Sudden*

1Thessalonians 5:1-4 (1) But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.
(2) For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.
(3) For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.
(4) But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.
Sudden destruction refers to the unexpected quickness and devastation of an occurrence, although the event may have been anticipated. With that in mind who will be prepared for the day of the Lord? We eat, we drink, we celebrate marriages, the birth of children and other similar personal experiences as did the people of Noah's day. Jesus said; They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all (Luke 17:27). *In that respect people today are no different. Consider; The Ark of safety (Romans16:16), that people are being added to, beginning with the Apostles about 2000 years ago.* And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved (Acts 2:47). *Now they can say, "come Lord Jesus."*
Faith cometh by hearing the word of God. Unbelief cometh by hearing the word of falsity, atheists, proponents of ill repute, agnostics, infidels, skeptics, science falsely so called, political correctness and those that just don't care. Turn with me to;
2Peter 2:1-3 (1) But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

(2) And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.
(3) And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.
Listen closely to what we just read. There is in the world today a group of people that fit this description perfectly. Islam! Mohammad's say Jesus did not die on the cross, and those that believe He did are carriers of falsehood. Mohammad's speak evil of Christ and His gospel. With feigned words condemn Christians with their damnable heresies. Unlike Noah, a preacher of righteousness, who came preaching the word. But his preaching went unheeded, sudden destruction overcame them because of their own unbelief. However, that sudden destruction became the salvation of Noah and his family, and in like manner baptism doth also now save us (1Peter 3:21). Noah was a "preacher of righteousness," the same logic should apply today, here's how;
2Timothy 2:1-2 (1) Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
(2) And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.
Acts 18:24-26 (24) And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.
(25) This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.
(26) And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.
I offer two examples of teaching and the particulars of each. Men and women teaching according to their specific and special place assigned to them by our Father in heaven. But

why would Christians be willing to subject themselves to the feigned words of unbelievers? Because there is a day coming that will be sudden and sure. And besides this, there were people who took the time to teach us, it is our duty to teach others. But what about other avenues of life. Perhaps there are personal experiences such as struggling under a load of bills. There is a saying that there is light at the end of the tunnel, but for those looking into the opening, the exit may seem far away and very dim indeed. But a Christian just keeps on paying on those bills month after month, year after year, all the while trusting in the Lord that next year will be better. Finally the light is shining throughly. What a thrill to be free after all that time. It's one thing to have affordable debt and quite another to be completely bogged down. However, there are things that could be worse. Sometimes one may wonder why good men suddenly have bad things happen to them?

Good men like Jacob, patriarch of the twelve tribes of Israel. Here is what happened to him;

Genesis 34:20-30 (20) And Hamor and Shechem his son came unto the gate of their city, and communed with the men of their city, saying,

(21) These men are peaceable with us; therefore let them dwell in the land, and trade therein; for the land, behold, it is large enough for them; let us take their daughters to us for wives, and let us give them our daughters.

(22) Only herein will the men consent unto us for to dwell with us, to be one people, if every male among us be circumcised, as they are circumcised.

(23) Shall not their cattle and their substance and every beast of theirs be ours? only let us consent unto them, and they will dwell with us.

(24) And unto Hamor and unto Shechem his son hearkened all that went out of the gate of his city; and every male was circumcised, all that went out of the gate of his city.

(25) And it came to pass on the third day, when they were sore, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brethren, took each man his sword, and came upon the city boldly, and slew all the males.
(26) And they slew Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah out of Shechem's house, and went out.
(27) The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and spoiled the city, because they had defiled their sister.
(28) They took their sheep, and their oxen, and their asses, and that which was in the city, and that which was in the field,
(29) And all their wealth, and all their little ones, and their wives took they captive, and spoiled even all that was in the house.
(30) And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, Ye have troubled me to make me to stink among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites: and I being few in number, they shall gather themselves together against me, and slay me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house.
Jacob believed he had secured peace and safety for himself and his family. He and Hamor had agreed to a mutual agreement consisting of harmony between their peoples. Dinah had married Shechem. She was the wife of a prince, every girl's dream. Suddenly!!, it came to naught. The very peace Jacob sought, collapsed without warning. Simeon and Levi had undercut Jacob's efforts and now the family was on the run in fear for their lives. Simeon and Levi, what a pair. Not only had they destroyed the peace and safety their father had arranged, they also murdered the husband of their own sister. Jacob's blessing on these two brothers reflect their true character, turn to;
Genesis 49:5-7 (5) Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations.
(6) O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger

they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall.
(7) Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel.
Jacob was a God fearing man and yet bad things happened to him. People wonder, if a certain man is faithful to God, why do bad things happen to him? It is according to scripture; Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble (Job 14:1). *Again sudden distress would come to Jacob. He had two sons, Joseph and Benjamin, by Rachel, his wife that he loved so much. Jacob's other sons, conniving among themselves, devised a way to rid themselves of Joseph by devious means except for Reuben who sought to return the lad to his father. They did not care about the sudden grief and sorrow that would engulf their father. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, full of mischievous behavior! Strictly speaking, one cannot legislate love, but what one can do is legislate fairness and justice. Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher and Naphtali were lacking. They had neither love, fairness or justice, altho Judah persuaded the others to sell Joseph instead of killing him. What these brothers were guilty of is deplorable by any standard. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Ten brothers of Joseph were guilty of a cover-up, they lied, they disavowed respect owed to their father, turn to;*
Genesis 37:32-35 (32) And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no.
(33) And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.
(34) And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.
(35) And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father

wept for him.
How terribly sad to suffer like this. However, God will wipe away all tears from ones eyes? Tears and heartache started in the garden. Only one fruit was off limits. God had specified it's location and given instructions why it was to be left alone. But it was pleasing to the senses, akin to; For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world (1John 2:16). *Lust's deprave the mind, divert it from Divine pursuits, and in the end, render the mind utterly incapable of spiritual enjoyments. Comparable to pandora's box one should;* (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using; (Col 2:21-22)). *We in these last days have been told the location and why it is to be left alone. It's location?, the commandments and doctrines of men! Why is it to be left alone?, one will perish with the using! Away with damnable heresies in worship to God! Therefore, as with the forbidden tree in the garden of Eden, the same applies to the commandments and doctrines of men, touch not; taste not; handle not. The result of man's choice in the garden of Eden not only was costly for mankind, it was costly to God also.* For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16). *A loving God has given man another chance rectified by the payment of His only begotten Son. But living forever is not an option that one can put off until judgment, it is an eternal decision made today!* And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: (Hebrews 9:27). *What will that day be like? Turn with me to;*
Matthew 7:21-23 (21) Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
(22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils?

and in thy name done many wonderful works?
(23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.
What a terrible, terrible sudden destruction many will face in that day. Why? To quote the words of Jesus, "I never knew you." If one truly desires to be known of Christ, then pick up your cross of sin and follow Christ to His death. Know what God expects of you so that you can be known of Christ because that is what will count when Jesus suddenly makes His appearance on that day. Turn to;
Ephesians 1:1-7 (1) Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:
(2) Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
(3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:
(4) According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:
(5) Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,
(6) To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.
(7) In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
There is an interesting word that sometimes is used to describe forgiveness of sins. That word is "remission" and it means--pardon; forgiveness, as of sins or offenses. The word also implies temporary as well as permanent, as cancer in remission may come back or not. But remission of sins is somewhat different than cancer in remission. Ones past sins are permanently pardoned when baptized by faith into Christ

for remission of sins, but that does not guarantee infallibility in the future. The devil is sneaking about seeking whom he may devour. If one is not fully aware of the devil, beware; you may be walking in the same direction, not only doing the same, but having pleasure in them that are entangled. Turn to;
2Peter 2:20-22 (20) For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.
(21) For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.
(22) But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.
Returning to Joseph and some of the trials he faced alone. This poor lad had been betrayed by his own brothers, two of which had even murdered the husband of his sister. He had been sold into slavery, and finally at a time when there seemed to be peace and safety, suddenly devastation was upon him again. This time devastation came in the form of an unwashed sow wallowing in the mire, the wife of his master Potiphar. Let's read that account in;
Genesis 39:17-20 (17) And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me:
(18) And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out.
(19) And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.
(20) And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.

It's a very unpleasant feeling to be unjustly accused. But such is life. Yet, I'm sure we wonder about these kind of experiences. Why do people who do good, suffer by the same hands who received your goodness? But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; (1Peter 3:14). *It has been said, "If God be for us, who can be against us." This proved to be the case with Joseph. Eventually he prevailed. He overcome because he remained true to God.*
In the New Testament we are warned to "flee" sinful actions. There are certain things which must be avoided at all costs. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body (ICorinthians 6:18). *This scripture mentions fornication and brings to mind godly Joseph's reaction to the advances of Potiphar's wife. Even though his decision cost him dearly in the short run, it was the right thing to do, and God honored him. I cannot help but wonder about the mentality of Potiphar's wife when Joseph became the vice Pharaoh in Egypt? Did she suddenly fear destruction because she had lied and was the cause of Joseph being cast into prison? How long would her fear continue?, it may have subsided only at her death. Perhaps the waiting and wondering was punishment in itself. But as I said, this is something I have pondered. But in any case, there is no record of a vengeful nature from Joseph toward Potiphar's wife before or after his sudden advancement in politics. A vengeful nature is something that should be absent in our lives as well.* Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord (Romans 12:19). *Had vengeance been a part of Joseph's personality, surly it would have been directed toward his half brother's who had come to him in Egypt for food. Some may think Joseph was vengeful, but the purpose of Joseph was to test his brothers, to see if they were worthy after so long a time. Of*

this one thing we can be sure of, there was sudden mental anguish at the situation they found themselves in, because of the guilt they had hidden for so long. Turn to;;
Genesis 42:21-22 (21) And they said one to another, We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us.
(22) And Reuben answered them, saying, Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? therefore, behold, also his blood is required.
Living a life without God is like a pencil with a broken lead, there's no point to it. Most men in a Christian land believe that what the Bible says is true, but they do not believe the things which the Bible says. This is just the fact and the reason why most of the sectaries oppose the things taught in the Bible. The Bible says, He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. *How few believe it! The Bible says,* repent and be baptized for remission of sins. *How few believe it! While on earth Jesus established the ordinance of baptism. He accordingly has therein declared all men without distinction, who through faith, as obedient children, heed, follow, and practice what faith contains. Because of the peerless value of the death of the Lord, God is offering to all the blessings of salvation on a grace basis through faith in Hi1470s Son. Faith in Christ is the effect of belief, and baptism is the effect of faith; only those who have first believed the testimony of God unto faith, and by faith repent of their sins, and by faith confess Jesus is the Son of God , and by faith are baptized into His death for remission of sins, have the full and explicit testimony of pardon. This is the gospel. That invitation will last until eternity, no longer. Do any need prayer for other reasons, in either case come while we persuade with song.*

This message approved by
Jack Warford

a Minister for Christ

Don't Muslims and Christians Both Believe in Jesus?
by Dave Miller, Ph.D.

Q:

“In a Muslim seminar, an Imam stated that both Christians and Muslims believe in Jesus, but of different faiths. What say you?”
A:

Muslims are quick to emphasize that they, too, believe in Jesus. Their claim is correct. After all, the Quran alludes to Jesus in a favorable light several times (e.g., Surah 3:45-51; 5:110; 21:91; et al.). But this claim is misleading, since it fails to own up to the fact that Christianity and Islam are in hopeless contradiction with each other regarding the most crucial contention of New Testament Christianity: the divinity of Christ. On this solitary point, Islam and Christianity, the Bible and the Quran, can never agree. This disagreement is of such momentous import and great magnitude as to make the inexorable incompatibility permanent.

You see, while the Quran speaks favorably of Jesus as a prophet of God, it vehemently denounces the deity of Christ. For example, consider Surah 18:1-5 (as translated by Muslim scholar Mohammed Pickthall)—

> Praise be to Allah Who hath revealed the Scripture unto His slave…to give warning of stern punishment from Him…and to warn those who say: Allah hath chosen a son, (A thing) whereof they have no knowledge, nor (had) their fathers. Dreadful is the word that cometh out of their mouths. They speak naught but a lie.

And read Surah 19:88-93—

> And they say: The Beneficent hath taken unto Himself a son. Assuredly ye utter a disastrous thing, whereby almost the heavens are torn, and the earth is split asunder and the mountains fall in ruins, that ye ascribe unto the Beneficent a son, when it is not meet for (the Majesty of) the Beneficent that He should choose a son. There is none in the heavens and the earth but cometh unto the Beneficient as a slave.

Or Surah 23:91—

> Allah hath not chosen any son, nor is there any God along with Him (also 25:2; et al.).

These references demonstrate that the Quran depicts Jesus as a mere man—a prophet like Muhammad—who was created by God like all other created beings (Surah 5:75; cf. 42:9,13,21). Indeed, when Jesus is compared to any of the prophets (listed as Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, and Jacob), Allah is represented as stating: “We make no distinction between any of them” (Surah 2:136; 3:84). Though the Quran seems to accept the notion of the virgin conception (Surah 21:91), to attribute divinity to Jesus, or to assign to Jesus equal rank with God, is to utter a “dreadful” and “disastrous” thing—to formulate “nothing but a lie”!

Here, indeed, is the number one conflict between Islam and Christianity—the deity, person, and redemptive role of Christ. If Christ is Who the Bible represents Him to be, then Islam and the Quran are completely fictitious. If Jesus Christ is Who the Quran represents Him to be, then Christianity is baseless and blasphemous. On this point alone, these two religions can never achieve harmony. But the New Testament is very, very clear: the heart, core, and soul of the Christian religion is allegiance to Jesus Christ as God, Lord, and Savior. Jesus identified Himself

as the “I AM” of the Old Testament (John 8:58; cf. 20:28-31). In Colossians, Paul forcefully affirmed regarding Jesus—

> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist (1:15-17). For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (2:9).

Such depictions of Jesus are frequent in the New Testament. Jesus was certainly a prophet, as the Quran affirms (Surah 4:163); but Jesus was not just a prophet. He was God in the flesh. In fact, oral confession of the deity of Christ is prerequisite to becoming a Christian (Romans 10:9-10). This singular point makes Christianity and Islam forever incompatible. One must be a Christian to be saved (John 14:6; Acts 4:12), and yet one cannot be a Christian without believing in, and verbally confessing, the deity of Christ, and then being immersed into Christ (Romans 6:1-4; Galatians 3:27). The Bible declares that Jesus was the final revelation of God to man (Hebrews 1:1-3). There have been no others.

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