

The Word of God
By Gary L. Berdine

On April 1, 2011, I channel surfed to MSNBC and noticed Chuck Todd was hosting "Hardball." The subject was the recent burning of a copy of the Koran by "Pastor" Terry Jones in Florida. Jones had been threatening to burn a copy of the Koran for months, and had finally done it. As a result of this act, 12 United Nations employees were killed by an angry mob in Afghanistan. More have been killed since then. One of the people Mr. Todd had on the show to help explain why this happened was Mr. Bobby Ghosh, Department International Editor for Time Magazine. Mr. Ghosh is a Muslim. What prompts me to write this article is his explanation as to why the mob in Afghanistan reacted so violently. According to Mr. Ghosh, everyone knows that the Bible is the work of men, while the Koran is the word of God. Muslims believe that the Koran is the sacred word of God, so burning a copy of it was outrageous sacrilege to them, and the mob justified their attack as retribution for burning the Koran. Mr. Ghosh, to his defense, condemned the actions of the Afghan mob. But his characterization of the Bible as the work of men, while the Koran is the word of God, is what prompts me to write this article.

I must admit that it does not surprise me that a Muslim would believe that the Koran is the word of God. They believe there is one God, Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet. Mohammed is credited with writing the Koran. Muslims are fervent in this belief, far too often to the point of outrageous fanaticism. What is sad is that the statement that the Bible is the work of men went unchallenged during the discussion. Mr. Ghosh actually stated that "everyone" knows this fact about the Bible. And frankly, with all the pseudo-Christians who constantly pour criticism on the Bible, I am afraid that many people in our country do believe that the Bible is merely the work of men.

In one sense, it would be nice if people that claimed to be Christians were as universal in their belief that the Bible is the word of God as the Muslims are in their belief that the Koran is the word of God. Sadly, I am fearful that those that would defend the Bible are a very small minority. Those people are unaware that we are blessed in this world to have, what is in fact, the Bible, the word of God. The Apostle Paul told the Christians in the city of Thessalonica: "For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe" (1Thes. 2:13, NKJV).

We believe the Bible to be the inspired word of God. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2Tim. 3:16-17). Another passage that affirms the inspiration of the scriptures is 2Peter 1:21: "for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

Therefore, I would change Mr. Ghosh's affirmation in the following way: The Koran is the work of men, while the Bible is the sacred word of God. Some might ask, can't both the Bible and the Koran be the word of God. No, a comparison of the two books shows radical differences, and the Koran comes up short when an objective

comparison is made. I invite the reader to look into the background of both the Bible and the Koran, and to convince yourself that the Koran cannot be the word of God.

There is one more point that I would like to make. While I certainly am not in favor of burning a copy of the Bible, if one was burned, Christians would not need to riot about it. Frankly, God would not want us to riot. His kingdom is not worldly, and does not perpetuate its existence by the use of force. The Holy Bible, the true word of God, will stand forever. Burning a copy of the Bible is not going to change this fact.

A Sermon Never Forgotten

Throughout the years I have heard many wonderful sermons which I have forgotten, but one sermon have I seen and it has remained in my heart until this day. It happened on a Sunday morning when I was on my way to one of the two small congregations in Munich, Germany, on a cold, rainy day in November. After I got out of bed, I looked through the window which was covered with ice ferns. New deep snow had fallen during the night covering the streets of the city. I tried to decide whether I should go to worship or stay home and read my Bible.

I realized the congregation would miss me, for I was the only song leader they had. On the other hand I would have to walk a half block to catch the bus to the building. Finally I decided to go but only because I must lead the singing.

While I was riding the bus, I noticed two people trying hard to make their path through the snow. I recognized the people and knew where they were going. They were Brother and Sister Trollman, a faithful couple who attended every service. Brother Trollman was a man in his eighties who had lost his eyesight. His only guidance was his seventy-eight year old wife, who was lame in one foot. They lived in a little two room apartment, and received a little support from the government. Because they could not afford to ride the bus to the services, which were about three miles away, they walked the distance every Lord's Day. Here I was sitting in a warm bus, unwilling to go to worship, forced by my duty as a song leader, and there, outside in the cold weather, were two old people driven to worship by their love for the Lord.

I was not able to do anything but blush, ashamed of myself and the weak faith and love I had proved to my Lord. I felt like an evildoer in court being judged by his own conscience. This old couple without their knowledge and without one word had taught me a greater lesson than could ever be said in words. (An American G. I., Quoted in Jack Ray, "The Power Of An Example," The Lehman Avenue Weekly Communicator, Feb. 4, 1987)

A Moments Wisdom

Science is organized knowledge. Wisdom is organized life.

We lie the loudest when we lie to ourselves.

Be sincere; be brief; be seated. (Franklin Roosevelt on public speaking)

Nothing is a waste of time if you use the experience wisely.

When you have given nothing, ask for nothing.

The most called-upon prerequisite of a friend is an accessible ear.

A slip of the foot you may soon recover, but a slip of the tongue you may never get over.

Truth often suffers more by the heat of its defenders, than from the arguments of its opposers.