

**Witnessing to The Muslim Faith / Napier Parkview Baptist Church  
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**COMMENTS ON THE MUSLIM FAITH  
LEADING TO A CHRISTIAN WITNESS**

**BY**

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## **COMMENTS ON THE ISLAMIC FAITH LEADING TO A CHRISTIAN WITNESS**

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The following will not be a complete analysis of the Islamic faith. That would require book-length notes. This article will only contain such material as can be used in possibly witnessing to Muslims who are deeply disturbed by the events of Sept. 11 and the subsequent U.S. invasions of Afganastan and Iraq. One of every five persons on earth is Islamic and they are divided into different sects. It has been my observation that most Muslims in America are like Christians in that they have never studied the Quran [the sacred writings of the Islamic faith] just as many Christians who never study the Bible systematically. Many Christians can quote the fundamentals of the faith or the Apostles' Creed mechanically with no heart commitment to the content. Many liberal Protestant theologians who deny the deity, virgin birth and resurrection of Christ have no qualms affirming such doctrines as they recite their creeds in their liturgical services. We recommend that Christians obtain a copy of the Quran and the Hadith in order to highlight the passages that can be used to demonstrate the inadequacy of the Islamic faith with a view to witnessing the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross for our sins.

“Islam” means “submission.” A follower of this religion is called a “Muslim” meaning “a submitted one.” Muhammad was the founder of this faith. He was an Arabian trader from Mecca who was born around 570 and died in 632. Christians measure history from the birth of Christ but Muslims measure from 622, the year Muhammad fled from Mecca to Medina. This “hijra” marked the turning point of submission to God and proclamation of a new revelation from God (“hijj” means “flight” in Arabic). Muslims believe Muhammad to be the last prophet of God, superseding Christ, the prophet who was before him.

All Muslims are to believe the Quran but there are various interpretations. We Christians are accustomed to reading commentaries on the Scriptures. Well, there are several commentators on the Quran, three of whom are: Al-Zamakhshari, Al-Baidawi and Al-Jalalayn.

These notes are to help Christians to witness to the thousands of Moslms in America who are happy in this country and claim to be outraged by the New York events of September eleventh. They will claim to understand Islam as a religion of peace and express a desire to be your friendly neighbor in this country. No one can judge their sincerity but these notes will be based on the assumption that they are naively sincere.

An Islamic must believe in the five articles of faith: (1) There is one and only one God; (2) There have been many prophets, including Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad; (3) God created angels (jinn), some of which are good and others evil; (4) The Quran is God's full and final revelation; (5) A final day of judgment is coming, followed by heaven for the faithful and hell for the lost.

If one lacks belief in any of these articles he is an unbeliever. In addition, there are also five other essential beliefs called the pillars of the faith: (1) All that is necessary to become a Muslim is to confess the *shahadah* “There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger;” (2) One must pray the *salat*, usually five times a day; (3) One keeps an annual fast (*sawn*) through the ninth lunar month of *Ramadan*; (4) One gives alms (*sakat*) to the needy, one fortieth of one’s income; (5) Every able Muslim must make one pilgrimage during life to Mecca.

Some radical groups of Muslims have proclaimed a sixth pillar which is holy war: (6) The Holy War (Jihad), This duty requires that when war arises, men are required to go to war to defend & spread Islam against infidels. Anyone who dies in a Holy War (Jihad) is guaranteed eternal life in Paradise (Heaven). While this may involve killing infidels for their faith, more moderate Muslims think of it as being a sacred struggle with the word, not necessarily with the sword.

Though the five articles and five pillars do not contain a saving gospel, their precepts appear harmless and thus most American Muslims will proclaim themselves to be harmless. This is an opportunity for the Christian to open the Quran and point out that there is more to being a believer in Allah, with hope of eternal life, than the above ten points.

**A chapter in the Quran is called a sura. Many American Muslims will point to (sura 2:256) “There is no compulsion in religion.” This is when the Christian can show them from the Quran that the persecution, compulsion and/or the slaughter of Jews, Christians, and idolators are acts of faithfulness to Allah.**

*Surah 2.216: Fighting is prescribed for you, and ye dislike it. But it is possible that ye dislike a thing which is good for you, and that ye love a thing which is bad for you. But Allah knoweth, and ye know not.*

*Surah 2:193: “Fight against them until idolatry is no more and God’s religion reigns supreme...”*

*Surah 2.244: Then fight in the cause of Allah, and know that Allah Heareth and knoweth all things.*

*Surah 4.74: Let those fight in the cause of Allah Who sell the life of this world for the hereafter. To him who fighteth in the cause of Allah,- whether he is slain or gets victory - Soon shall We give him a reward of great (value).*

*Surah 4.76: Those who believe fight in the cause of Allah, and those who reject Faith Fight in the cause of Evil: So fight ye against the friends of Satan: feeble indeed is the cunning of Satan.*

*Surah 4.84: Then fight in Allah’s cause - Thou art held responsible only for thyself - and rouse the believers. It may be that Allah will restrain the fury of the Unbelievers; for Allah is the strongest in might and in punishment.*

*Surah 4.95-96: Not equal are those believers who sit (at home) and receive no hurt, and those who strive and fight in the cause of Allah with their goods and their persons. Allah hath granted a grade higher to those who strive and fight with their goods and persons than to those who sit (at home). Unto all (in Faith) Hath Allah promised good: But those who strive and fight Hath He distinguished above those who sit (at home) by a special reward,- Ranks specially bestowed by Him, and Forgiveness and Mercy. For Allah is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful.*

*Surah 8.12: Remember thy Lord inspired the angels (with the message): “I am with you: give firmness to the Believers: I will instill terror into the hearts of the unbelievers: smite ye above their necks and smite all their finger-tips off them.*

*Surah 8.37-41: In order that Allah may separate the impure from the pure, put the impure, one on another, heap them together, and cast them into Hell. They will be the ones to have lost. Say to the Unbelievers, if (now) they desist (from unbelief), their past would be forgiven them; but if they persist, the punishment of those before them is already (a matter of warning for them). And fight them on until there is no more tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in Allah altogether and everywhere; but if they cease, verily Allah doth see all that they do. If they refuse, be sure that Allah is your Protector - the best to protect and the best to help. And know that out of all the booty that ye may acquire (in war), a fifth share is assigned to Allah,- and to the Messenger, and to near relatives, orphans, the needy, and the wayfarer,- if ye do believe in Allah and in the revelation We sent down to Our servant on the Day of Testing,- the Day of the meeting of the two forces. For Allah hath power over all things.*

*Surah 8.65: O Prophet! rouse the Believers to the fight. If there are twenty amongst you, patient and persevering, they will vanquish two hundred: if a hundred, they will vanquish a thousand of the Unbelievers: for these are a people without understanding.*

**Surah 9:5:** *But when the forbidden months are past, then fight and slay the Pagans wherever ye find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem (of war); but if they repent, and establish regular prayers and practise regular charity, then open the way for them: for Allah is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful.*

**Surah 9:29:** *Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger, nor acknowledge the religion of Truth, (even if they are) of the People of the Book, until they pay the Jizya with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued.*

**Surah 9:41** *Go ye forth, (whether equipped) lightly or heavily and strive and struggle, with your goods and your persons, in the cause of Allah. That is best for you, if ye (but) knew.*

**Surah 9:73:** *O Prophet! strive hard against the unbelievers and the Hypocrites, and be firm against them. Their abode is Hell,- an evil refuge indeed.*

**Surah 9:123:** *O ye who believe! fight the unbelievers who gird you about (are near you), and let them find firmness in you: and know that Allah is with those who fear Him.*

**Surah 17.16-17:** *When we decide to destroy a population, we send a definite order to them who have the good things in life and yet transgress; so that Allah's word is proved true against them: then we destroy them utterly. How many generations have we destroyed after Noah? And enough is thy Lord to note and see the sins of his servants.*

**Surah 21.11:** *How many were the populations we utterly destroyed because of their inequities, setting up in their place other peoples.*

**Surah 47.3-4:** *This because those who reject Allah follow vanities, while those who believe follow the Truth from their Lord: Thus does Allah set forth for men their lessons by similitudes. Therefore, when ye meet the Unbelievers (in fight), smite at their necks; At length, when ye have thoroughly subdued them, bind a bond firmly (on them) [i.e., "take them as captives"]...*

**(Surah 48:29)** *Muhammad is God's apostle. Those who follow him are ruthless to the unbelievers but merciful to one another.*

The “Hadith” is the traditional teaching of Muhammad that is outside the Quran but is considered Islamic Law. These are to be accepted with authority by all Muslims.

## Quotations from the Hadith

Volume 4, Book 52, Number 196:

*Narrated Abu Huraira: Allah 's Apostle said, " I have been ordered to fight with the people till they say, 'None has the right to be worshipped but Allah,' and whoever says, 'None has the right to be worshipped but Allah,' his life and property will be saved by me except for Islamic law, and his accounts will be with Allah, (either to punish him or to forgive him.)"*

Volume 4, Book 52, Number 73:

*Narrated 'Abdullah bin Abi Aufa: Allah's Apostle said, "Know that Paradise is under the shades of swords.*

Volume 9, Book 84, Number 57:

*Narrated 'Ikrima: Some Zanadiqa (atheists) were brought to 'Ali and he burnt them. The news of this event, reached Ibn 'Abbas who said, "If I had been in his place, I would not have burnt them, as Allah's Apostle forbade it, saying, 'Do not punish anybody with Allah's punishment (fire).' I would have killed them according to the statement of Allah's Apostle, 'Whoever changed his Islamic religion, then kill him.'"*

Volume 9, Book 83, Number 50:

*Narrated Abu Juhaifa: I asked 'Ali "Do you have anything Divine literature besides what is in the Qur'an?" Or, as Uyaina once said, "Apart from what the people have?" 'Ali said, "By Him Who made the grain split (germinate) and created the soul, we have nothing except what is in the Quran and the ability (gift) of understanding Allah's Book which He may endow a man, with and what is written in this sheet of paper." I asked, "What is on this paper?" He replied, "The legal regulations of Diya (Blood-money) and the (ransom for) releasing of the captives, and the judgment that no Muslim should be killed in Qisas (equality in punishment) for killing a Kafir (disbeliever)."*

Volume 4, Book 53, Number 392:

*Narrated Abu Huraira: While we were in the Mosque, the Prophet came out and said, "Let us go to the Jews" We went out till we reached Bait-ul-Midras. He said to them, "If you embrace Islam,*

*you will be safe. You should know that the earth belongs to Allah and His Apostle, and I want to expel you from this land. So, if anyone amongst you owns some property, he is permitted to sell it, otherwise you should know that the Earth belongs to Allah and His Apostle."*

Volume 5, Book 59, Number 716:

*Narrated Ibn Abbas: Thursday! And how great that Thursday was! The ailment of Allah's Apostle became worse (on Thursday) and he said, fetch me something so that I may write to you something after which you will never go astray." The people (present there) differed in this matter, and it was not right to differ before a prophet. Some said, "What is wrong with him? (Do you think) he is delirious (seriously ill)? Ask him (to understand his state)." So they went to the Prophet and asked him again. The Prophet said, "Leave me, for my present state is better than what you call me for." Then he ordered them to do three things. He said, "Turn the pagans out of the Arabian Peninsula; respect and give gifts to the foreign delegations as you have seen me dealing with them." (Said bin Jubair, the sub-narrator said that Ibn Abbas kept quiet as rewards the third order, or he said, "I forgot it.") (See Hadith No. 116 Vol. 1)*

**At this point it may be important to point out that the Quran requires that a faithful follower of Allah must never commit suicide (Surah 4:29) *Do not kill yourselves. God is merciful to you, but he that does that through wickedness and injustice shall be burned in fire. That is enough for God."* See if the friendly Muslim will confess that the attack on Sept. 11 was a wicked act of injustice and will affirm that the perpetrators are burning in hell at this moment.**

**There were some Muslims in the Trade Center Towers on Sept. 11. Do they know that it is unlawful for believers to kill believers: (Surah 4:92) *It is unlawful for a believer to kill another believer, accidents excepted. He that accidentally kills a believer must free one Muslim slave and pay blood-money to the family of the victim...If the victim be a Muslim from a hostile tribe, the penalty is the freeing of one Muslim slave.***

**Are they aware that throughout the world Muslims are killing more Muslims than they are Americans and that the Quran forbids aggression: (Surah 2:191) *"Fight for the sake of God those that fight against you, but do not attack them first. God does not love aggressors."* (Surah 49:9) *"If two parties of believers take up arms the one against the other, make peace between them. If either of them unjustly attacks the other, fight against the aggressors till they submit to God's judgment."* How can such a verse justify the Iran/Iraq war or Iraq's attack of Kuwait in the 1990's.**

**If they say that they are of a different sect of Muslims than the terrorists, they need to see what the Quran says about sectarianism: (Sura 15:90) *"We will surely punish the schismatics, who have broken up the scriptures into separate parts,***

*believing in some and denying others.” [NOTE: This passage needs to be shown to those who say that the passages we are showing them are no longer in effect and do not apply to Muslims today]. (Sura 6:160) “Have nothing to do with those who have split up their religion into sects. God will call them to account and declare to them what they have done; (Sura 23:50ff) “...Yet men have divided themselves into factions, each rejoicing in its own doctrines. Leave them in their errors till a time appointed...”*

Ask them if they believe that God has made men superior to women and that the latter should be beaten by their husbands if they display disobedience or immodesty: (Sura 4:34) *“Men have authority over women because God has made the one superior to the other, and because they spend their wealth to maintain them. Good women are obedient. They guard their unseen parts because God has guarded them. As for those from whom you fear disobedience, admonish them, forsake them in beds apart, and beat them. Then if they obey you, take no further action against them. Surely God is high, Supreme.”* Ask them if they believe that it is alright for their husbands to have sex with slave-girls: (Sura 4:21) *“If any one of you cannot afford to marry a free believing woman, let him marry a slave-girl who is a believer;”* (Sura 23:1-5) *“Blessed are the believers, who are humble in their prayers; who avoid profane talk, and give alms to the destitute, who restrain their carnal desires (except with their wives and slave-girls, for these are lawful to them; transgressors are those who lust after other than these).”* As for special sexual privileges for Muhammad, (Sura 33:50) *Prophet, we have made lawful for you the wives to whom you have granted dowries and the slave-girls whom God has given you as booty; the daughters of your paternal and maternal uncles and of your paternal and maternal aunts...; and any believing woman who gives herself to the Prophet and whom the Prophet wishes to take in marriage.*

If an Muslim calls himself or herself the friend of American Christians they need to be shown that such friendship, according to the Quran, could send their souls to a burning Hell: (Sura 3:27, 28) *“Let not believers make friends with infidels in preference to the faithful—he that does this has nothing to hope for from God...;”* (Sura 3:118) *“Believers, do not make friends with any but your own people. They will spare no pains to corrupt you. They desire nothing but your ruin. Their hatred is evident from what they utter with their mouths, but greater is the hatred which their breasts conceal”;* (Sura 4:136ff) *“...Give warning to the hypocrites that woeful punishment awaits them: those who choose the unbelievers rather than the faithful for their friends”;* (Sura 5:51) *“Believers, take neither the Jews nor the Christians for your friends. They are friends with one another. Whoever of you seeks their friendship shall become one of their number. God does not guide the wrongdoers...”;*(5:55ff) *“...Believers, do not seek the friendship of the infidels and those who were given the Book before you”;* (Sura 58:14ff) *“Do you see those that have befriended a people with whom God is angry? They belong neither to you nor to them. They knowingly swear to falsehood. God has prepared for them a grievous scourge. Evil indeed is that which they have done. They use their faith as a disguise, and debar others from the path of God. Shameful punishment awaits them. Their wealth and children shall in no way protect them from God. They are the inmates of*



*the Fire, and there they shall abide forever....”;* (58:22ff) *“You shall find no believers in God and in the Last Day on friendly terms with those who oppose God and His apostle, even though they be their fathers, their sons, their brothers or their nearest kindred.”*

Muslims believe that Allah is infinite justice. Explain to them that God would have to be less than infinitely just in order to be the author of injustice and evil. In Christianity, God creates freedom, which was good. Yet freedom of choice chose evil. The Christian God can direct that evil to judge mankind yet not be the author of it. Infinite justice and virtue is impossible to one who is also infinite injustice and evil. Yet the Quran gives Allah the credit for originating evil and injustice as it has pleased him: (Sura 9:48ff) *“...Nothing will befall us except what God has ordained. He is our guardian...”*; (Sura 7:177ff) *“...We have predestined for Hell numerous jinn and men. They have hearts they cannot comprehend with; they have eyes they cannot see with; and they have ears they cannot hear with. They are like beasts—indeed, they are more misguided. Such are the heedless;”* (Sura 36ff) *“We have bound their necks with chains of iron reaching up to their chins, so that they cannot bow their heads. We have put a barrier before them and a barrier behind them and covered them over, so that they cannot see. It is the same whether or not you forewarn them: they will never have faith”*; (Sura 32:13) *“Had it been Our will, We could have given every soul its guidance. But my word shall be fulfilled: ‘I will surely fill Hell with jinn and humans all.”*

- I. When Muhammad first began propagating Islam he was not violent. In fact, he and his followers were persecuted for preaching his religious ideas and for denigrating the pagan religions of the Meccas.
  - a. It was at this time that Qu’ran 2:256 was written which says, *“There is no compulsion in religion.”* This verse is frequently quoted by Muslims to prove that Islam allows religious freedom and toleration. What they do not say is that as Muhammad grew in power, this command was rescinded and Allah directed Muhammad and his followers to kill and force their religion on others.
  - b. The scholars differed concerning Q. 2:256. Some said: *“It has been abrogated [cancelled] for the Prophet compelled the Arabs to embrace Islam and fought them and did not accept any alternative but their surrender to Islam.* The abrogating verse is Q. 9:73 *“O Prophet, struggle with the unbelievers and hypocrites, and be thou harsh with them.”* Mohammad asked Allah the permission to fight them and it was granted. Other scholars said Q. 2:256 has not been abrogated, but it had a special application. It was revealed concerning the people of the Book [the Jews and the Christians]; they can not be compelled to embrace Islam if they pay the Jizya (that is a head tax on free non-Muslims under Muslim rule). It is only the idol worshippers who are compelled to embrace Islam and upon them Q. 9:73 applies. This is the opinion of Ibn ‘Abbas which is the best opinion due to the authenticity of its chain of authority. [al-Naha, *An-Nasikh, wal-*

*Mansukh*, p. 80, cited in M. Rafiqul-Haqq and P. Newton, “*Tolerance in Islam*” (September 22, 2001)]

- c. **Either interpretation means that Qu’ran 2:256 does not allow blanket religious tolerance. In a nutshell, the teaching of the Qu’ran is this: if you are a Jew or a Christian you are allowed to remain in your religion, but you must submit to the rule of Islam and you must pay an exorbitant tax called *Jizya* to Muslims. This limited allowance to practice a religion besides Islam does not apply to everyone--only Jews and Christians. All others (the majority of the world) must become Muslims or be killed.**

Note: an excellent web site for this study: <<http://www.answering-Islam.org/Silas/terrorism.htm>>.

- II. **The following is from *The Life of Muhammad*, translated by A. Guillaume, which is a translation and combination of the two earliest, most reliable biographies of Muhammad titled *The Life and History of Muhammad*, by Ibn Ishaq, an early Muslim scholar and widely read by educated Muslims:**
  - a. *The apostle [Muhammad] said, “Kill any Jew that falls into your power.” Thereupon Muhayyisa Masud leapt upon Ibn Sunayna, a Jewish merchant with whom they had social and business relations, and killed him. Huwayyisa was not a Muslim at the time though he was the elder brother. When Muhayyisa killed him Huwayyisa began to beat him, saying, “You enemy of God, did you kill him when much of the fat on your belly comes from his wealth?” Muhayyisa answered, “Had the one who ordered me to kill him ordered me to kill you I would have cut your head off.”* [A. Guillaume, *The Life of Muhammad* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1975), p. 369, a rendering Ibn Ishaq’s *Sprat Rasulallah*.]
- III. **A second terrorist incident involved another one of Muhammad’s requests: this one for his men to murder an old Jewish man named Abu Afak. Abu Afak was 120 years old and had urged his fellow Medinans to question Muhammad’s legitimacy. Ibn Ishaq, and many other biographers of Muhammad, describe how Abu Afak lampooned Muhammad by writing satirical verses about him and trying to persuade people not to follow him. In response, Muhammad asked, “Who will deal with this rascal for me?” Immediately, one of his followers went and killed him. [Ali Dashti, *23 Years: A Study of the Prophetic Career of Mohammad*, published by Mazda and translated by F.R.C. Bagley, cited in “Muhammad, Islam, and Terrorism,” (September 22, 2001).**
  - a. **Not one Muslim scholar claims that Abu Afak urged his fellow Arabs to attack or harm Muhammad in any way.**
- IV. **Another incident involved Muhammad’s request for his men to murder a woman named Asma b. Marwan. When Abu Afak was killed, this woman followed his example, took up her pen and wrote satirical verses to discourage people from following Muhammad. Seeing Muhammad as a**

cold-blooded murderer, she made the mistake of calling for Muhammad's death. Listen to Ibn Ishaq's description of her fate:

- a. *When the apostle heard what she had said he said, "Who will rid me of Marwan's daughter?" Umayr b. Adiy al-Khatmi who was with him heard him, and that very night he went to her house and killed her. In the morning he came to the apostle and told him what he had done and he [Muhammad] said, "You have helped God and His apostle, O Umayr!" When he asked if he would have to bear any evil consequences the apostle said, "Two goats won't butt their heads about her", so Umayr went back to his people. Now there was a great commotion among B. Khatma that day about the affair of bint [girl] Marwan. She had five sons, and when Umayr went to them from the apostle he said, "I have killed bint Marwan, O sons of Khatma. Withstand me if you can; don't keep me waiting." [Guillaume, pages 675-6.]*
- b. *Another ancient Muslim source goes into more detail of the murder: Umayr Ibn Adi came to her in the night and entered her house. Her children were sleeping around her. There was one whom she was suckling. He searched her with his hand because he was blind, and separated the child from her. He thrust his sword in her chest till it pierced up to her back. Then he offered the morning prayers with the prophet at al-Medina. The apostle of Allah said to him: "Have you slain the daughter of Marwan?" He said: "Yes. Is there something more for me to do?" He [Muhammad] said: "No two goats will butt together about her. This was the word that was first heard from the apostle of Allah. The apostle of Allah called him Umayr, "basir" (the seeing). [Ibn Sa'd, Kitab al-Tabaqat al-Kabir (Book of the Major Classes) Volume 2, [4], p. 31, cited in "Muhammad, Islam, and Terrorism," (Sept. 22., 2001)]*
  - i. **When reading this, one cannot help but recall how Palestinians and other Muslims around the world rejoiced and celebrated in the streets when the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were demolished and so many innocent people were killed.**

**Conclusion:** This was only the genesis of Islam. Violence and bloodshed increased as Muhammad conquered his neighbors. He ordered the slaughter of entire towns and villages--including women and children. Over time, Muhammad was responsible for the butchery of thousands as he established and spread Islam. During his lifetime alone, sixty-six battles were fought by his army, of which he personally led twenty-seven. [G.J.O. Moshay, *Who Is This Allah?* (Gerrards Cross, U.K.: Dorchester House Publications, 1994), p. 30.]

It is true that many Muslims are peace-loving people and are thoroughly disgusted by the acts of Islamic terrorists. But most of these, especially in the West, are ignorant of the historical facts about their own prophet. On the other hand, Muslim terrorists are usually well educated in Islam. They are pious people who are faithful to bow down and say their prayers at the determined times and to follow all the

tenets of Islam. They are well versed in the Islamic literature that glorifies the violence of Muhammad and his successors. Many are spiritual leaders in their movements. And they do what they do and how they do it following the example of their prophet, even copying his methods and tactics.

**I. What are we to make of this sordid history of murder and slaughter?**

Muhammad claims to be a prophet of God. Yet he is like no prophet in the Bible. The Bible records violence, but doesn't condone it. Murder is forbidden in the Ten Commandments. War is seen as a necessary evil for defense only, never as a means for spreading religion.

- a. In contrast to Muhammad's ruthlessness, the Bible says that Jesus was meek and lowly. In his famous Sermon on the Mount, he taught, *"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth"* (Matthew 5:5). When the Samaritans opposed Jesus, James and John asked Jesus if he wanted them to call down fire from heaven to destroy them. Note Jesus' response in Luke 9:55-56 - *"But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them...."* When Peter cut off the ear of the high priest's servant as Judas led the Jewish leaders to capture Jesus, Jesus rebuked him and said *"Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword"* (Matthew 26:47-52).
- b. Paul instructed Timothy, *"The servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will"* (2 Timothy 2:24-26).

**II. One objection we often hear is that Christians were guilty of similar atrocities as those committed by the followers of Islam. Muslims, in particular, are still bitter over the inhumane cruelties committed by the Crusaders against Muslims in the Middle ages.**

- a. But here is the vital difference between these and those perpetuated under Islam: those committed in the name of Christianity were done **DESPITE** the clear teachings of its founder against such actions, whereas those done in the name of Islam are sanctioned by the teachings and history of Islam.

**III. After Muhammad's death, Islam spread through conquest, violence, and compulsion. It is noteworthy that when Muhammad died, most Arabians abandoned Islam, thinking that they were free at last from the chains of Islam. This led to the Wars of Apostasy, which forced Arabia back under**

the clutch of Islam. In these wars, tens of thousands of Arabs were slaughtered.

- a. The northernmost advance of Islam was in Tours, France, where the Muslims were finally defeated in the Battle of Tours (Poitiers) in 732 AD under the leadership of Charles Martel. One historian recounted the Islamic advance into Europe this way:
  - i. A Moslem army, in a crusading search for land and the end of Christianity, after the conquest of Syria, Egypt, and North Africa began to invade Western Europe under the leadership of Abd-er Rahman, governor of Spain. [“Medieval Sourcebook: Arabs, Franks, and the Battle of Tours, 732: Three Accounts,” (September 25, 2001)]
- b. The battle was described by contemporary chroniclers on both sides of the battle. Isidore of Beja, on the Frankish side, revealed the brutal and religious character of the Islamic advance:
  - i. *Then Abderrahman, [the Muslim emir] seeing the land filled with the multitude of his army, crossed the Pyrenees, and traversed the defiles [in the mountains] and the plains, so that he penetrated, ravaging and slaying clear into the lands of the Franks. He gave battle to Duke Eudes (of Aquitaine) beyond the Garonne and the Dordogne, and put him to flight---so utterly [was he beaten] that God alone knew the number of the slain and wounded. Whereupon Abderrahman set in pursuit of Eudes; he destroyed palaces, burned churches, and imagined he could pillage the basilica of St. Martin of Tours. It is then that he found himself face to face with the lord of Austrasia, Charles, a mighty warrior from his youth, and trained in all the occasions of arms. [“Medieval Sourcebook: Arabs, Franks, and the Battle of Tours, 732: Three Accounts,” (September 25, 2001)]*
- c. The Muslims were turned back at Tours, and eventually retreated back across the Mediterranean Sea over a number of years. However, wherever Muslim armies were able to hold conquered territory, the inhabitants were forced to convert to Islam or face the penalty of death (except for the allowances made for Jews and Christians who were willing to pay the *Jizya*).

IV. One thing that puzzles Westerners is how Islam justifies forcing conversions on those they conquer when they know that they are not sincere conversions. In his book, *Jurisprudence in Muhammad’s Biography*, one of the most eminent scholars of the Islamic world, Dr. Muhammad Sa’id Ramadan al-Buti, explains the justification for forced conversions:

- a. *It may be said, “What is the value of a faith in Islam which is a result of a threat? ...We say to those who question: ‘What is required of an infidel or the one who confuses other gods with God, is to have his tongue surrender to the religion of God and to subdue himself to the prophethood of Muhammad. But his heartfelt faith is not required at the beginning. It will come later.’”*[ Muhammad Sa’id Ramadan al-Buti, *Jurisprudence in Muhammad’s Biography*, 7th ed., p. 287, cited in “Offensive War to Spread Islam,” (September 22, 2001)]

- b. This separates Islam from Christianity by a wide gulf. Paul said, “*Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.*” (Romans 14:5) The writer of Proverbs exhorts, “*My son, give me thine HEART.*” (Proverbs 23:26). In the Old Testament God rebuked the mere externalism of the Israelites when He said, “*...this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men.*” (Isaiah 29:13)
- V. On the cover of the famous book, *The Spirit of Islamic Religion*, which was reprinted more than nine times, we read these words: “*It has been revised by the committee of Azhar scholars with introductions made by the greatest Muslim professors and judges of Islamic legal courts.*”[ ‘Afifi Abdul-Fattah, *The Spirit of Islamic Religion*, front cover of book, cited in “*Offensive War to Spread Islam,*”] There should therefore be no question as to this book’s endorsement by the “*greatest Muslim professors and judges of Islamic legal courts.*” In this book, Dr. ‘Afifi Abdul-Fattah says:
- a. *Islam has approved war so that the Word of God becomes supreme. This is war for the cause of God (Holy War). Muhammad, therefore, sent his ambassadors to eight kings and princes in the neighborhood of the Arab Peninsula to call them to embrace Islam. They rejected his call. Thus, it became incumbent on the Muslims to fight them.*
  - b. Later, Dr. Afifi says: *Islamic law demands that before Muslims start fighting infidels (unbelievers), they first deliver the message of Islam to them. It was proven that the prophet never fought people before he called them to embrace Islam first. He used to command his generals to do so also.*
  - c. Qu’ran 9.5 says “*But when the forbidden months are past, then fight and slay the Pagans wherever ye find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem (of war); but if they repent, and establish regular prayers and practise regular charity, then open the way for them: for Allah is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful.*” Regarding this verse, Dr. al-Buti says in his book *The Jurisprudence of the Biography*, which is accepted by all Muslims and is well-known all over the Islamic world:
    - i. The verse (9:5) does not leave any room in the mind to conjecture about what is called defensive war. This verse asserts that Holy War which is demanded in Islamic law, is not defensive war (as the Western students of Islam would like to tell us) because it could legitimately be an offensive war. That is the apex and most honorable of all Holy wars. [ al-Buti, pp. 323-4.]
    - ii. Al-Buti continues: *The concept of Holy War in Islam does not take into consideration whether (the war is) a defensive or an*

*offensive war. Its goal is the exaltation of the Word of God and the construction of Islamic society and the establishment of God's Kingdom on Earth REGARDLESS OF THE MEANS. The means would be offensive warfare. In this case it is the apex, the most noble Holy War. It is legal to carry on a Holy War.*[Al-Buti ., p. 324]

- iii. In another place, al-Buti says this: *Defensive warfare in Islam is nothing but a phase of the Islamic mission which the prophet practiced. After that, it was followed by another phase; that is, calling all people to embrace Islam so that nothing less would be acceptable from atheists and those who associate other deities with God than that they embrace Islam. Also, nothing would be acceptable from the people of the Book [Jews and Christians] except conversion to Islam or being subjugated to Muslim rule. In addition, there is the command to fight anyone who attempts to stand in its way. Now, after the domination of Islamic rule is in place, and its mission complete, it is meaningless (in regard to Holy War) to (talk about) defensive wars, as some of the researchers do. Otherwise, what does Muhammad's statement mean (as it is related by the Bukhari), "They would not invade you, but you invade them"?*[ Al-Buti, p. 242]

- VI. How then should we deal with Muslims in our midst and how should the issue of Muslim terrorism be dealt with? On a personal level, every Muslim needs to hear the Gospel of grace through Jesus Christ who offers the gift of salvation freely and without constraint. It is time for Christians to stop mocking their Muslim acquaintances and begin loving them enough to boldly declare Jesus Christ to them.
  - a. Second, we must explain to Muslims the distinction between true, biblical Christianity as it was taught by Jesus and the Apostles and the false Christianity that they see before them and in much of history. When you say the word "Christianity" to a Muslim, it conjures up two images in his mind. One is the tyrannical face of medieval Roman Catholicism with its Crusaders who committed atrocities under the banner of the cross, its hideous tormenters in the Inquisition who tortured and killed countless Muslims, and its unjust laws designed to oppress Muslims. Many Muslims nurse a seething resentment and outrage for these perfidious acts, regardless of the atrocities and cruelties Muslims themselves have committed. The second image that comes to a Muslim's mind about Christianity is that of the decadence, degeneracy, immorality, and greed in modern so-called "Christian countries." We must convey to our Muslim friends that these images are obscene perversions of the Christianity of the Bible. Biblical Christianity is not religion or the performance of outward religious acts. It is a personal relationship with God that produces an inexplicable change in the heart of the believer (2 Corinthians 5:17). This change is so profound that it changes his

outlook, his attitudes, and his actions. He will not be perfect, but he seeks to follow the footsteps of his Savior, Jesus Christ. Thus he could never kill or persecute in the name of Christ. Nor can he live a life of decadence and immorality and sinfulness. The licentiousness of our day is as repugnant to him as it is to the Muslim.

### Introducing the Christian faith

Muslims think that Christians believe in three gods because of their faith in the Trinity. It is incumbent upon a Christian to profess monotheism using the Old Testament. In Isaiah 9:6 the God of Abraham prophesies that the Son will be called *“The mighty God”* and *“The everlasting Father.”* In Isaiah 7:14 the Son will be called *“Immanuel”* which means *“God with us”* (Matthew 1:23). In Zechariah 12:10 the God of Abraham prophesies that the Jews will see Him as the one Whom they pierced at the crucifixion. Thus, in Acts 20:28 born again Christians believe that it was God’s blood that was shed on the cross. Thus, the one and only God is a Spirit, a Father and a Son which constitute one God.

Born again Christians believe that one must be as righteous as God Himself in order to enter heaven upon death. An infinitely just God could not allow anything less than perfect righteousness into heaven. Otherwise God would be less than infinitely just. Again, a God who is the author of evil and unbelief cannot at the same time be infinitely just. Born again Christians believe that God in infinite love placed all of our unrighteousness upon Christ and then poured out His infinite wrath upon the Son: Isaiah 53:6 *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”* In doing this, Jesus paid 100% of the cost for anyone to receive forgiveness of sin and enter heaven in the righteousness of God Himself. The moment one receives this truth (John 1:12) the very righteousness of God is imputed to that sinner and he stands before God in perfect righteousness: (II Corinthians 5:21) *“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”* This is the only way the infinite justice of God can be infinitely satisfied against the finitely unjust sinner when he believes: (Isaiah 53:11) *“He shall see the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied; by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.”*

Christians should exhort one another to love Muslims in the Lord, realizing that Christ had each of them in mind by name when He bore their sins on the cross. Christians need to confess that themselves also are mere sinners saved by grace yet nonetheless deserve the worst of all punishments that could be inflicted upon any man. We have no right to call for, or wish, the eternal damnation of any unbeliever. We should confess our weakness in not being authorities of the Quran and the



**Hadith and ask God to open the heart of some confused and disturbed Muslim so that we may graciously and lovingly present the plan of salvation to the glory of the one true God and Savior, Jesus Christ, “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13).**