

DO WE BELIEVE?

-- JEFF SMITH --

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Karl Marx once said that, "religion is the opium of the people." He propagated a system of government that would have far reaching effects on the entire world. This type of government would be godless, atheistic. Many throughout the following decades would adhere to these beliefs denying the existence of a God in heaven.

Many of our so-called intellectuals and scientists have bought into that belief system fueled by the notion of Darwin's evolutionary theory. Indeed, this belief system has become vogue, the "in thing," "scientific," "truth." Communism is now "out," but atheism has outlived her strange bedfellow.

Is religion (knowing God) only for the simple, little children, or the aged, as Marx and his adherents of atheism would lead us to believe? Can one be an intellectual, a scientist, great leader, or influential statesman and still believe in God and in Jesus Christ?

All of history would give us a resounding YES to the latter question! Those of us who believe in a creator God and His Son, the Savior, Jesus Christ, are in good company. Of course, Christianity is for anyone who would believe, as God is no respecter of persons and freely invites all to Himself for salvation. But certainly the notion of Marx has no merit, for in all history, many of the most notable, brilliant, and influential people have been believers in a supreme being. Some were believers in Jesus Christ as well!

I'll name only a few who believed in a supreme being as the list could fill volumes: Albert Einstein (a hero of the scientific community), Isaac Newton, Blaise Pascal, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson (actually all the US presidents have been believers in God), Leo Tolstoy, Voltaire, Thoreau, Daniel Webster, Michelangelo, Shakespeare, Jonathan Edwards (perhaps America's greatest mind ever), Goethe, Emerson, Plato, Socrates, Churchill, and to quote an unexpected source, yet a great historical figure:

"I know men; and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between him every other person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded his empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for him."
-Napoleon Bonaparte.

Intellect alone will not lead us to a belief in God although a belief in the Almighty God - Creator of heaven and earth does not exclude intellect. Have all these great and notable people been deceived, wrong, and misled? You decide! But remember - a belief in God has tremendous implications...so think deeply!

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lead us to a belief in God**



MEET JEFFREY KROEKER

JAN KROEKER

Jeffrey Benjamin Kroeker was born in Bend, Oregon in 1974. He was home schooled for three years in Cologne, Germany, and was then raised in Bend from 1980 and on. Jeffrey graduated from Mountain View High School, and attended C.O.C.C. for couple of years. He attended the University of Idaho for a year, and it was there that Jeffrey received the Lord. Although he thought he was saved as a young child, he really believed it occurred during his time in Idaho. After Idaho, Jeffrey attended Western Baptist College.

It was there that he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and Communication. He then went on to get his Master's degree in 2010.

Jeffrey married Susan Casad in 1997. They met at Western Baptist and lived in Salem for 1 1/2 years before moving to Bend. He worked with Jeff Smith pouring cement foundations, and then went on to work for United Pipe. He became the manager there in 2001.

Jeffrey and Susan have three children. Jeffrey preaches at our church, and is a blessing to us all.

A DAY IN THE WORD IN REVIEW

CATHY WATSON

Sovereign Grace had an exciting weekend in May when we had our first "A Day in the Word" Bible Conference. About 36 people attended, some from our own church, some visitors from Bend and some from out of town.

The purpose of the conference was to bring Christians together who are of like mind for fellowship and study of the Bible by means of two guest speakers: Don Fowler of Mariner's Reformed Baptist Church in North Bend, Oregon, and Jeff Crippen of Christ Reformation Church located in Tillamook, Oregon.

Don Fowler spoke on the "Doctrine of the Antithesis"- an unfamiliar doctrine which most Christians never heard of, but it is spelled out quite clearly in Scripture. Using Genesis 3:15, Don does an excellent job of explaining the enmity that exists between those who belong to Satan and those who belong to Christ and the implications of it for us.

The topic of Jeff Crippen's messages was "The Temple", that is heaven. By presenting what the Bible teaches, we were challenged to have an accurate understanding of heaven so that we are able to long for rather than fear our eternal destination.

If you missed this opportunity to hear these speakers, or if you would like to hear them again, both series of messages can be heard on the church website: www.sovereigngracebend.com The messages can be downloaded to your computer using the following link: http://www.sovereigngracebend.com/uploads/tx_weesermons/

From my perspective, the conference was a success as each speaker presented Biblical material providing much food for thought, challenging us to love Christ more and to grow in obedience in our daily lives.

July 3
Church Luncheon

UPCOMING EVENTS

ALSO...

TUESDAYS: Prayer Meeting, 6:30 PM

THURSDAYS: Youth Bible Study, 6:30-8:00 PM

FAVORITE recipes

Southern Cornbread

BRIAN BELL

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1/2 cup all purpose flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 egg
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 2 tbsp shortening
- *No sugar

- Preheat oven to 450 degrees.
- Preheat an iron skillet in oven.
- Combine cornmeal, flour, salt and baking powder in a bowl. Stir together.
- Combine buttermilk, milk and egg in a separate bowl. Stir together with fork. Add baking soda and stir.
- Pour milk mixture into dry ingredients. Stir with fork until combined.
- In a small bowl, melt 1/4 shortening. Slowly add melted shortening to the batter, stirring until combined. Add the remaining shortening to the preheated skillet until melted.
- Pour batter into hot skillet. Spread to even out the surface (Batter should sizzle).
- Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until golden brown. Edges should be crispy.