

# Waving Our Flags

By Robert Turner

A brother was explaining the distinctive character of the church of which he was a member. He said, "We support an Orphan Home." Of course they did. They couldn't stop that \$15 per month contribution if they wanted to; for it was a status symbol. Lower that flag, and "prominent brethren" would rebel, institutional pressures would be applied, and someone might even call them "Anti." They would lose their place in their party.

The same thing could be said of churches that march under the flag of "no class," "no located preacher," or even "no support of institutions."

We are not here concerned with arguing the merits of any of these "positions." Further, we understand the necessity of sticking with honest convictions; and we know that those with the same or similar convictions have rapport or are drawn into association with those of like faith. But we are concerned with the sectarian spirit that puts "party" before honest convictions, "flag" before God's word.

Being right about a position does not avoid a sectarian spirit or status. I suspect there are some who would

"throw a fit" if a piano was used in the worship, but who couldn't explain why to save their lives. "No instrument has become their "flag" — inherited from an earlier generation, and followed without genuine regard for God's teaching on the subject.

Or maybe some one knows all about his particular "flag," Right or wrong he can make all the arguments, citing pet scriptures for the symbol of his "soundness." But his ears are closed to the opposition, no matter how many scriptures used. This is not honest, objective following of God's word. It is sectarian flag following. Such a person may have meager knowledge of any save his "pet" scriptures.

The Lord's church does not need sectarian "flags" to survive. His people "sanctify in their hearts Christ as Lord, and have a reason for the hope that is in them" (1 Pet. 3:15). "Soundness" is found in "wholeness," not in emphasis upon some one part. The Lord's people can say "hello" without waving a party flag.



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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 3)

By Larry Rouse



### Thought to Ponder

The man with a cross no longer controls his destiny; he lost control when he picked up his cross. That cross immediately became to him an all-absorbing interest, an overwhelming interference.

I received an e-mail from Mr. Husain, a professed Muslim, under the subject title: If you do not know "the ever truth (Islam), verily, you would be eternally lost!" He obviously wants to convince me and others to become a Muslim. He begins by making numerous futile arguments to discredit the Bible. He then reasons that since the Bible cannot be trusted, the only other path that remains is to submit to the Koran. Interestingly, he provides no arguments to show the superiority of the Koran or the way of life it produces. He only gives the threat of eternal damnation as an incentive to become a Muslim.

There is a huge difference between winning the hearts of men and forcing their outward conformity. The one true God knows the hearts of men and how to win them. Ruthless governments, man-made religions and domineering individuals throughout history have captured others and intimidated them to outwardly conform to a random human standard. This kind of slavery causes the men under it to desperately look for a way of escape. For a few, however, this system provides a position of power from which they can cruelly dominate others and feed their own pride.

### What is the nature of the one true God?

Mr Husain does mention that God is "gracious" and "merciful" but fails to give us any examples from the Koran of His nature. When men pervert God's true nature and change it into an image of their own imagination, the results are disastrous. The Psalmist aptly warns of the consequences found in all forms of idola-

Jesus plainly showed that forgiveness was never within the ability of men alone. They need a Savior—one who could provide a sufficient sacrifice for sin. No Law system could provide forgiveness.

try: "Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them" (Psalms 115:8). Let us examine both the teachings of Muhammad and Jesus as they pertain to the true nature of God.

### Jesus displayed the love and mercy of God

Throughout His ministry, Jesus pointed to God's love as the motivating power to change men. He emphasized the quantity of God's love in His teaching and would ultimately demonstrate the magnitude of God's love by sacrificing His own life to save mankind. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16, Rom 5:6-8). Jesus gave men what they needed and not what they deserved—aply demonstrating the purity of God's love.

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### Classes this Week:

<b>Sunday 5:15</b> Kid's Class at the Building	<b>Sunday PM</b> College Class and Singing at the Godwin's	<b>Mon 7PM</b> Ladies' Class at the Rouse's	<b>Tues 7PM</b> College Girl's Class at Allison Chandler's	<b>Wed 10AM</b> Ladies' Class at the Jerkin's	<b>Thurs 7PM</b> 1 John Study at Jillian Petty's
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### Sick

Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Lori Holloway	Chick Wade
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Jared Nixon
Ross Folmar	Grandparents of Mary Ann Roberts	Joe Perry (Anna Miller's Relative)
Ed Mort (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	"Grandmama" Odessa Wyatt (Dyle's grandmother)	Erlene Davis (Walker Davis' mother)
Gerald White (Christopher's and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Bill Rhodes (Toni Herd's Uncle)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Frank Johnson (Debbi Coleman's Uncle)	Herbert Missildine (Toni Herd's Uncle)

### September Birthdays

- 1 - Ryan Seymore
- 2 - Denise Davis
- 3 - Trenton Anderson
- 4 - Kevin Anderson
- 4 - Jillian Petty
- 10 - Matthew Sullivan
- 10 - Joshua Carter
- 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

- Laura Weldon's gave birth to Eleanor Kaye Weldon on Friday Morning! 9 Lbs. 4 oz.
- 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.
- The 1st—8th Grade Class will meet at the Jerkin's Home on Friday Night.
- 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.

**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

Check Us Out On the Internet: [www.aubeacon.com](http://www.aubeacon.com)

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On one occasion Jesus' disciples displayed a typical weakness found in men. In their anger, they wanted to call down "fire from heaven" to destroy a Samaritan village. "But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. <sup>56</sup>For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them. "" (Luke 9:55-56).

#### Muhammad gave a law that reflects the nature of men

As you examine the life of Muhammad and his writings, you will find that he had contradictory attitudes towards those who rejected him as a prophet. Towards the end of his life he was openly hostile to those who could not consciously believe his claims. Hear his words as written in the Koran: "The only reward of those who make war upon Allah and His messenger and strive after corruption in the land will be that they will be killed or crucified, or have their hands and feet on alternate sides cut off, or will be expelled out of the land. Such will be their degradation in the world, and in the Hereafter theirs will be an awful doom (5:33.8)." For those who want to argue about what Muhammad meant by these things one only need to look at the examples in his life. Consider this event in the life of Muhammad: "Because of the resistance to his proselytizing attempts, he returned to Friday as the day of worship. He began attacking Jews. At first it was one at a time; then later whole villages. After one Jewish town had surrendered, he had 700 to 1,000 men beheaded in one day, and all the women and children sold into slavery."<sup>14</sup>

#### Jesus showed the way to forgiveness and salvation

Jesus plainly showed that forgiveness was never within the ability of men alone. They need a Savior—one who could provide a sufficient sacrifice for sin. No Law system could provide forgiveness. While showing the way of truth and righteousness, the Law of God also convinces men of sin. Law alone could only condemn! Jesus gave Himself to meet the righteous requirement of God for forgiveness. When men understand the nature of this great gift and their hearts are melted by it, they will choose to give their lives to the One who gave His life for them. "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. <sup>21</sup>I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness *comes* through the law, then Christ died in vain" (Galatians 2:20-21).

#### Muhammad's view of forgiveness and salvation

In the Koran salvation is wholly based on the efforts of men. "Muhammad utilized the Testament of Abraham to teach that a scale or balance will be used on the day of judgment to weigh good and bad deeds in order to deter-

mine whether one goes to heaven or hell (Suras 42:17; 101:6-9)."<sup>2</sup> He also taught that sins could be covered by doing good deeds such as prayer and helping the poor. "And keep up prayer in the two parts of the day and in the first hours of the night; surely good deeds take away evil deeds this is a reminder to the mindful [11.114]."

In Islam there is no assurance of salvation. How good is good enough? How can you ever know if you have done enough good deeds to outweigh the bad? The only exception to this is the one who dies as a martyr in a jihad<sup>3</sup>.

Is there any wonder why men escape the present system of bondage to "paradise" by wearing explosives and detonating it among the "infidels?"

Those governments that are guided by Islamic law logically try to force people into praying and other good works. In some countries there are religious police that forcefully clear out the shopping malls and force everyone to go to the Mosque to pray at the designated time. Many have been beaten and imprisoned because they dared to resist such authority.

#### The spread of the Gospel and the spread of the Koran

Jesus gave a commission to His apostles to spread the gospel (good news) of His love so that men might willingly believe it and be baptized into Christ (Mark 16:15-16). When this simple message is preached, men respond. In Islamic countries the preaching of this powerful message is forbidden and Christian literature is banned. Their leaders how powerful Jesus' message of salvation is (Romans 1:16).

Islam has not spread because people read the Koran and are moved by it alone. This religion has spread by physical conquests. "That is still the objective of Islam. That conversion to Islam can be by persuasive means, or by intimidation, torture, and jihad."<sup>3</sup>

The one true God wants us to choose to serve Him. Jesus said, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. <sup>31</sup>And the second, like it, is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:30-31).

#### What will you conclude?

Which message is from God and which message is from man? You alone must choose. One thing is certain; God will never force you to serve Him.

1. "The Islamic Invasion", Dr. Robert Morey, Harvest House Publishers, Eugene OR
2. Islam: Truth or Myth? <http://www.bible.ca/islam/islam-koran-fairy-tales-dr-morey.htm>
3. The Spirit of Islam - New York, Madrid, Beslan, by Silas, [http://answering-islam.org/Silas/spirit\\_of\\_islam.htm](http://answering-islam.org/Silas/spirit_of_islam.htm)



# Applauding the Practice

By Joe Fitch

Long ago at the Olympic Games in Athens, it is said a feeble old man came in late. No seats were left. As he passed their seats, the Athenians laughed at him. Then he passed two Spartans. Quickly they rose to offer him a seat, for they had been trained to be modest and courteous. When the Athenians saw this, they cheered the Spartans. "Ah," said the old man, "The Athenians admire what is right; the Spartans practice it."

A godly man died suddenly. People were shocked -- stunned by the unexpected. Brethren in Christ felt keenly the loss of a dependable worker and companion. Men of all classes and persuasions gathered in small groups to sadly shake their heads, recall the past, and applaud a good man.

"He was sure a hard worker -- always tried to do more than was expected." That was true. He exemplified Paul's admonition: "...let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth" (Eph. 4:28). It was not the statement that was amazing but who said it -- a lazy fellow who did nothing he could get out of.

Another added, "He was surely honest -- as honest as the day is long." A thought flashes to mind: "Provide things honest in the sight of all men" (Romans 12:17). No one disagreed, but these words of praise fell from lips skilled in lies wherever a dollar is at stake.

The applause continues: "He was a church-going man. Surely if there was ever a Christian,

There are far more people willing to applaud a good life than are willing to make the sacrifices necessary to live one. Some folk are content with the office of spectator -- applauding good but not practicing it.

he was one." Heads nod agreement, but neither they nor the speaker are accustomed to filling a pew when people gather to worship. They are more in the habit of walking roughshod over the principles of Christianity than keeping them.

A preacher spoke to mourners of his dead friend and the Bible he lived by. "What a beautiful eulogy." Yet many who were impressed by the

words spoken refuse to live so that such can honestly be said of them. When the applause subsides, an observer is compelled to add a final word - "Go, and do thou likewise" (Luke 10:37). No greater tribute can be paid a good man than to imitate his devotion to good. "That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises" (Hebrews 6:12).

I can't help thinking as a result of listening and observing:

Many people pay little attention in life to the things that are so important when it comes time to die.

We are so prone to compliment others for the very virtues which we carefully avoid cultivating in ourselves. A godly man commands the admiration of all -- even the vile and irreligious.

There are far more people willing to applaud a good life than are willing to make the sacrifices necessary to live one.

Some folk are content with the office of spectator -- applauding good but not practicing it.

