

Mindless Drivel

So the new Pope wrote a letter. And what did he write? Well, it sounds sort of nice. Indeed, it probably will play well in some progressive circles, but for the hardened atheist, the following by Pope Francis is, well... drivel:

*In comments likely to enhance his progressive reputation, Pope Francis has written a long, open letter to the founder of La Repubblica newspaper, Eugenio Scalfari, stating that **non-believers would be forgiven by God if they followed their consciences.***

*Responding to a list of questions published in the paper by Mr Scalfari, who is not a Roman Catholic, Francis wrote: "You ask me if the God of the Christians forgives those who don't believe and who don't seek the faith. I start by saying – and this is the fundamental thing – that God's mercy has no limits if you go to him with a sincere and contrite heart. **The issue for those who do not believe in God is to obey their conscience.***

"Sin, even for those who have no faith, exists when people disobey their conscience." (([Pope Francis assures sceptics: You don't have to believe in God to go to heaven, The Independent, 9/11/2013](#)))

Uh-huh. However, last time I checked, the Catechism said no such thing, and, as far as I can tell, the Pope is NOT greater than the Catechism. In fact, the Pope can be fired, but if you did away with the Catechism there would be NO Catholic Church.

It seems to me, that the Catechism trumps the Pope whenever there is any conflict – and there certainly is conflict here.

II. HANDING ON THE FAITH: CATECHESIS

4 Quite early on, the name catechesis was given to the

*totality of the Church's efforts to make disciples, to help men believe that Jesus is the Son of God **so that believing they might have life in his name**, and to educate and instruct them in this life, thus building up the body of Christ. ((CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH))*

*PART TWO – THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY
SECTION TWO – THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH
CHAPTER ONE – THE SACRAMENTS OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION
ARTICLE 1 – THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM*

*1213 **Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit** (vitae spiritualis ianua),⁴ and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: “Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word.”⁵*

I. WHAT IS THIS SACRAMENT CALLED?

1214 This sacrament is called Baptism, after the central rite by which it is carried out: to baptize (Greek baptizein) means to “plunge” or “immerse”; the “plunge” into the water symbolizes the catechumen's burial into Christ's death, from which he rises up by resurrection with him, as “a new creature.”⁶

*1215 This sacrament is also called “the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit,” for it signifies and actually brings about the birth of water and the Spirit **without which no one “can enter the kingdom of God.”** ((CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH))*

Perhaps if the “vicar of Christ” had bothered to read his own church's documentation, he might not have engaged in mindless drivel...

The Everyone Test

NOTE: This article stems from the Wednesday night lesson on 2 May, 2012. The audio of that lesson can be found here, on [Ebenezer Baptist Church's Audio: Messages and Lessons; The Everyone Test](#) page.

When it comes to the issue of behavior, there seems to be an unwillingness to confront certain behaviors as inherently destructive. Rather than call those behaviors out, and ensure that everyone knows those particular behaviors are wrong, many leaders opt out of responding, leaving such behaviors unchallenged. In fact, there is a general attitude in this generation that all behaviors, unless they are immediately dangerous to life and health, are essentially equal and there is no real consequence for engaging in one particular behavior over another.

This thinking comes about because the moral absolutes have been generally discarded in favor of a subjective approach that inherently denies that there are behaviors which are always evil in their consequence. Behaviors which could not come about except the persons which engage in them, abandon reason and consideration for others, in favor of self and the immediate gratification of self. They do so because it appears to them that such actions are without consequence.

Naturally, this would seem to violate a principle which everyone observes from their earliest age:

That every action, no matter how minor and insignificant it may appear, has at least one consequence.

However, because the consequences of some actions take much

longer to be realized than others, it appears (especially to those who deliberately blind themselves) that certain actions have no real consequence. Hence, they can be engaged in with impunity.

[Continue reading . . .](#)

What's Wrong With the Amish

The following story illustrates plainly what is wrong with the Amish religion. Please, watch it all.

You will find that they will persecute their own for STUDYING THE BIBLE IN ENGLISH AND PREACHING THE GOSPEL.

Sickening

Some things are just utterly sickening to find out about. [The story in Bangladesh's The Daily Star, dated Thursday, Feb. 3rd, 2011](#) is one of those sickening stories you pray you never hear about, let alone have happen anywhere near you.

What happened? Well, the gist is that a terrible crime was

committed against a fourteen (14) year old girl – and then horribly compounded by the followers of a sick, twisted, demented religious system.

In brief, the fourteen year old was raped by a 40 year old cousin. This was bad enough. However, lest we forget, or are ignorant, in Islam, if a woman is raped – it is automatically her fault – and rape carries the same penalty as adultery – death (or 100 lashes if you are not married). Now, you can argue that 100 lashes does not constitute a death sentence, but let's see you take the 100 lashes given by a strong man using a cane. If you are not dead when he is done, it will be a miracle.

So, the local religious leader promptly issued a fatwa calling for 100 lashes for the 14 year old (and nothing of note for the 40 year old), which was then carried out by persons in the village. The young girl died after 80 lashes.

Now precisely what did the young girl do wrong? We can ask lots of questions as to why the LORD allowed this. But perhaps we would be better served asking the question as to why such a religious system is allowed to continue unchecked and unhindered? Regardless of where it is in the world, Islam is Islam, meaning that Islam remains the same, no matter where or when we find it.

Hence, understand these things about Islam, as they are indisputable tenets of that religion:

- The woman is always to blame.
- Women are little better than property.
- If you do not agree with Islam, you are a blasphemer subject to be put to death.
- Living peacefully with Islam means being converted to Islam.
- Pedophilia is okay. Rape is okay. Having a mistress is okay. Having more than one wife is okay... just DO NOT

blaspheme Muhammad.

Now, there are those who will rush to the defense of Islam and swear up and down that these things are not true. . .

However. . .

Tell that to those who have been (and are still) being forced to convert to Islam under pain of death.

Tell that to the little girls who are subject to forced circumcision.

Tell that to the women and girls who have died in innumerable "honor" killings.

Tell that to the innumerable Christians, Jews and other "infidels" ((Some are truly infidels, and some are perhaps not, but is that a reason to deprive them of life, liberty and property?)) who have been subject to systematic persecution, up to and including being put to death.

Tell that to the "dancing boys" of Afghanistan.

Tell that to the countless girls and women who have been raped by Muslim men who yell "Allah Akbar" while raping them.

And all of this sanctioned by the religious leaders of Islam.

You know, ordinarily we would call all the above criminal behavior, worthy of severe penalty, up to and including death.

Only, when it is done under the cover of Islam, we just shrug our shoulders and go on as if nothing happened.

At what point will we realize that a religion as destructive as Islam cannot be allowed the liberty to exist and flourish? You know, religions which require human sacrifice are illegal in America. Why can we not see that a 14 year old was sacrificed to satisfy a religious tenet?

And we are told that fundamental, Biblical Christianity is a religion of hate and meanness.

Ye Cannot Serve the LORD...

This message has been moved to the Ebenezer Baptist Church's [Messages and Lessons section](#), with the direct link here: [Ye Cannot Serve the LORD...](#)

The Necessity of Faith

The Scripture is express that faith is essential if one is to have any hope of pleasing God. However, it seems that the "faith" defined by many Christians is not really faith at all. Rather, it is either intellectualism or emotionalism dressed up as faith.

This is not acceptable. Moreover, it is a ticket to destruction. It seems to be lost on an increasing number of individuals that there is no substitute for faith. However, I suppose this also has never changed – that it has always been this way. Which is why we have the example of Israel as an utter failure in the Old Testament. Israel failed due to a total lack of faith on the part of a majority of it's citizens – they could not perceive who the LORD is, and what He was doing.

Individually, that can happen to anyone today – even those who claim Christ. Hence, it is incumbent upon each of us to insure

that the faith we believe we have, is actually the faith defined in Hebrews, chapter 11.

I pray the message is profitable for you.

For those who cannot use the embedded player, wish to use a different player, or want to save the file, the following link is provided:

[The Necessity of Faith](#)

In Christ,

Paul W. Davis

Faith vs. Rationality

There exists in the minds of many, a divergence between faith and reason. However, there exists no such divergence if one has a proper understanding of Scripture. Moreover, the reason and logic of the Scripture can be taught, and taught in such a way that someone who is lost can understand it if they apply themselves.

Herein lies the problem: Knowledge of salvation gained in this way – is not faith. Moreover, it is not an acceptable substitute for faith. Though the understanding arrived at may be the same, the means by which that understanding is arrived at is crucial. The route of one is the mind, but the route of the other is the spirit. The difference is life and death.

We would do well to examine ourselves as to how we arrived at our own understanding of the things of God – is it by faith, or by reason and rationality. The difference does determine

where we end up.

I pray the following lesson is profitable for you.

For those who cannot use the embedded player, wish to use a different player, or want to save the file, the following link is provided:

[Faith vs. Rationality](#)

In Christ,

Paul W. Davis

Speaking In Tongues – Part 2

This message has moved to Ebenezer Baptist Church's [Audio, Messages and Lessons, Speaking In Tongues – Part 2](#) page.

In Christ,

Paul W. Davis

Speaking In Tongues – Part 1

This post is moved to Ebenezer Baptist Church's [Audio, Messages and Lessons, Speaking In Tongues – Part 1](#) page.

In Christ,

Paul W. Davis

Refusing the LORD's Blessing

Without realizing it, the LORD's children frequently refuse His blessings. Unfortunately, the complaint of those same children is frequently to the effect the LORD does not bless like they think He ought. This message addresses how it is that we refuse the blessings the LORD does desire to bestow upon His children. May it be profitable for you.

In Christ,

Paul W. Davis

For those who want to download the file or the podcast does not work, the following link to the mp3 file.

[Refusing the LORD's Blessing](#)