

+ Underground Hope +

For in this Hope we were saved! - Romans 8:24

MISSION: To spread the truth and *gospel* of Jesus Christ in a world that has rejected and trampled on the hope of *salvation*. To show the *grace* of God which has been given to us on the cross of Calvary by our dear Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus. To correct our brothers and sister in error, and to *end the heresies* that torment **Christianity**. All in the sweet name of *Jesus Christ*.

The **Reality** and **Truth** of the Muslim World - **Islam**

The Islamic Faith - In need of Help

The Islamic faith is in the news everyday now. Ever since the World Trade Center and the Pentagon attacks the media has had a major focus on the Islamic faith. Islam all of a sudden is everywhere. Even in our churches! Many Christian leaders, like Bill Hybles, have compromised the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and have made claims that Islam and Christianity are virtually the same thing. This issue of *Underground Hope* is geared toward showing you why Islam is not Christianity, and why Christianity is not Islam. They are two totally separate things, one of them offering salvation and eternal life with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in heaven, and the other condemning you to the depths with the world's best friend, the Devil.

Indeed this is a time of tragedy and we do need to come together, but we need to come together to spread the Gospel, not to destroy it, and compromise it. In times of tragedy Jesus Christ is needed more than anything else. The hope and encouragement that Jesus offers outweighs everything and anything Islam could ever offer.

Islam denies the fundamental doctrines of which the Christian church is built upon, that Jesus Christ, true man, and true God, was the only Son of God the Father, and that Jesus Christ died on the cross for the remission of **everyone's** sins. Without that key doctrine salvation is unattainable. Islam believes that Jesus Christ was a messenger of God, and one of many "sons" but was definitely not true God. This heresy puts them at danger of condemnation, and it is because of this, that in these times of great tragedy, we as Christians need to do as Christ commanded in the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20) and make disciples of the Muslims, and teach them to obey everything Christ commanded.

This issue of *Underground Hope* is designed to educate and inform you about Islam, and our duty as Christians to the Muslims.

God and Allah—The Same thing???

With all the political correctness currently out there, people are careful to not condemn Muslims. To accomplish this, they try and find things in common with Muslims. Contrary to the popular politically correct beliefs, most, if not all, of these things in common aren't as closely related as they're made out to be. The biggest heresy among Christians when dealing with Muslims is the myth that their **god**, Allah, is the same as our **God**. All the heresies about Allah and God being equivalent are pretty much summed up in their lack of belief in the Trinity. The following few paragraphs explain some of the major reasons Allah and God aren't the same.

First of all, God is **intimate**, Allah is not. Although Muslims see Allah as the sovereign creator and master, they don't see him as a heavenly father, as we see God. The true God ("Yahweh", Hebrew

meaning LORD) is not only the sovereign creator, but a tender father, shepherd and husband. Among many verses in the Bible, in Deuteronomy 1:31, we see Yahweh as a father teaching a child to walk; Isaiah 40:11 - a shepherd carrying his lambs in his arms; and in Jeremiah 3:1,14 - a husband longing for his unfaithful wife to return.

Second, Yahweh (God) **suffers**. He looks down on us and grieves and is angered at our sin. (Genesis 6:5-7; Jesus suffering - Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12) According to Islam, Allah, on the other hand, sends prophets to guide people, he judges their sin, but it doesn't affect them deeply. (Qu'ran 7:59-64 - Islam's version of Noah's flood)

Next, Yahweh's **love** exceeds Allah's love. Allah loves those who are obedient and "good" (as if anyone is good without the Lord), but doesn't love sinners. Allah is not motivated by love and he only loves those who love him first. Qu'ran - 3:31-31, "Say: 'Obey Allah and His Messenger': But if they turn back, **Allah loveth not those who reject faith.**"; 3:57, "As to those who believe and work righteousness, Allah will pay them in full their reward, but **Allah loveth not those who do wrong.**" On the other hand, God loves **EVERYONE**. "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39). God's motivation for his actions is love. As John 3:16 tells us, He sent His Son because He loved not only those who love him back, but the entire world. Other references: Romans 5:8, 1 John 4:10, among others.

Furthermore, Yahweh is **knowable**, Allah is not. We can have a personal relationship with Yahweh. One of Yahweh's names is Immanuel, which means "God with us." Allah, on the other hand, doesn't reveal himself to others. He reveals only what he wants, in other words, his will. **Islam scholars** believe that God is completely unknowable.

Lastly, Yahweh's **holiness** is not equivalent to Allah's holiness. Allah is concerned about sin and forgives based on how obedient people are. He makes no sacrifice or "payment plan" for sin. In the entire Qu'ran (Islam holy book), Quaddos, meaning "Holy" is only used twice. Allah must lower himself, his holiness, to forgive sinners. On the other had, Yahweh hates sin, but loves the sinner. The only forgiveness Yahweh gives is with the shedding of Jesus' blood (John 1:29, Hebrews 9:26-28). WE see in Hebrews 9:22 and 10:3-4 that true love and forgiveness are costly.

Not only are Allah and Yahweh (God) different, many of Islam's beliefs about things important to us differ with our beliefs. Although Muslims believe Jesus was the Messiah born of the virgin

Continued on reverse side...

Have questions about Jesus, need answers and you're not sure where to look? We're willing to help you.

Feel free to contact us at: email@erichmusick.com and InsyderHomieLC@aol.com

December 18th 2001, In the Year of our Lord

Cont. The Same Thing???

Mary, he was a prophet, not God and he wasn't crucified, but taken to heaven before the cross.

The issues discussed in this issue are just a few of many differences between Christianity and Islam. For more information on refuting Islam, see the following web sites:

- ❖ <http://answeringislam.org>
- ❖ <http://christiananswers.net/menu-ar1.html#islam>

What Should Christians do? J.O.Y.

As Christians during such a terrible time we want to help out, and give aide to those in need. That is part of our duty as followers of this faith. In Matthew 5-7 Christ tells us about the basic elements of the Christian life, which for now we'll call J.O.Y.

What does J.O.Y. stand for? Jesus, Other, and Yourself. They come in that order to. First and foremost we must serve Christ, secondly we must serve our neighbors, and thirdly we serve ourselves.

Keeping J.O.Y. in mind, the Christian will know exactly what to do. First and foremost when dealing with Islam, we must understand that at ALL cost, we **will** not compromise the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This means we will not say that God is the same as Allah, we will not claim to share a common faith with Islam, and we will not lie, and tell our brothers in Islam that they have a saving faith. That, serves Jesus.

Now for the others... Our brothers and sisters in Islam fall into the category of *others* and what we need to do is offer a Christian witness to them, and share the saving Gospel of Jesus. By doing this they might see the light, and get to enjoy the riches of Christ, with the benefit of heaven, that we have seen. We should not abandon them, separate ourselves from them, or ridicule them. However, we should show them the way, the truth, and the life, so that through it they might also be saved.

Finally of yourself. When dealing with Islam we must understand that we can't let our faith be hindered. Many people around us are collapsing under pressure and making claims that compromise the faith, and condemn themselves. We must remember that we cannot do that. As long as we stay true in the faith, guided by the Holy Spirit of course, we are guaranteed a seat in heaven, and we must make sure that nothing of this world let's us compromise that. We are in this world, and not of it, so let us fight for the Gospel, and not be hindered by our enemies, but love them, with all the love we are capable of.

So in conclusion... just remember **J.O.Y.**

Some stuff from the BIG Book

We need to stimulate our faith by feeding it. What do we feed it with? The word of God, given to us by men guided by the Holy Spirit. The Bible. We understand that it's kind of tough to figure out what to read in the Bible, you don't want to just start at Genesis and read cover to cover. It's tough to figure out what to read, so we've given you some suggestions, and also a question with each reading selection to give you some thoughts to contemplate while reading God's word.

- **Romans 14:1-13** *How can you stop judging others?*
- **Luke 12:22-34** *What are you're worries?*
- **Psalms 51:10-15** *What do you want in life?*
- **1 Kings 16-27** *How do your gifts help you?*
- **John 6:26-40** *Are you hungry? If so, for what?*

Devotional - Hardcore Fighting

Muslims dieing for their faith... and willing to take out anyone who stands in their way... scary, but the hardcore truth. That's what we call hardcore fighting, serious mental commitment. Muslims have an incredible commitment factor to their faith, a commitment factor almost off the charts. This is one area where Christians need to mimic Muslims. Don't think I'm trying to say be willing to die for your faith, and take out anyone and everyone along the way. Not at all, but do be committed to the point where you are willing to sacrifice everything you have even your life for, all for Jesus Christ.

When you are willing to sacrifice everything for Christ you become committed, committed on a level with Martyrs, that is a serious commitment factor. All twelve of the apostles that hung out with Jesus were committed enough to sacrifice everything and give it up to follow Christ, and then, they were willing even to sacrifice their own lives. All 12 apostles were martyred, and 11 of them to the grave. St. Peter was crucified on a cross upside down, because he didn't think he was worthy enough to die like Jesus. St. James (the less) was thrown off a rooftop while preaching, and then beaten until he died. When St. Andrew was martyred he said "The nearer I get to the cross, the nearer I get to God," after being hung on a cross for three days he died and went to live with Jesus. St. Bartholomew stood up for the Gospel to an Armenian King, and the King had him beaten, crucified, and flayed, miraculously he was still alive and continued to preach the Gospel in incredible pain. Finally several soldiers cut off his head and St. Bartholomew joined Christ above. Everyone of the apostles has an amazing story of how they preached the Gospel until their last moments, and were never afraid to die because they were so committed to Christ. Do you know what the ultimate story of Sacrifice is though? Jesus Christ, a perfect man, who never had to die, took on all of our sins, and sacrificed himself, all so that we could live in heaven above. Jesus loves us so much, and is so committed in that love, that he was willing to die for each and everyone of us. That is truly awesome.

St. Paul, also died a martyr's death, but he also lived the martyr's life. St. Paul went all over the world preaching the Gospel, and many times he was martyred, being beaten and tortured, all for Jesus. St. Paul never stopped. In his second letter to what was basically his best friend, Timothy, Paul tells us that looking back on his life, he realizes how committed he was, and because he was so committed he had no regrets.

"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Tim. 4:6-7 (ESV)

How cool would it be to be able to say that at the end of your life? In my personal life I try and commit every moment to Jesus, and spreading his Gospel. I know I can't do it without the Holy Spirit working in my life, so with deep prayer and Bible study the Holy Spirit has helped me to become more committed to fighting the good fight. As you go on to tomorrow, and the next day, think of fighting a hardcore fight for Christ... Think of fighting the good fight of Jesus Christ, keeping the faith, and finishing the race, so that at the end of your life you can say that too. Jesus gave us the ultimate sacrifice, and committed himself to us, the least we can do is the same.

As you're thinking about commitment read: Ephesians 2:1-10

On the internet???

Hey, are you on the internet? We're trying to make a home, check it out at: <http://erichmusick.com/uHope/>

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