

# Only Human?

By Frank Bush

A year or so ago, I had a student in my office. He was there because his behavior was much less than what I expected in a Bible college student. After discussing the matter, he crowned his long recitation with the excuse, "After all, I'm only human." When he said that, I jumped to my feet, raised my voice about 16 decibels and fairly shouted, "Only human! Do you realize what you have just said?" He moved back into his chair and his eyes were wide in surprise. I didn't wait for an answer.

"Only human! You mean in the image of God, made a little lower than the angels and in Christ, given the power to become greater than the angels, only human! You have been given dominion over the earth and every living creature on the face of the earth. The greatest of all God's creatures. The only creature able to think the thoughts of

God. The object of His love and the one for whose salvation He sent Jesus to Calvary. What do you mean, 'only human'?"

Silence reigned heavily in the room. For a long moment he stared at me in bewilderment and I attempted to look through his eyes into his soul. I was hoping that my words had driven home an important truth. Soon he began to move uneasily in his chair and said, "I guess I have been less than what He wants me to be. I'm sorry, I will do better." I nodded my head and he walked out.

To use being human as an excuse for our thoughtless and stupid behavior is an insult to the God who made us.



Classes this Week:			September Birthdays
Sunday Afternoon Kids Class at 5:15	Thursday 7 PM Class at Jillian Petty's on I John		
<b>Sick</b>			
Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Lori Holloway	Chick Wade	1 - Ryan Seymore
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Jared Nixon	2 - Denise Davis
Ross Folmar	Bob Simpson	Joe Perry (Anna Miller's Relative)	3 - Trenton Anderson
Ed Mort (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	"Grandmama" Odessa Wyatt (Dyle's grandmother)	Erlene Davis (Walker Davis' mother)	4 - Kevin Anderson
Gerald White (Christopher's and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Bill Rhodes (Toni Herd's Uncle)	4 - Jillian Petty
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Frank Johnson (Debbi Coleman's Uncle)	Herbert Missildine (Toni Herd's Uncle)	10 - Matthew Sullivanne
			10 - BJ Winslett
			11 - Sheryl Fowler
			12 - Jared Johnson
			13 - Jared Rice
			14 - Patsy Ogle
			17 - Laura Weldon
			21 - Sarah Chandler
			24 - Blake Armstrong
			24 - Wade Winslett

## News and Notes

- Rusty Weldon's father passed away last week and was buried on Wednesday.
- Let us continue to remember Bob Simpson in our prayers as he continues to struggle with back issues.
- The Flower fund needs to be replenished. Please see Patsy Ogle to make a contribution.
- We are so thankful to be blessed with so many visitors! Please take time to fill out a visitor's card.
- We want to encourage our regular students to consider placing membership with us if you have not already done so!.
- After every services Audio CDs will be available in the foyer of the sermon.

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# The Auburn Beacon



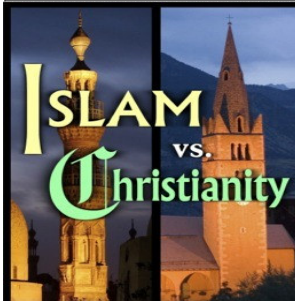
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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## Answering a Muslim Critic (Part 2)

By Larry Rouse



### Thought to Ponder

The highest Christian love is not devotion to a work or to a cause, but to Jesus Christ.

Seeking to convince others to change their beliefs and, as a result, change their lives is a noble pursuit. The Apostle Paul converted many of the hearers that he reasoned with to become believers in Christ (Acts 14:1). Mr. Husain, a confessed Muslim, has attempted to convince me and others through an e-mail to accept his evidence and become a "true follower of only preserved divine revelation on the earth, Islam/Sunni." So far we have examined the evidence he has used to attack the Bible and found it to be completely lacking. How does the Koran stand against the same kind of objections Mr. Husain brought against the Bible?

### Do We Have the Original Manuscript of the Koran?

Mr Husain has asserted that the Koran is the "only purely original manuscript existing revelation on the face of earth for mercy and salvation." Therefore the Koran could not have any problems with copyist errors. Asserting these things proves nothing, for anyone on earth that wishes to do so can test his claims. When we look at how the Koran came into being, a very different picture emerges from what our Muslim critic has said.

1. The author of the Koran, Muhammad, could neither read nor write. He did not personally write one sentence of the Koran.<sup>1</sup>
2. What he spoke was both memorized and "written down on pieces of leather, on pieces of parchment, on bones, on palm leaves, on stones, on boards, and on

What evidence has been presented by our critic to establish the credibility of Mohammad? There were no miracles worked by him, no fulfilled prophesies of him, he only claimed to have received a message from an angel. While he did affirm that the prophets of the Bible were genuine, those very prophets severely contradict the teachings of Muhammad.

other things."<sup>1</sup>

3. After the death of Muhammad there was an effort made to collect and record his teachings in written form. At first, many were reluctant to do this because Muhammad never attempted to do this, nor did he give a commandment to have it done.<sup>3</sup>
4. There were many differences in the texts produced through these efforts.<sup>2</sup> The different versions were ordered to be destroyed by fire by the Muslim Caliph Uthman and one final text was presented.<sup>3</sup>
5. No manuscript of the Koran from this period is in existence today. The earliest documents in existence are fragments that were written over 200 years after the final edition of the Koran.<sup>1</sup>
6. Therefore the Koran we possess in fact

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Do You Have a Bible Question?  
Call (334) 734-2133 or  
E-mail:  
LarryRouse@aubeacon.com



### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!

Larry Rouse  
Evangelist and Editor

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came to us through copyists who were also "fallible men."<sup>2</sup>

Why does our critic fail to mention these things? The same approach he used in his zeal to discredit the Bible would cast even greater doubts on the Koran! In truth the Koran itself would dispute his entire line of argumentation. Muhammad urged Jews to "hold fast by the Book" (Al A'râf 7:169-170), but how could the Jews "hold fast" if there was no reliable book available?

### ***A Comparison of Jesus and Muhammad***

Why not look at the New Testament and learn about the claims and teachings of Jesus and also look at the Koran and see exactly what was taught by Muhammad? Why is our Muslim critic and others like him so anxious to close the pages of the Bible to examination and only wish for you to read the Koran?

### ***The Claims and Teachings of Jesus***

The birth, life and death of Jesus were foretold in the writings of the Old Testament. How could such detail of His life be given hundreds of years in advance? Listen to the words of Jesus: "Then He said to them, O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory" (**Luke 24:25-26**)? "Then He said to them, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures" (**Luke 24: 44-45**).

Jesus claimed to be the Son of God and, as a result, freely accepted worship without rebuking the worshippers. When Jesus appeared to His disciples they "came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him" (**Matthew 28:9-10**). Jesus appeared to Thomas and challenged him to "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"<sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed." (**John 20:27-29**)

Jesus claimed that the sacrifice of Himself on the cross would provide the only path to God. "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins" (**John 8:24**).

### ***The Claims and Teachings of Muhammad***

1. Muhammad claimed to be a Prophet of God. "In the year 610 (believed to be the 26th of Ramadan), while in a cave on Mt. Hirah, Muhammad said that the angel

Gabriel appeared to him and commanded him to recite (96:1-19). This recitation became the Qur'an."<sup>4</sup>

2. Muhammad claimed to work no miracles.<sup>1</sup>

3. Muhammad claimed that the prophets of the Old and New Testament were from God and that that message had been put in writing.<sup>1</sup>

4. "He said that the Day of Judgment was coming and that a man's works will be weighed on that day. Those whose good deeds out weigh their bad may, by Allah's grace, be saved and enter Paradise which is full of sensual pleasures."<sup>4</sup>

### ***How Can We Know What is true?***

Jesus claimed that his identity would be known to all by the greatest of signs, His resurrection from the dead (**John 2:20-22, Romans 1:3-4**). When you weigh the evidence of the miracles in the ministry of Christ, the fulfilled prophecy of the Old Testament and the eyewitness testimony of the disciples (**Acts 2:32, 36; 1 John 1:1-3**), you can conclude that Jesus is indeed the Son of God.

What evidence has been presented by our critic to establish the credibility of Mohammad? There were no miracles worked by him, no fulfilled prophesies of him, he only claimed to have received a message from an angel. While he did affirm that the prophets of the Bible were genuine, those very prophets severely contradict the teachings of Muhammad. Why don't you weigh the evidence and be the Judge?

### ***A Final Warning***

The God of heaven has given one message for mankind to submit to. Men have claimed that angels have spoken to them in every generation. Remember this warning: "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.<sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed" (**Galatians 1:8-9**).

<sup>1</sup>**The Hutto – El Dareer Debate**, Birmingham, Alabama October 21-25, 1974

<sup>2</sup>**The Origins of the Koran: Classic Essays on Islam's Holy Book**, Edited by Ibn Warraq; Prometheus Books, 1998 <http://debate.org.uk/topics/books/origins-koran.html>

<sup>3</sup>**The Compilation Of The Qur'an As Recorded In The Hadith** - By Ney Rieber <http://www.bible.ca/islam/islam-quran-changed-editing-process.htm>

<sup>4</sup>**Muhammad, CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS & RESEARCH MINISTRY**, <http://www.carm.org/islam/muhammad.htm>



# Are You Giving to Support Error?

By Bill Hall

"I don't believe a lot of the things my church teaches." These are the words that we are hearing quite frequently these days. People are startled when they pick up their Sunday School literature and read words that are communistic. Modernism and unbelief are permeating the churches of the land. Political and social questions are the theme of the sermons, rather than book, chapter, and verse theme of past days. Most of the religious people of our city just have too much conviction to accept such foolishness.

People, too, are questioning the old doctrinal beliefs of their churches. No longer will intelligent people swallow some doctrine just because their preacher teaches it, or their creed, written by their church hierarchy, endorses it. The Catholics are furnishing a concrete example of this independence in thinking in their dispute over birth control. In other churches such doctrines as "once saved always saved," "Salvation by faith only," "what is to be will be" are being questioned by their independently thinking members. All efforts to quell this search for truth will fail. Americans are simply a people who demand the right to think for themselves.

We are amazed, however, at the fact that these people who admit they don't believe what their church teaches are giving no consideration to making a change. They continue right on giving their encouragement and financial support to that which they admit to be error and in some instances modernistic and communistic. How can reasonable, intelligent people lend their moral and financial support to that which they

Are you concerned with what the Bible teaches on the matter? "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (**Eph. 5:11**) -- "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him Godspeed: for he that biddeth Godspeed is partaker of his evil deeds" (**2 Jn. 10-11**).

admit is contrary to God's will? Is this the basis on which they admit is contrary to God's will? Is this the basis on which they want to stand when they are called before the judgment seat of Christ?

Nor does this problem exist only in the denominational world. Among members of the church, I find people who "don't go along" with some of the trends and innovations that the congregation of

which they are a part engages in. They don't go along in word, possibly, but they go right along with giving their financial support to the programs of that congregation. They give no consideration to making a change, for they cannot tolerate the thought of being termed an "anti." We fear that "they love the praise of men more than the praise of God."

Are you concerned with what the Bible teaches on the matter? "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (**Eph. 5:11**) -- "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him Godspeed: for he that biddeth Godspeed is partaker of his evil deeds" (**2 Jn. 10-11**). "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them" (**Rom. 16:17**).

We urge our readers to cease their support of error and to learn the truth and obey it. That truth is to be found in the Bible, the word of God. "Search the Scripture!"

