

Religion, Politics and Atheism Today



Religion, Politics and Atheism Today by
Rev Jason Burns .

Samuel Zwemer Theological Seminary

Some of the highest statistics for divorce can be found in Sweden and the United States. However in India and Sri Lanka divorce rates have been relatively low. But when a marriage or a relationship breaks up, and it involves your family, then it does not feel like a statistic-it feels painful indeed. Lady Gaga the pop singer sang these words:

“Oh, caught in a bad romance.”

Are you caught in a bad romance? Has your husband left you? Has your wife left you? Is your relationship driving you crazy? Is your life at breaking point because your relationship has gone badly wrong? If so then these words in this pamphlet might be a help to you.

1: You Need Christ Not Religion!

I was in Manchester one day and I got talking to a young Man.He said, “Religion had caused more wars than anything else”. This kind of negative attitude to religion has grown in popularity over

the last 100 years. Here are some more ideas about religion you might agree with them:

“Religion is the opium of the people.” Karl Marx.

“Religion is an illusion.” Sigmund Freud.

“Organised religion is violent.” Christopher Hitchens.

The Bible actually teaches that religion is no good. Religion is not what we need.

“Then they led him out to crucify him.” Mark 15:20

Who was it that led Jesus out to be crucified? It was the High priest and most of the religious leaders of the day. Religion has always been against Jesus Christ.

Now Jesus never came to set up a religion. He came so that we might have a relationship with God our Father.

Sally Livingstone was abused and tortured by her Father. When Sally became a young woman she lived a life of drugs. She even went to prison. One day, when at home she was watching a Christian

programme. For the first time she heard the gospel about Jesus dying for her sin. She became a Christian. She put her faith in Jesus not religion. Jesus gave her hope. Jesus gave her peace not religion. After her conversion Sally started a refuge centre to help drug addicts come out of addiction.

“People are looking for an answer, and I know that answer is in Jesus.” Eva burrows.

Jesus did not come to give us a religion. He came to give us Himself. Will you give your life to Jesus right now? Jesus said the following words will you believe them with your whole heart?

“Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28.

“I am the way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the father except through me.” John 14:6.

2: You Need Christ Not Politics!

Many countries are falling apart. The Political life of these nations has become corrupt. The Politicians lie to the people and steal money from the government for themselves.

“Then they led him out to crucify him.” Mark 15:20.

Who was it that led Jesus out to be crucified? It was also the political leaders' one of them, the Roman governor Pontius Pilate. He did what the masses wanted but did not do what was right and let Jesus go, even when he knew Jesus was an innocent man. Politics let Jesus down and politics will let you down.

The problems we have in our nation are not political, but that we have all rebelled against God. We have broken God's laws. We have rejected God's ways and so our nation is in decline-sick with sin. We are all under Gods judgment.

“All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written ‘, cursed is everyone who

does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the law'. Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because the righteous will live by faith." Galatians 3:10, 11.

If we saw your life from birth to now and all the things you have thought would you be embarrassed at what we would see? The Bible teaches we are all under the wrath of God for living a life without Him. Your shame is God showing you that you need his mercy. God does not want you to feel ashamed for your past sins. He wants you to know that he loves you so much. He loves you so much he sent his Son to die on the cross for your shame. Jesus Christ was nailed to a cross for all the wrong things you have done. He willingly let himself be crucified so you would not have to face the wrath of God but instead could find forgiveness and peace with God.

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us." Galatians 3:13.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3: 16.

Imagine living in the Middle ages of England. You are a poor person. You are wearing rags for clothes. You have stolen from a farmer and you have been caught. You will be getting 20 lashes for the crime. Well the king hears about this. He takes pity on you. He comes to the prison and takes his wealthy clothes off and puts them on you. He gives you his crown and gold chain. He then puts your clothes on him the filthy rags. He then goes in the court yard and lets the Jail officer whip him for the crime you did. He takes the full twenty lashes. That’s what Jesus did for you. He came down from heaven lived a perfect life, he let the authorities arrest him then abuse him. They spat at him, they whipped him, they put a crown of thorns on his head, and they nailed him to a cross. This was the Son of God taking your place. You should have been punished for your sin but

Jesus took your punishment instead and made you a child of God if you trust him.

“But he was pierced for our transgressions he was crushed for our iniquities: the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.”Isaiah53:5.

“By the cross we know the gravity of sin and the greatness of God’s love towards us”-St John Chrysostom.

“Lovely was the death of him whose life was love”-Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

“The way of the cross is the way of the light”, medieval proverb.

“You’re healing flows from his wounds, your joy from his sorrow”, Octavius Winslow.

“Christ took your cup of grief, your cup of the curse, pressed it to his lips, drank it to its dregs, then filled it with his sweet, pardoning, sympathizing love, and gave it back for you to drink, and to drink forever!”

Octavius Winslow.

Will you confess your sin? Will you ask God to forgive you of your sin? Will you put your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour? It's not politics we need it is the cross of Christ the only way back to God.

3: You Need Christ And Not His Critics!

In the media and on the internet Jesus Christ has many critics today. Many intellectuals in our culture and even in the church are attacking the fundamental beliefs that Christians believe.

“They led him out to crucify him.” Mark 15:20.

The intellectuals in the time of the Lord did not help Jesus but mocked Him as he was being crucified. In history it has been the same. The great minds of the ages have often laughed at the idea that Jesus died for our sins.

Dr Zakir Naik has said Jesus did not die on a cross. But the Bible prophesied he did.

“Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer.” Isaiah 53:10.

The New atheists, such as Christopher Hitchens, Sam Harris, Richard Dawkins and Daniel Dennett claim they are rational and Christianity irrational.

But there is nothing more irrational than atheism for if followed to its logical conclusion will lead to moral anarchy.

“If God does not exist, everything is permissible”
Fyodor Dostoevsky.

Professor Bart Ehrman has attacked the Bible for being a fraud and claims his scholarship is open minded.

The Bible changes lives, how many drug addicts have been changed by Professor Bart Ehrmans books? None! How many drug addicts have been changed by the Bible? Thousands! The professor is not open minded he does not deal with scholars in his books that contradict his scholarship. He has an agenda and so is not willing to listen to the

other side. He says he does not believe in the God of the Bible so has a prejudice to the Bible.

Now the real reason why these intellectuals do not believe in Jesus Christ is not because they are clever, but simply because they want to live the lives they want to live. Jesus said:

“This is the verdict, light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.” John 3:16.

Even if you gave evidence to these intellectuals, they still would not believe because they want to live a life independent of God. They don't want God to tell them how to live.

“..But we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles...” 1 Corinthians 1:23.

Conclusion

“Then they led him out to crucify him “Mark 15:20.

It is now time for you to make a decision. This will be the most important decision in your life. If you do not follow Christ you need to know the Bible teaches there is a hell and it is a place of eternal punishment. Those who refuse to believe on Christ will go to hell says the Bible.

But if you confess your sin, turn away from your old life and believe in Jesus you will be saved. The Holy Spirit will come into your heart. You will find forgiveness. You will find peace and Joy.

“The Blood of Jesus Christ has great power” Corrie Ten Boom.

You might feel you have sinned so badly God will not forgive you; yes he will. You might feel God does not want you, that no one loves you. God wants you. God loves you. You might have doubts and questions; God will answer them but come today for today is the day of salvation. Believing in Jesus means you trust him, you follow him daily. Faith is a lifestyle to be lived every day. Every day you give your life to Christ and do what he tells

you. You submit your will, your plans your resources to Christ. You give all you have, heart mind and soul to Christ. Right this minute bow in prayer and tell the Lord you submit to him and trust him for salvation and you will follow him and do whatever he tells you.

Here are some websites to help you grow in your walk with Jesus.

Dr R C Sproul Bible teaching.

<http://www.ligonier.org/>

Grace To You the ministry of pastor John MacArthur

<http://www.gty.org.uk/>

Desiring God Ministries the ministry of Pastor John Piper

<http://www.desiringgod.org/>

Here are some websites that can help if you have questions.

[_Ravi Zacharias International Ministries](http://www.rzim.org/)

www.rzim.org/

[Josh McDowell Ministries](http://www.josh.org)

www.josh.org

[Christian Research Institute and the Bible Answer Man, Hank Hanegraaff](http://www.equip.org/)

www.equip.org/

[L'Abri Fellowship International : The Official Website](http://www.labri.org/)

www.labri.org/

Answering Islam

<http://www.answering-islam.org/>

[CrossExamined.org - Frank Turek | Christian Youth are Leaving the ...](http://crossexamined.org/)

crossexamined.org/ -

The Way course is an introduction to the Christian faith and can be downloaded for free at the seminary website.

The Way Course

Samuel Zwemer Theological Seminary

<http://sites.advanceministry.com/samuelzwemertheologicalseminary>

If you would like us to send you free Bible study material then write to:

Samuel Zwemer theological Seminary

107 Heywood Old Road, Middleton, Manchester,
England, M24 4QL

Ring 0161643 9767

Email zwemer@hotmail.co.uk

