



P. 1 Democrat or Republican?

P.5 Survival of Jesus' teachings

P.2 Obedience made the difference.



P.6 Screwtape memos

P. 7 God's Infallible Word?



P.3 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

P.6 UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS

BeaconOU

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John 12:46 "I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness."

"Comparison of Republicans and Democrats"

The main purpose of these articles is to educate the reader about the two most influential political parties in the United States. We live in a participatory government and it is our responsibility to educate ourselves about candidates, political parties, and who will best represent us.

Why would a Christian want to be a Republican?

Democrats Have No Tolerance for Christian Views

By A Concerned Christian.

While it is certainly true that there are millions of Democrats in the United States who are devout Christians, the Republican Party better serves the interests of most Christians. This is most clearly demonstrated on three crucial issues: abortion, judicial activism, and the attitude of the national parties toward Christians.

Abortion is the most obvious issue where the platform of the Democratic Party conflicts with the beliefs of most Christians. The vast majority of American Christians believe that life begins prior to birth. In fact, nearly 60% of all Americans feel that a fetus should be entitled to the same legal protections as a newborn baby, according to a recent Opinion Dynamics poll. However, these sentiments are not felt by the Democratic Party leadership. This past year, both the U.S. Senate and House voted to ban the barbaric procedure known as "partial-birth abortion." This passed with near unanimous support from Republicans in both houses of Congress. However, less than one-third of the Democrats in the Senate and less than one-half of the Democrats in the House voted for this bill.

Abortion is an issue where the country is bitterly divided. According to a recent poll, the exact same percentage (44%) of Americans consider themselves pro-life as consider themselves pro-choice. But, you would never know that listening to democrats talk. Pro-life Christians are referred to as "narrow-minded, extremists, out-of-touch with the mainstream" and of course "right-wing fundamentalists."

Am I saying that a pro-life Christian can't be a Democrat? Absolutely not. But the Democratic Party seems to feel otherwise. On its website, the Democratic National Committee provides links to various special interest groups that support Democratic candidates or causes. Almost every single Democratic constituency is represented. But one group is conspicuously absent. The Democrats for Life, a group dedicated to electing pro-life Democrats, has tried for months to have their website linked to the DNC website. But the DNC has



Why would a Christian want to be a Democrat?

By Vicki Murphy

I am a Christian. I am also a Democrat, not despite my faith, but because of it. The Democrat Party platform represents my positions as a Christian on issues like taxes, proper handling of the economy, environmentalism, taxes, and social issues like healthcare and equality.

Democrats believe in a progressive tax code, or a tax code in which those with greater means pay a greater percentage of their income, and those with less to spare pay a smaller percentage. We staunchly oppose the idea of a "flat tax," because this concept places an undue burden on the poor, who need a larger portion of their funds to meet their basic needs. We realize that the dollar amount contributed is not as important as the percentage of the whole. The gospel touches on this reality in Mark 12:41-44, where the poor widow finds favor in Jesus' eyes by giving a larger percentage of her goods, even though it is a smaller amount than most.

Democrats believe that good economic policy is one that creates actual jobs, not only capital and incentive. When people who have been unemployed obtain jobs, the money that they earn is poured back into the economy to buy basic goods and pay rent and utilities. In this way the benefit of those dollars is multiplied as it passes into more and more hands. The flip-side to this policy is that of supply-side, or "trickle-down" economics, a theory tried out and disproved in the Reagan years. The result

of supply-side economics in this country was that overall wealth grew, but only kept pace with the distance between the rich and poor. Because "trickle-down" economics adds to the coffers of the wealthy, at the expense of the poor and middle class, it calls to mind the Lord's accusation

against the rich in Isaiah 3:14-15, "[Y]our houses are full of what you have taken from the poor. You have no right to crush my people and take advantage of the poor." Job growth builds the economy from the bottom up, benefiting the rich and poor alike.

Democrats are often harangued for advocating regulations and oversight, notably in the environmental realm. However, Genesis



■ Please see...Articles continued p.4

EVEN



ODD

Page 2 *Tim's Story: "Obedience Made the Difference"*

Obedience Made the Difference

By Tim Wilkins

"Up on your feet so I can knock you down again!" I stood horrified in the middle of our circular hallway as my father shouted those words at my mother who lay at his feet. He had just knocked her to the living room floor. My parents' altercation had awakened me in the middle of the night.



This was one of my earliest memories as a five or 6-year-old child. I believe I unconsciously made a promise that moment, "I—will—not—be—like—that—man!" Thus began my rejection of masculinity and embracing of homosexuality.

Chaos characterized the place we called 'home.' Tables were overturned and traumatizing profanity echoed throughout the house. It was not uncommon to

find shards of glass covering the floors many mornings, a domestic battlefield from the night before. On one occasion, dad struck the side of mama's head with a shoe and burst her eardrum. She cried in horrible pain! The next night he vowed to do the same to the other ear if she did not stop crying.

Unconscious Cries for Help

So intense was the atmosphere I began to sleepwalk. As related to me by my mother and a brother, I would walk to that circular hallway, kneel facing my parents' bedroom, clasp my throat and make choking sounds. My nightly routine would bring my mother to utter horror; my father slept through my unconscious cries for help. Neither parent recognized their youngest son might need counseling, though they probably did surmise their perpetual rages contributed to my growing fears.

Several decades have not erased the memory of a summer afternoon, playing alone on a hill beside my house, and desiring to be held by a man. I was a small boy. There were no erotic feelings then, just a distinct desire for male intimacy and protection—a God-given human need that had gone unmet during my early childhood years.

I knew I was 'different' even then; something did not fit. As an eight-year-old, I remember thinking dresses were pretty. The ruffles and ribbons mesmerized me; I wanted to wear one, but having no sister from whom I could borrow one, I pleaded with my mother to buy me a dress. Mama thought my constant plea was odd, but unfortunately she finally relented and bought me a dress.

Incessant Suffering

Rarely did I experience my father's approval and love, and my mother, whose own needs went unmet, turned to me for counsel and help. I became her surrogate husband. She openly expressed to me her disdain for my dad and disgust for sex. She frequently berated me in order to get me to be a mediator between her and dad. (It is important to note I have never heard or read of a case where a parent consciously tried to make their son or daughter gay.)

I was extremely self-conscious and excessively modest; as a child I had never felt I belonged. My self-esteem was pitifully low.

On reaching puberty, I recognized an attraction for the guys at school. "Oh God, why is this happening to me? Why are the basketball players more exciting to me than the cheerleaders?"

My emotional pain was so severe I wore a tiny piece of paper under my watchband for years on which I had scribbled almost microscopically, "Lord, I am trusting you for healing." Although at age nine I had given my heart to Jesus, knowing He died for my sin, my emotional turmoil continued.

Abandoned!

When my parents' ballistic tirades reached an intolerable level, dad left us and went to his parents' house for several months. Mama invited me into her bed for emotional support. Eventually our utilities were turned off. On one occasion, dad stopped by for a brief visit; as he left our rented house to return to his parents, mama hit him in the back with a flowerpot.



On an occasion in my early teens, dad became so angry with me that I fled to the bathroom and locked the door. He pounded the door, demanding I come out. "Please stop" I screamed!

When I refused for fear of being beaten, he began to kick down the door while mama stood alongside him pleading for me to come out; "everything will be all right" she said. I knew everything would not be all right! As the door shattered under his strength, I jumped out the second floor window and ran to safety, hiding in a nearby vacant house.

My Conscious Choice to Sin

It was about this time that I gave in to my same-sex attractions. I had been friends with a guy from school for years. His pleasant and approving smile fascinated me; he liked me. For the first time in my life another male liked me. Thus began my sporadic involvement in homosexual activity. I quickly found that homosexuality provided excitement, but not fulfillment. It gratified, but never satisfied.

Life at home remained hell. Mama manipulated me to get at dad. When I did not cooperate with her wishes, she would accuse me "you love him more than me, don't

you?" I didn't want to choose between them; I simply wanted them to love each other and stop fighting.

On another occasion she and I argued over an incidental matter. When dad came home from work, she demanded he punish me. The resulting purple welts on my legs were conspicuous—so much so that the following morning I woke my mother before going to school and asked her to write me an excuse from dressing out at PE. I was ashamed to dress out for track, knowing the belt marks would draw attention.

Obedience

My homosexual activity continued until my early twenties when I decided that although I honestly did not know how to become heterosexual, I did know how to be obedient.

Although the Bible gives no explicit steps for coming out of homosexuality, the Bible is replete with principles I could apply to my life. The Psalmist wrote about turning his eyes away from temptation. I refused to look at pornography and averted my gaze when I saw a handsome man. I had to make major adjustments in my life. To focus on God's best for me rather than my psychological pain I meditated on Paul's admonition, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true . . . noble . . . right . . . pure . . . lovely . . . admirable- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy- think about such things." (Phil 4:8) Since God's Word extols the love between a husband and his wife, I asked the Holy Spirit to become my personal mentor and to teach me the right way to love a woman. More importantly, I asked The Holy Spirit to teach me the right way to relate to other men.

I recall reading about Jesus' first miracle—at a wedding of a man and a woman. When the good wine was gone, Jesus' mother told Jesus about the dilemma. I think Jesus chided her. "My time has not yet come."

But a moment later, Mary tells the servants of the house "whatever Jesus tells you to do, do it." I do not believe Mary recognized the eternal significance of her advice that day; when we do what Jesus tells us to do, then the miracle occurs. I've often wondered if the servants of the house expressed any hesitation about bringing barrels of water into the house. Is it possible they feared the master of the house might fire them for such a stupid act—offering water to wedding guests? But they followed Jesus' instructions and the water became wine.

The Transformation Continues

At age 22, I knew God was saying "Tim, go back to college" and I did! During those years I became aware that God had a purpose for me. Living in a men's dorm had a healing effect on me. I was forced to interact with other guys on a daily basis, to become their peer, to learn appropriate relationships with them. I excelled in music, receiving five music awards during my undergraduate work.

During my college summers, I served as a music/preaching evangelist and youth director through my state denominational convention. I went from a shy, introverted, self-conscious wallflower to an assertive man who boldly

■ Please see... **Tim's Story cont. p.7**

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Growing Spiritually

Do you have a desire to know more about God, grow in your relationship with Christ, or learn more about what Christians believe? The Bible is the primary source to turn to. Here are some favorite internet links of mine that may help in your personal studies. I may not agree with the full content of the web-sites, but they had some awesome free resources that I believe would benefit everyone. I know that you will be amazed by the content of www.christiananswers.com which has more resources than I could ever list and they include a lot of videos on-line.

www.icr.org, www.ou.edu/css, and www.drino.com include a lot of evolution and creation research.

www.biblegateway.com is a searchable Bible on-line with a concordance and many translations available.

www.crossministry.org is a ministry that reaches out to those struggling with homosexuality.

www.cbn.com is a Christian news web-site.

www.ag.org is the Assemblies of God site with a lot of current issues in society addressed.

www.livingwaters.com includes Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort stuff, videos, and audio links.

Check out www.higherpraise.com early church writings for free on-line. You can get a free CD with church reformers writings at this ministry's website: www.FreeBibleSoftware.com or by calling 1-866-66-BIBLE. In Christ, Rick Thomas www.ou.edu/beaconou

Info about the Witness Lee group known as "Christians on Campus" <http://www.gospelcom.net/apologetics/index/n01.html>
<http://www.ugcs.caltech.edu/~dazuma/cult-info/> www.ltm.org/leader.html
<http://www.contendingforthefaith.com/summary/experts/index.html>

Letters to the Editor

Page 3

Our web-site is looking awesome. You can find us at www.ou.edu/beaconou. All of the past issues are there plus some information about some future events we plan to have on campus. The letters to the Editor is my favorite section of every newspaper that I read. We love to hear from our readers. Remember, all letters to the Editor may



be reprinted in a latter editon of the BeaconOU unless specific request is made by the sender not to

publish their letter. You may notice in this issue we are starting a section called "God's infallible Word" If you think that there are contradictions in the Bible, send them to us. Let your opinion be heard. We are currently looking for people to help with funding, distribution, and advertising. Some people asked me about the Witness Lee, "Christians on Campus" group last semester. I have some web-links about them to your left at the bottom. Send your letters to beaconou@ou.edu Rick Thomas, Editor.

Eyes are on Israel and God has not forgotten His people that He chose to make His name known to all of the Nations. Pray for the Peace of Israel. **Psalm 66:16** Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for me. **17** I cried out to Him with my mouth; His praise was on my tongue. **18** If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; **19** but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. **20** Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld His love from me! **67:1** May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us, — Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]!— **2** that Your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. **3** May the peoples praise You, O God; may all the peoples praise You. **4** May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.—Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]!— **5** May the peoples praise You, O God; may all the peoples praise You. **6** Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us. **7** God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will reverently fear Him. www.biblegateway.com



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Beacon OU is an official student organization on the campus of OU. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the University of Oklahoma or its student body. Our main purpose is to share the genuine love of God to the campus while providing news from a Christian perspective. Our personal relationship with Jesus compels us to share this treasure and the "Truth" with the world. Our source of funding is God, "Jehovah Jireh". His Holy Spirit moves on His people's hearts to give **financially in order to support printing**. If you would like to sponsor an issue of the BeaconOU or a part of an issue, send an e-mail to beaconou@ou.edu with your intentions. If you have an upcoming event that you think we might be interested in, send us some details. If you have any questions, suggestions, letters to the editor, or opinions about any of the articles, you can contact us at beaconou@ou.edu or rick777ok@ou.edu. We have a web-site at www.ou.edu/beaconou which includes past issues online. Praise God!! We have the right to print or not to print any article submitted. President: Rick Thomas. Vice-President: Darci Montgomery. Secretary: Asia Smith. Treasurer: Ketiesha Brown. All articles and content Copyright 2003 held by individual authors



refused to allow them to do so. They are possibly the only Democratic organization to ever be excluded from the DNC website (there are seven different pro-choice groups linked to their website).

Another issue where the interest of most Christians comes into direct conflict with the platform of the Democratic Party is the issue of judicial activism. Democrats typically support judges who will interpret the law as they want it to be, not as it is written. Liberal judges have used the weapon of judicial activism to rule unconstitutional such practices as voluntary prayer in school, display of the Ten Commandments on public property, and most galling, the "Pledge of Allegiance." These judges claim that all of the aforementioned practices violate the First Amendment's "Separation of Church and State." This phrase is found nowhere in the Constitution. The First Amendment's only comment regarding the relationship between the state and organized religion is that "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of a religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." It takes quite a leap to go from that to saying that the "Pledge of Allegiance" or displaying the Ten Commandments, one of the foundation documents of our modern legal code, is unconstitutional. The writers of our Constitution never intended for references to religion to be barred from public exhibition. Their only intention was to prevent the government from mandating religious belief. But a liberal court last year declared that the "Pledge of Allegiance" puts undue influence on children to believe in God. The American Civil Liberties Union has successfully fought for the removal of copies of the Ten Commandments from public facilities at five buildings in Utah. There is a sixth copy somewhere in the state, but they have thus far been unable to locate it. So, they have issued an "action alert" instructing people to help them find the building so they can have it removed. Some of you may be asking, "If no one has complained about it, why go through all this trouble to find and remove it?" The reason is that the ACLU and other left-wing organizations will not be satisfied until any exhibition, no matter how vague or time-honored in our society, that has any possible connection to a belief in God is removed from any public display.

Finally, the Democratic Party seems to believe in excluding qualified people from public service because of their Christian beliefs. Several of President Bush's nominees to federal courts, his nominees to executive panels on health services, and even his nominees for Attorney General and Solicitor General have been opposed by significant portions of the Democratic Party for no other reasons than their strong Christian faith. Currently, three (and soon to be more) of Bush's judicial nominees are being filibustered because liberal trial-lawyers, unions, and pro-abortion groups don't believe a devout Christian is fit to serve as a federal judge. Senators Ted Kennedy, Chuck Schumer, and Patrick Leahy have said as much. All have echoed a belief that Bush's nominees have a deep ideological belief that makes them incapable of applying the law fairly.

I'm not saying that a Christian should necessarily agree with the Republican Party on taxes, defense spending, school vouchers, and free trade. What I am saying is that the views of religious conservatives are given a voice in the Republican Party. Those that are anti-abortion, support voluntary school prayer, and support other views most Christians endorse are not welcome in the Democratic Party. Faithful Christians can certainly be Democrats, but they will be supporting a party that does not value their opinions on several crucial issues. The Democratic Party, which has always claimed to be the party of diversity, will not tolerate any diversity of opinion on these key issues.

2:15 tells us "the Lord God placed man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it." We have not been entrusted with the earth to exploit and rob it of its natural resources, but rather to act as stewards. To ensure that our growth as a nation and a people is sustainable and neither places too great a burden on nor inflicts irreparable damage against the earth, we must control the pace at which we consume fossil fuels, and match it to the pace at which we create alternative energy sources. The problems of pollution, global warming, and endangered biodiversity are too damaging for the United States to ignore, and unfortunately companies and communities have proven time and again that self-regulation is not a reliable alternative to government regulation.

Democrats are often associated with labor unions, and I do not believe this is an association that we should be ashamed of. The evolution of workers' rights has had a profound impact on the structure and integrity of our society, and is only in keeping with the promise of equal rights and opportunities for all Americans. Workplace safety regulations, a minimum wage that keeps pace with inflation, and the right to collective bargaining are important for the health of this nation's workforce. Although Republicans often decry these measures as detrimental to business, one should remember that the rallying cry of the Republican Party is now and has long been "Cheap labor!" For this reason Republicans repeatedly seek the oldest and quickest way to benefit corporations— at the expense of their employees. Cheap labor is the reason the Republican Party fought against the G.I. bill after WWII, wanting instead to take advantage of the hordes of men coming home from war without jobs. Cheap labor is the reason Republicans fought against unemployment benefits, hoping that rather than take the time to find a job that they were qualified for, the unemployed and desperate would take any job at any wage. We are warned against such behavior in James 5:3-4 where he rebukes the rich, saying, "You have piled up riches in these last days. You have not paid any wages to those who work in your fields. Listen to their complaints!"

I would like to include a note about abortion. I meet many Christians that are aghast to discover that I am pro-choice. Many even go so far as to list abortion as their only reason for voting for Republican candidates. I hope that by now I have convinced you that a political party represents far too many policies to vote on one single issue. But a Christian need not ignore the question of reproductive choice in order to vote Democrat. There are several reasons that I, as a Christian, believe abortion should be kept legal. Firstly, it should be understood that pro-choice does not equate to pro-abortion. Pro-choice means keeping abortion legal, not necessarily taking advantage of one's right to terminate a pregnancy regularly. Keeping abortion legal allows Americans to make their own personal moral decisions— and allows many American families to decide against abortion on their own, without government interference. Secondly, when abortion was illegal in most states, it did not prevent women from ending pregnancies. Many thousands of women died each year in "back alley" abortions performed illegally in the United States or by ill-equipped or untrained doctors in Mexico. If one truly believes that abortion is a sin, then does it make sense as a Christian to be unmoved by the thought of women dying in sin? Or is the Christian view to want those women to live for the chance to repent of their sins and come to the Lord? Jesus did not preach a gospel of revenge, but forgiveness. Another reason to be wary of outlawing abortion is the danger of giving such a decision over to the government. If somehow the Supreme Court found a way to claim that the government has a compelling interest in family planning, that expanded governmental role could very easily go in a different direction in the future. If the country in 300 years is grossly overpopulated, the courts could look back on the precedent of deciding family planning decisions in the past and make abortion mandatory after a couple has their first child. Surely this is an extreme example, but it does illustrate the dangers of giving a government the right to make personal decisions for its citizens. Finally, I am not only a Christian, I am also an American. As a Christian, I worship one Lord, I know one Truth, and I follow the one path to salvation. But as an American, I know that all faiths, all beliefs, and all paths have equal rights before the law. Anti-abortionists have every right to make their case and try to persuade their fellow citizens that their view of abortion is the correct one, but to make that decision for them takes away their dignity and free will. In a nation where abortion is legal everyone can honor their own beliefs by making their own choices based on their own beliefs.

I am a Democrat because I believe the party represents my views and beliefs, which are grounded in my Christian faith. But I must finish by saying that I also believe that the question of politics should never be too closely linked to that of religion. The danger there is that there can be no compromising of morals or values, but there must be continual compromising in politics. Although I find support for my political views in the Bible, I in no way think that Republicans or Independents or Greens are evil. We are all trying to better the country, we are all trying to live according to our morals and consciences, and we must never become so polarized that we start to see each other as enemies. We must be first Christians, then Americans, and finally Democrats or Republicans—otherwise we are not moving either the body of Christ or the United States in a positive direction.

■ Please see...God's existence on p3

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CYAN YELLOW MAGENTA BLACK

The Survival of Jesus' Teachings in the 3rd Millenium. Page 5

By Anonymous ><

The Survival of Jesus' Teachings in the 3rd Millennium

Will the teachings of Jesus Christ be able to survive the 3rd millennium? Jesus emphasized the actions and teachings of God by using his life as an example of God's ways. He was an exact representation of God, which made him God as well. Jesus referred to the history of God in his teachings. He used the basis of God's teachings that God demonstrated through Adam, Abraham and David. There were approximately 4000 years between the start of man up to the time of Christ's birth. Then for the last 2000 years after Christ, the church has risen steadily. So, in total, that is 6000 years of Jesus' teachings or the basis of his teachings, which have become more popular now than when they first started out at the beginning 6000 years ago. So my question is, why wouldn't the teachings of Jesus be able to last into the 3rd millennium when the basis of his teachings have already lasted for 6000 years? In my opinion, I fully and truly believe that the teachings of Jesus Christ will be able to survive well into the 3rd millennium. Now I'm going to continue by explaining why I think this, through these next 3 points.

Firstly, Jesus at 12 years old was able to amaze all the teachers of scripture whose biblical knowledge was nearly perfect. This is according to **Luke 2:46-47** "After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers." If Jesus' knowledge was able to amaze learned men then, how much more could his teachings

inspire us today in this changing and difficult time? The Bible—"God's infallible Word" is what inspires us today even despite the fact that it was written so many years ago. **Hebrews 4:12-13** "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account". It applies to the human heart and experiences just as much today as it did nearly 2000 years ago. And in saying this, these days we have many problems ranging from economic dealings to violence at an even greater extent than they were at the start of man. The Bible was written especially for every generation after Jesus Christ, including us. Jesus' teachings and experiences were recorded for the whole purpose of our reading it and applying it to our lives.

WONDERFUL • COUNSELOR • THE MIGHTY GOD • KING OF KINGS • MESSIAH

Jesus

THE GREAT I AM • EVERLASTING FATHER • LORD OF LORDS • PRINCE OF PEACE

Poets from every era have been inspired by the basis of Jesus' teachings and have taken from the prose of David as well as many others in the bible. For instance, Shakespeare, Keats, and other famous poets have taken ideas from what is considered to be the most beautifully written book in all of history. Mother Teresa is another example of someone who was inspired by the teachings of Jesus. She impacted the whole world and left a lasting impression of the love that Jesus has for us through her actions.

Secondly, as we enter into the next millennium, every human is searching for love, acceptance, and security, which are, the three major needs of the human soul. Now imagine for a second what it would be like if all the bad things that are predicted about our future were to come true. We don't have to fear about these things because, like I said, we are all searching for love, acceptance, and security and we can find all of these needs through Jesus and his teachings. **Mark 3:34-35** is a great example of how accepting Jesus is. "Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother." This is simply saying that Jesus accepts everybody as his family as long as they believe and trust in Him. **Psalm 46:1-5** is an excellent verse showing why

we can feel secure with the basis of Jesus' teachings: 1 "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, 3 though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Selah 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. 5 God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. 6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth

melts." The Apostle Paul, who had a unique salvation experience and studied Jesus, knew very well about the love of Jesus which followed him all his life until he was able to say in **Romans 8:38-39** "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is

salvation, Jesus and his teachings would be the last to go. J.R. Tolkien? Maybe. James Bond? Eventually. But the story and teachings of a revolutionary hero, never!

Now in conclusion to my argument on the survival of the teachings of Jesus Christ in the 3rd millennium, I'd like to quote from author Philip Schaff in 1913.



in Christ Jesus our Lord". I don't think that human needs are ever going to change in the new millennium and neither are God's promises and teachings. **Numbers 23:19** "God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?" **Hebrews 13:8** "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Thirdly, the recorded experiences of Jesus are enough to make the most amazing book ever written. This is because they really happened. No other book or movie ever made has been able to come in close competition with this truly amazing story full of love, faith, action, betrayal, miracles, courage and even death. Such a plot can intrigue anyone and meet the challenge for a story that can arrest the hearts and minds of the people of the millennium era and turn them to their Creator. Of any book or story to fail in the millennium, the book about God's

"Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more million than Alexander, Caesar, Mohamed and Napoleon; without science and learning he shed more light on things human and divine than all the philosophers and scholars combined; without the eloquence of the school, he spoke words of life such as were never spoken, nor since, and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet.

Without writing a single line, he has set more pens in motion and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, works of art, learned volumes, and sweet songs of praise than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times.

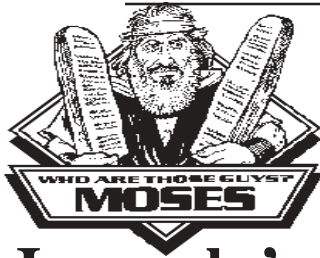
Born in a manger and crucified as a malefactor, he now controls the destinies of the civilized world and rules a spiritual empire which embraces one-third of the inhabitants of the globe."

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Upcoming Events For Campus Ministries



Jacob's Ladder Bible Study

"The Gospel according to Moses."

Want to learn how the book of Exodus is a shadow of the Messiah and things to come? From studying the Book of Exodus, you will receive a clearer understanding of the New Testament. Understand the book of Revelations through studying Exodus and Jewish Traditions.

Jacob's Ladder Bible Study meets on Thursday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 at 1311 Jenkins Ave..

Life Stream OU Christian Faculty and Staff

Thursdays 9p.m. at Journey Church 3400 W. Main (Old Wal-mart across from Sooner Mall) Soon to move location to the Buy for Less building on 12th and Alameda St. Brad Baker- College Pastor (Brad@journeyonline.tv) JourneyChurch 217-8700

R.U.F.Reformed University Fellowship

Wednesday Nights, 9:15 Dale Hall Tower Lounge, 9th floor Teaching on Song of Solomon: Dating, Sex and Marriage this semester. Doug www.ouruf.org

Wesley Foundation:

Vespers - Tuesday 8:00 p.m. Frosh Fellowship Sundays 6:30 pm www.wesleyou.org wesley@wesleyou.org Rev. Brad Humphrey 321-6266

Chi Alpha XA

Has a Tuesday night, XAlive 8:00-9:30P.M. at Rome XII above Papa John's in Stubbeman Village Mall. Come check out our new office on the third floor of the Union/ Conoco Leadership Wing Praise God! He has increased our meeting space. We now have the other side of Rome XII and some major renovation has taken place. Come check it out! Greg & Susan Tiffany OU XA Campus Pastors office - OMU / Conoco Leadership Wing OUtreach Center - Rome XII / Stubbeman Village Mall phone: (405) 325-1377e-mail: OUXA@aol.com web: www.ou.edu/student/xa

CRU Tuesday's Nights at 9:00pm at Common Ground (Main St. & University) Contact: Shawn McGrath at 473-1387. www.oucru.com shawn.mcgrath@uscm.org.

Intelligent Design Evolution Awareness I.D.E.A.

Sept 3 Weds. 7PM Ray Bohlin PhD molecular & cell biology "The Natural limits to Biological change." Sept 17 Weds. 7PM Intro to I.D.E.A. Contact ideclub@ou.edu

International Student Fellowship- ISF

call for new meeting times. Wayne, 413-3713 <http://www.ou.edu/student/isf>

Baptist Student Union

Thursday night Vespers 7PM at 435 W. Boyd (405) 321-2810 mailbox@oubsu.org www.oubsu.org

Screwtape Memos. (#1) By MereChristian

To: Wormwood
Cc:
Subject: Collegiate Patients

Your patient could be one of great difficulty, but if handled properly, you will make sure that he finishes college worse off spiritually than when he started. The real problem with college is the logic and reasoning that he might learn. We must avoid him from learning real logic. The first step is to make sure that your patient picks a suitable major. One of the worst tragedies would be for him to enter a major that promotes clear thinking and reasonableness. The best situation would be to have your student pick a degree track filled with professors that are definitely on our side. These professors will rant non-stop and make unclear hand-waving arguments. The problem is that some students are smart enough not to fall for it. Tell me more about the abilities of your student so we can

pick a suitable degree from his University. There are other ways to help your patient, even if he does choose a degree program that forces him to learn proper logic and reasoning. Keep him busy. If I have said it once, I will say it again: Keep them busy so they won't have time to think about the Enemy. Most colleges are perfect for this. Get him involved with a fraternity, which may even provide extra bonuses because of the well-known low moral standards of most of the members. If your patient isn't the frat type, student government might be your key but this could backfire. A very dangerous situation is to let him go to any of the Christian groups on campus. If it seems that he can't be deterred from attending Christian groups, try to always remind him of his parents' religion and if he attended another denomination he would be dishonoring his parents. Since this is your first assignment, I have given a few broad instructions to help you out. You

have a lot of work to do. Please inform me about your patient so that we can assure that he keeps away from the Enemy.

Your Uncle,
Screwtape

[Yes, this is a furthering of C.S. Lewis' famous classic: Screwtape Letters. Screwtape Letters is all about one devil writing to another concerning a "patient." So therefore all things that they think are good are probably bad, and all things evil to them are probably good. God is often referred to in these memos as the Enemy. These memos are not trying to be a continuation of either characters or story, but the name Screwtape is used because it is already well known. I thought, "Why create another devil?"]

EVEN



ODD



God's Infallible Word?

Most Christians would agree that many claim the name of Jesus and call themselves Christians, but do not have a relationship with Jesus. Some of these even claim that God's Word is fallible and since God is a God of love, He will not punish our sin. God's Word is in fact infallible-Incapable of failing; certain. Isaiah 55:6-11 says, "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens



are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Jesus wants you to have a relationship with the Holy God of the Universe, creator of all things. Though He is the God of love, He is also a Holy and righteous judge. Some feel that God will not judge sin, but He would not be a righteous judge if He did not. Jesus paid the price for your sin though, by taking your place. Jesus is the only way to have a relationship with

God. Jesus said, John 14:6 "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." It is not about religion. It is about relationship. You can pray for Jesus to be your Lord right now. Romans 10:9 says, "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." The BeaconOU would encourage you to read the book of Romans in the New Testament of the Bible. Search for the answers to the questions that you have. If you have any questions, or would like to receive a Bible or a video about the life of Jesus Christ, feel free to send us an e-mail at beaconou@ou.edu. If you feel that there are contradictions in the Bible, send them to us and we will address them. www.ou.edu/beaconou

Continued... Tim's Story: Obedience Made the Difference from. p.2

proclaimed the authority of God's Word. The boy who despised oral book reports in high school was being transformed into a godly man who unashamedly shared his love of Christ.

During one of those summers while I preached across the state, my parents separated and divorced after 33 years of marriage; our beautiful home was sold. I learned all this after the fact. The news shook me, but it did not deter me.

From college, I went to Southwestern Seminary. When my college choral conductor learned I was going to study the Bible rather than music, he voiced his opposition in no uncertain terms. "Tim, you have excelled in composition, music theory, choral arranging; why are you not pursuing music in seminary?" All I could say was "this is what God wants and that is sufficient for me."

On beginning seminary I was like a dry sponge thrown into a huge lake; I soaked up everything. The Bible became increasingly alive to me. Not only was I receiving a great theological education for a future ministry I knew nothing about, I was applying biblical truth to my sexual brokenness.

Same-sex attractions continued throughout college and seminary, but to a lesser degree. I remained steadfast in refusing to give in. In fact, by this time I had told God "it does not matter if I am ever attracted to a woman as long as I get You!" That prayer was a milestone; it did not matter if I was ever attracted to the opposite sex. What mattered was becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ.

What Next?

After graduation I was called to a pastorate in my hometown—a single man living in a four-bedroom house. During this time my father went through a foreclosure on his home, a separation from his second wife, alcoholism and near suicide. With all the responsibilities of a young single pastor weighing on my shoulders, I took my father into the parsonage and tended to him until I could enter him in an alcohol abuse facility—none of this known to my congregation.

I eventually resigned from that pastorate—disillusioned and depressed. I cried out to God "what do you want from me? I've lived a life of celibacy for more than ten years now. I've followed you as closely as I know how. What do you want from me?"

God's Dramatic Intervention

I was about to find out! A lady friend from seminary visited my city. I remember liking her in seminary, but had never pursued her. We spent several days together. We were affectionate, nothing else, but that was enough. On that November day I experienced for the first time in my 33 years a dramatic, ecstatic and romantic attraction for the opposite sex. What had God wanted from me? The faith to trust Him unreservedly!

I wanted to tell the world what God had done but couldn't, for to do so would mean I had to divulge my past homosexuality.

This lovely lady and I did not marry; today she is married to a wonderful Christian man and they know the story and are very supportive. (You know who you are.)

Five years later, on a Thursday, September 17, 1992 at 7:19 PM, Lisa came into my life. We met at a single's event and sparks flew—in the best way. Lisa was everything I longed for—a beautiful godly lady with a smile from Heaven.

The Bible is right!

"Delight thyself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." God had been my delight and He sent me my desire... Lisa.

Before we were engaged, I sat down with Lisa for a long talk. "Lisa" I said, "you need to know something about my past since it



may influence our future." With a firm voice the words emerged, "I used to be gay!"

Lisa never wavered in her love for me. Unknown to the two churches I had served as pastor, I had specifically studied and preached biblical texts I could apply to my healing process. Those sermons and exegetical material were stacked on the coffee table for her to see.

Lisa and I married August 21, 1993. I was 38. I rejoice to say "although I'm no longer gay, I'm the happiest I've ever been and I owe that to Jesus Christ."

More than a year later when Lisa and I were convinced I should go public with my testimony, several prominent Christian friends advised against it. One told me "But it will ruin your testimony" to which I replied, "But this is my testimony." I was reminded that after Jesus healed a man from Gadara, Jesus told him "go and tell

what great things the Lord has done for you and how He has had mercy on you" I have been doing that ever since!

On May 5, 2000, God performed another miracle; He gave us a lovely baby girl—Clare Elise. As the song says, "God is good, all the time! And all the time God is good"



Tim, Clare,
Lisa & Grace Olivia

Addendum: God has graciously provided healing within my family. Mama, now with the Lord, is sadly missed; "O God, I long to hear her sweet voice again." And I will! And prior to dad's death, we finally became what God had intended from the very start... "father and son."

www.crossministry.org

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Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship

XA Opportunities this Fall! - throughout the week

Burger Feast & Open House

Saturday, Aug 23rd, 6-10pm
XA Cookout & Rome XII Open Hse
FREE Burgers, Fun & Fellowship

XALive - every Tuesday, 8pm-9:30

Xtreme Worship, Fellowship & Ministry
@ Rome XII - 2nd floor Stubbeman Village Mall
located above Papa John's Pizza across the street
from Adams Center Resident Hall

FREE Golf Cart Shuttles

Why walk when you can Ride?
Mon-Friday, 8am-4pm during
Howdy Week (Aug 25-29)
just another way XA serves you!

Life Groups

More than just Bible Studies - Students
joining together to help you grow in your
relationships with God and each other.
There's a variety of times and locations
inorder to fit most students schedules.

XA GameDay - Sat, Sept 13

OU/Fresno State-Chi Alpha is hosting
900 perspective Sooners and their
families. You are invited to join us
for the Ultimate Tail-gate Party-BBQ
& Concert before the game. Call us.

& more

For more information - give us a call or e-mail
Greg & Susan Tiffany - campus pastors

College & Career Retreat

- Fri & Sat - Sept 26-27
@ Adams Mark Hotel in Tulsa

Phone: 325-1377
e-mail: OU_XA@aol.com
www.ou.edu/student/xa

"Lifting Up the Lifestyle of Christ on Campus"

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