

The Reality of Christ

Ronald L. Dart's broadcast notes

Years ago, a friend told me that I was an apologist. I would have been flattered, had I known what it meant. It was somewhat later that I encountered one of the greatest of Christian apologists, C. S. Lewis. Recently, I came across a quotation from C. S. Lewis that explained a vague disquiet that follows me around. "Apologists," he concluded, "can be saved only by falling back continually from the web of our own arguments into the reality. From Christian apologetics into Christ himself."

Now, Lewis was remarkable in this regard. He was an intelligent, highly educated, well-read man, who also had the good sense to doubt himself, to examine himself, which one cannot do without self-doubt. Lewis understood the spiritual dangers of vanity. And he also understood what a thin web is woven by a good argument. He said, "No doctrine is dimmer to the eye of faith than that which a man has just successfully defended."

Now, doctrine and apologetics are essential. Otherwise, you would never know where you are or what you should do next. But, they are also a temptation to vanity. This was never more clear to me than when I

read that quotation from the dean of apologists. "Apologists can be saved only by falling back continually from the web of our own arguments into the reality. From Christian apologetics into Christ himself."

There's a fairly well known denomination that believes that no one will be saved except members of their own church. I remember a time in my past when I had been baptized by a Baptist minister and I was struggling with certain things. I remember having a picnic with some friends of ours who were members of this other denomination. Once they realized that I was a bit at loose ends, they became very urgent about getting me baptized into their church. They wanted to take me that day, that

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Reality of Christ

Ronald L. Dart's notes 1

Charitable Giving 1

My Love/Hate Relationship

By Lenny Cacchio 2

Another Great Summer Camp

By Larry Watkins 4

Statement of Cash Flows 4

In Memory 4

Radio Update 4

hour, and get me under the water. They were very concerned that if I didn't get baptized and something happened to me, that I would go straight to hell. I think those people will be profoundly surprised when they find me standing right next to them on the Sea of Glass before the Lamb of God in the resurrection. In fact, I might be as surprised as they are.

Imagine that you have made it. You've been raised from the dead.

continued on page 2. . .

Charitable Giving . . .

Many options are available to increase your contributions to charities. Some strategies are simple, others require the assistance of professionals such as an attorney or tax advisor. You don't need to be wealthy to help. In fact, you can even make substantial, tax-favored gifts without taking a hefty bite out of your current income or assets. All it takes is a little planning. As a part of your team, CEM stands ready to help you make charitable gifts that may provide these benefits and more. Call Larry Watkins at our office 1-888-BIBLE-44 for more information.

My Love/Hate Relationship

By Lenny Cacchio

I am in a love/hate relationship. I love the King James Version of the Bible. I love the cadence of language and the ease of memorization that such cadence provides. I love its impact on the history and culture of the English-speaking world. Scholarly works and study helps such as concordances are most often keyed to the King James Version. Of all the English translations I have used, I find myself always gravitating back to the King James Version. It is my main study Bible.

But the translation aggravates me time and again. I can get around the “thee”s and “thou”s and the archaic usage of certain words (“convict” instead of “convince” and “by and by” instead of “immediately”), but there are some egregious mistranslations that I find aggravating.

One such passage is Ephesians 4:11-12. In the King James it reads: “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

The passage as translated implies that one function of the offices of the church is “for the work of the ministry.” Put differently, the offices are to help the ministry do their jobs. That’s not a heretical translation by any means, but it does not conform to the intent of the Greek. Here is verse 12 as translated in the New King James Version: “. . . for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” The New International Version: “. . . to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”

The King James, by translating as it does, obscures the role of church leadership in equipping all of God’s people for the work of ministry (or more accurately, “works of service”). This is more than an academic point. It gets to the heart of the role of the church and its leadership. Ephesians 4 as translated by the King James Version could lead one to believe that it’s the job of the professional ministry to do the work of the church. Properly translated, the

verse implies that the leadership’s job is to train the rest of us to do works of service. It makes us all responsible and not just the chosen few. It implies that we all have a calling, a vocation as it were (see Ephesians 4:1 for context).

This correct understanding has turned much of Christianity into a more participative venture. Even the more traditional hierarchical organizations have come to understand this. The New American Bible, the official translation of the Roman Catholic Church in America, translates verse 12 as follows: “. . . to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ.” This is accompanied by the footnote, “The ministerial leaders in v. 11 are to equip the whole people of God for their work of ministry.”

Christianity is not a spectator sport. We all have a role in spreading the Gospel, and we all need to be equipped to fulfill that role. It is gratifying to see so many coming to understand that. Hopefully, someday we can all be equipped in some manner for works of service.

*The Reality of Christ
continued from page 1 . . .*

You’re standing there before him, the Judge of all the earth. You can see him as he is. And there, standing alongside you, are two figures you recognize immediately, who come from entirely separate religious backgrounds. They are Billy

Graham and Pope John Paul II. If you know very much about Baptist and Catholic doctrine, you have to ask yourself how that can be possible. I think I finally understand. They will not owe their presence there to the fact that they had a correct set of doctrines. They will not be there because they kept this

or that Law or followed a particular rite or ritual. But, you won’t be there for that reason, either. What makes it possible for you or anyone else to stand before God is the grace of God. That grace, if it can’t transcend our doctrinal differences, if it can’t transcend our little picky arguments, doesn’t amount to much.

continued on page 3 . . .

*The Reality of Christ
continued from page 2 . . .*

What makes that grace possible is Christ himself.

There is this incident in the ministry of Jesus Christ, when one of the rulers of the Jews came to him by night. After a certain amount of conversation, Jesus told this man, "No man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." That's a tremendously encouraging thing that Jesus said. He was basically saying that, just as Moses lifted up the serpent, the Son of man has to be lifted up so that we can look to him.

You remember the story in the Old Testament about that serpent. A plague of serpents had broken out, biting people, and people were dying. So they made this bronze serpent and put it up. If they looked up to that serpent, they lived. If they didn't look, they died. It had nothing to do with their character, their personality, whether they were obedient or disobedient: they had to look to the serpent that had been lifted up. Then Jesus said to Nicodemus, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

That's a tremendous promise. But there is a catch in it. You must believe in him. You must look to him. You must place trust in him. "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but

that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." Jesus tacked something on the end of this that sometimes people don't get. "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. Every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God." They won't come to the light because their deeds will be reproved.

Consider for a moment what makes all the difference. It is deeds. It is what people actually do. What this tells me is that you can tell whether a person believes or not by how their belief alters their life. You can say you believe in Christ, and not do what he said. In that case, I think a person is justified in saying, "You don't believe. You do not really believe in him." The truth is, that in many cases, arguments about doctrine, about Law, about whatever people want to argue about in religion, are mere spiders' webs. You know what you do with spiders' webs at your house: you take a broom, reach up, and brush them away.

Remember, apologists only can be saved by falling back continually from the web of our own arguments into the reality. From Christian apologetics, into Christ himself.

The reality is that there was a young Jewish girl, in a little town called Nazareth, who was visited

suddenly by an angel. The angel's name was Gabriel; he was real. Mary was real. She endured a real pregnancy. She gave birth to a real baby, who had to drink his mother's milk as I did.

*Consider for a moment
what makes all the
difference. It is deeds.
It is what people
actually do.*

The world waited 30 years for this child to become a man, and three years more for him to accomplish what he came to do. On that night before his death, knowing full well what waited for him the next day, he got up from supper. He laid aside his garment, girded himself with a towel, and began to wash his disciples' feet. For Peter, this could not have been more real. After Jesus had washed their feet, he put his garment back on, and sat down.

The same night, he gave the disciples the symbols of the New Covenant in his body and blood. The next day, he suffered real pain and real death to bring the New Covenant into being. This New Covenant relationship has incredible implications for you.

Just as Christ accepted his obligations to us, we have obligations to him, and to each other under this New Covenant. For this inspirational story to become real to you, you need to learn that there is more to it than simply being a recipient of God's grace. We want you to have this *FREE* CD of the program titled, *The Reality of Christ*. Just check the box on the enclosed card and return it to us.

Another Great Summer Camp

By Larry Watkins

Christian Educational Ministries 15th Annual YEA Summer Camp once again returned to Wewoka, Oklahoma during the week of June 20-27. Campers from 13 different states came from as far away as California, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Arizona, and Kentucky to participate in the numerous activities and Bible studies.

Activities included water skiing, tubing, basketball, volleyball, swimming, horseback riding, geocaching, archery, various crafts, and the always-popular group initiatives. Teamwork and problem solving were all a real challenge as Lisa and Chris Gregor came up with new and different mind puzzles for group initiatives.

Evening entertainment included a hamburger cook-out, a pool party, game night, the always hilarious and entertaining Fun Show and 2 dances. Instead of the Wacky Olympics, this year we had the camp version of the popular TV show, *Minute to Win It*, which was a big hit, along with the annual volleyball tournament

The busy days at camp were broken up each morning after breakfast by mixed cabin Bible Studies on the theme of "Making A Difference." By learning more about ourselves and how God has equipped us to help others, each camper was encouraged to form a closer personal relationship with Christ. After lunch came the group Bible Study. These were led by Beth Meese, Chris and Lisa Gregor, and Larry Watkins on

various related topics. Then, to wind down and close each day, the ever popular "Camp Huddle" was held to talk about the events of the day, have a snack, and sing praise and worship songs to God. We then had a closing prayer to thank God for all His blessings and end the day.

There was so much to be thankful for, with the good food, great staff, lots of fun activities, lots of time to get to know each other, and really good weather! We are truly grateful to all the camp staff volunteers, the CEM organizers, and all the individuals and churches that make this experience possible for so many amazing and fantastic youth of the church. It was a really great camp!

So you will not miss camp next year, if you are interested in attending summer camp in 2011, get in touch with Larry Watkins at lsw@cemnetwork.com or write to him at:

Christian Educational Ministries
PO Box 560
Whitehouse, TX 75791

At the present time, summer camp for 2011 is scheduled for the week of June 19 - 26. We hope to see all you teens there!



**Radio
Update**

Wausau, WI
WXCO 1230 AM
Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Christian Educational Ministries Statement of Cash Flows for the Three Months Ended July 31, 2010

RECEIPTS:	
Contributions	\$298,095
CEM Bookstore	20325
Other Income	10318
	\$328738
EXPENSES:	
A/V Supplies	\$ 4476
Occupancy	8025
Office & Adm. Expenses	6343
Mailing Expenses	7210
Postage	17798
Printing	9718
Radio Expenses	194042
Telephone & Utilities	3350
Summer Camp Expenses	9834
CEM Bookstore	2966
Employee Benefits	12835
Wages & Payroll Taxes	85034
Total Operating Expenses	361631
Decrease in Fund Balance	<u>(\$32893)</u>

In Memory

CEM wishes to acknowledge a very generous donation received in memory of Joe R. Martin, of Pochontas, Arkansas, who passed away in August. Joe Martin was the father of Skip Martin and his sister. Skip is a member of CEM's Board of Directors and FA Chairman. Our deepest sympathies and prayers are with Skip and his family.

Christian Educational Ministries

PO Box 560
Whitehouse, Texas 75791
phone: 1.888.BIBLE.44
fax: 903.839.9311
email: adm@borntowin.net
website: www.borntowin.net

*That the man of God may be proficient
and equipped for every good work.*