

Scott -- Wortman Debate

**Wendle Scott
F.P. Wortman**

**Belief In God
And The Bible**

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SCOTT-WORTMAN DEBATE

PROPOSITION: Belief in God and the Bible is reasonable and beneficial to mankind.

WENDLE SCOTT, Affirms--F. P. WORTMAN, Negates

WENDLE SCOTT has a varied background of debating experience, including: secular and religious, oral and written, and in two languages, English and Spanish. Religious topics discussed include: Women preachers, the plan of salvation, giving, the Lord's Supper, carnal warfare, and congregational cooperation. This is his first debate on Christian evidences.

F. P. WORTMAN also is a veteran of the polemic platform. Perhaps his best known opponent was James D. Bales. His prolific pen has produced a variety of tracts and booklets opposing the Christian religion. His writings enjoy a wide circulation among atheists. He says of himself "I was raised in the 'forest primeval', went to school not quite four months a year in the little mud roadside 'deestrick skule', never graduated anywhere".

EDITORS NOTE: This debate was originally printed in an atheistic magazine called, Progressive World. Keeping in mind that this debate was originally planned for an audience of non-believers will clarify certain statements of the debaters.

SCOTT'S FIRST AFFIRMATIVE

Affirming this proposition before you is a rare privilege. Nowadays it's seldom that we can induce an atheist to debate us. I appreciate Mr. Wortman's confidence in his position which led him to engage in this debate. I hope that by the time this debate is concluded many of you, and possibly Mr. Wortman too, will be convinced that faith in God and the Bible is both reasonable and beneficial.

The Christian faith invites investigation, the Bible encourages you to "prove all things; hold fast that which is good." 1 Thessalonians 5:21.

Some of you think that faith in God is unreasonable. To you I extend a challenge. I challenge you to thoughtfully study this debate with an open mind.

To define the proposition: BELIEF - confidence, trust, faith. GOD - a superhumanly wise and powerful being. BIBLE - as originally written. REASONABLE - logical. BENEFICIAL - good for man.

To sustain my proposition I must prove these four points: I. Belief in God is reasonable. II. Belief in God is beneficial. III. Belief in the Bible is reasonable. IV. Belief in the Bible is beneficial. Mr. Wortman is not obligated to attack all these points for if he can successfully assail any ONE of them my proposition falls. As the debate progresses we will see what success he has.

I. Belief in God is reasonable because of the

VASTNESS OF THE UNIVERSE

David wrote "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork." Psalms 19:1. Man is just now beginning to discover the vastness of the creation of God. It extends beyond every imagination of man.

Yet for all its vastness, each part works smoothly and perfectly century after century. The workings of the universe are more marvelous and perfect than the finest watch, but only a fool would deny that the watch has a maker. How much more unreasonable to declare that this marvelous universe had no intelligent creator, God.

CREATION OF MATTER

Belief in God is reasonable because it explains the existence of matter. In fact there is no other logical explanation of matter. At this point all atheistic theories fail. Matter exists: What caused it? I challenge Mr. Wortman to try to explain the creation of matter. I predict he will not dare try. This debate will close with only one reasonable explanation of creation, the one given in Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning GOD created".

CREATION OF LIFE

Here is another point which atheism cannot logically explain. Life exists. It must have a cause: But no atheist, not even Mr. Wortman, can reasonably explain the creation of life. Will Mr. Wortman attempt to explain this point? I predict he will not. What about it Mr. Wortman??? Belief in God is reasonable because it offers the only logical explanation of life.

II. I have proven that faith in God is reasonable, far more reasonable than the alternative of atheism, but does believing in God BENEFIT mankind? My first argument to prove that it does is that

FAITH ELEVATES MAN ABOVE THE BEASTS

in that the believer realizes he is a responsible being. Feeling a moral responsibility to God for his actions he naturally acts with greater respect for his fellowman. This moral feeling tells him his actions must not harm others.

FRUITS OF FAITH

Look about you, count the hospitals, orphan homes, etc. which have been built by those who believe in God. Now count those benevolent institutions which have been built by atheists, if you can find any. Faith in God is beneficial to mankind, the fruits of faith prove it.

FAITH GIVES MAN HOPE EVEN IN DEATH

For every life there must be a death. Faith in God is beneficial because it offers man hope in the darkest of hours. Even the most intellectual atheists have approached death with dread and fear. But for Christians "Death is swallowed up in victory" 1 Corinthians 15:54. The contrast is plain. It's easier to be a living atheist than a dying atheist. Faith is beneficial because it gives man hope in death.

III. It is reasonable to believe the Bible because the God who created the universe would naturally want to reveal his law to man. From nature man learns of the existence of God but he cannot learn God's will except by revelation.

How did God choose to reveal his law to man? "By an infallible Pope!" answers the Roman Catholic Church. But history proves that absolute power corrupts the best of men, and that would consequently corrupt the revelations. Traditions and other unwritten revelations have this same failing. So God revealed his law by the most permanent and least corruptible method known: the written word. Logic demands that such an important message be recorded in written form.

The world contains various books purporting to be Divine Revelations. dare you to read them, compare them with the Bible, and then deny that it is more reasonable to believe the Bible than any of them.

Let's review our logic which has led us to conclude that it is reasonable to believe the Bible. (1) The only reasonable explanation of the existence of matter and life is that a rational, powerful being caused them. (2) Such a being, God, would reveal his laws to man. (3) The safest method of revelation would be a written record. (4) None of the other "holy books" can compare with the Bible in morality, consistency or logic. (5) Therefore, it is reasonable to believe the Bible. --Wendle Scott.

WORTMAN'S FIRST NEGATIVE

The above is brother Scott's own proposition. It ties his pen. He may only argue that Belief and it alone is the vital issue. That leaves me free to contend that falsehoods mothered by belief cannot be beneficial to mankind. He may argue that belief is reasonable, but that is questionable. Have the religionists arrived at belief through gods and ghosts and virgin parenthood in spirits, spooks, "hants", devils and angels, heavens and hells through reason or through seriously suspected revelation? Belief is a weak word. It is used only in the absence of knowledge. Believing something true is far from knowing it to be true. Belief and Faith are Siamese twins of ignorance. They signify acceptance without proof.

Belief rests on the intelligence of the believer. The Indian believes in a bountiful hunting ground, the Moslem in a new harem filled with fresh wives, the Brahmin in Nirvana, an eternal unconsciousness, an escape from life and its evils. The Christian flatters himself that he and a few others are favorites of his god, and shall pass through a gate of pearl into mansions and never ending hallelujahs, while the mass of humanity, including some of his relatives and friends shall toboggan to an endless flame. This is his great comfort. It never occurs to his warped mind that he makes his god the most monstrous and vicious character of all literature. The wrong believer may be honest, sincere, but mistaken, in error, or never heard of a savior, and for that shall fry eternally.

One culprit with one finger in a never dying flame would ere long suffer more agony than all the world in all the ages. The god of Love and Vengeance so rewards the billions who fail to find the narrow path. Such a belief shrivels the brain it infects, and are we to accept the statement that this infection benefits mankind?

To comprehend the ghastly benefit of belief one has only to thumb history, preferably Gibbon. Rome, spread over nearly all of western Eurasia, had under paganism reached a fairly high state of civilization. Literature, a cultivated language, libraries had been patronized. Philosophy, science, jurisprudence, corpus juris civilis were developing. Women had been given legal rights. Came the new belief, by imperial decree, that a half blood god, crucified by fanatics in obscure Asia Minor, would return in "this generation", chain Satan, reign over the earth and alter all that is or was to be. To the believers it was of the greatest importance that all men be brainwashed made

aware that any hour might be the last of the old order. All that divert could not be tolerated. Libraries were destroyed, books burned manuscripts hunted and given to the flames, works of art pushed from pedestals, schools closed. These things took men's minds from the Second Coming. Nothing else mattered. Women again became unclean chattel property. Monasteries filled with idle monks contemplating their navels dotted the vast area. Denial of ignorance took over. Kings could not read. They signed priest written documents with signet rings.

Since nothing mattered but the Second Coming (each generation being "this generation") disease and piety flourished. The wealth of the land was squandered on huge splendid cathedrals, in which to worship a man who had no place to lay his head. Previous to this belief Rome held sway over 100 million people. In a few centuries under faith and filth the population declined to 10 millions. Bats swarmed in the Coliseum and the aqueducts. Chamberlain's Encyclopedia tells us that nine million witches were put to death (mostly women) in Europe, and two million in north Africa. Our own America saw witches hanging from beams. Last year in southern Mexico, by order of a priest an old woman was burned at the stake for being a witch. The account said she was not burned alive, but killed and tied to the stake. Her husband helped to kill her. Who doubts that these people were good believers?

The sciences of medicine and surgery were crushed. To dissect a body was a crime. Plagues and disease were heaven sent. Shrines and laying of hands were the only cures. Little devils got into bodies and produced insanity, epilepsy, paralysis, dumbness, and they could be conjured out, tearing the flesh as they made exit. Kings ruled by divine right. Was belief in this beneficial to mankind? Was it reasonable?

There are beliefs and beliefs. The instructed common herd believes the unnatural, the supernatural, the unseen and the unseeable, the mysterious, the spiritual, the voodooistic, in dreams, in prophecies that never do come true, but it Believes. The child of nature studies the material, the substantial, cause and consequence. Often baffled, from a few facts he formulates a hypothesis, or a theory. It is half belief. He is not certain. He goes on gathering facts until his theory is proved or modified to fit the facts. Then he knows. He has progressed, left belief behind. In Sociology, coexistence in this life on this earth, much is belief, ideal, and must be measured by the yardstick of intelligence. The naturalist believes that men should be equal before the law, that slavery violates equality, that degradation of woman is unsocial and harmful, that government proceeds from consent of the governed, that no reign is divinely established, that only through criticism and constructive thought does mankind advance, that theocratic rule is a farce and deception, but if true, it should never have been altered or abandoned, that progress requires that full expression of thought be free and unhindered, that while 99 thoughts are worthless and visionary full expression must be accorded that the 100th idea may be discovered.

The supreme belief of the thinker is that his beliefs are not sacred, infallible, so perfect that doubt and dispute become treason and heresy. H

trusts the fire of the forum aware that there will arise conflicting ideas that neutralize, that change, and that under dialectics and dialectics alone mankind marches forward.--F. P. Wortman.

SCOTT'S SECOND AFFIRMATIVE

I call the reader's attention to Mr. Wortman's complete failure to deal with the arguments presented in my first affirmative article. I remind Mr. Wortman that in debate the duty of the negative is to refute the affirmative arguments.

CREATION

I remind the readers to watch for Mr. Wortman's attempt to give a reasonable explanation of creation. I repeat my prediction that Mr. Wortman will not dare try to explain creation.

SHRIVELED BRAINS

My opponent charges "such a belief shrivels the brain it infects". However, a list of such "shriveled" brains would include: Sir Walter Scott, Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, Daniel Webster, Napoleon Bonaparte, Charles A. Dana, Patrick Henry, and so goes the list ad infinitum. How wonderful if all brains could be "infected" with the same belief and "shriveled" to the same stature as the above named believers.

Most of the first negative endeavored to prove that Catholicism was detrimental. I make no comment since it has no bearing on my proposition. I hope Mr. Wortman's future remarks will be directed in the proper direction.

Continuing my argument that it is reasonable to believe the Bible, I introduce

SCIENTIFIC FOREKNOWLEDGE

This is one of the strongest arguments I know to prove the reasonableness of the Bible. The only logical explanation of the following facts is that a superhuman intellect revealed them to the writers.

THE SHAPE OF THE EARTH: Isaiah 40:22 declares God "sitteth above the circle of the earth". See Proverbs 8:27; Luke 17:24, 34. How did they know the earth was circular in shape? At that time men thought that the earth was flat. It was over 2000 years later that human knowledge discovered the true shape of the earth. The only reasonable explanation of their scientific foreknowledge is that the Creator of the earth revealed it to them.

THE NUMBER OF THE STARS: As late as 150 A.D. Ptolemy declared there were no more than 3,000 stars. Yet with the invention of the telescope man discovered that the stars are innumerable. The Bible had revealed that

centuries before, Genesis 15:15; Jeremiah 33:22. HOW ???

THE SUSPENSION OF THE EARTH: Job 26:7 He "hangeth the earth upon nothing." Today any schoolboy can tell you that the earth flies thru space kept in its orbit by gravity, that it literally "hangeth upon nothing." But when Job spoke those words men knew nothing about gravity. The ancients thought the earth rested upon the shoulders of a giant named Job. Job taught the truth centuries before men discarded their superstitions. Men knew this, not by human wisdom, not by guesswork, but by Divine revelation. There is no other REASONABLE explanation of Biblical foreknowledge of scientific facts. Yes, the Bible is reasonable.

IV. I have proven that belief in the Bible is reasonable, but can I prove it to be beneficial to mankind? After all, this is the "proof of the pudding". The Bible says "By their fruits ye shall know them", Matthew 7:20. Proving the reasonableness of the Bible would be of little value if I failed to prove that the fruits of the Bible are good, i.e., that the human race is better off than it would have been without the Bible.

THE BIBLE AND CIVILIZATION

Proving that the Bible has benefited mankind is just as easy as looking at a map of the world. Put your finger on a country where civilization is most advanced, where freedom most abounds and you will be pointing to a country where the Bible is known and respected. On the other hand, name a country filled with ignorance, poverty and tyranny and that country will be one where the Bible is little known and less respected. Where the Bible is known, civilization follows.

Again, pick the country in which you would prefer to live your life and you will be a country where the Bible is known and loved. Now pick the place where you would most dislike to live (Africa, India, etc.) and it will be a country where the Bible is least known. So even your map proves the Bible is beneficial to mankind.

THE BIBLE AND HUMAN FREEDOM

When ancient pagans practiced the most abject forms of slavery the Bible closely regulated it. Among the Hebrews no slave could be forced to serve more than seven years. And of course, the Bible's influence was most prominently in the abolition of slavery, both here and in other nations.

The Bible placed woman at the side of man rather than under his. While pagans treated their women little better than they treated their mothers, the Hebrews honored their wives and mothers.

The Bible taught that manual labor was honorable at a time when pagans and nobles were ashamed to dirty their hands. Each Hebrew boy was taught to do manual trade even though he might expect to become a physician, teacher,

or even a king. , Thus David was a shepherd Paul a tentmaker, and Jesus a carpenter. But in the same age a Roman Emperor, Augustus, condemned a senator to death for having lowered his dignity working in a garden.

To these examples of areas in which the Bible has advanced human freedom could be added many others but these are enough to prove that the Bible has been of great benefit to mankind. Only a mind blinded by prejudice could deny it.

I have presented, step by step, point by point, proof of each of the four points of my proposition. Consider them well. Think! Reason! --Wendle Scott.

WORTMAN'S SECOND NEGATIVE

Brother Scott is mistaken about it being nearly impossible to get an unbeliever to argue his position. In my long life only thrice have I gotten ministers to discuss and two of them backed away from a second round. If Brother Scott will stay hitched, we can, after this, discuss prophecies, commandments, bible astronomy, morals.

Boiled down we have two propositions, that Belief in God is reasonable and beneficial to mankind, and that the same is true of the bible. The usual argument is that the material universe is here, it exists, too complex, too interrelated to be self existent. It was produced by a greater thing, but that greater thing was self existent, and had no producer. Is that reasonable? That logic breaks down at the second premise. One grain of sand is as great a mystery as a giant sun. Is a mystery solved by simply introducing a greater mystery? Creation means producing from nothing, not merely assembling.

The godite offers no proof of special creation. There is none. He makes just a bald statement --"In the beginning". Science knows nothing of a time when there was nothing but nothing--and a ghost. It has never found that an atom of material or a dyne of energy can be created or destroyed. That watch argument is old and weak. The savage found a watch. He reasoned that it had a maker. There he stopped. There the theologian stops. The maker is greater than the thing. But Something still greater produced him. But a far greater producer is needed to produce the Something, and so on without end. The godite scorns the scientist who ventures that material has always existed. Yet there is evidence of that, and it is simpler than saying that a self-existent ghost lived through eternities of darkness.

Brother Scott says I will not attempt to explain creation of matter. If not, that proves his ghost story correct. Is that reasoning or just asserting? Preachers are the only ones who know all about origin and destiny. They have Belief in a bald unsupported statement and a sizzling hell for the doubter.

Science knows that millions of suns flame and wheel through immensity, to no apparent purpose. There can not be life upon them. They accumulate,

develop, grow old and die. Dead worlds crash, vaporize, and begin again evolution. There is no proof that all this, at one time, did not exist, there was only a vast vacuum and a ghost that was never born. Belief h that the earth was first, the stars stuck to the firmament to light it. Ignorance scribes so wrote thousands of years ago in Asia Minor when the earth flat.

The god is not seen or heard. He is supposed to be reached by inference by reasoning backward from the material to the immaterial, from solid substance to nothingness. That is not logic. Billy Graham says that God can be proved, but is reached by faith and belief. So says Brother Scott. Belief is a weak word. A god should be positively known, not guessed at.

Discovering a god hovering over a planet, like little Jehovah over earth, would mean no more to mankind than finding a tenth moon of Jupiter unless there be relationship between mankind and that god, that human thoughts and behavior affects that god, provoking him to smiles or rages he wants the world converted, he could do it instantly by sailing the sky he did for Samuel astride a boy angel, with carolling angels singing "Hell earth, ill will to men" as has been the fact throughout history. Every knee would bend, and every hand in Moscow make the sign. Missionaries would be superfluous parasites, revivalists jobless. None could doubt. In 1900 years only a part of the earth is imbued with Belief. In the intelligent second century belief is weak

Politicians campaign every four years. Religionists dare not take vacation or the cause of their god will fail. Day and night they must campaign with press, radio, TV, and revivals. If the god must remain obscure, out of sight and sound, why have disputing humans tell others what he wants, have scribbled pages which men can counterfeit and frequently revise? Why could grow messages on blades of grass and leaves of trees, arrange stars to spell commandments. All would understand. If he wants worshipping (a degrading thing), the earth could be made devout in an hour without tending to medicine men, voodooism, numberless types of spookery, extracting millions of cash from the listeners.

Seldom can we pick up a paper without seeing how this providential god provides for those he loves, with droughts that blister, floods that destroy, tornadoes that twist through cities, tropical storms that strike shore, wreck and kill men and beasts, women and children, lightning that strikes earthquakes that shatter, simooms that devastate, blizzards that freeze lungs of birds and brutes and men. Are these beneficial to mankind, reasonable to believe a god would do such? Well we know that if there were men could and would inflict these terrible convulsions, to see men die amidst handiwork, survivors would mob and hang them to the nearest telephone pole --F. P. Wortman.

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SCOTT'S THIRD AFFIRMATIVE

Your interest in this investigation of the Christian faith indicates that you are willing to reason on the subject. My desire, my firm intention, is to present for your consideration the foundations upon which belief in God and the Bible stands. Examine them, for "the firm foundation of God standeth" 2 Timothy 2:19.

We presented THE VASTNESS OF THE UNIVERSE, CREATION OF MATTER, and the CREATION OF LIFE to show the reasonableness of faith in God. Mr. Wortman has so far refused to reply to any of these arguments. The closest he came was to venture that "material has always existed" (Second Negative). But he offered not one word to prove this contention.

Of course Mr. Wortman can believe in the eternal existence of matter without proof if he so desires but remember such "Belief is weak". It is far more reasonable to believe in an eternal God on the basis of abundant evidence than to deny God and then be forced to affirm that matter is eternal without evidence and contrary to evidence.

Mr. Wortman must be wary of the creation of life since he hasn't once mentioned it. He can scarcely venture that "life has always existed" (unless he's ready to give up atheism and admit the existence of God. Perhaps he will favor us with a reasonable (and provable) explanation of the creation of life. All scientific experience is that life comes from life, never life from matter. If Mr. Wortman desires he may BELIEVE that dead matter produced life but he must believe contrary to all scientific experience. Yet he says MY "belief is weak".

The benefits of believing in God are seen in the FRUITS OF FAITH and in the believer's HOPE IN DEATH. Mr. Wortman found it convenient to ignore those. Truly it would be embarrassing to atheists to compare the hospitals, orphan homes, etc. built by atheists (???) with those built by believers, or to discuss the fear of death felt by even the most intellectual atheists.

In supporting the reasonableness of the Bible I presented a few of the many Biblical examples of SCIENTIFIC FOREKNOWLEDGE, showing that the Bible revealed THE SHAPE OF THE EARTH, THE NUMBER OF THE STARS, and THE SUSPENSION OF THE EARTH. Mr. Wortman replied with silence. To prove the Bible is beneficial I introduced THE BIBLE AND CIVILIZATION, showing that civilization follows the Bible. I also showed where the Bible had advanced HUMAN FREEDOM. Mr. Wortman has at least been consistent in dealing with the affirmative arguments, he has consistently ignored them all. He has lost the battle by default.

What has Mr. Wortman offered? He has substituted ridicule for reason, fancy for facts, name-calling (godites, ghosts, voodooism, etc.) for negation. He has found it easier to argue that Catholicism has not been beneficial than to try to assail the benefits of the Christian faith. All of his

arguments against Catholicism have meant nothing since the faith of my position is definitely not Catholicism.

In his first negative Mr. Wortman asserted that Christians believe prophecies that never do come true". I will be very pleased to join with him on this field since fulfilled prophecy constitutes one of the most convincing proofs of the truth of the Bible.

FULFILLED PROPHECY

If space permitted I could begin with Noah's prediction of the grand out of world history as fulfilled in the descendants of his three sons; Gen 9:25-27. I could continue with the prophecies of the fates of the great empires and cities of antiquity such as Egypt, Ezekiel 29, 30; Tyre, Ezekiel 28:1-17; Babylon, Isaiah 13:1-22. With any of these I could show the effects of superhuman intellect.

But for lack of space I will limit myself to a study of only one prophetic subject, THE JEWISH NATION as being in itself conclusive proof that Mr. Wortman is in error when he affirms that prophecies "never do come true". I hope that Mr. Wortman is sufficiently courageous to attempt to explain or else sufficiently honest to admit that he was wrong when he said "never do come true".

Consider the prophecy of Moses recorded in Deuteronomy 28 that a distant nation, (2) swift as the eagle flieth (3) speaking a strange language (verse 49) (4) would besiege Jerusalem (5) till a mother would eat the flesh of her own child (v. 52-57). (6) The Jews were to be left comparatively few in number (v. 62). (7) scattered all over the earth (v. 64). (8) and in Egypt until "no man shall buy you". (v. 68).

The fulfillment beginning 1500 years later is complete and convincing. In 70 A.D. Roman (1) legions flying the swift eagle as a standard (2) speaking Latin (3) besieged Jerusalem (4) until starvation caused a mother to eat her child. (5) According to Josephus the historian 1,240,490 were slain, 99,200 taken captive (6) and sold in Egypt till no one would buy them (8) Since then Jews have lived and are living "from one end of the earth to the other" (7) Other prophecies concerning this are recorded in Jeremiah 19:1-11, 30; Matthew 24 and Luke 21.

I appeal to you to be intellectually honest with yourself. Read "Search the scriptures" for these prophecies; in history you will find their fulfillment, often centuries later, than appeal to logic to explain how the prophets could have known. Reason can give but one answer: a superhuman intellect.

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WORTMAN'S THIRD NEGATIVE

Brother Scott takes down side lanes, rides tangents, brings in things foreign. The question is Belief is Reasonable and Beneficial to Mankind. Belief establishes nothing. It must be supported. Then it would be knowledge. In my second negative I showed that Belief in God is not reasonable. August 24 Billy Graham said that God is not proved, not found at the end of a logical process. but must be assumed. The theologian travels backward, as does his collar. He jumps from natural to supernatural, from material to immaterial, from solid substance to a vacuum, to nothingness, from blood and bone beings to wispy ghosts. He infers. He assumes. That is not reasonable.

I am not obliged to cook up some theory of creation. No scientist tries that. That is not the question at all. Brother Scott is blowing that up to magnitude trying to decoy me down a side lane. There is not space to follow. Whether Belief in this assumed god is beneficial to mankind follows. He is depicted as the most vicious monster of all literature. In no language does any character approach him. He drowned a world, unoffending birds and animals, men, women, and children, newborn and unborn, all but eight of mankind.

In the tale of the Exodus 21 million people (estimated by English Christians) were slaughtered by order of this god. They had a wrong religion. They were part of mankind. Under direct control of his god they instituted slavery, polygamy, concubinage, sale of daughters, killing and burning first born sons in sacrifice. Could anything be more horrible? Naturally I deny that any god ever did or said the things ascribed to him, but it was believed that he did, and Belief is our subject. Believing that Eleazar, the priest, spoke for Jehovah the Midianite mothers were killed, the brides were killed, the boy babies were killed, the girls given to soldiers as prizes of war. When Constantine made Christianity the religion of Rome civilization perished. All literature, or all they could round up, manuscripts, the great Alexandrian library, schools, works of art, were destroyed because they took men's minds from the Second Coming, which was due any hour "in this generation". As the 1000 years of night, of Dark Ages, settled over all, ignorance and disease reduced the 100 million under Rome to ten million. All were believers. Faith and filth and death came into their own. Did this benefit mankind? Was it not the greatest blight of history?

For 300 years believing Europe tried to recover from the infidel Moslems the vacant tomb in which they believed their god had spent one night, and lost a million lives. One crusade was made up of children. When the crusaders finally took Jerusalem where Christians, Moslems, and Jews were living in peace together they butchered the Moslems and the Jews. Yet they were a part of mankind.

In Belief that the god commanded "Thou Shalt Not Suffer a Witch to Live" nine million were put to death in Europe, mostly by burning at the stake, mostly women. In North Africa another two million (See Chamber's

Encyclopedia). Beneficial to mankind? No, to the church in confiscated property. Believing God sanctioned it African slavery was introduced. of the slave ships was "The Jesus". The suffering was horrible. They were human beings. Read the history of the Low Countries and Charles Spain. They all believed in Jehovah and built bonfires of each other. Could anything be worse than the Inquisition, in which believers tortured and killed other believers, whom they thought somewhat in error? It was god to burn a sinner for an hour on earth when the god would burn him for later.

Hitler, who bathed the world in blood, never made a speech but he boasted how he and God worked hand in hand together. The whole Nazi power Christian, Germany, Austria, Italy, Romania, under a concordat. When Paris fell the pope rejoiced that a new order was coming not only to France but to the whole world. In the Polish furnaces six million Jews, God's Chosen were cremated, abandoned by the helpless god. Had not atheist Russia, a butchery of twelve million, after a fertile area half the size of the U. S. made a desert, rallied and broken through, all Europe and probably we will have come under the domination of the righteous BELIEVERS.

A historian told me that the good believing Spanish conquistadores three 200 years slaughtered 50 million Indians below the Rio Grande. They were part of mankind. Read the pitiful history of Poland, and what believers did. Believers have smitten the world west of the Urals more horribly than any sect. The earth's map has ever been stricken, and mostly through BELIEF in bloody Jehovah. This ends the first half of the two-pronged question. I have dealt with the reasonableness of Belief in God, and the benefits of it. In the next issue of Progressive World we must turn to BELIEF in the bible and benefits of it to mankind. It matters little how absurd is that Belief, we will tie to discussion of the fact of it and its effects. I would very much like to follow Brother Scott down the side lanes where he flaunts decoy banners, but space will not permit. Maybe some time we can discuss a single proposition that has but one prong. --F. P. Wortman.

SCOTT'S FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE

Mr. Wortman promises to deal with belief in the Bible in his next article. It's about time. The arguments showing the reasonableness and benefits of faith in the Bible (First and Second Affirmatives) have gone unanswered long enough. If Wortman will deal with these arguments it will be a refreshing change in his debating style. Readers, watch to see if he actually deals with the affirmative arguments or if he continues to evade them.

My opponent would like you to believe that CREATION OF MATTER is a "side lane". My argument is that belief in God offers the only reasonable explanation of creation. The closest thing to an explanation offered was reference to "the scientist who ventures that material has always existed". Who is this anonymous scientist or scientists? Why does he "venture" rather than know or believe?? Simply because there is no proof of his hypothesis.

CREATION OF LIFE

Still no word on the creation of life. I predicted in my first affirmative that Mr. Wortman wouldn't attempt to explain it. He dare not touch this for God is the only reasonable explanation.

FALSE ACCUSATIONS

Throughout the debate my opponent has chosen to resort to misrepresenting God. There is not space enough to expose all the false accusations he has made but consider these three:

(1) The practices he charged the Hebrews instituted under direct control of God: "slavery, polygamy concubinage, sale of daughters, killing and burning of first born sons in sacrifice". The Hebrews could not have instituted any of these practices since each of them had already been instituted long before the Exodus. God's laws to the Hebrews only regulated already existing evils. As to sacrificing first-born sons no charge was ever false. I challenge Mr. Wortman to prove his irresponsible charge. I can prove that God forbade such sacrifices, Deuteronomy 18:10; Leviticus 18:21; 20:2-4. God tested Abraham's faith, Genesis 22, but no man can show a single time that God approved the sacrifice of a first-born son or second-born or last-born son either. Mr. Wortman's charge is completely false. Readers, watch to see if he honorably retracts the charge, and admits his error or if he simply ignores it.

(2) His charge that God "sailed the sky for Samuel astride a boy angel" well illustrates his misinformation about the Bible. Where did he read of that? Where did he learn of boy angels? Mr. Wortman just where did you get all your "Bible knowledge"? From the Bible???? Have you ever read it, all of it? Or did you get your "Bible knowledge" from reading the writings of atheists? I ask for proof that the Bible teaches the things you have charged.

(3) His charge that "prophecies never do come true". In my third affirmative I listed a number of prophecies which came true and discussed in detail Moses prophecy of the destruction of THE JEWISH NATION, Deuteronomy 28, even giving a point by point fulfillment of it. Did he admit his error? Don't put off eating until you find it

Mr. Wortman has refused to come to grips with me on the proposition. When I presented arguments on the existence of God he argued about the character of God. Such arguments prove nothing as to the existence of a Supreme Being.

When the evidence proved that faith in God was reasonable the Negative replied that "Belief is a weak word. A god should be positively known." (First Negative). But our proposition deals with "belief". Throughout the debate Mr. Wortman has continually complained about the proposition. (I'd complain too, if I were trying to deny it.) My arguments have proven the point at issue, i. e., belief is reasonable and beneficial. No one forced the negative to sign the proposition. We agreed to debate about "belief". It behooves the Negative to stop griping and start debating.

FAITH vs. KNOWLEDGE

Mr. Wortman soundly condemns belief, "acceptance without proof" concerning God. He sets up an impossible standard for my belief, one who is unwilling to apply to his own beliefs. Oh yes, atheists also believe "accept without proof" and sometimes even contrary to proof. (See Affirmative), paragraphs 3 and 4). Some basic beliefs of atheism are: (1) The Universe is not governed by intelligence, (2) God does not exist, (3) Matter is eternal, self-existent, (4) Matter produced life, (5) Intelligence was produced by non-intelligent causes. None of these beliefs can be pr

CATHOLICISM

The Negative continues to waste his space attacking the evils of Catholicism. He has proven nothing until he proves that belief actually caused the evils he mentioned. Showing that an evil-doer claims to be a believer do help him at all. He must prove that belief produced the evil. I could argue that atheism produces blood-purges and cite the Communists as proof. I would be wasting my time unless I proved that atheism actually CAUSED the Communist blood-purges, etc. Likewise Mr. Wortman wastes his space attacking Catholicism and Hitler until he proves that the faith of my proposition CAUSED their evil deeds. I confidently deny that the teachings of the lowly Jesus produced these monsters. - Wendle Scott

WORTMAN'S FOURTH NEGATIVE

Give me the space and I will chase Brother Scott down his side lane. Creation of Matter, Creation of life, Fruits of Faith, Fear of Death, A Book of Prophecies. One of these would use all my space. He worded the question the Benefits of BELIEF. If he will not discuss it, I will. I have already shown that Belief in a horrible and monstrous god led to horrible monstrous crimes against humankind. Now we come to the benefits of Belief in the Bible. Belief that the earth is the center of the universe, that it rests on pillars and foundations, that the stars were stuck to the firmament to light it, that all of its flat surface could be seen from the top of a mountain, that the sun and moon could be stopped led to the burning of Bruno for disputing that, to the crushing of Galileo for it was heresy, a crime against God to say men walked the underside of the earth heads downward saying this was the way it moved. Belief that God would burn men forever for having wrong thought made it godlike to burn them for an hour, godlike to kill and rob heathens who knew not the god of Love. One historian tells that 50 million Indians were robbed and killed south of the Rio Grande in 200 years. They were made to kiss the cross and were then killed while their souls were saved. The pur Christian war of the Crusades lasted 300 years seeking the borrowed secher where the half blood god tarried one night (not three days and night nor to a third day). It was a war of butchery of civilians. Since Christianity came to power the story has been of wars and bloodshed. Over Beliefs that have torn each other's throats. Under Charles V the Lowlands were mired in blood because of errors of Belief. In the Thirty Years War, Christian again

Christian, nearly all males were killed. In our own land we had the bloody Civil War because in the Bible slavery was ordained of God.

Lea's History of the Inquisition tells how thousands were put to death for expressing some doubt of Belief. Their property was forfeited to the church. Later the king got part of it. The dead were dug up and hanged, if some witness would say they had made an irreverent expression. Those were years of terror. No man was safe. Serfdom, white servitude, was universal, for did not the bible say "Neither Shalt Thou Countenance a Poor Man in his Cause"? It said All Authority is from God, thus establishing royal rule.

"Thou Shalt Not Suffer a Witch to Live". Nine million witches were put to death in Europe, two million in North Africa (see Chambers), mostly women, mostly by fire. Just last year an old woman, a witch, was burned at the stake in southern Mexico. Her husband helped. If believers could point to one stake burning by unbelievers, wouldn't they rave? Science has been able to speak only a short time, is not yet free. Today text books, libraries, radio are purged and censored to weed out suggestions of unbelief. Evolution is damned. I have fearlessly pointed out in print bible assertions that no sane man can believe, provoking name calling and threats, but never an argument upholding witchcraft, magic, dreams, sorcery, enchantment, degradation of woman, slavery, devils in human bodies, tearing the body as they made exit after being conjured, casting out, the laying on of hands, drinking any deadly thing with impunity. I have seen children die because mothers fought off doctors, depending on bible stuff to cure, families broken over bible passages, children adrift. Our educational system is being wrecked by churches invading state schools, each determined to instill and indoctrinate its own peculiar Belief. Surgeons are driven out of church hospitals for wanting to save a mother's life.

Civilization has followed the Bible. What next? Scholars know that Greek and Roman civilization had reached a fairly high level when Christianity took over. Schools and libraries were pillaged, manuscripts hunted and burned, the Alexandrian Library, center of ancient learning, was demolished by Christian monks. This was a mammoth loss. The last school of philosophy, taught by a woman, Hypatis, was in Alexandria. Christian monks invaded it, seized the teacher and scraped the flesh from her bones with oyster shells. Civilization was destroyed in short order. The 1000 years of Dark Ages began. Kings could not read. They signed documents with signet rings. Death to a doctor for dissecting a body to discover the cause. Disease descended from heaven. The Bible says many times God struck with plagues. All Europe became filled with faith and filth. The "Odor of Sanctity" polluted the air. A monk could be smelled a half mile down the road. To cleanse the body was sinful. Only the immortal soul mattered. This putrid decline of civilization was due to some half dozen texts that the end was near; the Second Coming was due any hour "in this generation". "There be some standing here who shall not taste death". That was repeated. No chance for mistake. The disciples would not be able to reach all the cities of Israel with no city 50 miles away. Ever since the

preacher declares that "this generation" is his generation. It was natural, very reasonable, very beneficial, Brother Scott, to destroy everything that would take men's minds from the Second Coming, due any day. All learning, all education, all science, all literature, all art was dangerous. These would divert men's minds from saving their souls before the approaching doom. They should think of nothing, have nothing to interfere with bowing, praying "Lead us not into Temptation". Nothing else mattered, nothing else could matter. Hundreds of years later Leonard di Vinci, greatest brain that the race has produced, did not dare express the truth he knew. Space is taken. More in the next. --F. P. Wortman.

SCOTT'S FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE

This debate is fast drawing to its close. It has been a most pleasant experience for me. It's always a pleasant and easy task to defend faith in God and the Bible. My only regret is that we haven't been able to have more direct clashes due to Mr. Wortman's refusal to deal with the affirmative arguments. We haven't crossed swords because he has surrendered the battlefield without a fight. He has lost the battle by default.

THE BIBLE AND THE DARK AGES

Mr. Wortman denies that civilization follows the Bible. His proof is the Dark Ages. But the Dark Ages prove MY contention, not his. During that time the Bible was a closed book. The Dark Ages and the Reformation provide a perfect example of the benefits of the Bible. Consider these three facts:

- (1) Wholesale ignorance resulted from the Roman hierarchy's forbidding the people to have the Bible.
 - (2) When the Reformation made the Bible available to the people again, progress revived.
 - (3) Most important, in the world today the people enjoying the greatest freedom and prosperity live in the nations where the Bible is most honored and obeyed.
- So you see, the Dark Ages prove the Bible to be beneficial to mankind.

Mr. Wortman cries for more space so he can "chase Brother Scott down his side lanes". But he had the same amount of space as I. If he's short because he's wasted his space on the false issue of Catholicism (repeated some of the same material three times in four articles). It's not SPACE he lacks. What he needs is an ANSWER to the affirmative arguments.

FALSE ACCUSATIONS

He didn't have enough space to explain the false accusations he had made (See Fourth Affirmative) but he had plenty of space to make new ones. For example, his accusation that the Bible teaches that the earth has a "flat surface"? But he didn't produce the scripture which teaches that the earth is a "flat surface"? No, he didn't, and he won't, because the Bible teaches

true shape of the earth. Isaiah 40:22 declares that God "sitteth above the circle of the earth." It would be most interesting to hear Mr. Wortman explain how Isaiah knew this scientific fact over 2000 years before human science discovered it. Mr. Wortman, until you explain these cases of SCIENTIFIC FOREKNOWLEDGE (See Second Affirmative) your readers will have to agree that I have proven the Bible to be reasonable. For how could a man logically deny the inspiration of the Bible when it reveals all these scientific facts??? Think about it!!!

FAITH VS. KNOWLEDGE

Neither did he have space to explain why he demands positive knowledge of God but accepts atheistic beliefs. (See Fourth Affirmative).

His space hasn't been sufficient to explain the CREATION OF LIFE And I seriously doubt that it ever will be. Even if he were to write an entire book on it he wouldn't have enough space to explain the beginning of life without a God to create it.

WORTMAN'S BIBLE TEXTS

Let's consider his misuses of Bible texts: "Neither Shall Thou Countenance a Poor Man in his Cause." This verse he used to show that the poor were to be mistreated and enslaved. But he didn't tell you where to find it because reading it in its context you would see how he had misapplied it. It's Exodus 23:3. What it really teaches is that each case should be decided according to justice and not according to whether a man was poor or rich. This is made clear by the Revised Standard Version "nor shall you be partial to a poor man in his suit." but "You shall not pervert the justice due to your poor in his suit." (Verse 6). See how plain it is.

Equally false is his use of the text "There be some standing here who shall not taste death". He didn't tell you where this text was found either for if you had read it you would have seen the Lord's entire statement. Read it in Mark 9:1 "There be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power." Of course when you see that last part of the statement you understand what it says and realize that it's true. Acts 2 tells of the coming of the kingdom. Most of the ones who had heard Jesus' promise were still living. (See Colossians 1:13; Revelation 1:6, 9.) Mr. Wortman, did you make this mistake through ignorance or did you intentionally try to deceive the readers??? The readers are due an explanation. IF YOU CAN FIND THE SPACE please tell them whether you misused these scriptures ignorantly or intentionally.

I would like to introduce more arguments to prove the reasonableness of faith in the Bible, arguments based upon: archaeology, internal evidences (such as its unity, the style, etc.) and its indestructibility. But of course, Mr. Wortman wouldn't have space enough to reply.

WHY WORTMAN FAILED

Readers, don't be surprised at Mr. Wortman's failure in this debate. He didn't answer the affirmative arguments because there is no answer to them. The evidence for the existence of God is overwhelming. The Bible shows the hand of God each time it reveals a superhuman knowledge of the Universe and of future events. Mr. Wortman failed because these facts cannot be refuted. --Wendle Scott

WORTMAN'S FIFTH NEGATIVE

A few manuscripts escaped. Monks preserved some on the back of wax tablets to write their holy gibber. The Dark Ages lifted when a few scientific men hunted the pagan remnants. The light broke in. Great unbelievers taught and are still damned by religion. The names of Darwin, Huxley, Spencer, and Burbank, pronounced unbeliever did more for humankind than all the priests and parsons. Civilization revived though still strangled by Beliefs. Religion bears down on libraries, the press, newsstands, radio, schools to prevent the spread of truth. Washington, oozing piety, thinks of nothing but taxes people to death to build engines of destruction, determined to take them from the earth 200 million people, who have done us no injury. We are covering the earth with war bases, intending to "leave not alive a soul that breathes" (good bible text). That people has shamed the world by its medical, dental, and surgical care of mothers and children, all free as the air. In Christian lands a short illness spells financial ruin. Church hospitals, where they pray for the patient and give no bath. Profit and hypocrisy! If Believers can cure the sick, cast out devils by laying on hands, as says scripture, why hospitals? Why church colleges? It costs us \$5000 to put a boy four years in a second class college. Cabin born genius has no chance. Those unbelieving heretics made education free to every child. In 29 years, with the most terrible of all wars smiting them, they have come up from ignorance and semi-barbarism to teach science that has us jittery. Our state colleges and hospitals are superior, but our common schools have dry-rot from religious pressure.

Brother Scott complains that I cite Catholicism, but is it not in the majority of believers in God and Bible? The founder of Presbyterianism was cut off his head. The founder of Episcopalianism cut off his wife's head. The founder of Methodism said to give up witchcraft was to give up the Bible (correct). The Puritans fled pious persecution, kill indians, hang Quakers, banish dissenters, press Giles Cory to death, kill witches, allow nobody but church members to vote or hold office. Or is it the Church of Christ that teaches a thousand times more terrible than we that the vast majority shall burn in hell with just a few finding the narrow way to the grandstand where they can glorify God and look down at relatives fry forever? Can the brain of a sadistic maniac conjure a thought more horrible than that? And that Belief benefits mankind, makes it happy and civilized? Lands where the bible are superior? How about Spain, Portugal, Italy, Mexico and South America, and France a great nation now in death throes, supporting church

schools,

Cromwell's soldiers all carried Bibles and hymnals, killed common people as they advanced. They protested that they were approaching a section of friends and sympathizers. Oliver replied "When you see a head hit it. The Lord will know his own". Hitler was a Believer. He and God worked hand in hand. The Neunburg condemned Nazis were all religious, save one. Benefactors of mankind? Christians not only butchered unbelievers, as the god of the bible commanded, but slaughtered other believers, whose belief was not quite proper. Compare that with Buddhism that in 2500 years has not made war or shed blood, even of animals. 500 million of them teach and PRACTICE fraternity, kindness, charity, helpfulness, tolerance. Christians sneer at them as heathens, while asserting there is no redemption without the shedding of blood.

Brother Scott drags in every question except how Belief benefits mankind. There is a very beautiful side issue. Just exactly how does the suffering of an innocent man (plus baptism) cancel the guilt of a criminal? That is very important.

From the conglomeration, called Bible, a text can be dug to fit anything. The rabbis could do that. In a God's Word every sentence is of the highest authority, but the bright bible boys select what they want and ignore contradictions, such as the earth having corners, and hangs on nothing. Does not Brother Scott know a circle is flat, is not a ball. The Greeks thought the earth a circle, like a pie pan, with the land in the center, and the river of the sea running around it. Ships sailing too far fell off the edge. Now had the Job writer said the earth is a globe and spins through space, he would have said something in that day, but poor God could not find the right words. What kind of hanger hung the earth to nothing, and how was it hooked on? Silly, just as silly as saying the stars are stuck up there to light the earth, & make seasons, days, and years, or that they fought for Sisera, or that one hung over a stable, or to say the sun was stopped. or turned backward ten degrees.--F. P. WORTMAN

SCOTT'S SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE

Since this is my final article I want to sum up the debate. Mr. Wortman's case has been based on the contention that evils done by believers prove that belief is not beneficial to mankind. There would be some force to this contention IF HE PROVED THAT THEIR FAITH CAUSED THEIR EVIL DEEDS. Until he proves this essential point he proves nothing. Actually any time a "believer" does evil he is acting contrary to the Christian faith.

The four affirmative contentions were each proven in turn:

- I. Belief in God was proven to be reasonable by:
 - A. The Vastness of the Universe.
 - B. The Creation of Matter. Mr. Wortman replied by referring to the

- scientist who ventures that material has always existed". failed to tell us why his anonymous scientist "ventures" inst. "knows". A scientist "ventures" when he has no proof.
- C. The Creation of Life. I repeatedly predicted that Mr. Wort wouldn't attempt to explain this and he didn't. It's too hot for athe hands.

These arguments prove that faith in God is definitely more reasonable atheism.

II. Belief in God is beneficial because:

- A. Faith elevates man above the beasts by giving him a sense of responsibility.
- B. Faith produces good fruits, i. e., hospitals, orphan homes, These fruits of faith prove that belief is beneficial.
- C. Faith gives man hope even in death. It's easy to be a living atheist but hard to be a dying atheist. The dying words of famous athletes prove the benefits of faith in God.

III. Belief in the Bible was proven reasonable by the scientific knowledge revealed in the Bible. (See Second Affirmative). At least three Bible writers revealed THE SHAPE OF THE EARTH, Moses and others revealed THE NUMBER OF THE STARS, and Job revealed THE SUSPENSION OF THE EARTH. Mr. Wortman replied "a circle is flat, is not a ball". A circle may be flat but is not always flat. I'll let Mr. Wortman argue with Webster's Dictionary which defines "circle" in part as being "a round body". If Mr. Wortman had read Luke 17:24, 34-36 he would have seen that the Lord clearly reveals his knowledge of the rotundity of the earth. In verse 24 Jesus says his coming will be as lightning, world-wide instantaneously, but His coming will be in the night (verse 34) and in the day-time (verses 35-36). No shape of the earth could account for this condition (simultaneous night and day other than spherical. Readers, it's indisputable that the Bible revealed the true shape of the earth. Can you explain how it could have been known except by superhuman revelation?? No! There is no other explanation.

Mr. Wortman's efforts in regard to Job 26:7 (He "hanged the earth up to nothing.") were even weaker. He asks "What kind of hanger hung the earth to nothing, and how was it hooked on?" Job declared that no hanger was used that God "hanged the earth upon NOTHING." Of course what Mr. Wortman wanted to do was to make the Bible appear silly. All he accomplished was to make himself look silly.

Readers, be intellectually honest with yourselves. Since the Bible reveals superhuman knowledge it MUST be the product of a superhuman intelligence.

IV. To prove the Bible to be beneficial I introduced:

- A. THE BIBLE AND CIVILIZATION, pointing out that the most civilized Countries were the ones where the people had the most knowledge of,

respect for, the Bible. Mr. Wortman replies "How about Spain, Portugal, Italy, Mexico, and South America, etc." I thank him for mentioning them. They prove my contention that civilization follows the Bible. Each of the nations you mentioned are Catholic countries and, as in all Catholic-dominated nations, the priests discourage the reading of the Bible. These countries are backward yet not so backward as India and other nations where the Bible is completely unknown to the people. Thanks, Mr. Wortman for calling our attention to these nations. Each of them adds weight to my contention that the Bible brings civilization in proportion to its influence upon the people.

B. THE BIBLE AND HUMAN FREEDOM was used to show how the Bible had advanced human freedom and dignity in the fields of: slavery, women's rights, and manual labor. Many other fields could have been added but these were sufficient.

I purposely completed all these arguments in my first two affirmative articles in order that the negative might have abundant opportunity to reply to them. But, except for the cases noted, these arguments went unchallenged and unnoticed. (According to the rules of honorable debate these arguments cannot be examined, nor new material introduced in the final negative, since I would have no opportunity to reply.) Readers, there's a reason why Mr. Wortman didn't reply to these arguments. It isn't that he lacks ability, he's amply demonstrated his flair for the pretty phrase, innuendo, etc. it's simply that neither Mr. Wortman, nor any other atheist, can successfully refute the evidences upon which belief in God and the Bible rests. Once again these evidences have been put to the acid-test and as always "the firm foundation of God standeth" 2 Timothy 2:19.

I'm so pleased with this debate, so confident it will cause some professed skeptics to reconsider their position, that I propose to Mr. Wortman that we immediately begin a second debate in which he will affirm: ATHEISM IS REASONABLE AND BENEFICIAL TO MANKIND. I would be most happy to demonstrate the falsity of this proposition.

BELIEF IN GOD AND THE BIBLE
IS REASONABLE AND BENEFICIAL TO MANKIND.

-- Wendle Scott.

WORTMAN'S SIXTH NEGATIVE

THE BENEFITS OF BELIEF

In vain I have waited for Bro. Scott to show some benefits of Belief. Instead he raves at me for not following him down side lanes. Belief is a Comfort. How or why he says not. Civilized nations have the Bible. What civilization the warring ones have is in spite of the bible. He had better study Buddhism, that has not shed blood in 2500 years.

Through Belief in an early end of the world all culture and literature raided, nearly all destroyed, bringing on the bloody Dark Ages. He that to Catholicism, as if Catholics are not Believers. In the Darkn Catholics and Protestants made bonfires of each other. It was godlike kill fellow Christians having errors of Belief. Did not Joshua exterminate non-believers by God's order? Belief in witchcraft reduced millions ashes. Did that Belief benefit humankind? Civilization? It is bright where religion is dimmer. Billy Graham came home stepping on his up lip, whining that the English are 94% atheist. In our last census 80 million were not connected to churches and supplied 1/10 of 1%, in some states 1 1/2% of the prison inmates, while of convicted criminals 98% had religious background, believed in forgiveness. This is by far the most civilized nation on earth. One year little Memphis had more murders than the whole British Empire. What civilization we have is rooted in science, not in book of sin and saviorism. Athens reached the pinnacle without the book of Egypt measured the earthly sphere before Isaiah said "circle". Columbus found Moors teaching geography from globes while all Christendom was ignorant gloom. Religion damned science and scientists. To this day it remains at evolution.

Bro. Wendle blanks the words of Jesus in Matt. 16:23, and 24:34; Mark 9:1, and 13:29-30; Luke 9:27, and 21:32, even Peter 4:7 by quoting the words of Acts.

Belief in a ferocious god produced ferocious followers, if the story true, a god killing thousands of his own Chosen, while angry at some individual, a Dathan, a David, an arkkeeper, a Midianite woman, and will be billions forever for thinking wrong. Blame the hierarchy for medieval murder, but the high god himself led the invading plunderbird, butcher mothers, sires and sucklings, seizing young women. No earthly literature is as horrible as Exodus, Numbers, Joshua. It is a great comfort to Believers that just a few will find the narrow path while neighbors, friends, relatives shall fry eternally, Language cannot coin a thought more monstrous. "Except ye become as little children, ye shall NOWISE ENTER". Scant wonder men go babbling to the madhouse. Is the god author of the superstitions, astrology, devils in the body, satyrs, cockatrices, unicorns, dragons, magic, sorcery, enchantment, witchcraft, inherited guilt, erasure of guilt through innocent suffering? For the age old text against the poor man Wendle has a new translation. Has he another for that bar against the bastard for ten generations? And one for the Second commandment that visits iniquity on children for four generations? Hitler was not that vicious. The 10th commandment classes wives with the animals. A text can be found to cover anything, to slaughter or not to kill, to give or sell dead meat, etc.

Bro. Wendle forgets about Benefits of Belief, and almost fits the stupid word to me. I falsify as to the Lord riding a boy angel. 2 Sam. "He rode upon a cherub and did fly". A cherub is a second grade angel. You think of one as a rosy cheeked boy, but if Wendle wants to have the Lord riding a girl through the smog, I will yield the point.

I falsify as to Jewish sacrifice, Ex. 22:29-30 requires offerings of fruit, liquors, calves, lambs, and "the first-born of thy sons shalt thou give unto me". In Ex. 34 it is permitted to redeem sons and colts. Num. 18 fixes redemption at five shekels (\$3.20), but Lev. 27 says "Nothing that is devoted of man or beast shall be redeemed, but shall surely be put to death. Contradictions as usual. The Jews are said to have practiced human sacrifice down to rather late times. Micah, a late prophet, in Chap. 6 discusses burnt offerings, saying "shall I give my first born for my transgression, and fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" Burnt sacrifices of flesh, hair, feathers, "to make a sweet savor in the nostrils of the Lord" is barbaric, horrible. The whole theme of a ferocious god and his sadistic exactions is horrible beyond words.

The earth is a globe because Isaiah said circle (thinking of the horizon). A circle is flat, positively, though the bible speaks of corners and foundations. A mountain overlooking the whole earth, which had to be flat. The early Greeks had the circle idea, the land in the center, the river of the sea running around it. Ships sailing too far fell off. That this circle was hung by nothing to nothing is silly. Had the writer said a sphere spinning through space, he would have said something.

I apologize for chasing Bro. Wendle down some of his side lanes. He makes so much of them. I am just "rearing" to travel more of them, Creation, Existence of Life, Bible astronomy, Bible geography, Prophecy. Suppose we take up Prophecy, as it is proof of inspiration, say the preachers. But let us stick to the question. --F. P. Wortman.

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EDITORIAL: We believe that THE DEBATER can serve a useful function in today's world. Our hope is to provide religious debate with a stimulus. If THE DEBATER can have a part, however small, in restoring the debating of God's Word to a place of honor in the public esteem we will feel that it has accomplished its purpose. If elders, preachers and Bible teachers can find here a source of information for meeting religious error, then our labors will have been rewarded. If the distribution of THE DEBATER by churches brings one soul to bow before the matchless Lamb of God, we shall humbly admit that the months of work and the years of planning were not in vain.

We have been fortunate in securing J. Porter Wilhite and Dr. James F. Dew, Th.D. (Baptist) to debate the purpose of baptism, Later these same gentlemen will debate the doctrine of the impossibility of apostacy. Also you will be pleased to know that Thomas McDonald and Grover Stephens will soon appear in a debate concerning Children's Homes. In prospect, but not yet begun is a debate on Segregation of the races as a law of God. To be sure that you don't miss any of them send your subscription today. Where else can you buy 12 complete debates for only \$2.00.

Our next issue will contain a full page of debating news, and other items of interest to you. Send us your news of current debates. --W. Scott.