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Citizens for Excellence in Education

February 2012 Newsletter

Beloved of God and Believers in His Work for our Children,

by Robert Simonds

Bob, I hate to interrupt before you've even had a chance to start, but ... your God doesn't have a very good track record when it comes to children; and I'm not just talking about the millions that He allows to starve to death every year. I'm also talking about all the verses in your Bible where He confesses to committing, or sending His goons to commit, horrible crimes against children.

Bob, do I need to list all those verses? I think not. I'm sure you are quite aware of them. The question is, why do you worship such a hideous monster? Well, the Bible is pretty clear about what will happen to you if you don't, isn't it?

*With the Bible as our guide, we can face every challenge of aging: it’s a strong biblical grip on reality,*

Bob, when you say "reality" are you referring to the reality of the sun stopping in the sky for a whole day, or the talking snake? Are you referring to a sea splitting in two when touched with a magic stick, or all the verses about unicorns?

Bob, exactly which part of the Bible do you find representative of "reality?"

*while giving us His peace and joy in our latter years and God’s reason for keeping us here. We understand “Grace” and “Servanthood” as God’s ultimate joy in us!*

Bob, did you really just say that? Yeah, I guess you did. You find "servanthood" an ultimate joy?

Bob, here's a link that you may find yourself described in:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diagnostic\_and\_Statistical\_Manual\_of\_Mental\_Disorders

*So God wants us to remember! Grace is God’s love; servanthood is the true calling of all Christians. A servant will be greatest of all!*

Bob, so now you admit that your purpose in assuming the humble appearance of servanthood was actually so that you can become the "greatest of all?"

Sometimes, I don't even have to say anything - you people just hang yourselves ... like you just did.

*“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” Jesus said: “I go to prepare a place for you.”*

Bob, two-thirds of humanity doesn't even believe Jesus exists. So when you say He is preparing a place for us, I guess you mean He is firing up the ovens. That's a swell guy you worship there, Bob.

*It’s been good to look back—to remember! While memory itself fades with our older years, I have discovered that the big events—serving the Lord Jesus Christ—do not fade, but grow stronger instead. God actually does tell us to remember our life with Him.*

Bob, I wonder why Hindus can't remember their life with Him. They remember some guy named "Brahma."

*Like God’s great servant, King David, we can say—this is our great comfort! Please believe it and above all DO IT, beloved of God. God is offering us peace!*

Well that's nice Bob, but the only problem with that offer of peace is that it comes with a threat: believe or burn forever. That isn't an offer Bob, that's an ultimatum.

*Faith that trusts God is true faith, without doubts.*

Bob, the things you view as virtues: faith, trust, and credulity ... are anything but.

*Of course, God is the source of all knowledge, and the Creator/designer of our brain.*

Bob, I hate to break the bad news to you but, we have institutions full of people, on whose brains your God didn't spend a whole lot of time.

*His Word is a display of His awesome power, in His own Words.*

Bob, unfortunately no originals of His Word exist; only copies that have been extensively edited by everyone who got their hands on them. So it's kind of hard to be sure of what He said in the originals.

Not to mention, there are so many different versions floating around that I doubt even God could recognize the one He inspired. I notice that you quote verses from various versions. If God's word is inerrant and true, why would there be more than one?

Bob, there wouldn't be.

*God’s Word is alive! Jesus is the living Word: “All power is given unto me,” He said. “Sanctify believers through thy Truth: thy Word is truth.” It’s easy to see the “mysterious” power that the Word has—and what it imbues in us—and how it’s connected to Jesus’ other proclamations: “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life: ….”*

Bob, trying to make sense out of that gobbledygook you just wrote finally taught me the meaning of the word ... gobbledygook.

*The Word is the Truth; and the Word and the Truth are the power, given to us at the miraculous “New Birth” of the fallen human spirit and soul.*

Unfortunately Bob, science has been unable to prove that a spirit or a soul actually exists. The fact that you believe they do only proves that they exist in your mind.

*The power continues to work in us, all our life. These truths from God’s Word continuously reveal the “mystery” of how the “living word” alone changes us physically and spiritually and ethereally, the intangible point of Grace and the physical, human body.*

Bob, so why doesn't Jesus change Hindus, Buddhists, and Muslims? Why does He allow them to be sent to eternal damnation?

In fact, after 2,000 years, Jesus isn't even close to saving half the world. Most are doomed. Are you sure this Guy's all-powerful?

*The “mystery” is all illustrated in the “new body” of our Lord Jesus Christ’s body—after our divine salvation from sin—through the living sacrifice of Jesus’ body and blood on the cruel, agonizing cross; His human blood, for life is in the blood: “…for the life of the flesh is in the blood.” “For without the shedding of blood there is no remission.” That is: no casting away of sin, no forgiveness!*

Bob, If you could read that with a rational mind, which we both already know is impossible, you could see that you sound more like a vampire than a modern religious believer.

*The penalty for Adam’s original sin is death, and carnality. Everything in Scripture is tied back to the creation; the fall of man; the birth, life and cross of Jesus Christ. Every inspiration to the Prophets and Apostles, was given to them by the third person of the Godhead: the Holy Spirit. Jesus was the creator;*

Bob, how do you figure Jesus was the creator? Your Bible is pretty clear that God the father created the Universe. Since, by definition, a father must precede a son, Jesus could not have created anything.

Hell, He didn't even show up until 4,000 years later in the New Testament. Where do you get your "facts" from?

*He is the living Word, now at the Father’s throne in Heaven, making intercession for our many ugly, selfish, pride-filled sins!*

Bob, why would Jesus need to intercede for us against His Father? If they already know the future, what is the purpose of that charade?

Bob, have you noticed that nothing you say ever makes any logical sense?

*“He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.” That incredible man, Jesus Christ, was willing to become both God and man for our ugly sins.*

But Bob, according to Mark 14:35-36, Jesus wasn't too happy about that whole crucifixion thing. Sounds like God may have threatened Him too.

*He is the one and only God of the universe;*

Bob, Islam can claim to be monotheistic, but you guys have almost enough ghosts to enter a bridge tournament.

*and yet He was willing to become a God-Man, a mysterious morphology of a spiritual Son of God to a material son of man, Jesus! Now remember, beloved, as you contemplate this apparent mystery: Jesus told us: “With men, this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”*

Bob, can God create a rock so large, He can't lift it? Either way ... you lose Bob.

*The mystery of the “immaculate conception”—that is, how did Mary become pregnant without a husband’s seed—turns out to be no mystery at all.*

Bob, that was an easy one. What gave it away was when they caught the local Rabbi smoking a cigarette ... before there were cigarettes.

*God who created in Adam the reproductive “seed” to generate life in his wife’s womb, through husband and wife intimacy,*

Bob, the reproductive seed that generates life also works in cases of rape intimacy. In fact, God saw no problem with forcing the rape victim to marry her attacker. What a great source of morals you people have.

*and that seed, we now know, is a special part of the blood of the man. God, in His Word, told us: “…God created man in His own image, after our likeness.”*

So Bob, does that mean that God is white or black? Giant or dwarf? Handsome or ugly? Since we are all very different looking, whose image did God use?

*The Divine Trinity of God’s Being—each functioning separately yet completely 100% One!*

Bob, "Separate, yet completely 100% one?" Thanks for clearing that one up for us, Bob.

*“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created he him….”*

Bob, then how come we are not invisible?

*Now, mankind “creates” his own children through the “seed” planting in his wife’s womb—his children are in their own human father’s “image,” much as we were, and are still, in God’s image, through Adam. God, the Creator, merely touched Mary and said “let it be,” and it was:*

Bob, so God used His finger? That's pretty good, but personally, and this is just me, I think a little kissing and foreplay might have been more considerate and intimate.

Bob, maybe you should review Matthew 1:18 and refresh your memory. According to that verse, it wasn't the Father but one of the other ghosts who knocked Mary's knickers off.

*God’s own creative power, a part of Himself and yielding up His own Son for sinful earthlings’ sins. His own son, because He is the Father—and Jesus is the heavenly Father’s only begotten Son; begotten, or procreated by God the Father.*

Bob, what happened to "Completely 100% One?" If a Father begets a Son - there must be at least 2 ghosts involved, otherwise, He is begetting Himself.

*Jesus, then, on his human side can look at God the Father in heaven as his progenitor; while he would be the Father’s descendant, or His progeny.*

Bob, the fact that you can actually convince yourself that any of that made sense shows what religion does to the brain; and as we all just saw ... it isn't very pretty.

*On Jesus’ “God the Son” side of the triune Godhead, Jesus is as fully God as he was fully man; with His divinity now fully restored, Jesus is once again given “all-power” as God the Son—and ONE with God the Father and God the Holy Ghost. It seems certain we will all be very surprised when we “reign with Him in Heaven,”*

Bob, no one ... more than me.

*and have our Savior teach us knowledge we cannot know until then, knowledge too great for earthly man to know now. This we do know: “For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.” However, for now, many are in their last years—most often characterized “as old age.” They know their limitations and have faced physical loss of memory changes; but have joyously found that in their latter years they have such greatly fulfilling and rewarding lives. They were realistically and emotionally ready for the changes taking place in body and mind—and totally delighted to discover that, while reading their Bible, the spiritual life became a dynamic force in their life, and not only in their life, but in being a helper of other older lonelies and inactives. By establishing a personal Christian ministry of “servanthood,” life took on a new meaning, as never before. It is a gift of hope for others who had no one else. They could then, as brothers and sisters, help their friends.*

Bob, In other words, provide a crutch for those afraid of dying. Console people with a fairy tale because they never developed the skills to deal with reality. Yeah, that sounds great.

*Scripture is full of God’s recordings for us, many older Old Testament and New Testament lives that were useful, powerful and full of glory. Some were famous men, but most just ordinary people who obeyed God rather than listened to men. You and I can enjoy these ageing years and even do our greatest work on earth. Billy Graham, in his latest book, “Nearing Home,” listed many Bible characters whose greatest ministry, or act of ministry were performed in their last days.*

Bob, guess what Graham decided to do as one of his last acts? He took a public stand against gay marriage in North Carolina. Billy Graham - a bigot until the end.

*Moses was 120 years old when God rewarded him, when He told Moses to climb Mt. Pisgah, by Mt. Nebo. Moses’ successor, Joshua, served God until he was 110 years old. Noah was 500 years old when he began building the ark, as God instructed him to do.*

Bob, Noah was 600 when he built the Ark. Didn't they teach you that in Bible study?

*After Noah, Abraham was born—he was 75 years old when God chose him to serve Him. He was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born: “…in his old age at the very time God had promised him.”*

Bob, Abraham lived 175 years. At 100 he was barely middle aged.

But that makes me wonder: since Noah lived almost 800 years longer than Abraham, was Abraham a heavy drinker? Perhaps a heavy drug user? Obese? Why do you think he died so young?

*These chosen men didn’t let old age and all its ills, pains, sorrows and insecurities that Satan attacked them with, take away the confidence that God was their strength, not just youth.*

Bob, strength comes through knowledge of things that are, not through belief ... in things that are not.

neo, 2012

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THE SCIENCE SEGMENT

Cassini Finds Saturn Moon Has Planet-Like Qualities

Data from NASA's Cassini mission reveal Saturn's moon Phoebe has more planet-like qualities than previously thought.

Scientists had their first close-up look at Phoebe when Cassini began exploring the Saturn system in 2004. Using data from multiple spacecraft instruments and a computer model of the moon's chemistry, scientists found Phoebe was a so-called planetesimal, or remnant planetary building block.

Unlike primitive bodies such as comets, Phoebe appears to have actively evolved for a time before it stalled out. Objects like Phoebe are thought to have condensed very quickly. Hence, they represent building blocks of planets. They give scientists clues about what conditions were like around the time of the birth of planets and their moons.

Cassini images suggest Phoebe originated in the far-off Kuiper Belt, the region of ancient, icy, rocky bodies beyond Neptune's orbit. Data show Phoebe was spherical and hot early in its history, and has denser rock-rich material concentrated near its center. Its average density is about the same as Pluto, another object in the Kuiper Belt. Phoebe likely was captured by Saturn's gravity when it somehow got close to the giant planet.

Saturn is surrounded by a cloud of irregular moons that circle the planet in orbits tilted from Saturn's orbit around the sun, the so-called equatorial plane. Phoebe is the largest of these irregular moons and also has the distinction of orbiting backward in relation to the other moons. Saturn's large moons appear to have formed from gas and dust orbiting in the planet's equatorial plane. These moons currently orbit Saturn in that same plane.

By combining Cassini data with modeling techniques previously applied to other solar system bodies, scientists been able to go back in time and clarify why it is so different from the rest of the Saturn system.

Analyses suggest that Phoebe was born within the first 3 million years of the birth of the solar system, which occurred 4.5 billion years ago. The moon may originally have been porous but appears to have collapsed in on itself as it warmed up. Phoebe developed a density 40 percent higher than the average inner Saturnian moon.

Objects of Phoebe's size have long been thought to form as "potato-shaped" bodies and remained that way over their lifetimes. If such an object formed early enough in the solar system's history, it could have harbored the kinds of radioactive material that would produce substantial heat over a short timescale. This would warm the interior and reshape the moon.

Phoebe likely stayed warm for tens of millions of years before freezing up. The study suggests the heat also would have enabled the moon to host liquid water at one time. This could explain the signature of water-rich material on Phoebe's surface previously detected by Cassini.

The new study also is consistent with the idea that several hundred million years after Phoebe cooled, the moon drifted toward the inner solar system in a solar-system-wide rearrangement. Phoebe was large enough to survive this turbulence.

More than 60 moons are known to orbit Saturn, varying drastically in shape, size, surface age and origin.

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FAMOUS QUOTES

Eliza Lynn Linton (1822 – 1898) 76 years.

She was a British novelist, essayist, and journalist.

“I see no light behind that terrible curtain.

I do not think one religion better than another,

and I think the Christian religion has brought

far more misery, crime, and suffering,

far more tyranny and evil, than any other.”