

Service Opportunities

Announcements: Ted Wheeler
Usher: Delbert Leavens

RECORD

Attendance: **73**

Contribution: \$ 2766.55

Weekly Budget: \$ 2854.00

Thought for The Day

"Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved."

BRYAN

Church of Christ of Venice

4301 SR 776
Venice, FL 34293

MORNING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Tim Simmons

Songs: Marty Wingo

Sermon: Ted Wheeler

Closing Prayer: Merritt Bailey

EVENING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Wayne Vowell

Songs: Marty Wingo

Sermon: Ted Wheeler

Closing Prayer: Glen Law

COMMUNION

Delbert Leavens Marvin DeMeester

Chris Dorris Mike Weber

Church of Christ of Venice

"A friendly church, proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ"

October 28, 2007

Volume 17, Number 43

Atheists Are — "Bright"?

A recent atheist conference in Crystal City, Virginia included the usual insistence by atheists that "God is a myth" and "children must not be taught religion" (Castillo, 2007). Oxford professor Richard Dawkins unleashed his typical militant, intolerant tirade against Christians. He insisted: "Religion is not the root of all evil, but it gets in the way of [determining] how we got here and where we find ourselves...and **that is an evil in itself**" (Castillo, emp. added). Ironic, is it not, that if atheism is true and there is no God, no absolute, objective evil even exists. That means that Dawkins must use the term "evil" to refer simply to his own subjective **opinion**.

When asked to state the main difference between believers and atheists, Dawkins unhesitatingly quipped: "Well, we're bright" (Castillo). Apart from the arrogance, let us make certain that we have grasped correctly his sentiment. In order to be an atheist, one must **know** that God does not exist. That means that one must possess evidence that **proves** that God does not exist. In fact, the atheist must know (and thus be able to prove) the following (see Warren and Flew, 1977, pp. 7-8,55-58):

1. Matter is **eternal**, having existed non-contingently, without a beginning.
2. Matter is **all** that exists.

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A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

Please fill out a blue visitor card so that we might have a record of your visit. If needed, there is a nursery available at the rear of the auditorium. Bible classes for all ages are available Sundays at 10:00 am and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. We hope that you will join us for these studies. Please come and worship with us again soon.

Elders
Delbert Leavens
Wayne Vowell
Ted Wheeler

Minister
Ted Wheeler

Sunday Services
Bible Study-10:00 am
Worship-11:00 am
Evening Worship-6:00 pm

Wednesday
Bible Study-6:30 pm.

Church of Christ
4301 Highway 776
Venice, FL 34293
USA

Telephone:
941-493-2403

Email:
mail@venicechurchofchrist.com

Internet:
www.venicechurchofchrist.com

Outreach:



A PRICE MUST BE PAID

Nothing is more thrilling than to be a part of a growing wide-awake church. It is deeply gratifying to see the work expand both physically and spiritually. If I had a choice, I would never elect to be a member of a sleepy, slow-moving congregation whose progress could hardly be measured. Nearly any congregation can be an active and dynamic church if its membership is willing to pay the price. This is the reason there are so few churches which truly conduct a great program of work. Are we willing to pay the price or are we content to rock along in sleepy indifference? The difference could well mean the salvation of our souls. Consider the price that must be paid.



TIME - We must find the time in our busy lives to spend in the service of God. Not just a few hours a week - but as much time as it would take to operate a successful business or to farm in a profitable way. Each member must acknowledge that God has first claim on his time. It takes a lot of time to do the job right and if you don't have the time, then who does?



EFFORT - Nothing takes the place of work. It doesn't matter how well organized we are if we don't have a mind to work. There is no problem finding someone who will suggest a plan. The problem is in finding someone who will work the plan. We are rich in ideas. What we need are a few workers.



MORAL PURITY - The fastest way to kill a church is to tolerate sin. To be alive and active, discipline must be exercised. When members insist on being worldly or indifferent, our fellowship should be quickly withdrawn from them. No congregation can regard sin lightly and ignore God's moral law and continue to do well.



MATERIAL SACRIFICE - It takes money and material goods for the church to function. Many good works must be neglected simply because they cannot be financed. Do you believe that your financial contribution is the truest test of your religion.

I wonder - would Christ be pleased with the church if he came tomorrow and reviewed our work and progress? Would he consider me a help to the church or a hindrance? There is a great price that must be paid if the church is to be a dynamic influence for good. Who wants to face God at judgment as a sleepy member of the church?

James Segars

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3. Matter has **always** existed.
4. No one piece of matter is **worth** any more than any other piece of matter.
5. By sheer chance, **dead** matter became **living** matter.
6. By sheer chance, dead matter became **conscious** matter.
7. By sheer chance, dead matter became a **human** being.
8. By sheer chance, dead matter developed **conscience**.

But the atheist cannot know or prove any of these eight items! Even modern science acknowledges that the Universe is not eternal (see Miller, 2007, 27[4]:30-31). These eight are but a fraction of the insurmountable barriers to proving atheism. So the atheist cannot prove the very things that must be proven in order to assert that God does not exist. Yet, we are assured by one of the world's leading atheists that they, in contrast to theists, are "bright." "Professing to be wise, they became fools.... [and] exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator" (Romans 1:22,25).

David Miller, Ph.D.

APOLOGETICS PRESS, INC

<http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/3498>

REFERENCES

Castillo, Brent (2007), "Is U.S. Ready for an Atheist Revolution?," The Wichita Eagle, October 11, [On-line], URL: <http://www.kansas.com/opinion/castillo/v-print/story/197554.html>.

Miller, Jeff (2007), "God and the Laws of Thermodynamics: A Mechanical Engineer's Perspective," Reason & Revelation, 27[4]:25-31, April, [Online], URL: <http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/3293>.

Warren, Thomas B. and Antony G.N. Flew (1977), The Warren-Flew Debate on the Existence of God (Ramer, TN: National Christian Press).

Remember in Prayer

HELEN WILLIS

RUBY CACY

BENNIE HOUSE

CLARENCE RIGGENBACH

FRANK SMALL

IVA & LEM TURNER

PATRICIA FORD

JEANETTE THOMPSON



Marv & Carol DeMeester

639 Blackburn Blvd

North Port, FL 34287

941-876-4449

TODAY'S SERMONS

Hear What the Spirit Says

Revelation 3:1-6

Song Service

Mark Your Calendars

- ✓ **Oct 28:** Song Service - 6:00p
- ✓ **Nov 4:** Ghana Slides / Report
- ✓ **Nov 4:** Fellowship Meal @ noon - Invite a friend
- ✓ **Nov 16:** Wedding Shower for Sandra Kober & Ken Golson
- ✓ **Dec 8:** Holiday Party @ the Wheelers