

THE INSANITY OF ISLAM

At first glance the title of this paper may seem an unkind and harsh labeling of one of the world's most popular religions, but the title does indeed state the truth as will be amply demonstrated. One of the meanings of the term "insanity" that is given in the fourth edition of Webster's New World College Dictionary is: "great folly; extreme senselessness." This paper will show that the religion known as "Islam" or "Mohammedanism" is truly great folly and extreme senselessness. The adherents of Islam are commonly known as Muslims (also spelled Moslems). "Approximately 500 million people, about one-seventh of the world's population, are Moslems."¹ Other sources estimate that Muslims may number as high as 700 million people worldwide. In any case, Islam is definitely one of the major religions in the world today; nevertheless, it remains one of the many works-righteous religions that cannot save because it does not put forth the grace of God in Christ Jesus—the fact that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)² "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." (Romans 3:19-20)

In order to demonstrate the insanity of Islam and how we are to deal with it, this paper will address: 1) Islam's history and origins; 2) Islam's major teachings in contrast with true Christianity; and, 3) the Christian's proper response to Islam and its adherents. (Please note that throughout this paper, within the quoted materials, any underlining for emphasis and any additional information, clarification or corrections found in brackets "[]" is mine. m.e.l.)

I. Islam's origins and history

Muslims mark the beginning of the religion of Islam as the year 622 A.D. when its founder, the 52 year old Mohammed, fled opposition. In 610 A.D., the then 40 year old Mohammed claimed to have his first "vision in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, and recorded the revelations in the *Koran*"³ (also spelled Qur'an). Muslims consider Mohammed to be the greatest prophet that has ever lived. The Muslim's supreme being (their so-called one true god) they call *Allah* which is Arabic for "the god." The term *Muslim* means "the one who submits"; and, *Islam* means "submission or surrender, and with the translation comes the idea of action, not simple stagnation."⁴

Islam's claimed beginnings have been summarized as follows: "Mohammed was born in A.D. 570 in Mecca. His early years were relatively uneventful as a manager of camel caravans and a keeper of his wife's estate. [At the age of 25 Mohammed had married a wealthy 40 year old widow named Khadijah.] However, one evening in a cave on Mt. Hira, where he often went to pray, he is said to have heard a loud voice telling him to "read." Protesting that he could not read, he heard the voice command him again. He was then shown a scroll on which words were emblazoned with fire. Although he had never

previously read a word, Mohammed miraculously read the scroll. He left the cave fearing that he had gone mad, but he heard the voice again. Looking up, Mohammed saw in human form the angel Gabriel, who said to him, "Oh Mohammed! You are Allah's messenger, and I am Gabriel." This did not yet convince him, the story goes. Later he received another call, which he obeyed. His mission as an apostle of [Allah] was to proclaim to his idolatrous people a pure monotheism. At the outset, his message met with great resistance, which included persecution and exile from his own people. He claimed to receive further revelations from Allah, which proclaimed himself [i.e. Mohammed] as successor of the prophets, including Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. Mohammed eventually viewed himself as the final messenger Allah would send to the world, making him *the* prophet.

In A.D. 622, a group of 150 Moslems left Mecca secretly for the town of Yathrib. Mohammed journeyed to Yathrib later that year, on September 20, the date which begins the Moslem calendar. The city was later renamed Medina in honor of Mohammed's eight-year residence there. At sixty years of age, Mohammed and his army marched upon Mecca in an attempt to claim this as the Holy City of Islam, eventually conquering it against overwhelming odds. Two years later [Mohammed] the prophet of Allah died. The pattern had been set for the followers of Mohammed. The enemies of Allah must be overthrown. Islam quickly spread beyond the Arabian borders, capturing Jerusalem by A.D. 636. By 715, the empire had spread from the Chinese frontier westward to the Atlantic Ocean. Thus Islam began its quest to follow the principles of Allah, and has subsequently grown into one of the world's major religions."⁵

Hence, we see from its early history that Islam took to military action to spread itself and gain followers. From that time forward Islam's growth has continued to be by force and bloodshed, threats and trickery, as was evident for example in Luther's day when the adherents of Islam were commonly known as "Turks" besides Mohammedans. Luther wrote: "What has the world ever seen that is crueller than the Turks? Nevertheless, they adorn all their brutality with the name of God and godliness... Accordingly, the greatest wrongs are associated with the designation of holiness, church, true religions, etc... Next to the Roman popes and their confederates there is no people that prides itself more on its godliness and righteousness than the Turks, who despise Christians as idolaters but regard themselves as the saintliest and wisest of men. And yet what else is their life and godliness than endless murder, robbery, depredation [i.e. plundering and laying waste], and other awful crimes?"⁶ "The Turk is like an ocean swelling and turgid with billows, and if he had to be repressed by our strength, it would have long since been all over with us. For we Germans are snoring, buried in sleep and wine, and we are destitute of leaders who could measure up in wisdom, strategy, and strength of heart to manage such great undertakings. If the Turk had moved forward, he would long ago have occupied all of Germany. For there is no one who could protect us, neither the emperor, nor kings, nor princes: God alone fights for us. Nor will an assault be launched on Germany unless it is in accordance with God's distinct decision and will. Otherwise the Turk would have overwhelmed us in our laziness long ago without any trouble."⁷

Here's some more from Luther on the fruits of Islam in the world: "Thus today the church is plagued and afflicted in unreasonable ways. The blood of the godly is being shed with impunity by the Mohammedans and the papists."⁸ "For the Turk has had great victories against the Christians, yet

denies Christ while elevating his Mohammed over all.”⁹ “Thus when the spirit of lies had taken possession of Mohammed, and the devil had murdered men’s souls with his Koran and had destroyed the faith of Christians, he had to go on and take the sword and set about to murder their bodies. The Turkish faith, then, has not made its progress by preaching and the working of miracles, but by the sword and by murder, and its success has been due to God’s wrath, which ordered that since all the world has a desire for the sword, robbery, and murder, one should come who would give it enough of murder and robbery.”¹⁰ “Since, then, Mohammed’s Koran is such a great spirit of lies that it leaves almost nothing of Christian truth remaining, how could it have any other result than that it should become a great and mighty murderer, liar, and murderer under the appearance of truth and righteousness? Now just as lies destroy the spiritual order of faith and truth, so murder destroys all temporal order which has been instituted by God; for there can be no good, praiseworthy temporal government where murder and robbery are rampant. Because they cannot think more highly of peace than of war and murder or attend to the pursuits of peace, as one can see in soldiers, the Turks do not regard the work of agriculture highly. The third point is that Mohammed’s Koran has no regard for marriage, but permits everyone to take wives as he will. It is customary among the Turks for one man to have ten or twenty wives and to desert or sell any whom he will, so that in Turkey women are held immeasurably cheap and are despised; they are bought and sold like cattle. Although there may be some few who do not take advantage of this law, nevertheless, this is the law and anyone who wants to can follow it.”¹¹ The foregoing quotes from Luther’s Works are but a sampling of what the Muslims were doing in Luther’s day.

What about Islam today? Well, just look around at the Muslim terrorists that are killing and maiming men, women and children in the name of Allah. To be sure, many nominal Muslims do not practice the fundamentalist faith of their forefathers with its unrestrained violence—thank the Lord for that. However, the truth remains that the Islamic religion does indeed condone and encourage the use of force to bring non-Muslims (whom they label *infidels*) under their dominance. “Islam is strongly mission-minded, willing to exert financial pressure [such as oil embargos and exorbitant price-fixing on crude oil], holy war (jihad), or whatever it takes to bring unbelievers under their authority.”¹² “Islam is a religious, social, and political force which every American should be aware of.”¹³ Islam is often divided into three main sects or branches: the Sunis, which are the moderates and account for about 90% of all Muslims; the Shiites, which are the conservative militant Shia Muslims, who take the Koran quite literally; and the Sufis, which are the most mystical Muslims with their whirling dervish dance. There are numerous other splinter groups of Islam, one of which is the Ahmadiyahs, and they are “highly visible on American campuses and practice strong proselytizing techniques on American students.”¹⁴ Accordingly, Islam is present in the United States and is growing, and Muslim temples known as mosques can be found in many major American cities.

The “Hezbollah, or Hizbolla [party of god], is an Iranian-backed umbrella group of Shiite Muslim militants in Lebanon that originally advocated the creation of an Islamic republic there, although it has since somewhat modified this position. [Hezbollah was] formed in 1983 in response to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon... Hezbollah’s more than 5,000 members are concentrated in Beirut’s southern slums and the al-Biqa (Bekaa) Valley. Hezbollah has no formal structure. Its fluid membership includes such shadowy terrorist groups as Islamic Jihad [a Middle East terrorist group whose name

means Islamic Holy War] and the Revolutionary Justice Organization. Hezbollah groups claimed responsibility for the 1983 bombing of the U.S. embassy and marine headquarters in Beirut, several [airplane] hijackings, and the taking of Western and Israeli hostages... Hezbollah's influence declined [somewhat] after the 1989 death of Ayatollah Khomeini, and Iranian pressure led to the release of its last Western hostages on June 17, 1992. Its militants did not disarm after the signing of the 1990 Lebanon peace accord."¹⁵ Hezbollah and similar Muslim militant groups and their fellow Islamic fundamentalist adherents remain active world-wide, including within the United States, as the 2009 mass shooting at a military base in Texas made abundantly clear. Make no mistake about it: Islam in all of its forms, from Liberal to Conservative, is present in America. Islam in all of its forms is a *spiritual threat*, and in its extreme forms it is a *physical threat* as well.

Here in America the growth of Islam has been big; in fact, over ten years ago it was estimated that "between three- and four-million Muslims reside right here in the United States."¹⁶ It is certainly sad that in our country which was founded by people desiring *Christian* liberty, the un-Christian religion of Islam has managed to be established in such a big way. It is evident that the old evil foe is active in all of this, for the Bible warns: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." (1 Peter 5:8) "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." (2 Timothy 4:3-4) Islam's origins and history that we've briefly examined amply demonstrate that it is a man-made religion that Mohammed dreamed up since he could not endure sound doctrine but rather needed something to please his fleshly reason and ego—this will become more evident as this paper continues.

II. Islam's major teachings in contrast with true Christianity

It is often said that a building can only be as good as its foundation, and that is a true statement. For example: if one were to build a home's foundation on shifting sand or slimy mud the house on top of such a foundation would literally move about quite easily in inclement weather and soon come tumbling down. On the other hand, if a concrete foundation is laid on solid ground, the house atop such a foundation will withstand all types of weather and remain for years. Likewise, a person's beliefs must be built upon a solid foundation if that person is to survive the storms of this life and stand before God on Judgment Day and be welcomed into the joy of heaven. The Lord Jesus says: "whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it." (Matthew 7:24-27) Accordingly, it is very important that one listen to Jesus' Word and act upon it lest one fall all the way into the depths of hell. There is a big difference between the true Christian's view of Jesus and His Word and the Muslim's view of Jesus and His Word, as we shall presently consider.

The foundation of true Christianity is Jesus Christ Himself and the prophetic and apostolic Holy Scriptures, for in regards to those with God-given faith in Christ the Bible declares: “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:19-22) Jesus Christ is Himself the Word of God incarnate because Holy Writ reveals: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” (John 1:1-2; John 1:14) The Holy Scriptures are the written Word of God, “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.” (2 Peter 1:21) And, “the holy scriptures... are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” (2 Timothy 3:15-17) “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” (Romans 15:4) The fact that the Holy Bible is indeed the true Word of God is even established by honest observation when one considers how Old Testament prophecies have been fulfilled to the letter, as the New Testament plainly testifies; and, secular history, real science, and archeology concur with the Bible on numerous points. Thus, we Christians certainly have a sure foundation for our faith, and therefore true Christianity has a solid foundation since the Christian religion rests upon the true God and His true Word.

On the other hand, Islam’s foundation, Islam’s cornerstone, as we considered earlier, is a man named Mohammed and his visions from which he produced the Koran. Nevertheless, it is important to note: “Mohammed was at first unsure of the source of these visions, whether divine or demonic. His wife, Khadijah, encouraged him to believe they had come from God.”¹⁷ Islam supposedly recognizes “four sacred books: the *Torah of Moses*, *Psalms of David (Zabin)*, *Gospel of Jesus Christ (Injil)*, and the *Koran* [written in Arabic], which supersedes the others.”¹⁸ The fact that to Muslims the Koran supersedes their other sacred books in effect negates any statement found in them that is in opposition to the Koran, so in truth the prophet Mohammed and his Koran remains the actual foundation for the religion of Islam. “The Moslems believe the Quran is the divine word of God. This book, containing the supposed revelations given to Mohammed, is divided into 114 chapters, or Suras. His followers wrote the Quran shortly after Mohammed’s death. To the Moslems, the Quran is God’s last word to the world. It states that both the Old and New Testaments [of the Holy Bible] are likewise divinely inspired, but have been altered by Christians and Jews. In any place where they conflict, [the Muslims hold that] the Bible is wrong and the Quran is correct; the Quran is the final authority.”¹⁹

A conservative Lutheran theologian in the 1940’s wrote: “The teachings of Mohammed were disseminated through the Koran, the one great sacred book of Islam, and the orthodox Muslims believe that this book was actually written before the foundation of the world and completed ages before Mohammed was born. It is supposed to have been given to him little by little, usually through the angel Gabriel. Yet it seems to be a matter of history that Mohammed did not write one word of the Koran as

the document has been transmitted. About a year after the prophet's death, his successor, Abu Bekr, ordered a compilation of the teachings of the founder of Islam, as they had been transmitted in keeping with Oriental custom. This was the first codification, but one which was apparently not satisfactory to later leaders, for the third caliph [i.e. successor], Othman, ordered a revision to be made, at the same time decreeing that all existing copies of previous editions should be destroyed. The Koran contains 114 "suras," or chapters, of unequal length and of very unequal merit. The total volume of the Koran is slightly less than the New Testament [of the Holy Bible]."²⁰

Furthermore, an Encyclopedia entry also reports: "When Mohammed died A.D. 632, the Koran existed only in scattered written portions and memories. Islam had to have these separate sections brought together in one book. This was even more urgent because many who had known the Koran by heart had fallen in battle in [A.D.] 633. The duty of compiling the Koran was given by the caliph, Othman, to Zaid ibn Thabit, who had served as Mohammed's secretary. From narratives written on leather, flat stones, and the ribs of palm leaves and from men's memories, Zaid collected the Koran. Controversies arose as to which of the many versions of the sections was the correct one. About [A.D.] 651 Zaid was instructed to prepare a single authoritative text. All other texts were destroyed, and it is Zaid's compilation that has come down to the present."²¹ Muslims claim their Koran is the true Word of God since the Koran itself makes that claim, but there is no proof to substantiate the claim. Every true Christian has experienced the influence of the Holy Bible upon his soul; additionally, the Holy Bible is proven to be true by the fact that its prophecies and fulfillments are in total agreement, and no one has ever *proven* the Bible to be in error in one single point! Thus, it is evident that the Koran is in fact a fabricated production of men at the instigation of the devil, "for he is a liar, and the father of it." (John 8:44) The truth that the Koran is a product of Satan will become more apparent as we further examine its key doctrines in comparison with the doctrines of the Holy Bible.

The doctrine of God and Christ is what we will briefly consider next. We Christians believe that the true God is the Triune God, one divine essence but three distinct Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. Holy Writ also identifies God the Son as the Word, as we saw earlier when reading John 1:1-2 & 14. The Holy Bible teaches us that God is one and yet at the same time three coequal and coeternal Persons, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." (1 John 5:7) "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." (Genesis 1:26) "Hear, O Israel: The LORD [Hebrew hwhy, *Yehovah*, singular proper noun] our God [Hebrew root word Myhla, *Elohiym*, plural noun] is one LORD." (Deuteronomy 6:4) "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name [**onoma**, singular noun] of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." (Matthew 28:19) {Note: one name but three Persons} "For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) But to us *there is but* one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom *are* all things, and we by him." (1 Corinthians 8:5-6) "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, *be* with you all. Amen." (2 Corinthians 13:14) Thus, the Holy Bible indeed teaches that there is one God who is three distinct Persons.

We Christians believe that the second Person of the Holy Trinity, Jesus Christ, is true God and true man, the one true Savior of the world, who is to be accorded the same honor, glory, and worship as God the Father and God the Holy Ghost, because the Holy Bible says: “Christ *came*, who is over all, God blessed for ever.” (Romans 9:5) “All *men* should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.” (John 5:23) Yes, Jesus Christ is true God and He is also true man, for He “did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.” (1 Peter 2:22) “Jesus Christ our Lord... was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.” (Romans 1:3-4) And, concerning Christ it is also written: “in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.” (Colossians 2:9) To Jesus’ mother, the Virgin Mary, it had been said by the angel Gabriel: “The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” (Luke 1:35) Hence, we Christians rightly hold that Jesus Christ is true man – sinless man – and true God in one indivisible Person.

The “God” and the “Christ” of the Muslims and their Koran are entirely different than the God and the Christ of the Holy Bible, as we shall presently observe. As we’ve considered earlier, the god of the Muslims is known as Allah. Here are some main points the Koran puts forth concerning Allah: “And your Allah is One Allah: There is no god but He, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.” (Sura 2:163)²² “They do blaspheme who say: Allah is one of three in a Trinity: for there is no god except One Allah. If they desist not from their word of blasphemy, verily a grievous penalty will befall the blasphemers among them.” (Sura 5:76) So, the Muslim’s so-called holy book proclaims Allah as the only true god and denies the Holy Trinity in the strongest terms. Thus, we see that the Muslim’s Koran is at odds with the Holy Bible and therefore both cannot be true, for both teach differently concerning who is the true God.

The Jesus Christ of the Koran is not the Jesus Christ of the Holy Bible, for the Koran states: “Behold! the angels said: “O Mary! Allah giveth thee glad tidings of a Word from Him: his name will be Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, held in honour in this world and the Hereafter and of *the company* of those nearest to Allah; “He shall speak to the people in childhood and in maturity. And he shall be *of the company* of the righteous.” (Sura 3:45-46) Note that while Jesus Christ is honored, He is only spoken of as being in the company of those nearest to Allah; Jesus is said to be a righteous man and nothing more. “O People of the Book! Commit no excesses in your religion: Nor say of Allah aught but the truth. Christ Jesus the son of Mary was no more than a messenger of Allah, and His Word, which He bestowed on Mary, and a spirit proceeding from Him: so believe in Allah and His messengers. Say not “Trinity”: desist: it will be better for you: for Allah is one Allah: Glory be to Him: *far exalted is He* above having a son. To Him belong all things in the heavens and on earth. And enough is Allah as a Disposer of affairs.” (Sura 4:171) Here we again see the Trinity denied, and Jesus Christ is declared to be nothing more than a messenger of Allah; thus, the Koran repeatedly blasphemes the Lord Jesus, and instructs its readers to do likewise, and so the Muslims comply.

“In blasphemy indeed are those that say that Allah is Christ the son of Mary. Say: “Who then hath the least power against Allah, if His will were to destroy Christ the son of Mary, his mother, and all every-one that is on the earth? For to Allah belongeth the dominion of the heavens and the earth, and all that is

between. He createth what He pleaseth. For Allah hath power over all things.” (Sura 5:19) “They do blaspheme who say: "Allah is Christ the son of Mary." But said Christ: "O Children of Israel! worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord." Whoever joins other gods with Allah,— Allah will forbid him the garden, and the Fire will be his abode. There will for the wrong-doers be no one to help. Christ the son of Mary was no more than a messenger; many were the messengers that passed away before him. His mother was a woman of truth. They had both to eat their *daily* food. See how Allah doth make His signs clear to them; yet see in what ways they are deluded away from the truth!” (Sura 5:75, 78) “The similitude of Jesus before Allah is as that of Adam; He created him from dust, then said to him: "Be". And he was.” (Sura 3:59) Again and again the Koran teaches that Christ is nothing more than a righteous man, one among many others.

Furthermore, the Koran declares: “The Jews call ‘Uzair a son of Allah, and the Christians call Christ the son of Allah. That is a saying from their mouth; *in this* they but imitate what the unbelievers of old used to say. Allah’s curse be on them: how they are deluded away from the Truth! They take their priests and their anchorites to be their lords in derogation of Allah, and *they take as their Lord* Christ the son of Mary; yet they were commanded to worship but One Allah: there is no god but He. Praise and glory to Him: *Far is He* from having the partners they associate *with Him.*” (Sura 9:30-31) Here we see that the Koran curses Christians for worshiping Jesus Christ as Lord. Accordingly, the god of the Muslims is certainly not the true God but rather an idol that they have set up in their minds, for “Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (*but*) *he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*” (1 John 2:23) “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:9-11) The religion of Islam has a false god and consequently teaches falsely in regards to salvation, as we shall consider next.

We Christians in accord with the Holy Bible teach that salvation is by God’s grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, “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. 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.” (John 3:16-18) Hence, we Christians believe that Jesus Christ, true God and true man, has paid for the sins of the whole world with His holy and precious blood that He shed while nailed to the cross of Calvary, and that God has therefore reconciled all men unto Himself and in His heart pardoned them of sin; but, we also believe that in order for the individual to actually benefit from the pardon it must be personally appropriated by God-given faith in Christ, because “all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” (2 Corinthians 5:18-21)

Indeed, the absolute necessity of faith in Jesus Christ is crystal clear from the words He Himself spoke during His visible sojourn as He came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, “And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.” (Mark 1:15) Therefore, God-given faith in Jesus Christ personally receives the remission of sins proffered in the Gospel. Thus, the apostle Paul writes: “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:16-17) “So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17) “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.” (Romans 3:23-28) Accordingly, we believe that Jesus Christ has truly paid for the sins of the whole world, but only those who sincerely repent of their sins and believe on Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord actually benefit from the atoning work of the Redeemer, for “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12).

In other words: “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” (John 3:36) Galatians 2:16 describes the case with all true Christians: “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.” Therefore, to reiterate: we Christians in accord with the Holy Bible teach that salvation is by God’s grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:8-10) Those who are saved by grace through faith in Christ will bring forth fruits of faith, good works, for such works are byproducts of a living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thank-offerings to God.

In contrast to true Christianity, Islam teaches salvation by belief in Allah and doing works; Islam denies redemption through Christ’s blood, yea, Christ’s death by crucifixion is denied, for the Koran states: “That they said *in boast*, “We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah”;– but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no *certain* knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not.” (Sura 4:157) Regarding salvation, the Koran says: “Those who believe, and suffer exile and strive with might and main, in Allah’s cause, with their goods and their persons, have the highest rank in the sight of Allah: they are the people who will achieve *salvation*.” (Sura 9:20) Another translation of the Koran declares: “Those who believe, and have left their homes and striven with their wealth and their lives in Allah’s way are of much greater worth in Allah’s sight. These are they who are triumphant.

Their Lord giveth them good tidings of mercy from Him, and acceptance, and Gardens where enduring pleasure will be theirs; There they will abide for ever. Lo! with Allah there is immense reward.” (Sura 9:20-22)²³ Returning to the traditional earlier translation of the Koran, we read, “Whoever works righteousness, man or woman, and has Faith, verily, to him will We give a new Life, a life that is good and pure and We will bestow on such their reward according to the best of their actions.” (Sura 16:97) “But any that *in this life* had repented, believed, and worked righteousness, will have hopes to be among those who achieve salvation.” (Sura 28:67) “For those who believe and do righteous deeds, will be Gardens; beneath which rivers flow: That is the great Salvation, *the fulfilment of all desires*, Truly strong is the Grip *and Power* of thy Lord.” (Sura 85:11-12) “But he who works deeds of righteousness, and has faith, will have no fear of harm nor of any curtailment *of what is his due*.” (Sura 20:112) Another translation of the Koran puts the same passage as follows: “And whoever does good works and he is a believer, he shall have no fear of injustice nor of the withholding of his due.”²⁴ Repeatedly we see that faith in Allah along with works righteousness is taught in the Koran as the way to salvation. Realize that a Muslim’s faith is in fact his or her own work; thus, the Islamic religion is simply a religion of works that cannot save.

There is one more teaching that will be considered in which there is a stark difference between Christianity and Islam, and that is the method that each uses to gain adherents or converts.

God the Holy Ghost converts people to Christianity through His Word, the preaching of the Gospel in particular, for the apostle Paul declares: “after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.” (1 Corinthians 1:21) “Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and *that* no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.” (1 Corinthians 12:3) “Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Thessalonians 2:14) Hence, Christians are “born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.” (1 Peter 1:23) Indeed, before Jesus’ visible ascension into heaven He gave His disciples the following commission: “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mark 16:15-16) For, “Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” (Luke 24:46-47) Accordingly, people are converted to Christianity by the Holy Ghost working through the Gospel of Christ when it is preached or attached to water in Holy Baptism, since “baptism doth also now save us.” (1 Peter 3:21) In either case Christians are not made by force, war and bloodshed, but rather by the means of grace that God has provided and has chosen to work through.

Now, some might object and say that the Crusades are an example of Christians attempting to win others by force. However, the Crusaders were warring with the sword from the 11th to the end of the 13th century to recover the Holy Land from the Muslims, not to win converts to Christianity. It is true that many times during history civil governments and armies under the leadership and directives of the popes attempted to force folks to adopt Roman Catholicism under threat of death, nevertheless the papacy is

certainly not representative of true Christianity; the papacy has often used violence to further its ends, including executing true Christians who failed to submit to its authority.

For example, “We need only refer to the crusades against the Albigenses and Waldenses, which were sanctioned by Innocent III, one of the best and greatest of popes; the tortures and autos-da-fé [“act of faith” and execution] of the Spanish Inquisition, which were celebrated with religious festivities; the fifty thousand or more Protestants who were executed during the reign of the Duke of Alva in the Netherlands (1567–1573); the several hundred martyrs who were burned in Smithfield under the reign of the bloody Mary [i.e. queen Mary I]; and the repeated wholesale persecutions of the innocent Waldenses in France and Piedmont, which cried to heaven for vengeance. It is vain to shift the responsibility upon the civil government. Pope Gregory XIII commemorated the massacre of St. Bartholomew not only by a *Te Deum* [a praise to God] in the churches of Rome, but more deliberately and permanently by a medal which represents “The Slaughter of the Huguenots” by an angel of wrath. The French bishops, under the lead of the great Bossuet, lauded Louis XIV as a new Constantine, a new Theodosius, a new Charlemagne, a new exterminator of heretics, for his revocation of the Edict of Nantes and the infamous dragoonades [persecution by use of troops] against the Huguenots [French Protestant Christians]. Among the more prominent individual cases of persecution, we may mention the burning of Hus (1415) and Jerome of Prague (1416) by order of the Council of Constance, the burning of Savonarola in Florence (1498), the burning of the three English Reformers at Oxford (1556), of Aonio Paleario at Rome (1570), and of Giordano Bruno (1600) in the same city and on the same spot where (1889) the liberals of Italy have erected a statue to his memory. Servetus was condemned to death at the stake, and burnt in effigy, by a Roman Catholic tribunal before he fell into the hands of Calvin.”²⁵

So, realize that true Christianity has never attempted to win converts to Christ by force, although some that have falsely gone under the name “Christian” have tried to convert others to their church denomination by means of the sword of steel rather than the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. True Christianity seeks to win converts only by use of the means of grace that God has provided and enjoined His followers to use.

On the other hand, Islamic fundamentalists have always used force to try to gain converts to their religion, for *Jihad*, or Holy War, “is used to spread Islam.”²⁶ The Koran teaches that hatred and violence toward non-Muslims, whom they label *infidels*, *unbelievers* and *pagans*, is a laudable practice and is to be used to convert others to Islam. Consider the following quotes from the Koran: “When ye travel through the earth, there is no blame on you if ye shorten your prayers, for fear the Unbelievers May attack you: For the Unbelievers are unto you open enemies.” (Sura 4:101) “A *declaration of immunity from Allah and His Messenger, to those of the Pagans with whom ye have contracted mutual alliances:— Go ye, then, for four months, backwards and forwards, as ye will, throughout the land, but know ye that ye cannot frustrate Allah by your falsehood but that Allah will cover with shame those who reject Him. And an announcement from Allah and His Messenger, to the people assembled on the day of the Great Pilgrimage,— that Allah and His Messenger dissolve treaty obligations with the Pagans. If then, ye repent, it were best for you; but if ye turn away, know ye that ye cannot frustrate Allah. And proclaim a grievous penalty to those who reject Faith. But the treaties are not dissolved with those Pagans with whom ye have entered into alliance and who have not subsequently failed you in aught, nor*

aided any one against you. So fulfil your engagements with them to the end of their term: for Allah loveth the righteous. But when the forbidden months are past, then fight and slay the Pagans wherever ye find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem of war; but if they repent, and establish regular prayers and practise regular charity, then open the way for them: for Allah is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful. If one amongst the Pagans ask thee for asylum, grant it to him, so that he may hear the word of Allah; and then escort him to where he can be secure. That is because they are men without knowledge.” (Sura 9:1-6) Note well: for the strict Muslim, in the final analysis, his fellow human beings are to repent and embrace Islam or be killed. Thankfully, most Muslims are not of the strict or fundamentalist camp of Islam.

The more liberal elements of Islam attempt to win converts by instilling fear towards Allah in their minds, for the Koran repeatedly holds hell-fire before its readers’ eyes. For example, the Koran states: “Those who reject faith and deny our signs will be companions of Hell-fire.” (Sura 5:11) “But those who reject Faith and belie our Signs,— they shall be companions of Hell-fire.” (Sura 5:89) “Know they not that for those who oppose Allah and His Messenger, is the Fire of Hell?— wherein they shall dwell. That is the supreme disgrace.” (Sura 9:63) “Allah hath promised the Hypocrites men and women, and the rejecters, of Faith, the fire of Hell: Therein shall they dwell: Sufficient is it for them: for them is the curse of Allah, and an enduring punishment.” (Sura 9:68) “But those who reject *Allah* —for them will be the Fire of Hell: No term shall be determined for them, so they should die, nor shall its Penalty be lightened for them. Thus do We reward every ungrateful one!” (Sura 35:36) “Those who reject *Truth*, among the People of the Book and among the Polytheists, will be in Hell-Fire, to dwell therein *for aye.* They are the worst of creatures. Those who have faith and do righteous deeds,— they are the best of creatures. Their reward is with Allah: Gardens of Eternity, beneath which rivers flow; they will dwell therein for ever; Allah well pleased with them, and they with Him: all this for such as fear their Lord and Cherisher.” (Sura 98:6-8) Notice again that *righteous deeds*, which includes holy wars, is necessary with *faith* in Allah if one is to have eternal life—according to Islam.

So, instilling fear by threats or the use of outright violence are the methods employed to convert people to the Islamic religion; while true Christianity relies on the Gospel of Christ to change folks from sinners to saints.

III. The Christian’s proper response to Islam and its adherents

As American Christians we must remember to practice the Biblical principal of the separation of Church and State, for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ says: “My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight....” (John 18:36) “Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s.” (Matthew 22:21) Indeed, the civil authorities are God’s servants appointed by Him to keep order in this world, for we read in Romans 13:1-7, “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid;

for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore *ye* must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For for this cause pay *ye* tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour." Additionally, Holy Writ commands us Christians: "Honour all *men*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king." (1 Peter 2:17) Thus, it is clear that the Christian is to be a good citizen who pays his taxes, prays for his governmental leaders, works within the legal means provided by civil government to effect positive changes in his country, recognizes that the Church is not to meddle in matters that God has placed under the jurisdiction of the state, and consequently refuses to engage in violent rebellion against God-ordained authority. The American Christian citizen is to support the armed forces of the United States in their efforts to defeat Islamic militants and all others who seek to harm those who do not share their violent views.

Nevertheless, our proper *personal* response as Bible-believing, orthodox, Lutheran Christians to Islam and its adherents must first be that we pray for them—that we pray to the true God to open their hearts to His true Word that they may learn that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life; and that no man comes to God the Father but by Him (cf. John 14:6). The true God says to you and to me: "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." (1 Timothy 2:1-6) Let us not underestimate the value of prayer, because the truth is: "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16) Let us therefore pray fervently that the people duped by Islam would have their eyes opened to God's truth so that they sincerely repent of their sins, turn from their idolatry, turn to the true God, and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior and divine Deliverer from eternal doom.

The other important thing that we Christians need to do as our proper response to Islam and its adherents is to continue to spread God's true Word throughout the world. Muslims and other people who do not yet know the true God can only come to know Him by hearing His Word, because "faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17) People need to hear God's Law in its full severity that they may come to know their sinfulness and their lost condition, and then, when the Law has terrified their conscience, they need to hear the Gospel of Christ in its full sweetness, "for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:16) Indeed, "For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12) There is no other way to God and heaven than by grace through faith in Christ.

We would also do well to remember that personal witnessing is certainly part of the picture when it comes to spreading God's truth among all people, including Muslims. Perhaps you have a neighbor or a coworker that is of the Islamic religion. One thing that you can do is appeal to their zeal since most

Muslims do take their religion seriously—more seriously than many Christians take their religion, sad to say. One can compliment a Muslim for his or her being zealous, but then kindly inform them that they lack knowledge of the whole picture concerning Jesus Christ. One could then use the same approach that the apostle Paul used with the unbelieving Jews when he said: “I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.” (Romans 10:2-5) Show the Muslim that all of his or her best deeds still do not measure up to the perfection that the high and holy God demands, and that therefore he or she needs the perfect righteousness of Christ which can be personally had by faith, for “to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.” (Romans 4:5) “Behold, his soul *which* is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.” (Habakkuk 2:4) “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.” (1 John 4:9) “He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.” (1 John 5:12)

It is true that many Muslims will simply reject the Christian’s attempts to share the truth with them, but God grant that we at least try when the opportunity presents itself, for that is a personal part of combating the insanity of Islam, and God’s Word says: “See that none render evil for evil unto any *man*; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all *men*.” (1 Thessalonians 5:15) “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 3:12-15) God grant that we tenaciously cling to Christ Jesus as our personal Savior and Lord. Let us be aware of and beware of the insanity of Islam.

Soli Deo Gloria

m.e.l.

A complete bibliography follows on the next page.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ¹ McDowell, J., & Stewart, D. D. (1993). *Answers to tough questions*. Originally published: San Bernardino, Calif. : Here's Life Publishers, ©1980. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.
- ² All Scripture quotations (unless otherwise noted) are from the *The Holy Bible : King James Version*. (electronic ed. of the 1769 edition of the 1611 Authorized Version). *Via Bible Works 8 or Online Bible*
- ³ William Watson. (1991) *A Concise Dictionary of Cults and Religions*. Moody Press, Chicago Il.
- ⁴ McDowell, J., & Stewart, D. (c.1983). *Handbook of today's Religions*. Thomas Nelson Publishers.
- ⁵ McDowell, J., & Stewart, D. D. (1993). *Answers to tough questions*. Originally published: San Bernardino, Calif. : Here's Life Publishers, ©1980. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.
- ⁶ Luther, M.; *Luther's Works*, (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald & H. T. Lehmann, Ed.) © Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House. (2:60) *Via Libronix DLS*
- ⁷ *Ibid.* (6:243)
- ⁸ *Ibid.* (8:46).
- ⁹ Luther, M.; *Luther's Works*, (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald & H. T. Lehmann, Ed.) © Philadelphia: Fortress Press. (35:300) *Via Libronix DLS*
- ¹⁰ *Ibid.* (46:179).
- ¹¹ *Ibid.* (46:181).
- ¹² William Watson. (1991) *A Concise Dictionary of Cults and Religions*. Moody Press, Chicago Il.
- ¹³ Martin, W. (1985). *The Kingdom of the Cults*. Bethany House Publishers, Minneapolis, MN.
- ¹⁴ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁵ *Grolier's Encyclopedia; Hezbollah* (1997)
- ¹⁶ Story, D. (1998). *Christianity on the offense : Responding to the beliefs and assumptions of spiritual seekers* (116). Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications
- ¹⁷ McDowell, J., & Stewart, D. (©1983). *Handbook of today's Religions*. Thomas Nelson Publishers.
- ¹⁸ William Watson. (1991) *A Concise Dictionary of Cults and Religions*. Moody Press, Chicago Il.
- ¹⁹ McDowell, J., & Stewart, D. D. (1993). *Answers to tough questions*. Originally published: San Bernardino, Calif. : Here's Life Publishers, ©1980. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.
- ²⁰ P.E. Kretzmann, PH.D., D.D., Ed. D. (©1943), *The GOD of the BIBLE and other "GOD'S"*, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO.
- ²¹ *The Golden Home Encyclopedia*, (©1961), vol.10, page 1399, *KORAN*, Golden Press Inc., New York
- ²² All Koran quotations (unless otherwise noted) are from the 1935 Yusuf Ali translation in English, *Via Online Bible*
- ²³ *Koran in English by Pickthal, Via Online Bible*
- ²⁴ *Koran in English by Shakir, Via Online Bible*
- ²⁵ Schaff, P. *History of the Christian Church* (vol.8; chapter 16). *Via Online Bible*
- ²⁶ McDowell, J., & Stewart, D. D. (1993). *Answers to tough questions*. Originally published: San Bernardino, Calif. : Here's Life Publishers, ©1980. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.