

“Jesus or Mohammed?”

One of the fastest growing religions in the world is Islam. Islam began in Arabia in A.D. 622. It was started by Mohammed, a camel driver, who could not read or write. Mohammed became discouraged with idol worship in his home city of Mecca. He had learned from Jews and Christians that there is only one God.

Mohammed claimed the angel Gabriel came to him. He said Gabriel told him he had been chosen to be the last and greatest prophet of Allah. At a temple in Mecca called the “ka’aba,” a black stone was worshiped. Three hundred and sixty idols were also worshiped there.

One of these idols was “Allah,” the moon god. Mohammed and Allah was the one true god that all men should worship.

Mohammed also claimed that Allah revealed his will to him. This message came to him in various ways, according to Mohammed and his followers. Sometimes Gabriel appeared to him. Sometimes he had dreams or visions. Mohammed’s followers memorized these messages. After Mohammed died, they were written down. During the days of Caliphs Umar and Uthman, Mohammed’s successors, these “revelations” were collected together to form the Qu’ran (or Koran). The Qu’ran is accepted by Moslems as their holy scriptures.

Mohammed And his followers were persecuted in Mecca. They ran away to Medina in 622. Here Mohammed became the ruler of the city. He formed an army and robbed the rich caravans going to Mecca. Before he died, Mohammed’s army had conquered all of Arabia. Within a hundred years after his death, Mohammed’s followers conquered a great empire stretching from Spain across North Africa and the Middle East all the way to India. People who refused to convert to Islam were either killed or heavily taxed. Therefore, many became Moslems.

Is Islam the true way to God? Is Allah the true God? Is Mohammed the last and greatest prophet? Is the Qu’ran a true revelation from God or is it the words of men? These are important questions. Thousands of people are seeking the answers to them. Mohammed called Christians and Jews “people of the Book.” He taught that the books of Moses, the Psalms, and the Gospels in the Bible are true revelations of God. What does the Bible say about these questions?

The Bible warns that a different message from the Gospel must not be accepted even though it comes from an angel: “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed” (Gal. 1:6-8). Mohammed claimed Gabriel gave him his message, but according to the Bible, we must not accept another message even if it comes from an angel. Moslems say the Qu’ran is God’s final revelation to man. But the New Testament, which was written more than 600 years before the Qu’ran, claims it is God’s final revelation to man (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:3; Jude 3). If the Bible is true, then the Qu’ran is false. Mohammed claimed the Bible was true, so according to his own claims, the Qu’ran must be false!

Was Mohammed the last and greatest of the prophets of God? Mohammed accepted the books of Moses (the first five books of the Old Testament) as being inspired of God. In one of them, God said He would raise up a prophet like Moses from among his brethren (Deu. 18:15-19). The brethren of Moses were the children of Israel who were later known as the Jews. Mohammed was not a Jew—he was an Arab. Therefore, he could not be the prophet God raised up among His people. Who is the Prophet God raised up? The apostle Peter tells that this Prophet raised up by God was Jesus Christ (Acts 3:22-26).

Mohammed admitted that Jesus was one of the prophets of God. We know that a true prophet of God does not lie. Therefore, whatever Jesus said must be true.

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BELVEDERE BEACON

“Ye are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14)

Volume 8

Number 15

April 15, 2007

A PUBLICATION OF THE BELVEDERE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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(Greater Augusta, GA area)

A MATTER OF CONSCIENCE

There is no debate that conscience plays an important role in human decision making. Conscience is defined as internal or self-knowledge, or judgment of right and wrong. Because conscience is knowledge it is acquired in the usual ways, such as by the kind of home we were raised in, what was allowed or not allowed, what was encouraged or discouraged, what was modeled for us by the people that we looked up to, our exposure or lack of exposure to the Bible. Thus, our consciences may be good tools in determining our behavior if based on accurate knowledge. But, if our consciences have been trained in error they cannot be counted on to help us make sound decisions. Paul twice stated that he had lived in good conscience even though he later admitted to doing things that were wrong (Acts 23:1; 24:16).

Paul taught Timothy that faith is to be held with a good and pure conscience (I Timothy 1:19; 3:9). If this is to be done, our consciences must be trained in the proper way. Otherwise, we are apt to continue to make faulty decisions until our conscience becomes hardened to the truth (I Tim. 4:2). There are some things that we are instructed to do and not to do for conscience’s sake (Rom. 13:5; I Cor. 10:27). “Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled” (Tit. 1:15). It is clear that God intends our consciences to play an important role in decision making, thus we must be careful to train our consciences so that we can make use of them as God intended. We must also realize how important it is to our children that they be brought up in an atmosphere of pure conscience, governed by the word of God and the love of Christ. Moms and Dads need to be godly role models, faithful teachers of God’s word, and doers of the work of the Lord so their children can develop the pure consciences that they need in order to become faithful Christians. Let us all learn to live in good conscience, but let us be sure that it is properly trained.

Randy Matheny,
Warren, PA

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am.
Morning Worship 11.00 am.
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.

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A PAPER "HANDKERCHIEF"

A few weeks, I received in the mail what was described as a "Bible Handkerchief." You may have also received one. This came from religious group in Tulsa (home to some strange religious groups) called Saint Matthew's Churches. Clearly they are not the Lord's churches and I do not believe that the apostle Matthew would want to claim any association with them! The outside of the envelope stated, "God's Holy Spirit instructed is to loan you this to start turning things around for you. So here it is. Use it and be blessed."

The recipients of the "faith handkerchief" were instructed to sleep with it under their head for one night and then return it along with a list of things that they wanted prayer for in order that God would grant unto them some "special miracle blessing." Also included was a "sealed prophecy" that was not to be opened until the "faith handkerchief with your name and the name of another individual on it was returned to the group.

They claimed to have Bible authority for doing this quoting, "*And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them*" (Act 19:11-12). However, they give NO biblical proof that they are in the same position as Paul, that God performs special miracles by their hands. How sad when there are those who will wrest the scriptures to their own destruction (II Peter 3:16) and also deceive gullible people who do not know the Scriptures.

Now to the special prophecy which was headed "Something good is about to happen..." Also was the request not to open it until the special prayer pages and handkerchief had been put in the mail. On the back of the "prophecy" was written "**A SIGN FROM THE LORD ABOUT YOUR FUTURE.**" It then read, "**IMPORTANT** - Only break open **this sealed prophecy after** you have put this **Church Prayer, Acts 19:11, 12 Bible handkerchief** and **your prayer requests** back in the mail to this **56 year old church ministry.**" If this is so scriptural, why has it only been done for 56 years? It continues, "**If for any reason you are not going to return this Church Prayer Bible Handkerchief, then this sacred prophecy must be destroyed, unopened and unread,** because this isa **sacred, spiritual prophecy,** seal word, concerning **you and your future.** Remember, the **Bible** says, "*Let your requests be made known unto God.*" Philippians 4:6. Well, I guess I am in trouble. I didn't return the paper handkerchief or the prayer request but I opened the "sealed prophecy" anyway!

Inside, the "prophecy" which was very general in nature about God blessing the recipient of it, it states, "**THE ONLY TRUE SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUTURE IS GOD'S WORD AND HIS HOLY SPIRIT.**" Yes, the Bible is God's Word and it has revealed ALL of God's will (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:3). The faith has indeed been once delivered to the saints (Jude 3). Thus, there is to be no further revelation, no other inspired words given to men today. Therefore, any supposed "special prophecies" are nothing more than the words of men designed to deceive the hearts of the unlearned.

At the end of the "prophecy" it states: "**THANK GOD THAT THIS ANOINTED PRAYER HANDKERCHIEF IS BACK IN THE MAIL, ON ITS WAY TO THIS 56-YEAR OLD CHURCH.**" Their supposed source of Bible authority for such "handkerchiefs" no where mentioned anything about "prayer handkerchiefs." Again, if the church is only 56 years old then it is a church of men and does not have the biblical authority to exist.

May we never be deceived into accepting the deceitful lies of those who would seek to make merchandise of people.

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Helen Culpepper is still unable to be out. Keep her in your prayers, as well as Les as he continues to take care of her. Also keep in your prayers Pam Gossett's mother, Kathy Treadway's mother and Bronwen Gibson's mother (Lavonne McClish) who has health problems.

Kathy Treadway was unable to be out as she was having serious pain and could hardly move. She was to see her Chiropractor on Monday.

Rachel Fitzpatrick was out of town over the weekend helping her Mom move to a new house.

It was good to have Kimberly Wilson here Sunday morning. She had been home for Spring Break.

Jim and Bronwen Gibson, who have been attending for a couple of weeks placed membership on Sunday morning. Welcome Jim and Bronwen to the congregation. Bronwen is the daughter of Dub and Lavonne McClish. Dub is a faithful Gospel Preacher and he and Lavonne are good friends of Ken Chumbley.

We will be having a potluck following the morning worship service on April 29. Plan to stay and eat together.

"Jesus or Mohammed"? Continued from page four.

Please notice what Jesus said about Himself: "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 14:6).

Is Allah the one true God? Is Allah the same as the God we read about in the Bible? The answer to both of these questions is "NO!" The Bible teaches there is one God. There are, however, three Persons who possess the Divine Nature. They are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Moslems reject the teaching of the Bible concerning the Godhead. They deny that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God (John 1:18; 3:16). Moslems claim to accept the books of Matthew—John, but these books teach that Jesus Christ is God's Son. The very books which Moslems agree come from God disagrees with their teaching.

We have learned that according to Mohammed's own teachings, the Qu'ran cannot be the true word of God, nor can Allah be the true God. Neither can Mohammed be God's prophet.

Mohammed was a strong leader of men. He formed an army and conquered a great empire. However, he was a false prophet. Therefore, his teachings must be rejected. Mohammed has led millions of people astray. Those who follow him are lost (Mat. 5:13-14). Jesus Christ is the only way to God (John 14:6). All spiritual blessings are to be found in Him. He alone can give eternal life.

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds" (Heb. 1:1-2). We must listen to God's Son today in order to be saved (Acts 3:23). God's Son, Jesus Christ, tells us we must hear and believe His Gospel, repent of all our sins, confess Him before men, and be baptized in order to be saved.

*via The Mathis Messenger
Mathis, TX*