

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
01/26/09 Monday.....	Exodus.....01-02	Matthew.....26
01/27/09 Tuesday.....	Exodus.....03-04	Matthew.....27
01/28/09 Wednesday.....	Exodus.....05-06	Matthew.....28
01/29/09 Thursday.....	Exodus.....07-08	Mark.....01
01/30/09 Friday.....	Exodus.....09-10	Mark.....02
01/31/09 Saturday.....	Exodus.....11-12	Mark.....03
02/01/09 Sunday.....	Exodus.....13-14	Mark.....04

The Informer is a weekly publication that is published and overseen by the Belle church of Christ located at the corner of 8th 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. His cell number is (573) 578-5931. Thomas McDonald is the associate preacher. His email address is 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. 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 3rd 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? (2)

Jerry D. McDonald

Now as we continue on taking Mr. Barker’s quiz we want to look at the next question: “What happens if you are not a virgin on your wedding night?” Your choices are (A) Your father must pay 100 shekels of silver to your husband. (B) You can never approach the altar. (C) You must dress in black and leave your husband for one year. (D) You will be stoned to death. This, like most of Mr. Barker’s questions, are loaded questions because this question doesn’t apply to people today. It applied to people under the Mosaic law, (Deut. 22:21) and the answer was (D) the woman was to be stoned to death provided that the husband did not know that she was not a virgin. However, if he was the cause of her not being a virgin on her wedding night he could not do anything. However, if she freely gave her virginity up (in other words she was not raped) and lied to her husband, then she was to be stoned.

In a promiscuous society we think nothing of virginity, and as a matter of fact, we tend to think that there is something wrong with people who are virgins. Our movies make light of virginity with such titles as “The 40 Year Old Virgin,” and so on, and on the movie Transformers the star of the movie told his dad, while looking at cars “you saw the movie ‘The 40 Year Old Virgin’ well” pointing at the car “you are looking at the 50 year old virgin.” And of course on the pilot episode of NCIS Kate asked Ducky (the doctor) if he thought she was a virgin, and his response was “good Lord, I hope not!” Why? Why would he hope not? What is so wrong with being a virgin? People cry about all of the sexually transmitted diseases, but if people would remain virgins until marriage and everyone would remain faithful to their spouses in marriage, we wouldn’t have this problem, now would we?

Mr. Barker’s problem here is that the Bible has the people under this law while following the law of Moses, and since it is part of the Bible, and since he wants so desperately to show that the Bible is not inspired of God, he uses it. So what part of that would possibly show that the Bible could not be inspired of God? God demanded strict obedience to the law of Moses, just as he demands strict obedience to the law of Christ. However, those people lived in a completely different time, under a

completely different set of circumstances than we do today. That law never was intended to apply to humans today.

“What does the bible say about witches?” Your choices are (A) Witches should be killed. (B) Witches are people possessed by demons and they are forever damned. (C) Witches can be saved if they are exorcised. (D) Witches are part of the mythology of idolatrous tribes. Again, Mr. Barker goes to the law of Moses, a law that no longer applies to men today and tries to make application to them. Under the Mosaical law people who practiced witchcraft were to be killed; that is people who were living under Mosaical law. God never did tell the Israelites to go out and hunt witches, but if they did find one they were not to suffer the witch to live (Ex. 22:18) Also, Israelites who were practicing witchcraft and using witches were to die (Deut 18:10). Mr. Barker knows (or at least should know) this, so it isn't a fair question. Again, he is hunting up reasons to hurt people's faith in the Bible. He couldn't hang on to his faith, so he wants to hurt everyone else's; sort of a misery loves company type of thing. It really amazes me how some people reason; they assume that because they can't seem to hang on to their faith that some how everyone else wants to lose their faith too. Today witchcraft is listed right along with all of the other works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21) and they which do such thing will not enter the kingdom of heaven, but there is nothing in the New Testament about killing them.

“Which of these foods does the bible expressly permit you to eat? (The others are "abominations.")” The choices are (A) Pork. (B) Shellfish. (C) Locust. (D) Rabbit. Now there are three things wrong with this question, so let's look at them in turn. (1) the operative word in this question is the word “you,” and of course “you” may eat anything you please because the Bible doesn't specify what “you” can and cannot eat. It did specify what the Jew could and could not eat, but only while living under the Law of Moses. Remember, if you will, Peter's vision on the housetop of a great spread and animals in it and a voice telling him to rise slay and eat, and Peter said “Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. And the voice *spake* unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, *that* call not thou common” (Act 10:14-15). This had a two-fold meaning: (1) the gospel was to go to the Gentiles, and (2) that the Jew was now free to eat whatever he chose to eat. (2) The second problem is the word “rabbit” which of course isn't in the Bible. What we have is the word “hare,” and according to the *Pictorial Bible Dictionary* “no native rabbits occur in Palestine, but at least two species of hares are numerous” (p.43). The hare was a squirrel like creature and are “born with a good coat of hair and good eyesight whereas rabbits are born naked and blind” (Ibid). (3) The third problem is that the answer was for the Israelites; they could eat “locust.” However, they could eat other things, that Mr. Barker purposely didn't bring up, such as things that swim in the water that have fins and scales (Lev. 11:9). They could also eat beef (Lev. 11:3). Yes, they could eat locust, but there are many countries in the world today that still eat locust and see it as a delicacy. However, here in America we tend to shy away from such things. Mr. Barker knows this and uses this to play on the emotion of the average American hoping that people won't use their common sense and see what he is doing. I spent four years in the U.S. Navy and spent three of that four years overseas where I saw people eat a lot of things that we wouldn't eat here, and they ate them as delicacies.

“When the Israelites conquered the Midianites, what part of the spoils of war was given to the priest as "the Lord's tribute"?” Your choices are (A) 500 sheep. (B) 30,000 asses. (C) 32,000 cows. (D) 32 virgins. The answer is (D), 32 virgins. Now what were these virgins used for? I wish that just one atheist would give one forthright answer with scripture to back it up. In my 1991 debate with Farrell Till in Sullivan, MO Till argued that they were used for sex, but he did not absolutely know this, but he

was very very sure that this is what they were used for. Although he offered no proof other than his own demented mind as proof. So we ask Mr. Barker, what were these virgins used for? More to come.

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 25, 2009	THOSE TO SERVE February 01, 2009
A.M.	A.M.
Greeters.....Jerry & Thomas McDonald	Greeters.....David Shanks & Danny Keeney
Announcements.....Danny Keeney	Announcements.....Jerry McDonald
Song Leader.....David Shanks	Song Leader.....Thomas McDonald
Opening Prayer.....Leroy Thomas	Opening Prayer.....Andy Shanks
Lord's Supper.....Elwood Runge & Tex Kinman	Lord's Supper....David Shanks & Danny Keeney
Sermon.....Jerry McDonald	Sermon.....Jerry McDonald
Closing Prayer.....Thomas McDonald	Closing Prayer.....Leroy Thomas
P.M.	P.M.
Song Leader.....David Shanks	Song Leader.....Thomas McDonald
Opening Prayer.....Gary Wallace	Opening Prayer.....Gary Wallace
Sermon.....Thomas McDonald	Sermon.....Jerry McDonald
Closing Prayer.....Danny Keeney	Closing Prayer.....Elwood Runge
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY	WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
Song Leader.....David Shanks	Song Leader.....Thomas McDonald
Opening Prayer.....Andy Shanks	Opening Prayer.....Elwood Runge
Devotional.....Thomas McDonald	Devotional.....Jerry McDonald
Closing Prayer.....Danny Keeney	Closing Prayer.....David Shanks

FAIR HAVEN CHILDREN'S HOME

The items for Fair Haven Children's Home this week are “Toilet Cleaner,” and “Miracle Whip.”

Sermons for the Next Two Weeks

A.M. For January 25, 2009: “Abortion From A Biblical Perspective.” The P.M. Lesson will be announced.

A.M. For February 01, 2009: “Balanced Christianity.” The P.M. lesson will be “Paul's Greeting To Philemon.”

Videos

Don't forget about the videos “Obsession” and “Expelled” that are available to the congregation. You can find them in the church's library.

