

*I get frustrated when I see skeptics outsmart Christians in theological debates. Why are Christians getting destroyed by them in a battle of wits?*

Christ rejecters do not have wisdom (Jer. 8:9). Wisdom comes from God (Jn 17:25). Though Christians are mocked now (Is 57:4, 2 Pe 3:4), there will come a time when they are vindicated (Ro 3:4). The Bible has proven time and again to be true (Ps 119:160).

Fools have no fear of God (Lk 12:5, Ro 3:18); but, one day they will (Pr 1:26). Solomon said that it is better to be judged right away rather than to let sin set in. Men get the idea that they are getting by with their sin (Eccl 8:11); but, they are not (Ga 6:7, He 10:30).

Believers share the truth of God's word in the hopes that some will be saved (Mt 7:13-14, Ro 8:23).

Israel, like many men today, had to learn things the hard way. They were in bondage for 400 years. Their descendants went into Egypt. Moses asked Pharaoh to let his people go and then God sent ten plagues. It wasn't until the last plague that Pharaoh finally let God's people go (Ex. 3:7-10). There came a time when God had had enough. There will come a time again in the future when God has had enough (Re 14:10).

The Hebrew children were passed over by the blood on their door (Ex. 12:3-28). Believers today who trust in the shed blood of Christ (Ex. 12:7) can be saved (Lev. 16:11, 14-20; Heb. 9:13-22). Passover anticipated the cross (Ex. 12:3-28) so that the Israelites could be delivered. When Christ's blood is sprinkled on the heart of a believer, he is delivered from the bondage of sin and Satan (Mt 1:21).

Jesus died and rose again (Mt 28:6). Men are responsible to him<sup>1</sup>. If one's response to the reality of Christ's: death, burial and resurrection is—*so what*, then something is wrong (Re 21:8). Jesus rose from the dead—*so everything* (Jn 11:26, 14:3, 19). The right response is then to live under his authority and accept him as king (Ps. 103:19). Accept him and live (Josh 24:15, Eze 18:31) or reject him and face the consequences<sup>2</sup>.

Only Christ (Jn 20:1-9) enabled men to: live eternally (1 Jn 1:2), overcome the world (Re 2:7, 10, 11) and have purpose and meaning in life (Jn 1:1-3). Jesus alone can welcome men into heaven (Jn 14:6, 1 Pe 1:4).

Other men who have offered different answers are dead in their graves (Eccl 9:10). Fire will test the quality of each man's work (1 Co 3:12, 2 Pe 2:1). Following false teachers (2 Pe 2:1) leads to death (Re 20:14) while following Christ leads to life (Deut. 8:6).

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<sup>1</sup> Responsibility—accountability for one's actions. Shifting of, by: blaming another (Gen. 3:12), claiming innocence (Matt. 27:24), blaming a people (Ex. 32:21-24). Cannot be excused by: ignorance (Acts 17:30, 31), unbelief (John 3:18-20), previous good (Ex. 33:12, 13), one's ancestors (Matt. 3:9, 10). Is increased by: sight (John 9:39-41), privilege (John 15:22, 24), opportunity (Matt. 11:20-24), continuance in sin (Matt. 23:31-35), rejection (Matt. 10:11-15). Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (pp. 528-529). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

<sup>2</sup> The Last Judgement. Grounds of: one's works (1 Cor. 3:11-15), one's faith (Matt. 7:22, 23), conscience (Rom. 2:12, 14-16), law (Rom. 2:12), gospel (James 2:12), Christ's Word (John 12:48), Book of Life (Rev. 20:12, 15). Ibid, p. 358.

Overcomers respond to the truth found in God's word (Jn 9:39–41, 16:13–16). Paul encouraged men to examine themselves to ensure that they are indeed in the faith (2 Co 13:5).

Let the scoffer and mocker<sup>3</sup> judge the Christian now. He will judge the world with Jesus one day (1 Co 6:3). Paul compared and contrasted worldly wisdom to God's wisdom (1 Co 1:18–31). God wins every time (Is. 11:1, 2)—best to believe his report (Is 53:1).

The spirit in an indwelt Christian will not disagree with the spirit in another likeminded (Phil 2:2) believer (Rom. 8:9–11). Faith (He 11:6) is a gift (Eph. 2:8) from God (Col. 1:27). It should grow<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Scoffers: wicked (Prov. 9:7), unwilling to take rebuke (Prov. 9:7, 8), incorrigible (Prov. 15:12), abomination (Prov. 24:9). Ibid, p. 549.

<sup>4</sup> Growth of faith in Christian life: stand fast in (1 Cor. 16:13), continue in (Acts 14:22), be strong in (Rom. 4:20–24), abound in (2 Cor. 8:7), be grounded in (Col. 1:23), hold fast (1 Tim. 1:19), pray for increase of (Luke 17:5), have assurance of (2 Tim. 1:12). Ibid, pp. 218–219.