ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

We continue to have a number of visitors in the Bible classes and worship services at Getwell. For this we are very grateful, and we hope that your visit was so beneficial that you will want to return. We appreciate especially all who visited with us during the recent Gospel meeting. To our sister congregations, those family members of our members, those who accepted an invitation by the members, and those who may have attended because of curiosity about what we teach and practice, we give our thanks that you have come to be with us. Please ask any Bible questions to any member at Getwell and they will be happy to give you a Bible answer.

Hopefully also, all will put the dates of October 21-24, 2018, on your calendar to remind you of the Forty-Third Annual SPIRITUAL SWORD LECTURESHP conducted at the Getwell building. There is a new feature for the women this year. In addition to our 28 men who are writing manuscripts and who will be speaking, at 2:00 p.m. Monday - Wednesday, we have three faithful, godly women who will speak in a separate place from the men. They are Cathy Powell, Cindy Colley, and Christine Allen. Ladies, please plan to attend these outstanding classes.
We have been searching for the real people of the world. Just as the world recognizes its own by worldly standards, so we have learned that the right standard of measuring the real elite is the Word of God (II Tim. 3:16-17). These have their names enrolled in God's book of life. Following their obedience to the Gospel, God added the names of the saved (Acts 2:38, 41, 47). When the Judgement Day comes, the real elite, who have followed Christ and come into His church, will hear, "come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matt. 25:34). When Jesus calls all before His throne, He will first open the book of law under which each lived, then the Book of Life, to make comparison (Rev. 20:11-12). The Patriarchal was a family religion lasting 2500 years. The Jewish was a national religion lasting 1500 years. But the Christian, under which all now live since the cross, is an individual religion lasting to the end of this world (I Cor. 15:24; Matt. 28:18-20).

Faithfulness in the Christian Age

As in other ages, there is also an elite group today! They are called Christians. Many Gospel preachers, elders, and other Christians could be named! It is not for popularity or the praise of men that makes these men among the elite (Jn. 12:42-43). It is not their wit or willingness to bend to the wishes of the sins of the people. Rather, it is their stalwart stand for Truth which sets them apart. They find their heroes in Jesus, Peter, and Paul. They go into the field of labor looking for a work in which they may serve and help as many as possible go to Heaven. Their willingness to study, prepare, and be ready unto every good work, without fear or favor, presses them to the top of usefulness in the Lord's kingdom! Their convictions from the Word are not for sale (II Tim. 4:1-8). These men do not keep their ear to the ground before making their decisions, where Truth is involved. It is our prayer that more and more will qualify to join this elite group of faithful servants! Having an "honest and good heart" (Lk. 8) and using our talents to the best of our abilities, we, too, can be among this elite group of the Christian Dispensation, and finally hear the Lord say, "Well done!"
People All Over the World Associate Atheism with Immorality

Recently, Huffington Post writer Antonia Blumberg penned an article titled “Anti-Atheist Prejudice Is Entrenched Around the Globe, Even Among Atheists.” In the article, she commented on research that appeared in Nature magazine. The summary paragraph on the Nature Web site describing the research stated that “people in most—but not all—of these countries viewed extreme moral violations as representative of atheists. Notably, anti-atheist prejudice was even evident among atheist participants around the world.” The researchers wrote,

Combined, these results show that across the world, religious belief is intuitively viewed as a necessary safeguard against the temptations of grossly immoral conduct, and atheists are broadly perceived as potentially morally depraved and dangerous. Viewed differently, people perceive belief in a god as a sufficient moral buffer to inhibit immoral behaviour.

Blumberg wrote, “The study echoes the findings of a report by Pew Research Center, published in 2014, which found that majorities in 22 countries say a person must believe in God in order to be moral and have good values.” In truth, Charles Darwin recognized this when he stated, “A man who has no assured and ever present belief in the existence of a personal God or of a future existence with retribution and reward, can have for his rule of life, as far as I can see, only to follow those impulses and instincts which are the strongest or which seem to him the best ones.”

At Apologetics Press, we have written extensively on the fact that the philosophy of atheism absolutely cannot provide a foundation upon which to build a moral framework. It is true that atheists can behave in more moral ways than people who believe in God. But atheists cannot appeal to atheism to honestly explain or defend such moral behavior. Atheism cannot really even define the terms “moral” and “immoral.”

It is interesting that in Blumberg’s article she quoted Bart Campolo, an atheistic activist who stated, “We secularists, who pursue goodness simply because we recognize it as the surest way to flourish, need to get a whole lot better at compellingly articulating our own good news, and maybe even learn to make it sing.” Notice the sentiment behind Campolo’s statement. He sees morality as “the surest way to flourish.” But what happens when the morally right thing to do does not coincide with an individual “flourishing”? What happens when “doing right” means a costly sacrifice even to the point of death to help someone who might never respond in kind? You can see that even in the context of trying to make atheistic morality appear meaningful, Campolo only succeeds in showing that it is a “means to an end” way of life based on a foundation of self-preservation. Imagine what would happen if people made their moral decisions based only on what would help them “flourish.” Campolo’s articulation of atheistic morality helps us to see why the foundational tenets of atheism are distrusted around the world.

ENDNOTES
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
5 Blumberg.
8 Blumberg.