

## Debate on the Existence of God

Kyle Butt, who preaches for churches of Christ, and is associated with Apologetics Press will be meeting Dan Barker, a former Assembly of God preacher who has turned atheist, on the subject of “The existence of God.” The debate will take place at the University of South Carolina at Columbia, South Carolina on February 12, 2009. Let us all pray for Brother Butt’s success in this effort.

### Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Date	Morning	Evening
01/19/09 Monday.....	Genesis.....37-38	Matthew.....19
01/20/09 Tuesday.....	Genesis.....39-40	Matthew.....20
01/21/09 Wednesday.....	Genesis.....41-42	Matthew.....21
01/22/09 Thursday.....	Genesis.....43-44	Matthew.....22
01/23/09 Friday.....	Genesis.....45-46	Matthew.....23
01/24/09 Saturday.....	Genesis.....47-48	Matthew.....24
01/25/09 Sunday.....	Genesis.....49-50	Matthew.....25

The Informer is a weekly publication that is published and overseen by the Belle church of Christ located at the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Oak in Belle, Missouri 65013. Our Mailing address is “P.O. Box 381, Belle, Missouri 65013. The church phone number is (573) 859-6616. Jerry McDonald is the pulpit preacher. His email address is [jerry@challenge2.org](mailto:jerry@challenge2.org). His cell number is (573) 578-5931. Thomas McDonald is the associate preacher. His email address is [thmcdonald10@hotmail.com](mailto:thmcdonald10@hotmail.com). His cell phone number is (573) 201-6093. We support U. John in Prakasam, India. We will also be supporting Jeremy Desjarlais in Sydney, Australia. We also support Ruben Williams as he studies to preach at the Memphis School of Preaching. Our church website is <http://www.bellecoc.com>. The email address is [bellecoc@bellecoc.com](mailto:bellecoc@bellecoc.com). Our services are as follows:

#### TIMES OF SERVICE

Sunday Morning Bible Study.....9:30  
 Sunday Morning Worship.....10:30  
 Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00  
 Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....7:00  
 Ladies Bible Class 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Evening of Each Month.....7:00

#### OUR PLEA: BACK-TO-THE-BIBLE

Belle church of Christ  
 P.O. Box 381  
 Belle, MO 65013

## The Informer

### Belle church of Christ

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### HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR BIBLE? (1)

Jerry D. McDonald

**H**ow well do you know your Bible? Now this might seem like a legitimate question to most people, and in most cases it is. However, some times it is a trap used by atheists to weaken people’s faith in the Bible. Such is the case with the question and the questions that follow it on the “Freedom From Religion Foundation” website run by Dan Barker. Dan Barker is a former Assembly of God preacher, turned atheist, and since that time he has worked to turn peoples faith away from God. On his website, which is found at <http://www.ffrf.org/> a couple of quizzes are given and one of them is “How Well Do You Know Your Bible?” and it is found at <http://www.ffrf.org/quiz/bquiz.php>. Now the quiz has 50 questions in it and you are supposed to answer them on the website and then push the submit button and it will grade your quiz for you. The questions start out innocent enough but then they get into areas where if one does not know the background the answer could very well shake his/her faith. This is what Barker and his cohorts are counting on. After 20 years of debating atheists/agnostics and skeptics I have learned that they prey on people’s ignorance of the scriptures. They may seem sincere, but they are anything but sincere. In this series of articles we will take each of the questions that Barker poses along with his choices of answers and examine them and see just how much about the Bible Dan Barker knows.

Question number one: “What is the last of the Ten Commandments?” The options are (A) Don't steal. (B) Don't covet your neighbor's wife and property. (C) Don't boil a young goat in the milk of its mother. (D) Love your neighbor as yourself. So according to Exodus 20:17 we see that (B) would be the correct choice: “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's. “ That seems simple enough, there is no problem there, but remember we said that the quiz starts off innocent and simple.

Question number two: “What is the penalty for working on the Sabbath?” The options are (A) You will be stoned to death. (B) Neither you nor your offspring to the 5th generation can enter the tabernacle. (C) You should sacrifice two unblemished she goats. (D) You will be disinherited from the kingdom.

Now this one is more difficult because of what happened to the man who was caught picking up sticks on the Sabbath (Num. 15:32-36). The scriptures tell us that he was stoned to death. This might seem harsh to kill someone just for picking up sticks, Matthew Henry best explains it:

“Those are to be reckoned presumptuous sinners, who sin designedly against God's will and glory. Sins thus committed are exceedingly sinful. He that thus breaks the commandment reproaches the Lord. He also despises the word of the Lord. Presumptuous sinners despise it, thinking themselves too great, too good, and too wise, to be ruled by it. A particular instance of presumption in the sin of sabbath-breaking is related. The offence was gathering sticks on the sabbath day, to make a fire, whereas the people were to bake and seethe what they had occasion for, the day before, Exo\_16:23. This was done as an affront both to the law and to the Lawgiver. God is jealous for the honour of his sabbaths, and will not hold him guiltless who profanes them, whatever men may do. God intended this punishment for a warning to all, to make conscience of keeping holy the sabbath” (*Matthew Henry's Concise Commentaries, e-Sword*).

The man deliberately, inspite of what the law said, did that which the law said not to do. It wasn't the act of picking up sticks that was sinful, it was the deliberate contempt that this person had for God's law. When one has no respect for a law like remembering the Sabbath to keep it holy, he certainly will have no respect for other laws like “thou shalt not commit adultery” or “thou shalt not kill.” The picking up of sticks was not what cost this man his life, it was his utter contempt for God's authority to tell him what he could and could not do. This is something that Dan Barker might ought to give some careful thought to as he proceeds on the road of atheism. One day we will all appear before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10).

Question number three: “What is God's name?” The choices are (A) Jealous. (B) Righteous. (C) Holy. (D) Jehovah. While God is a jealous God and he is righteous and holy, his name is Jehovah, another easy and seemingly innocent question.

Question number four: “How should parents treat a stubborn and rebellious son?” (A) He should be beaten seven times with a whip made of horsehair. (B) He should be stripped and humiliated at the gate of the city. (C) He should be expelled from the family. (D) He should be stoned to death. Here is another one of those questions that if one does not understand the context, it could weaken one's faith and that is exactly what Dan Barker is counting on. The law on this is found in Deut. 21:18-21 where if a man has a son who is stubborn and rebellious and won't listen to him, or his mother, and he is a glutton and a drunk, he is one who will have his own way, he is perverse, he despises his parents, he is disobedient to their commands, he unruly and he is ungovernable. After they have done everything that they can do, then they go to the elders of the city and turn him over to them and he is stoned to death.

(1) This gives parents an extra incentive to continue trying to work with their children rather than just give up on them. After 11 years of law enforcement I have seen too many parents just give up on their children and simply kick them out on society to either raise themselves or society to raise them for them. (2) It serves to keep the unruly child in line, knowing that if they continue to live in an unruly fashion they will end up dying. (3) It protects society. Many of the crimes today are perpetrated by children; children who are unsupervised, whose parents don't care what they do as long as they don't bother them. Under the law of Moses this wasn't going to happen. And most importantly, we are not

talking about a little child. We are talking about someone who is old enough to be a drunkard at this point in time, not by today's standards. More to come next week.

## News & Notes

### THOSE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER

We need to remember all those who are sick and afflicted in our daily prayers. We need to remember those who are in the nursing homes, and in the military. We also need to keep Doris Pendleton, Ruby Backus, Tex Kinman, Bill and Verna Butler, Gary Cooper, Lynna Shanks, Verma Long, Connie Gass, Nelta Brock, Cheryl Harris, Janet Patrick, Evonelle Calkins, Vera Dreyse, Elnora Shanks, Dawn Tivoli, Richard Massey, the Bill Habermehl family, Savannah Shanks, Taylor Shanks, Adrian and Jean Swindler, Chesley Shanks, Gary Wallace. Sandy Sarchette has ovarian cancer and will have to start taking treatments every week for six months

THOSE TO SERVE January 18, 2009 A.M.	THOSE TO SERVE January 25, 2009 A.M.
Greeters.....Andy Shanks & Elwood Runge	Greeters.....Jerry & Thomas McDonald
Announcements.....Thomas McDonald	Announcements.....Danny Keeney
Song Leader.....Andy Shanks	Song Leader.....David Shanks
Opening Prayer.....Gary Wallace	Opening Prayer.....Leroy Thomas
Lord's Supper....David Shanks & Danny Keeney	Lord's Supper....Elwood Runge & Tex Kinman
Sermon.....Jerry McDonald	Sermon.....Jerry McDonald
Closing Prayer.....Leroy Thomas	Closing Prayer.....Thomas McDonald
P.M.	P.M.
Song Leader.....Andy Shanks	Song Leader.....David Shanks
Opening Prayer.....Thomas McDonald	Opening Prayer.....Gary Wallace
Sermon.....Jerry McDonald	Sermon.....Thomas McDonald
Closing Prayer.....Elwood Runge	Closing Prayer.....Danny Keeney
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY	WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
Song Leader.....Andy Shanks	Song Leader.....David Shanks
Opening Prayer.....Thomas McDonald	Opening Prayer.....Andy Shanks
Devotional.....Jerry McDonald	Devotional.....Thomas McDonald
Closing Prayer.....Danny Keeney	Closing Prayer.....Danny Keeney

### FAIR HAVEN CHILDREN'S HOME

The items for Fair Haven Children's Home this week are “Cereal,” and “Laundry Soap.”

### Sermons for the Next Two Weeks

A.M. For January 18, 2009: “God Is Great” The P.M. Lesson will be: “God is Great (Conclusion)”

A.M. For January 25, 2009: “Balanced Christianity.” The P.M. lesson will be announced later.

### Videos

Don't forget about the videos “Obsession” and “Expelled” that are available to the congregation. Contact one of the McDonald's to find out about getting hold of a copy.

