader of the Senate, declaring the war is “already lost.” That must be music to the ears of the terrorists leading them to believe that if they just continue their efforts a little longer, their sought for victory will be realized.

Some in the more conservative party have given aid to the enemy by playing the “good guys,” and failing to stand up to Islam for what it really is: our determined enemy.

There is so much more that should be said with regard to Islam, but due to lack of space →

we shall limit our discussion to one other topic and a few words in conclusion.

VI. SIGNS OF THE INCREASING DANGER OF EVIL ISLAM

History Repeats Itself. That statement has been made time and again and there seems to be a great deal of truth in it. We see evidence of this in the history of Israel. During the period of the Judges, the Israelites would drift away from God. God would allow a heathen nation to whip them in line; only to see them repeat the same drift away from God.

When we come to the Lord's church, we learn that apostasy began in the First Century. A few centuries ago, people began to show an interest in returning to the truth. In the late 1700s and early 1800s men began to restore that from which man had departed, the truth which was made known in the New Testament. Not long after the great success of the restoration effort, error began to creep in, soon to result in the formation of the Christian Church and its unauthorized practices.

In the 1900s those who stood uncompromising for the truth saw great success, even to the point that the church had the distinction of being the fastest growing religious group in the U.S. That condition did not last for long, as various forms of error crept in. As we look at the church today, we see outright apostasy on every hand. Even the "Bible Belt" has become a place in great need of a restoration of the truth made known in the First Century.

Could it be that the pagan religion of Islam will one day take over our country, and make Christianity an outlawed religion? Those who think this is impossible should put their thinking caps on. Of course that could happen.

Islam the fastest growing religion. That is the frightening case here in our country as well as in the whole world. There are an estimated forty-five mosques in the Washington D.C. area. The Hartford Institute for Religious Research reports

that "the number of mosques in America grew 60 percent between 1995 and 2000." The number of Muslims in our country is estimated to be more than two million, by the Pew Survey. Muslim sources put the number to be around seven million.

There are many Islamic schools in our country where true Islam is taught; included in which teaching is that we, non-Muslims, are "unbelievers" and "infidels," and we are to be killed. Some of these schools are supported financially by oil-rich Arab countries. One group has suggested "placing Muslim chaplains on every college campus." What a recruiting tool.

A Muslim elected to Congress. Who would have thought just a few years ago (with the exception of Muslims, of course) that a real Muslim would have been elected to Congress—a person whose allegiance is to his religion before everything else.? Note the following:

Keith Ellison, a Democrat, has become the first Muslim to be elected to the US Congress by winning a Minnesota seat in the House of Representatives.

Jessie Jackson campaigned for Ellison, who said before the election:

But I do hope that if we win, inshallah [God willing], in November, that it will signal to Muslims that we should engage in the American political system. It will signal to people who are not Muslims that Muslims have a lot to offer to the United States and the improvement of our country.

Make no mistake about it. What true Islam has to offer a country is subjugation; this is evidenced by the countries of the Middle East in particular.

But there is more to consider about Keith Ellison, since his election. On July 8, Ellison, appearing before a group of atheists in Minnesota, said some things which clearly show what he thinks about our country, our President and the

present administration. He likens President Bush and the actions taken in response to the 9/11 terrorist attack, to that of Hitler in his seizing of power in Germany. He has a number of harsh and unfounded things to say. When the thinking of this Muslim, with regard to our country, is compared with that of Barack Obama, the similarities are obvious. The thinking expressed by these two is not that of friends of our country.

Increasing alerts being sounded. In the very process of working on this article, I heard on the news that an airport terminal was being evacuated due to an envelope containing a white powder. A few years ago such reports were seldom heard. Just think about how our lives have been affected since 9/11, all because of Islamic terrorist.

Many things could be added to the various things discussed in our discussion, but we must bring it to a conclusion.

SOME CLOSING THOUGHTS

We trust that the matters considered in our discussion will be given serious consideration. We know that in some instances this material will end up in “File Thirteen,” but that does not lessen its importance one whit.

Islam is the enemy of true Christianity. That this is the case is clearly evident from its source of authority, the Koran and the Sunna. The beginning of this religion of error is recorded in history. It made its advances by the use of the sword. Today, it is using terrorism murdering thousands of innocent people including children.

Islam is involved in a worldwide struggle to dominate all of mankind, forcing their religion upon them. Evidence of Islam is being seen in a great portion of the countries of the world, as it promotes its doctrine that all non-Muslims are “unbelievers” or “infidels” and are to be killed by the Muslims.

Weakness is being shown in opposing Islam. Our government has failed to take a firm stand;

sometimes showing favors to Islam that is not shown to other religions. The average individual seems not to be seriously concerned about this religion of error, which has an objective of bringing all people under its control.

As we have pointed out, the liberal political party in our country has in various ways been an encouragement to the advancement of Islam, as political power is sought, rather than that which is for the well-being of our country. It is encouraging that more people are speaking out about the dangers of Islam, but that number is very small in comparison to what it should be.

Christians should use their influence to oppose Islam. First, we should take the time to learn what Islam is. Then, knowing the dangers of it warn others and let our opposition be known. All the warnings set forth in the New Testament are not there just to take up space. We can exercise some influence in the political realm. To fail in this is to encourage evil. James said, “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (4:17).

True Christianity is a militant religion. The true Christian life is a spiritual fighter. Paul said, “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life...” (I Tim. 6:12). Jude commands militance saying, “[we] should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3). In Ephesians 6, the Christian is described as a soldier who is to stand against “the wiles of the devil” (v. 11).

Pray and fight for victory over evil. We should pray for deliverance from the threat of Islam, and at the same time do everything within our power to be numbered among the “overcomers.” That we are faced with a terrible enemy should not be a surprise to us, in view of all the divine warnings sounded. But with our Lord’s help, we can taste the victory, eternal life, in that heavenly home. —Editor

The Seventh Annual Banner of Truth Lectures

Anyone who attended the lectureship would have to admit that it was biblically sound, and a great tool for edification. Brother Walter Pigg, editor of the paper, Banner of Truth, directs the program. He is a man whom we hold in high regard for his long life of dedication to God's truth and his continued love for that which is pure and right in God's sight.

Yearly he designs a program centered on a needed theme, with topics designed to defend the gospel and remind the listeners of the reason we must "fight the good fight of faith." This year's program was no different, centering on the theme of "The Need for and Basis of Optimism within the Lord's Church." I personally found the theme to be urgently needed seeing as how we are faced with "perilous times" which can easily discourage. Nonetheless, victory has been promised to those who are willing to fight a good fight, finish the course, and keep the faith.

There are things which can arise to prevent those who would like to attend the lectures from doing so; so, we encourage the purchase of a video of the lectures. We are confident that those who hunger and thirst after righteousness will be well filled by the twenty-eight sermons presented by men whom I am pleased to call brethren in Christ. These men were only interested in the proclamation of God's truth.

In addition to the great spiritual feasts from the lessons presented, the ardent fellowship enjoyed at the lectures and in times between was a rich and wholesome experience. There were continued conversations and the rekindling or making of friendships. The young learned from the older and the older were encouraged by the young. Many humorous stories were told, and quite a bit of food was consumed.

Too quickly the enjoyment of the lectures ended; but for many of us there will be another year and another enjoyable lectureship.

The only down side to the lectures was that many passed up a wonderful opportunity by choosing not to attend, which was their loss. We would encourage all those who have a taste for spiritual food, to join the feast next year. —*Roger Scully*

EDITOR'S NOTE: It was indeed encouraging to hear so many positive things said about the lectures. That the attendance by local members of the church was so poor reflects the drift from the "old paths" which were respected so much more when we had a lectureship here in Murray in the 1970s. The Bible Belt needs a revival and return to the condition in the 1960s when I first preached in Calloway County.

Reservations for the Eighth Annual Banner of Truth have already been made. The date is June 23 – 26.

Videos of the Seventh Annual Lectures are available. Contact Jim Green, 2711 Spring Meade Blvd., Columbia, TN 38401. E-mail: <jgreencoc1986@yahoo.com> Phone: (931) 486-1364. The video contains the entire lectures.

Would you help us? How?

You can really help us by 1) sending your change of address, and 2) sending it as soon as you know of the change. Some times the USPS does not return the BOT until two or even three have been sent and we have to pay for all of them. Postage rates increased sharply on May 14. Our overall mailing cost increased about twenty per cent. That is, from \$900 to more than \$1100. A one pound bundle sent foreign countries, with the exception of Canada, now cost us \$10.10. A single piece is now 90 cents.

Religion as a Joke

For a long time I have observed that to many their religion was nothing more than a joke; there was nothing serious and sacred about it. But the following AP article in *The Paducah Sun*, July 13, 2007, is an example of those who do not beat around the bush in making their religion a joke. Note below:

Church plans comedy club service

Associated Press

MANCHESTER, Conn. — A comedy club is a place to find a few laughs...and God?

So say the leaders of St. Paul's Collegiate Church in Sorrs. Starting in August, the church will hold Monday night services at The Hartford Funny Bone, a comedy club.

"Faith just got funnier" reads a news release about the new service. A church leader is quoted as saying, "We sense that a Monday night service in a comedy club at the mall might be just the thing for people who like Jesus but don't like the church,"

A READER'S RESPONSE

[NOTE: Bracketed items and elisions are editorial emendations]

"Bro. Pigg I receive Banner Of truth and have enjoyed it very much, however when [I] got the last one [I wondered] if you have changed your [mind] some. Just a few issues ago... you had two issues talking about how liberal all the [schools] had got...[You] seemed to [believe] the church could support [children's] homes but [were] not for supporting schools. In your last [BOT] you [were] talking about the northern school of preaching...you said they [were] getting support from [individuals and churches...and you seemed] to think it is alright...[What] is different[?] Of course [I] still believe it is wrong for churches to support [schools] as well as the so called homes for children [Yours,] Vernon Bracknell."

We are thankful that you have enjoyed Banner of Truth very much. Now, as to your wondering if I have changed my mind some; no, I haven't changed my mind. It could be that you have failed to understand something I have written. Perhaps my response will give you a clearer understanding.

I have written about how liberal our secular schools — colleges and universities — have become; I have not generally said this about our preacher training schools. I do not know where you got the idea that I "believe the church could support children's homes but was not for supporting schools," unless you are confusing colleges and universities with

preacher training schools. Could it be that you have read something written by someone else and confused it with mine? I have never taken the position that churches should support secular schools. That is not a work of the church. But with regard to "children's homes," orphans can be supported by the church, in individual homes or homes which take the place of individual homes. You must be aware of what is said in James 1:27. That passage authorizes the support of orphans, which is to say the practice of "pure religion," by the church. The facility in which this is to be done is not specified, and we do not have the authority to make a law in that regard, as to place.

Your reference to "the northern school of preaching" has me baffled. I do forget some times, but I do not know what school you are talking about. But I will affirm that a congregation can have a school for the training of preachers. Teaching members of the church the word of God is certainly a work of the church.

We trust the above has helped you to understand some things about which you seemed confused or has a misunderstanding.

—Editor

CONCERNING BILLY GRAHAM

The June 1, 2007 edition of *The Paducah Sun*, carried an AP article by Rachel Zoll, in which Billy Graham and "The 27 million [dollar] Billy Graham Library" are discussed. It is said that Billy Graham "preached in person to more than 210 million.

What an opportunity! But a highly important question comes to mind — What was the message preached to all those millions by this man who is described as "the most widely heard minister of all times"?

In all the years that Billy Graham preached, he must have had a fairly good knowledge of God's word. He must have noted the conversions recorded in the Book of Acts. Even an elementary knowledge of the Book of Acts would have included the conversions. In chapter two there is the record of the three thousand who were added to the church on the day of Pentecost.

Yet, did Billy Graham ever preach the whole truth concerning those conversions? If he did, I have never heard of it, or known of anyone who did. Who could believe his failure to preach the truth was simply an oversight? Therefore, it must have been intentional that he failed to preach the whole truth. The sad result is that multitudes believe they are saved though they are not even "in Christ."— Editor

Incidentally Speaking

Divine Revelation has provided us with all the *information* we need to know. Sometimes in movies and books, we come across that phrase, *need to know*. Usually it refers to “intelligence” matters, top secret or classified things. Such information is said to be given out only on a *need-to-know* basis. In a sense God’s ultimate purpose — the Christ and His church (Eph. 3:9-10) — was for a long time classified; even angels were cut out of the *information* circle (cf. 1Peter 1:12). Since the First Century, however, the Freedom of Information Act has been in effect and we have access to *everything* we need to know.

Operating under the premises (1) that God has given us everything we need to know, and (2) that we need to know everything he has given us to know, we conclude quite naturally, that nothing in that which God has given us (the Word) is superfluous, or trivial. There are *no* space fillers in the Bible. Even the seemingly tedious, common, personal, incidental things recorded in Scripture, if mulled, turned over and pondered will be seen to meet that need-to-know requirement.

Consider for example, Paul’s personal concern over Timothy’s “stomach” (1Timothy 5:23). Whole sermons could be built around this. It’s easy for us to get so wrapped up in our own problems and infirmities that we forget about other people. Maybe, thinking about the plight of others would help cut out incessant whining. Look at the very man who writes with concern about young Timothy’s problem, Paul. Few have ever been over the ground that this man of God traversed. (You may finish this sermon.)

Or, consider Paul’s request that Timothy bring his “cloak...books, especially the parchments” (2Tim. 4:13). This epistle was written somewhere

around 67 to 68 A.D. Paul was quite on in years, and after all his hard and honorable work, he’s in prison for his trouble. It was a cold and dank place, he needed something for warmth. A christian, even one as great as Paul, is not a superman. He gets cold and he gets lonely (9), not to mention dealing with bitterness at being treated unjustly, and the fickleness of fair-weather friends. But, when we live in the Lord and the Lord in us, we do what we can for ourselves (the cloak), and if we are one of those “who have loved his appearing” (8), we somehow keep it all in perspective.

Deny him freedom and maltreat him in other ways, but you can’t keep a good man down; you can’t lock up his soul, his mind, thus, the books and parchments. You can bet these weren’t comic books; and, they sure weren’t the TV. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if American christians, free as birds, fat and sassy, were as concerned with study and meditation upon things holy and Divine? Too many brethren will not read the Bible or things that pertain to understanding the Bible. It is sad to admit that not a few will not even read this.

Then there is the setting of the feeding of the five thousand. This was an unusual preacher’s problem: too many people! The Master and his disciples went “apart” to one “desert” place, only not “apart” enough. When people want to find the Lord, there’s no stopping them. They got on a boat to go to another place of solitude; nothing doing, the people “ran...on foot from all the cities and outwent them.” Imagine every local church today with members like this. I’ll guarantee there was not a single clock watching whiner there.

Even when the Bible speaks incidentally, it speaks volumes.

—AA

Reasons for Rejecting Logic

Talk about a self-defeating title. Logic is the “science of correct reasoning,” or to put it informally it refers to being reasonable, to drawing warranted conclusions. A logical person is one who offers reasons as to why others ought to accept what he is saying as true. When, then, a person starts down the path of offering reasons as to why people should reject logic — well, he is destined to meet himself coming. Religion and faith, in the minds of many, are not the purview of logic, and they will hasten to tell you why.

Back in 1985, having spent days preparing my first Chinese sermon, I was pleased on a particular day to hear from wife that she had invited a guest for dinner that evening. He was a Republic of China military officer. I was excited to have someone on which to try out my sermon. It was brutal. The gentleman worked over my sermon and left me deflated. There was, however, in his criticism one thing I did not grant.

He, among other things, informed me that “You cannot reach Chinese people with logic.” I just had to ask, Why? He proceeded to give me his reasons. He basically said: Given this, given this, and given this; therefore, you cannot reach Chinese people with logic. A long time missionary in India once told me the same thing about reaching Indians. Logic does not work with them, he said; and then he told me why. From soldier to missionary, with lots of people in between, it is not uncommon for people to give reasons why logic is unacceptable or inappropriate.

To be sure, we human beings are emotional, as well as rational creatures. Logic does not apply to every situation. To vacate a burning theater, one does not concern himself with a syllogism, rather he yells, Fire. “Logic is not all...but we have a common obligation to be logical when logic is relevant” [Ruby, 81]. You also have to remember

that sometimes people may do what you want them to do, but not for the right reason, like people following Jesus for “loaves and fishes.” Do you really think a person who “gets baptized” for “loaves and fishes” is any better off than he was before—except, of course, for the “loaves and fishes”?

Is logic “relevant” when it comes to “preaching the gospel to every creature”? Like the little ditty about spelling railroad crossings without any Rs; can you answer that question with saying, Why, or without giving reasons? First, on the mere surface of things, how would you propose to convince a Chinese or Indian person as to why he ought to leave the religion of his fathers and become a christian? You have to give him some reason. It may not be a valid or true reason; but, a reason, some reason, you must give. Secondly, the Bible outright says we must use logic: “[be] ready always to give answer [Gr., *apologia*, ‘A reasoned defense or presentation’]” (I Pet 3.15); “prove all things” (I Thess 5.21).

Jesus once placed before his detractors a strong disjunction asking whether John’s baptism was “from heaven, or from men” (Mar. 11:27ff). They actually reasonably handled the disjunction using a classical If-This-Then-That approach. You have to love the way the Pharisees said, “If we ...say [this, then] he will say...”; and, “should we say [that, then we’re in a real pickle].” Finally, they just, dishonestly said, “We know not.” Did Jesus fail because he used logic? No. Let us rather imitate the Master and rid ourselves of these silly little notions that seem to arise with repeated regularity.

A purely intellectual approach to life is as insufficient as a purely emotional one. The activities of life may be divided into two broad categories, the logical and the non-logical. →

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By ‘non-logical’ we do not mean ‘illogical,’ but rather activities that have nothing to do with logic. There are times when we reason, and argue, and draw inferences. But, for the most part, we are engaged in non-logical activities, like eating and sleeping, or narrating the events of the day, and so on. Logic enters only when we give reasons for our beliefs

When we give reasons for our beliefs, we are reasoning. Reasoning is either logical or illogical. *Illogical* reasoning is bad reasoning, but the *non-* logical has nothing to do with reasoning. When we seek to prove that something is or is not the case, then we engage in argument, in which we say: This is true because that is true, or This is so because that is so. When the reasoning is adequate we say it is logical; when not, illogical.

When we assert beliefs which may be questioned, then we have an obligation to be rational. This common human obligation may be stated in the form of a ‘law of rationality’ or ‘law of argument,’ that *we ought to support our beliefs by adequate evidence*. When we say that we know that something is true, we ought to be able to justify our belief by adequate evidence. [*ibid*].

I recall a former teacher who was fond of citing a quotation, the source of which I cannot remember: No man turns on logic, until logic turns on him. “Come, let us reason together” (Is 1.18).

Ruby, Lionel. *The Art of Thinking Straight*. Philadelphia, New York: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1954.

—AA

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