

# WHY I RENOUNCED CHRISTIANITY

By Sri Rama Ramanuja Achari

I am a baptized Anglican but at the age of 10 before confirmation I began drifting away from this religion and discovering Hinduism. I de-facto renounced Anglicanism at about the age of 16 and immersed myself Hinduism. Later on going to India to study and finally becoming a Hindu priest and acharya.

I am frequently asked why I chose Hinduism and why I renounced Christianity, in this pamphlet I lay down my reasons. I take up for discussion and refutation each of the articles of faith of the Anglican church. After having lived in Jerusalem for 10 years, examining Christianity, Islam and Judaism at great length and having studied heaps of books on the subjects I have come to the reasoned conclusion that Hinduism is the most universal and true of all the worlds religions (with the exception of Buddhism).

Hindu philosophical methodology is an actively intellectual path in which doubt and reason are paramount. Religious beliefs need to be structured on a well grounded framework based on logic as well as common sense. Alas Christianity lacks both logic and reason, and doubt is considered the worst value. When discussing religion with Christians their invariable fall back position is — “It’s a matter of faith!” and “we are saved by faith alone”! Even though that faith is a firm and unwavering belief in the impossible and improbable.

When I was attending Bible study as a young boy of 12, I would often question silly things, and point out contradictions. For example God tells the people of Israel to go into the land of Canaan and kill every man, woman and child and every living thing! In fact orders the genocide of seven nations! (Deut. 7; 1-6) I was horrified and demanded to know how god could order such a heinous crime and how the chosen people could carry this out without even hesitating! The answer I was given, before I was ejected from the class was:— “the ways of god are mysterious and we can’t question them!” That’s when I fell into the loving arms of Hinduism. Hinduism on the other hand rejects all blind faith and demands that we question everything and seek the answers. We examine all schools of thought within our own tradition and compare and contrast. All the great acharyas like Shankara and Ramanuja vigorously challenged other schools of thought and even wrote tomes of dialectic refutation of erroneous doctrines. “Harmonious living with other faiths” is socio-demographic discipline — not an intellectual one. We should live next door to Jews, Christians or Muslims and respect their freedom to practice their faiths. But if they present their delusional ideas to us as objective truth then we also have the right and duty to challenge them. In our society we do not tolerate deviations from science. For example if a person promotes a cure for HIV based on sniffing ozone would we tolerate this? If somebody believes that their children should be raised on a diet of chips and coke do we tolerate this? Nowadays there is a major issue about teaching “creationism” alongside or instead of “evolution” in the west — the debate is vigorous and on going.

As science advances and people's knowledge expands they begin abandoning the Abrahamic religions. In the west, church attendance is dropping, except among the lower and uneducated classes. The most majority of intellectual and profession people in the west no longer hold religious beliefs. Even Christian theologians have modified their attitudes to many silly things in Christianity such as virgin birth, resurrection etc. Now the evangelists have turned to India and Africa where people are not so intellectually sophisticated and are easily duped by white missionaries with money and clever arguments and all sorts of material incentives.

## Anglican Articles of Religion.

### *1. Of faith in the Holy Trinity.*

**THERE** is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body, parts, or passions; of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the maker and preserver of all things both visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there are three Persons, of one substance, power, and eternity; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

### **Rejoinder**

Firstly take the word “living” — it is very common among all evangelicals to use this adjective in relation to their god. But let us pause to consider the theological implications. If there is a living god there must also be a “dead” god. Who exactly is the “dead” god they refer to? Usually they will answer that it is the “false” gods of other nations — like the Hindus. This concept of living and dead and true and false gods is childish. If there is only ONE god then why further say that there are other gods that are either true or false, living or dead?

If you begin to divide one into three then why stop at three — you might as well continue to sub-divide into 33, or 333, or 33333! The moment you say that there are 3 in ONE then you have joined the polytheists!

The adjective “everlasting” places this god in the realm of time and space. “Maker” suggests that this god makes things out of nothing — a concept which is totally rejected in Hinduism. From nothing, nothing comes.

Hinduism teaches that is ONE reality — Brahman. Brahman which means the “expanse” or “vastness” encompasses everything in the vastness of the infinite cosmos. There is nothing which is not included in this Divine Nature. Brahman is all that is — Brahman is the “ground of being” from which everything arises, by which it is sustained and into which it ultimately dissolves.

Brahman is defined by 5 adjectives — Being, Consciousness, Bliss/Love, Infinitude, and Purity. S/he manifests as a trinity Brahma — the evolving energy of the Universe, Vishnu

— the preserving energy, and Shiva — the energy of transformation. Each of these aspects of the Godhead also has a female counterpart as the Godhead is neither male nor female.

Interestingly enough, we Hindus declare that God is omniscient — knows everything; past, present and future. This omniscience is apparently lacking in the Anglican definition of god and in his biography — the Bible. He is frequently described as forgetting, miscalculating and even regretting past decisions and unable to see into the future.

Gen. 3:9 And the Lord God called to Adam and said to him "where are you Adam?"

Gen 11:6,7,8. And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which men were building. And the Lord said, ..... and now nothing will prevent them from doing that which they have imagined to do.

The Christian god is said to be qualified by goodness then what to make of his command to the Israelites to commit ethnic cleansing and mass murder?

Deut 20:16 But of the cities of these people which the Lord your God gives you for an inheritance, you shall save alive nothing that breaths; but you shall utterly destroy them.

If Jesus and the Holy Spirit are part and parcel of the original Godhead then how come they do not make an appearance during the 1000 years of the old Testament? There is a brief mention of the Holy Spirit hovering over the Waters (Gen 1:2)

According to Hindu philosophy a “substance” is something which is subject to modification and change — if God is 3 persons of one substance then we have a problem as God is a changeable thing!

Another major problem with this definition of God is the statement — “he is without passions”.

### **1. He experiences sorrow and regret:—**

Gen. 6: 5 The LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.

I Sam. 15: 35 and the LORD regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel.

### **2. He basks in self-glory.**

Ex. 14: 4 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD."

### **3. God is a destroyer**

Zeph. 1; 2 "I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth," declares the LORD. "I will sweep away both men and animals; I will sweep away the birds of the air and the fish of the sea. The wicked will have only heaps of rubble when I cut off man from the face of the earth," declares the LORD.

There are 310 references in the Bible, which is his biography, to his becoming angry and enraged.

### **Yahweh — an envious, irascible, indignant god.**

Nahum 1:1 - 6 ¶ The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The LORD takes vengeance on his foes and maintains his wrath against his enemies. The LORD is slow to anger and great in power; the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished. His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of his feet. He rebukes the sea and dries it up; he makes all the rivers run dry. Bashan and Carmel wither and the blossoms of Lebanon fade. The mountains quake before him and the hills melt away. The earth trembles at his presence, the world and all who live in it. Who can withstand his indignation? Who can endure his fierce anger? His wrath is poured out like fire; the rocks are shattered before him.

### **Yahweh's unbridled rage**

Deut 32:22 - 25 — For a fire has been kindled by my wrath, one that burns to the realm of death below. It will devour the earth and its harvests and set on fire the foundations of the mountains. "I will heap calamities upon them and expend my arrows against them. I will send wasting famine against them, consuming pestilence and deadly plague; I will send against them the fangs of wild beasts, the venom of vipers that glide in the dust. In the street the sword will make them childless; in their homes terror will reign. Young men and young women will perish, infants and grey-haired men.

## *2. Of the Word, or Son of God, which was made very man.*

**THE** Son, (Jesus) which is the Word of the Father, begotten from everlasting of the Father, the very and eternal God, and of one substance with the Father, took man's nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin, of her substance: so that two whole and perfect natures, that is to say, the Godhead and manhood, were joined together in one person, never to be divided, — one Christ, very God and very man, who truly suffered, was crucified, died, and buried, to reconcile His Father to us, and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for all actual sins of men.

### **Rejoinder**

Jesus was a theological construct, a myth and never an historical character, he did not actually live on earth nor perform miracles nor was resurrected from the dead — all these

are theological/mythological statements and not historically true.<sup>1</sup> What is true from a mythological point of view is not necessarily true from an historical point of view.

We too have many stories about our gods and saviors but acknowledge that they exist in the realm of theology and mythology and are not verifiable historical characters. It is not their historicity which is important but their theological and spiritual meaning and significance to us — here and now.

- We know more historical details about the ancient Pharaohs and individual Caesars than we know about Jesus.
- For the existence of Jesus all we have is the statements of the four evangelists who never actual met their character.
- Contemporary historians both Jewish and non-Jewish all mention king Herod during whose reign Jesus was allegedly born. And they all give accurate and verifiable biographical details of his life – but not a word about the “massacre of innocents” by Herod, or the god-savior who did so many amazing miracles! Even raising the dead!
- In order for us to believe in an historical person we need independent verification of their existence. It is not evidence for the select group to collude in a unverifiable claim.
- Even Paul the founder of Christianity knows nothing of Jesus birth and early biography and only declares that he died and rose from the dead — but he too never met Jesus and received his information from others.

Something is either one or the other. One cannot be totally divine and totally human at the same time — this is a logical fallacy. Jesus could be spiritually divine and physically human — as Hinduism teaches we all are. (Spiritual *Atman* indwelling in a physical body.)

There are many myths among the near eastern people of the birth of saviours from virgins. Why is the Christian myth any more authentic? The original verse in the Bible says: “behold a young woman (*alma*) will be a son and his name will be Immanuel!” It does not mention ‘virgin’ and Jesus was never called “Immanuel”.

In article #1 it says “God, everlasting, without body, parts, or passions; of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness.” If god be such then why does he require a human sacrifice to be reconciled to humanity?

Why would an omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent God need to go through this crucifixion charade in order to purify souls with his “innocent” blood ? If Jesus was God himself how could he experience suffering? Surely God is beyond all suffering. According to Hindu teachings suffering rises through delusive identification with the body and ego-constructs — how could a transcendent infinite and perfect being experience suffering? So this act is completely meaningless! It is ridiculous to think that

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<sup>1</sup> <http://jesuspuzzle.humanists.net/home.htm> The Jesus Puzzle by Earl Doherty

God could forget his divine nature of perfection and identify with the frail human body and truly suffer. If God can suffer then he is not god. He has no body according to #1 so how could he become identified with the body of the man called Jesus? Christians will answer — that it is a mystery! Indeed it is a mystery how anyone could believe this stuff!!

How did God absolve the previous generation of sin in the past? Homo-sapiens have lived on earth for conservatively an hundred thousand years (some anthropologists say 250,000 years), the myth of Jesus has been around for less than 2000 years, so what happened to all the trillions of people that died during the 95,000 + years before the Christian faith emerged? In the Old testament Yahweh demanded animal sacrifices to atone for sins. He then decided that he was tired of all the blood, gore and burnt offerings of meat and so he decided that he now wanted a human sacrifice. Since the sacrificial animal had to be absolutely pure and faultless he decided that no human could match up to his standard. So he decided to present himself in the form of his own son to be sacrificed to himself so that he could forgive the sins of mankind!! How amazing that a human mind could even think of this nonsense!

### *3. Of the going down of Christ into Hell.*

Christ died for us, and was buried, so also is it to be believed that He went down into Hell.

#### **Rejoinder**

If this is accepted as true then Christ lied to the thief who was crucified along with him. As the infinitely wise God he would have know where he was going — to heaven or Hell and he promised the thief that he would be with him that very day in paradise.

Luke 23: 43 And Jesus said to him, "Verily I say to you, To day you shall be with me in paradise."

This promise is falsified by the universal Christian doctrine that after his death Jesus spent the succeeding three days and nights in hell and only ascended to heaven 40 days later. Some Christians, embarrassed by this obvious deception on the part of the Lord, change the place of the comma giving the reading:— "I tell you the truth today, you will be with me in paradise." Thus Christians either gloss over what is inconvenient or manipulate the texts and the prophecies to suit themselves.

### *4. Of the Resurrection of Christ.*

**CHRIST** truly rose again from death, and took again His body, with flesh, bones, and all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature. He ascended into heaven, and there sits until He returns to judge all men at the last day.

## Rejoinder

This myth of resurrection is a total nonsense<sup>2</sup>. Prior to his own resurrection, Jesus was supposed to have resurrected Lazarus from the dead.

John 11:43, 44 he cried in a loud voice. Lazarus come forth. *And he that was dead came forth*, bound hand and foot with grave-clothes. [see also Luke 7:12-15]

After this we hear no more of Lazarus. Where did he go? Was his resurrection from the dead real? If so he should still be alive on earth. Why has he not made himself known so that we can all believe?

Jesus also raised another young man from the dead —

Luke 7:14-15 Then he [Jesus] went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" *The dead man sat up and began to talk*, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

Now there are only 2 possibilities — both these men are alive and well and will be so for the rest of eternity living here on earth, or they have both died again and are waiting for the final resurrection. If they have died a second time then that means that even god cannot keep the resurrected alive forever! He may change his mind again! So why should we believe this invention?

It is claimed that Jesus arose from the dead in a real flesh body and then physically rose into heaven. This was written when it was believed that the earth was flat and that heaven was above and hell beneath. With our modern scientific knowledge this means that he shot out sideways into space. Where did he go? Is it possible to enter heaven physically? St. Paul thinks not —

1 Cor. 15:50 Now this I say my brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God;

1 Cor. 15:44 It is sown a natural body and is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body and there is a spiritual body.

Who will judge us on the last day?

John 5:22 22 Moreover, the Father judges no-one, but has **entrusted all judgment to the Son**,

John 8:15 I (Jesus) judge no man.

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<sup>2</sup> The Bible tells us that at the crucifixion many dead saints were resurrected from their graves — they waited around for three days and then went marching into Jerusalem.

Matt. 27: 52 The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. 53 They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

John 12:47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not; **for I came not to judge the world** but to save the world.

Of all the problems presented by Christianity none is more insoluble than the subject of the “Second Coming” known technically as “The Parousia”.

Christ's false promise of his speedy return in glory.

Matt 24:3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

27-35 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other..... Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, **this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. (see Mark 13; 25-30 Luke 21; 22-33, and Matt. 25; 31-46.)

This prophecy by the Son of God states quite emphatically and specifically that the second coming and the final Day of Judgment etc will be completely fulfilled within the lifetime of the generation then living. 2000 years have passed and there is still no hint of the predicted signs occurring. All the apostles including Paul affirmed that they were living in the last days and were expectant of the immanent arrival of Jesus. This prediction more than anything else gives the lie to Biblical prophecies, if the most specific prophecy has been a lie how can we expect to put our trust in the vague and non-specific ones?

### *5. Of the sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation.*

**The Holy Bible** contains all things necessary to salvation: so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of the faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation.

### *6. Of the Old Testament.*

**The Old Testament** is not contrary to the New; for both in the Old and New Testament everlasting life is offered to mankind by Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and man, being both God and man.

## **Rejoinder**

The Bible which is the bedrock of Protestant Christianity is divided into 2 sections The



Old Testament which was written by a number of unknown authors, it is self-contradictory, historically and scientifically inaccurate and contains many elements of other middle-eastern mythologies, including immoral acts practiced under the command of god Yahweh. It is entirely mythological and contains a few good laws and teachings. It contains nothing good which is not already found in the Hindu Scriptures, and in fact contains a lot worse!

The New Testament was written about 60 to 100 years after the alleged death of Jesus and was a fictional account of a “messiah”. None of this is the literal “Word of God” — if there can be such a thing.

The Bible as we know it today was compiled at the council of Nicaea in the year 325 CE. It was convened by king Constantine and attended by 300 bishops who were called upon to vote on which texts presented were the “Word of God”.

Firstly this article of faith says that the Old Testament also offers eternal life through Christ. This is an absolute lie, as the name of Jesus Christ is nowhere mentioned in the Old testament. There are only vague promises and prophecies of a future “Messiah-King” who will inaugurate a golden era.

If the Bible is accepted as “Word of God” in a literal sense then it should be perfect and absolute. If this be accepted then even one error would disqualify it. Here are some examples of the negative content:—

#### Biblical Absurdities

- Day and night created two days before the Sun. Gen. 3-5
- God the creator thinks that rabbits chew the cud. (Leviticus 11: 6) snakes talk (Gen 3:1).
- The Lord grants speech to a donkey so that she can converse with her master. (Numbers 22; 28)
- God thinks that there are winged creatures having four-legs. Leviticus 11:23
- The Bible validates the existence of **dragons** (Isaiah 27:1) and **unicorns** (Deut. 33:17) and **satyrs** (Isaiah 13:21-22) and the **cockatrice** which is a mythological creature that is the offspring of a cock and a snake, and can apparently turn people to stone (Isaiah 11:8, 14:29)

#### Bible Atrocities and Crimes against Humanity

- The Lord God kills 70,000 men for having been counted in a census. (1 Chron. 21; 1)
- God reveals his holy laws and then curses all those who fail to obey them. (Deut. 28;15)
- Human sacrifice commanded by God. (Lev; 27; 28)
- David sends seven innocent men to be sacrificed to God to stop a famine. (2 Sam. 21;1)
- God's rules of slavery. (Ex. 21;2)
- Daughters may be sold and never freed. (Ex. 21; 7).

- Woman may be captured, raped and kept, then expelled when one tires of them. (Deut. 21; 10)
- God suggests murder & kidnapping as a method of obtaining wives. (Judges 21;7)
- Priests' daughters are to be burnt alive for loss of virginity; (Lev. 21; 9)
- God commands the murder of babies. (Num. 31;18)
- God sanctions the rape of little girls. (Num. 31;18)
- Death for those who follow other religions. (Ex 22; 20)
- God murders 50,070 men for looking inside his box. (I Sam. 6;19)
- God orders complete "ethnic cleansing" and the enslavement of 32,000 virgins; wholesale massacre of the captured women and children. (Num. 31; 1)
- The Lord divides the human "booty" between the warriors and the congregation, and takes a share for himself. (Num 31; 25)
- The LORD directs the total massacre of the population of 60 cities. (Deut. 3; 3 – 7)
- God directs his treasured chosen ones in the genocide of the seven nations of Canaan. (Deut. 7; 1-6)

### References:

Finally top Bible scholar "Professor Bart D. Ehrman" leaves Christianity.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Ln-S7ZraUc&feature=related>

## 7. *Of Original or Birth Sin.*

**ORIGINAL** sin stands not in the following of Adam, but it is the fault and corruption of the nature of every one of the offspring of Adam, whereby man has deviated from original righteousness, and is of his own nature inclined to evil, so that the flesh lusts always contrary to the spirit; and therefore in every person born into this world, it deserves God's wrath and damnation.

### Rejoinder

This pernicious doctrine invented in the 5th century by St. Augustine teaches that as a result of the sin of the first man Adam; all mankind is infected with an inherent, radical, natural depravity. This *infection* is passed down from parents to children and is manifested as lust (concupiscence) and results in death.

Firstly “the flesh lusts always contrary to the spirit”. How is it possible for “flesh” to lust or to desire anything? The body is merely an organic compound of chemicals – it has no sentience of itself. It is controlled by the mind through neural pathways. The Self (*atman*) is consciousness or “spirit”, the lusting and desiring occur with the consciousness which then activates the body to achieve satisfaction. So how can the body lust contrary to the spirit? This is a ridiculous statement.

This foolish teaching is an insult to the divine nature of the soul. Why does God create the soul pure and perfect in His own image (according to Genesis — or is it the body that is the image of god?) and then immediately infuse it into a sinful and corrupt entity with natural cravings which He abhors?

The myth of Adam & Eve was taken from the Jewish Scriptures, and the Jews do not have a doctrine of original sin and there is in fact no sound Biblical basis for it. (Please see the appendix for a discussion on this topic which is the foundation myth of Christianity.)

Hinduism teaches that all sentient beings are emanations of the Divine and through delusion and identification with the body commit acts which are motivated by self-preservation, anger etc. But no one is inherently evil or contaminated.

There seems to be no objective value for “evil” and “good” in the Bible as there is in Hinduism. Evil and good are whatever god says they are. So at one time an evil act may be considered as a righteous act depending on if it is under the instructions of god. In Hinduism there are fixed values of what is right and wrong, for example – all killing except in the case of self-defense is wrong. Mass murder and ethnic cleansing are totally and absolutely evil acts! But in Christianity they are virtuous acts when commanded by God.

Exo 32:27-28 Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: `Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbour. '" The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died.

Deut. 7: 1-6 — ¶ When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations — the Hittites, Girgashites, Ammorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you — and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must *destroy them totally*. Make no treaty with them, and *show them no mercy*.

Josh. 10: 40 — So Joshua subdued the whole region, including the hill country, the Negev, the western foothills and the mountain slopes, together with all their kings. *He left no survivors. He totally destroyed all who breathed*, just as the LORD, the God of Israel, had commanded.

Harming and mutilating defenseless animals is also a completely evil act according to Hinduism, but if commanded by god, then the Christian can do it with impunity:—

Josh 11; 6 — The LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them, because by this time tomorrow I will hand all of them over to Israel, slain. You are to hamstring their horses and burn their chariots."

## 8. *Of Free Will.*

**THE** condition of man after the fall of Adam is such, that he cannot turn and prepare himself, by his own natural strength and good works, to faith and calling upon God. Therefore we have no power to do good works pleasant and acceptable to God, without the grace of God by Christ.

### *9. Of the Justification of Man.*

**We** are accounted righteous before God, only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by faith, and not for our own works or deservings.

### *10. Of Good Works.*

**Although** good works, which are the fruits of faith and follow justification, cannot put away our sins and endure the severity of God's judgment, yet they are pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ.

### *11. Of Works before Justification.*

**WORKS** done before the grace of Christ and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, are not pleasant to God, but they have the nature of sin.

## **Rejoinder**

Martin Luther, the leader of the Protestant Reformation declared SOLA FIDE — through *faith alone* are we saved. Although there are many verses in the Bible that stress the efficacy of faith there are also many verses which stress the necessity for good works and the fact that everyone will be judged by his/her actions and not by faith alone. Again there are verses which advocate faith and good works.

<b>Justification by Works</b>	<b>Justification by Faith</b>	<b>Faith &amp; Works</b>
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Rom. 2:5-11 ..... the righteous judgment of God who will render to every man according to his deeds ....

Eph. 6:8 Knowing that whatever good thing any man does, the same shall he receive from our Lord, whether he be a slave or a free man.

Col. 3:25 But the wrongdoer shall be rewarded according to the wrong which he has done; and there is no respect of persons.

Vide: — James 2:21 Rev. 2:23 Rev. 20:13, Rom. 2:13, 1 Peter 1:17

Mark 16:16. He who believes and is baptised shall be saved; and he who does not believe shall be condemned.

1 Cor 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

Rom. 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith,

Eph 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--

Gal. 2:16, Jas 5:15

Rom. 3:28

James 2:14 Though a man say he has faith, what profit is it my brethren, if he does not have works? Can faith save him?

James 2:17 Even so by itself faith without works is dead.

James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without good works is dead.

The Protestants' belief that one is justified by faith alone is certainly not given the unequivocal support by the Bible as can be seen from the above quotations. The Protestant doctrine that any good works are only considered good if they are done with faith, and that without faith good works are of the nature of sin (article 13 of the Articles of Religion of the Anglican Church) is a monstrous doctrine and easily refuted by Scriptural testimony as well as simple logic.

If good works devoid of faith in Christ are not virtue, then sin is not sin either. It therefore matters not whether non-Christians feed the poor or murder them! If unbelievers are exempt from all moral constraints and then they must be exempt from judgment as well. This is obviously a pernicious doctrine and is itself controverted by Scripture — see Psalm 15 and St. Matthew 25; 31-46.

The ultimate objective statement of what God actually requires of a person is —

Mic 6:8 He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Jesus declares unequivocally that if one has the smallest amount of faith (the size of a mustard seed) one can command mountains to move away and relocate (Matt 17:20) or transplant mulberry bushes in the sea (Luke 17:5). Seeing that no Christian has ever relocated mountains (although the necessity to do so frequently arises) nor transplanted bushes into the sea (universally very beneficial) we can assume that either no believer has ever had even the tiniest degree of faith or that Jesus was exaggerating. If the latter be the case how can we put our faith in the spurious doctrine that faith (no matter how little) will give us salvation. If the physical result of faith cannot be achieved how can we be

certain that the metaphysical result will be successful? One of Martin Luther's more memorable quotations is "reason is the enemy of faith".

Now, is faith really a matter of free-will and personal choice? If you were asked to believe that Homer Simpson is the King of the World. Could you choose to believe this statement? If you were told that your life depended on believing this – could you then possibly believe it? If you were really fearful of your life you may sign a statement of belief, but would this still be accounted to your credit?

### *12. Of Christ alone without Sin.*

**CHRIST** was made like us in all things, except only in sin, from which He was clearly free. He came to be the (sacrificial) lamb without blemish, which by being sacrificed once should take away the sins of the world.

#### **Rejoinder**

Again we ask the question — why does a perfect god need blood sacrifices of animals and humans to become appeased? And seeing that it is not works but "faith" that either saves or condemns — this means that it is a thought-crime which will separate us from God for eternity!

### *13. Of Sin after Baptism.*

Every deadly sin willingly committed after Baptism is sin against the Holy Ghost, and unpardonable. Wherefore the grant of repentance is not to be denied to such as fall into sin after Baptism. After we have received the Holy Ghost, we may depart from grace given and fall into sin, and by the grace of God we may arise again and amend our lives. And therefore they are to be condemned, which say they can no more sin as long as they live here, or deny the place of forgiveness to such as truly repent.

### *14. Of Predestination and Election.*

**PREDESTINATION** to everlasting life is the purpose of God. Before creation itself He promised to deliver from curse and damnation those whom He has chosen through Christ, and to bring them by Christ to everlasting salvation. Those who through grace obey the calling; will be justified freely; and at length by God's mercy they will attain to everlasting joy.

#### **Rejoinder**

This statement itself is full of logical inconsistencies and contradictions. Firstly — if god knew from the beginning those whom he had already chosen then there is no free-will to choose to believe or not. If we require grace in order to believe then to whom is the grace given? To those that he has already chosen!! God is totally partial,

fickle and untrustworthy. What then is the purpose of the charade of human sacrifice, atonement, faith, resurrection etc.?

### *18. Of obtaining eternal salvation only by the name of Christ.*

**THEY** also are accursed that say that every man shall be saved by the law or sect which he professes, so that he be diligent to frame his life according to that law and the light of nature. For Holy Scripture gives us only the name of Jesus Christ, whereby men must be saved.

### **Rejoinder**

Even the Christian are divided on this matter. The Anglican church declares the scripture gives only the name of Jesus as the password to heaven. The question then arises how did all the Israelite patriarchs and prophets get salvation? Abraham, Isaac, Moses, Ezekiel etc. They didn't know the name of Jesus. Homo-sapiens has been around on earth for at least 100,000 years – some anthropologists think 250,000 years.) What happened to all the billions of people who have died during the 98,000 years before Jesus and even after he arrived. Were they all predestined to eternal damnation? Did God suddenly change his mind about the way of salvation? If so what guarantee do we have that he will not change his mind again in the future?

### **The Way of Salvation**

#### **Good Works**

Eze 18:30 "Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offences; then sin will not be your downfall.

Psalm 18:20 The Lord rewarded me **according to my righteousness**; according to the cleanness of my hands has He recompensed me.

Eph 6:8 Knowing that whatever good thing any man does, the same shall he receive from our Lord, whether he be a slave or a free man.

Col 3:25 But the wrongdoer shall be rewarded according to the wrong which he has done; and there is no respect of persons.

James 2:14 Though a man say he has faith, what profit is it my brethren, if he does not have works? Can faith save him?

1 Peter 1:17 And if you call on the Father who is

#### **Faith**

Ga 3:25 Now that **faith** has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.

Mark 16:16. He who **believes** and is baptized shall be saved; and he who does not believe shall be condemned.

1 Cor 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to **save them that believe**.

Jas 5:15 And the prayer of **faith shall save** the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Rom. 3:28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

Rom. 5:1 Therefore, since we have been

impartial and who judges every man according to his works.

[Rev 2:23](#) I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to everyone according to your works.

[Acts 10:34-35](#) ¶ Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and **do what is right**.

justified through faith,

[Gal. 2:16](#) know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.

[Eph 2:8](#) For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-

## 19. *Of the Church.*

**THE** visible Church of Christ is a congregation of the faithful, in the which the pure word of God is preached and the sacraments are duly ministered. As the Church of *Jerusalem*, *Alexandria*, and *Antioch* have erred: so also the Church of *Rome* has erred, not only in their living and manner of ceremonies, but also in matters of faith.

### Rejoinder

This statement is preposterous with the knowledge that the Anglican Church was established by King Henry the 8<sup>th</sup>. The King set up this self-serving church and broke from the Church of Rome in order to gain religious permission to divorce his legal wife Catherine and to marry his adulterous paramour Anne Boleyn. (The King then had this lady judiciously murdered after 1000 days on trumped up charges.)

So once again we are subjected to the quandary — which Christian Church is the one and only correct one? The Catholics? Anglicans? Lutherans? Mormons? Evangelicals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Pentecostals? They all claim to have a monopoly on salvation, so if we wish to become Christians and go to heaven we need to make sure we are on the right train!

## 28. *Of the Lord's Supper.*

**THE** Supper of the Lord is not only a sign of the love that Christians ought to have among themselves, one to another, but rather it is a sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death: the bread which we break is a partaking of the body of Christ, and the cup of wine is a partaking of the blood of Christ.

Transubstantiation (or the actual changing of the substance of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ), cannot be proved by Scripture.

The body of Christ is given, taken, and eaten in the Supper, only in a symbolic manner. And the means whereby the body of Christ is received and eaten in the Supper is Faith.



## Rejoinder

The Catholics hold with *transubstantiation* — the wine and the bread used in communion actually and physically change into the body and blood of Jesus.

The Protestants believe it is symbolically so. Thus the central sacrament of Christianity is cannibalism and “theophagia” (eating god) — in the case of the Catholics it is real cannibalism whereas for the others it is symbolic cannibalism!

We Hindus find this focus on eating the flesh and blood of God to be most repugnant! We offer to the gods sweets, savouries, and fruit which we afterwards take as a sacramental meal — so much more healthy physically and psychologically than eating the symbolic flesh of a human sacrifice!

## ADAM & EVE

I want to write in defense of Adam and Eve. Not that I actually believe in that silly fairy story, but because the whole edifice of Christianity and Islam rest of this fable, which is a story about the greatest injustice in the mythological history! For a moment let's assume that it is true.

Every school child knows the story —Yahweh creates Adam and Eve, leaves them in the garden of Eden with strict instructions not to eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil (why the knowledge of good and evil is not a desirable thing leaves me flabbergasted!). The nasty, wily serpent that lives in the garden then walks<sup>3</sup> over and has a chat to Eve and convinces her to eat the fruit. Eve gives some to Adam, Yahweh then finds out and banishes them from Eden — then you get the whole thing about original sin, etc.

Let's have a closer look at the story. Imagine Adam and Eve in the garden. You probably have an image of a man and a woman, both fully-grown adults. However, this is misleading — they were not fully grown adults in the sense that we understand the idea. Any adult who has grown up in the world today will have spent many years accumulating knowledge and experience — firstly spending a few years as a baby/toddler, then a child, then a teenager and then a young adult — being constantly under the guidance of teachers. Most civilised countries do not permit their citizens to perform a range of activities such as voting, drinking alcohol, getting married, joining the armed forces etc until they are around 18-21 years old when it is generally agreed that the person is mature enough to handle these responsibilities. Not only that, but there are usually laws requiring the parents of such children to look after them and ensure their wellbeing, education and upbringing — this responsibility normally continues until the child is fully grown up. This is because civilised societies know that without those years of experience, a human being is not fit to make decisions for themselves.

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<sup>3</sup> He must have walked because he was later cursed to slither on his belly.

Although Genesis doesn't actually say how long Adam and Eve were in the garden of Eden before they ate the forbidden fruit, there is no reason to think that they didn't do this fairly soon after they were created. Think about it — a toddler at playgroup probably has more accumulated life experience than Adam and Eve had! So what does Yahweh do with these innocent beings? Does he protect them from the obvious danger like any responsible, decent and caring parent? No! He leaves them alone with the cunning and devious serpent that he had previously created, and a tree with delicious looking fruit which was as lethal to Adam and Eve as a vial of cyanide. Poor Eve never stood a chance as it was hardly a fair contest of wills — innocent young Eve with probably no more than a couple of days life experience against wily old Satan<sup>4</sup>, the prince of darkness himself.

Where was Yahweh when this unfair contest was going on? Clearly not in the vicinity as he later comes looking for the couple. Can you imagine the outcry today if a parent left their 18 month old toddler alone with a devious pervert who asks the child: "Would you like some sweeties, little girl?" — knowing that the child is in mortal danger? If any parent deliberately and knowingly did this they would be convicted of cruelty and willful neglect by just about any court in any country on earth. And what does Yahweh do afterwards; does he do what any normal parent would do and rescue the child, offering forgiveness and destroying the dangerous serpent — no, he blames poor Adam and Eve and banishes them from the garden forever, while cursing the snake to crawl on its belly and to eat dust for the rest of life on earth. (Nice one – except snakes do not eat and never have eaten dirt!! — so Yahweh was again deceived.)

It's also important to note that Yahweh promised them death if they ate of the fruit. The snake told them that they wouldn't die. It seems that God again either lied, or changed his mind — but whatever the case may be, it was the snake that spoke the truth.

If I were a lawyer I would find Adam and Eve innocent of any crime and find Yahweh guilty of gross negligence and willful neglect of a child.

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<sup>4</sup> Actually - nowhere in the story (and even the entire Old Testament as far as I am aware) does it say that the serpent was Satan. What it actually says in Genesis 3:1 is "*Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made*". Where does it say that the serpent is really the devil in disguise? Since the fall of Adam & Eve is the exact starting point of Christianity, why would the author leave out such an important point? It would have been so simple to write "Now the Devil, Satan, disguised in the form of a serpent...". Why didn't the author do this? Simple really, because the serpent isn't Satan — merely a crafty talking snake. If the serpent was actually Satan in disguise, why the curse in Genesis 3:14? "*So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life."*" Yahweh is cursing the serpent, not a devil in disguise. Imagine a criminal who robs a bank dressed up as a clown. When he is caught, imagine if the judge's sentence was "all clowns are sentenced to 5 years in prison". This is so obvious but you will never hear anyone in church questioning whether Satan and the serpent are actually one and the same.

It is worth noting in this sad fable that at no point does it say anywhere that this act of "disobedience" by Adam and Eve caused the horrible concept known as "original sin" — the reason Adam and Eve were banished from Eden was "lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever" (Genesis 3:22). Presumably the tree of life and the "Cherubim with the flaming sword" (Genesis 3:24) were removed from the world at some point as they clearly aren't here any more.

The punishment of this nasty god Yahweh was that Adam and all his descendants are cursed to earn their living from the sweat of their brows. And all women will have to go through the pangs and mortal danger of childbirth.

Modern science and technology have mitigated these divine curses. The vast majority of workers today sit in comfortable offices and no longer earn "by the sweat of their brows". And women have the option of epidural injections to alleviate the pain and discomfort of childbirth. So Yahweh's curse has ultimately been reserved only for the poor and the destitute.