

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Why Not Be a Muslim? (Part 1)

The Muslim religion, Islam, is currently the fastest growing religion in the world, and it is making inroads into the American society. Founded by Mohammed in A.D. 622, Islam claims that all the Bible prophets are true prophets of God, but that Mohammed is the greatest of God's prophets. As Christians, it is important to, "**prove all things, and hold fast what is good**" (I Thessalonians 5:21) Let us then ask: "Why not be a Muslim?"

The Quran denies Christ's Deity. The Bible teaches that Jesus is God's Son (John 1:1-14). In contrast, the Quran (Islam's holy book) teaches that Jesus was a prophet, but not God. It says: "The Messiah, the son of Mary, is only a prophet; prophets before him have passed away." (Sura 5:79) This statement, if true, makes Jesus a liar for He said, "**I and My Father are one.**" (John 10:30) If Jesus was truly an inspired prophet of God, as the Qur'an teaches, how could He make such a blasphemous claim? To the Muslim, Jesus is merely an inspired man, like Ezekiel, Amos, or Jeremiah. Mohammed, of course, is regarded as the last and greatest of God's prophets. If Islamic teaching is correct, Jesus sinned, and the Bible is inaccurate (I Peter 2:21-23).

Islam provides no atoning sacrifice for sin. The Quran says that all of God's prophets were inspired: "Verily, we have inspired thee as we inspired Noah and the prophets after him...and Jesus." (Sura 4:162) The Bible prophets, however, prophesied and emphasized Jesus' sacrifice for sin. (Isaiah 53, Mark 10:45) Reducing Jesus to the rank of an Old Testament prophet, Islam denies the power of His sacrifice for us! (Philippians 3:10) Yet, the Bible clearly teaches that all men need the sacrifice of Christ to make salvation possible. (John 3:16) Islam seeks to give sinful men a direct access to God, but the Bible teaches that God can have nothing to do with sin. (Isaiah 59:1-2; Habakkuk 1:13) Any religion that ignores or denies the necessity of Jesus' atoning sacrifice for the sin of mankind (John 1:29) greatly distorts what God said through all His prophets in the Bible.

Islam teaches submission to an unreliable god. The claim is made that Islam is based on inspiration from the same God we read about in the Bible, but Allah is very different in character and nature than is our God. To the Muslim, Allah is all-powerful, meaning that there is nothing Allah cannot do. He can even condemn the righteous! The Bible teaches that our God cannot lie. (Titus 1:2) He cannot forget His promises (2 Timothy 2:13) and He cannot look favorably upon sin. (Habakkuk 1:13) Islam teaches that Allah can do all those things, if he so chooses. A Muslim scholar wrote: "Though I have been faithful to Him, I fear that at the end of life, Allah will choose to condemn me anyway." The hope that Christians have in Christ is based upon the witness and oath of God Himself. (Hebrews 6:17-20) If God could change His mind concerning His promises, how hopeless we would be!

The Quran teaches that "Holy War" is acceptable to God. Islam's Quran teaches: "Fight in the cause of God those who fight you...slay them wherever you catch them...Such is the reward of those who suppress faith...Let there be no hostility except to those who practice oppression." (Sura 2:190-193) In other words, those who teach that the Islamic system is not of God are viewed as opponents worthy of persecution. The perceived enemy of Islam does not necessarily have to be "armed" to be considered dangerous, and to incur their bitterness. The Quran also says, "Fight those who believe not in God nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by God and His Apostle, nor acknowledge the Religion of Truth [Islam], (even if they are people of the Book [Jews or Christians], until they pay the Jizya [a tax for those who do not accept Islam] with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued." (Sura 9:29) Thus, Muslims believe it is their duty to fight against and subject non-Muslims to persecution in the cause of Allah. Muslims may deny this, but they cannot be faithful to Mohammed without eventually acknowledging the

above statements from the Quran. In contrast, Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews.” (John 18:36)

John Baker
Southside Church of Christ
(Part 2 Continued next week)

Sympathy

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family of **Mildred Bell**. Mildred had been at the Terrace West Nursing Home in Midland for a number of years. She passed away Monday, March 14th. Lynn Money will be conducting Mildred’s graveside services.

Our sympathy goes to the family of **Billy Street**, brother of Glenna McCarty. Billy passed from this life Thursday, March 10th in Kress, TX. His funeral services were conducted Saturday, March 12th in Kress. Keep this family in your prayers.

Prayer Request

Hannah Weakland has requested prayers for her adopted grandma (**Jewell Frye**) at Freed-Hardeman. Jewell underwent stomach cancer surgery last week. Her cancer was so bad there was nothing they could do to help her. Jewell was put under Hospice care after her recovery. Keep her and her family in your prayers.

James Singleterry (Connie Lowe’s brother) is scheduled for knee surgery April 6th in Dallas. Connie is requesting prayers for him.

Concerns Update

Neva Carrigan was able to go home from the hospital Monday, March 14th following a brief stay due to breathing and heart related problems.

Prayer List

Lee Roy Bell; Susan Bosse; Mack Bradford; Betty Branson; Bobbie Braun; Neva Carrigan; Steve Chavez; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; Todd Drake; John Ford; Bill Gibbons; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Linda Horton; Bobby Hunt; Bryan Jernigan; Helen Jones; Susan Lee; Tracy Leeth; Connie Lowe; Jill McAfee; Anna McGlothlin; Elder McCarty; Jack McCarty; Anna McGlothlin; Patty Montgomery; Russ Montgomery; Caimee Mooney; Juan & Estella Morolez; Julie Munoz; Laura Olivas; Connie Phelps; Earlene Poses; Elvia Ruckman; Montrella Ruffner; Andrew Schwarz; Christa Bella Sellers; Brenda Simmons; Charles Simmons; Lisa Wells; Ann Wilson; Toya Zambelli

Eisenhower’s Shut-ins

Neva Carrigan; Anna Groves; Roberta Hamil; Winford Hambright; Janice Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall, Janelle Shirley, Wilma Squire and Lester Whisenant.

Events

The “STF” group #3 will meet in the annex today for a luncheon. Our visitors are invited.

There will be a “**Family Devotional**” following our evening today. Girls bring chips; boys bring drinks. Everyone is invited.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

What did Samson and Absalom have in common?

Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...

Simon Peter and John were the two disciples who were the first to hear that Jesus had risen from the dead.

FYI

Watch "*In Search of the Lord's Way*" every Sunday morning at 6:30 am on KOSA, channel 7. **Please note the time change.**

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the "**Speaking the Truth in Love**" program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

Graduation Showers...

A graduation party/shower is planned for **Ethan Christian** on Sunday, April 17th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Annex (Middle Room). Ethan will be graduating from Odessa High School. He is the son of Gloria Craig and grandson of Virgie Bartee. Everyone is invited.

Natalynn Wood will be graduating from Permian High School this year. A graduation party /shower is planned for her on Sunday, May 15th 2:00-4:00 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Office News

Ladies, there will be a monthly "**Nursery Duty**" list posted on the bulletin board each month. Check it to see if you have been assigned to help in the nursery (Sunday mornings only). Also check the church's Facebook page. Reminder cards will still be going out. Please check it regularly to see when it's your turn.

The "**New Mexico Children's Home**" will be back in Odessa Tuesday, May 31st, 2016 for a food pick up. They are requesting **Real Mayonnaise**. If you can help out with this request it is greatly appreciated. Monetary donations also accepted.

Serious Thought for Parents

1. If a child sees the Bible is only read in church assembly, he will look upon it as unrelated to daily life.
2. If a child is taught that he is his own authority, he will look upon all other authority with disrespect.

March 20, 2016

Announcements
Song Leader
Sermon
Opening Prayer
Scripture
Second Prayer
Closing Prayer
Lord's Supper
West...

A.M.

Jeff Wesson
Denny Wilson
Allen Weakland
Jeff Wesson
Tom Sorenson
Jacob Carson
Tony Marrs

Tony Marrs
Cody Wesson
Dylan Straw

P.M.

Jeff Wesson
John Wood
Allen Weakland
Jeff Wesson
Trinidad Wood
Larry May
George Warren

Josh Wells
Communion
(In Library)

East... Trinidad Wood
 Dex Dennard
 Richard Siler

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Jeff Wesson 556-5547; *Deacon*: Richard Siler 362-1392; *Pulpit*: John Wood 405-7444;
Table: Josh Wells 770-6753; *Song Leaders*: Denny Wilson 325-340-2291; *Recording Duties*: Chris Butler 362-7486;
Collections: Tony Marrs 553-7349

Sunday AM

"Blow to Self-Righteousness"
(Job 9:20)

Sunday PM

"Conflict with the Church"
(James 4:1-6)

Our Records

Bible Class... 56
*Morning Worship...*110
*Evening Worship...*75
*Wednesday...*91
Contribution...\$4,038.00

