

RELIGION

A L T E R N A T I V E S

The Word Of God

BY MARGARET ISAACS

The Word of our God endures forever! The Bible is the combat manual of the Saints of this world. We are at war and the bible is our two-edged sword. The Word of God takes the pain out death and gives hope to the hopeless. It is indestructible and gives authority to cast out demons, to heal the sick, feed the poor, clothe the naked and defeat satan on every hand.

The Church must stop whining, and step forth on the Word of God.

There is no need for depression, for greed, for covetousness, for we are already victorious through God, the Father; through God, the Son and through God, the Holy Ghost. The joy of the Lord is your strength.

The Lord gives joy and peace and contentment. If you know that you shall overcome, there is no need for the face of defeat and Lamentation; no need for the sour, heavy scowl, the distrust, the tears, the lack of faith, the sackcloth and ashes; God is greater than your sorrow therefore, dwell not on death, for this is not the end for anyone who believes. Let no man take your joy! A joyless Christian is a defeated Christian. A Luke-warm Christian is a bad taste in the mouth of God...and he will "spew thee out". If you stand for nothing; you will Lie down for anything. God did not create us unhappy, unloved, unsure, unwanted, joyless, hopeless, greedy, without direction, without a place to go and without the means to

get there. We are created in the image of God, like unto him, sustained by his Word, fed by his Word, led by his Word and saved eternally by his Word. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God and the Word was with God; and the Word of God is the Bible; free food for those who will eat of it; digest it and live by it.

Happy is the man that knows God; beloved is the man that calls God Savior and Master; confident and steadfast in his pursuit of righteousness is the man who relies on God; Bold, strong, unmovable is he who places his trust in God; for his home is not here, therefore, his heart is not here; he cannot be swayed or bought or detoured from the path of the

God, whose Creation he is. Man Is Not God, why then do you serve man? No man is greater, in the eyes of God, than any other man; for we all have gifts; We all have a place in "the True Vine" and we are all responsible for our own beliefs and for the use of our own God given gifts. Let no man deter you from the use of your gifts for the glory of God.

Study the word of God, and his will for your life will be revealed unto you. How can you become a vessel and a tool for God to use, if you are being used already by some man who calls himself a servant of God, but shows no characteristics of his Creator?

Everyone who seeks him shall find him, and they shall know him

and love him and worship and serve him according to that which God has given him. A man that is great in his own eyes, and boasts of himself, and sets his name on high, has no part in God, but serves another master. This man shun; for he gives ungodly counsel, and leads away the unwary, the innocent and the unlearned. Study (the Word of God) to show thyself a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.

Be happy, for God is in his heaven and all is well with those who believe his Word, whose name is Jesus the Christ, Savior and Lord of his Created kingdom. He made us out of himself, and was born himself to

save us from sin; he died himself, and he raised himself, a perfect sacrifice, and he sent himself and he sent himself into the world, that we might not be alone to face the fallen angel; whom he has given authority in this world for a time. He sits beside himself on his Holy Throne and places himself in the hearts of men that they might worship him in spirit and in truth. He Is God Jehovah; He Is God, The Son and God, the Holy Spirit. "I am" in one person, yet separate. Alpha and Omega, The beginning and the end of all things, above and under, and around about are his. The Power and the Glory and the Kingdom are his, even, he himself, infinite, beyond eternal. Amen.

NCN CONDEMNS ARSON

In solidarity with the entire City of Portland, the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods is disturbed with the fact that the crime of arson was committed, and that the arsonist's target was a place of worship. The northeast community has a long history of coming together in times of crisis. Today we stand ready to support our faith community.

Therefore, the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods is responding by:

- distributing an "action alert" to all neighborhood block watch captains;
- contacting active foot patrols and request their routes include neighborhood churches;
- encouraging all residents to keep their outside lights on;
- disseminating information prepared by the Police Bureau and Fire Bureau;
- calling on all neighbors to become more alert and observant in areas of where churches are located;
- offering to assist in organizing more block watches where churches exist;
- offering to provide training to citizens interested in forming foot patrols;
- working with the Police Bureau's Information and Referral on rumor control.

The Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, under the leadership of the Right Reverend Robert L. Ladehoff and the Diocesan Council, meeting in June 21, unanimously adopted a resolution regarding the tragic burning of churches.

The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon and the Rt. Rev. Rustin Kimsey join in this public statement.

Churches are burning. We cannot be silent.

It is time to say NO. We reject the torching of houses of worship as outrages against the human community. We decry these actions of apparent racism and bigotry. It is time to say Yes. To our brothers and sisters under attack, to the values of freedom and justice, to respecting the dignity of every person.

The people of the Episcopal Church of Oregon publicly stand against these violent acts.

We pledge ourselves to address in our own congregations the issues of racism and of enhancing ways to promote respect for the dignity and worth of all people.

The Episcopal Diocese of Oregon
The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon

BY NITA J. ROLEINSON

A recent tabulation concluded that there are ten main religions and 10,000 sects. Of these, 1200 exist in the US. Did you know that Jesus Christ and his faithful disciples were viewed as a sect? (Acts chapter 28, verse 22). Many factors have contributed to the development of new religious groups. Some have said that the various religions all represent different ways of presenting religious truth. But a comparison of their teaching and practices with the BIBLE indicate rather that the diversity of religion is because people have become followers of men rather than God. So the question is, are all religions acceptable to God, and how can we identify the true religion?

Jesus gave us the identifying marks of a true christian:

1. Love for God and one another. True worship emphasizes not ritual and outward show but genuine love for God, shown by obedience to his commandments and by love for one's fellowman. (Matthew 15:8,9; 1 John 5:3; 1 John 3:10 to 18; John 4:21; John 13:34,35)
2. True Christians would have faith in the value of Jesus shed blood and eternal life that it makes possi-

BY BERNICE POWELL JACKSON

I recently received a letter from Rodney Slater, the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, who wrote of visiting the grave of Alex Haley, the author of *Roots*. Mr. Slater recalled that on Alex Haley's tombstone are the words, "Find the good and praise it."

It's been a difficult summer already and we're only at the beginning of it. Churches burning across this land. More Supreme Court decisions setting back voting rights for African Americans in the South and affirmative actions for students in Texas.

But there have also been some good things which have happened and we need to praise them. There have been some moments when human decency and love won out. We must celebrate those signs of hope in

order to go on.

There were few reports about her. NBC Evening News did a focus on her, but I didn't see or hear or read any other mentions of Keisha Thomas. But Keisha Thomas is an example of the good.

Maybe you saw a few seconds of footage on television news showing a scuffle between Michigan Klansmen and anti-Klan marchers a few weeks ago. It happened in Ann Arbor and the marchers soon were battling on the streets. And when the anti-Klan marchers began to pummel and kick a man who had tripped and fallen in the melee and who was dressed in a Confederate flag t-shirt, Keisha Thomas, an 18-year-old African American woman, threw herself over him to stop the crowd. "He was just a man," was all Keisha could say, in explaining why she

FINDING THE GOOD AND PRAISING IT

protected him. He didn't deserve to be beaten for his beliefs, even those she disagreed strongly with, she implied.

The picture of this young woman called to mind a similar picture of Archbishop Desmond Tutu a few years ago throwing himself over a man believed to be an informer by an angry crowd of black South Africans. It was only Bishop Tutu's ac-

tion which stopped this man from being killed.

I doubt whether the Ann Arbor crowd would have killed this Klan supporter, but they certainly could have done great injury to him. My prayer is that this man will be changed by that day and come to see African Americans in a new light and that he will never again wear a shirt with a Confederate flag on it.

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