

Light Brings Salt

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Iron Range Bible Church

Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God
"Sanctify them in the truth: Your word is truth."



What is a Biblicist?

Dr Vanhetloo

The following article is an excerpt from a newsletter I get from Dr Vanhetloo who is a retired seminary professor of 43 years. He often has very insightful articles that prompt much thinking. This article is one that describes what I view myself as, a Biblicist, not a Calvinist or an Arminian but one who looks to the text for the ultimate source of truth.

From a reader: Dr. Van: You identified your position as a "Biblicist." One thing I wonder about is that I don't think I've ever heard anyone give a formal working definition of the term. I always knew what you meant by it when you used it, and I have understood my own position in using it myself, but I don't remember ever hearing a formal definition. Just what do you mean when you use the label? Response: I guess what I mean can be briefly expressed as 'accepting as authoritative, information from the Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible.'

In particular, this leaves out creeds and confessions, pagan practices or distortions, cultural preferences, papal or pulpit decrees, and a host of supplemental variations and explanations. It is a deliberate attempt to get back to the direct communication from God, unmolested by man's hands. Or, maybe it could be expressed as the attempt to understand all of God's self-revelations unmixed from human distortions. More simply, it is the endeavor to come to know the mind of God to the exclusion of all else.

It means culturally, that we do not fit conveniently into any denominational pattern of Eastern Orthodoxy, Romanism, or Protestantism. Nor do we want to be identified by the historical variations of positions known as Baptist. We desire to be known more for our active endeavor than for our set conclusions. We do not seek approval for the task (study) or for the results (doctrine) from any earthy person or group of people. We bow only to the Word of God, and expect to stand before God Himself to give account of our endeavor. We do not claim that we have final or absolute truth. We have not "arrived." We consider we are on the right path, the one and only correct path, and encourage others to join us in our dedication to know more assuredly the mind and will of God.

So, let's try something 'formal': A Biblicist is one who accepts without qualification the sixty-six books of the Bible as God's infallible special revelation and endeavors, fully and consistently, to treat that communication as authoritative, all other information from nature or from human minds being but supplemental. We do not correct or try to improve on the 'by-word' revelation God has given mankind. We have adequate extant manuscript material to be reasonably sure of the autographa (much more valid evidences than for other ancient writings). Knowledge of word usage and cultural practices is sufficient to be able to understand God's Word as the people of the day were expected to understand it. The source of our study, thus, does not allow for much variation.

Working with that information culled from the holy Book is not arbitrary. We must

endeavor to emphasize what God stresses, to connect ideas that He shows need to be aligned, to distinguish between symbol and reality, to recognize prophecy and fulfillment. Our work with the Bible is not according to our interests, our preferences, our suppositions, etc., but the desire to conceive of the truth as God would have mankind to comprehend it. Our summaries and constructed statements of truth are human evaluations of the divine, and are not themselves as authoritative as the clear ‘thus saith the Lord.’

Anyone who quotes me as an authority is not functioning as a Biblicist. A man-written theology is never the authority; one may be closer to the truth as revealed by God than another, but no human composition ever approaches the value of the Word. Quoting another Biblicist is not wrong. Rather, it is preferable to quoting one who has accepted evolution or pedobaptism or sprinkling instead of immersion. We quote another, however, not as though a writer is equal with God or authoritatively speaking for God, but out of respect for his proper treatment of the Word of God. The “scholarly consensus” of most denominational writers cannot possibly outweigh the clear evidences in Scripture. We can beneficially use statements and illustrations from Bible believers; we should avoid many of the conclusions and applications of those who have bowed to any form of Baal. For a spiritual feast, discern the source of the food, consider all that is involved in its preparation, and carefully taste to see if any foreign elements have entered the broth.

Chimps Discover New Antibiotic!

Romans 8:20-21

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

When penicillin was first used as an antibiotic, it was considered a wonder drug. Infections which had been fatal for thousands of years were all of a sudden curable.

Man has long known that some natural substances have a natural ability to fight infection. But recently modern medicine had to step aside and acknowledge that not all medical breakthroughs are made by doctors - or even human beings!

For years it has been known that the roots and leaves of the *Aspilia* shrub are used as a traditional African treatment for wounds and stomach aches. Researchers also observed chimpanzees swallowing the leaves of the shrub. This led them to investigate more about the leaves. They learned that *Aspilia* leaves and roots contain a chemical which kills some infectious bacteria as well as fungi and worms. Researchers hope to learn whether this chemical is safe and effective for humans when taken orally.

However, the mystery remains. How did the chimps discover the antibiotic nature of *Aspilia*? We need to look to our Creator, Who appears to have given the chimps this knowledge. For while disease and death is not part of His original design for the creation, He was loving enough to provide medicinal help for these consequences of human sin. But the permanent cure for sin and death began with the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Dear Father, disease and death was not Your plan for the creation, but the result of man’s rebellion against You. Let the wide scope of Your mercy in providing us with some earthly remedies for the results of sin fill me with even greater appreciation for Your boundless mercy and love to as in Christ. In His Name. Amen.

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Gullible Gordon's Pentagon PC

By INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY

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War On Terror: If there are any doubts that political correctness is hamstringing the Pentagon in its fight against radical Islam, look no further than the case of Maj. Stephen Coughlin.

Coughlin, the military's top authority on Islamic war doctrine, was pushed out of the Pentagon, where he worked as an intelligence analyst for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, after a high-level Muslim official protested his making a connection between Islamic law and terror.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England talks with Navy Chaplain Abuhena Saifulislam, left, and Marine Commandant Michael Hagee, right, after the dedication of the Islamic Prayer Center at Quantico Marine Base in Virginia in June 2006.

Hesham Islam, a personal aide to deputy Defense secretary Gordon England, criticized Coughlin for telling a hard truth that could save soldiers lives and help us win the war against jihadists.

But what really set him off, according to Washington Times Pentagon correspondent Bill Gertz, were briefings Coughlin recently prepared for the U.S. military warning that major U.S. Muslim groups were fronting for the Muslim Brotherhood, a worldwide jihadist movement based in Egypt.

Turns out Islam, who was born and raised in Egypt, is heavily involved with one of the groups — the Islamic Society of North America, which U.S. prosecutors last year named an unindicted co-conspirator in a major terror-funding case.

Islam has persuaded his boss England to do various outreach with ISNA, including speaking at its convention last fall, a move that scandalized counterterrorism officials.

Addressing the confab, DOD's No. 2 intoned that "there is no contradiction between the

peaceful religion of Islam and America's values and principles."

Coughlin reached a 180-degree opposite conclusion.

In a 333-page report submitted to the National Defense Intelligence College, he warned that Islamic law sanctions violence. In fact, he wrote that the Quran and other Islamic texts make clear that it is an obligatory requirement for Muslims to wage jihad when non-Muslim forces enter Muslim lands.

"So how does one explain the prevailing assumption that Islam does not stand for such violence undertaken in its name with the fact that its law and education materials validate the very acts undertaken by 'extremists' in Iraq?" he asked, logically.

The mandate to wage jihad is also taught, still, in Saudi school textbooks, Coughlin says, and explains why the home to Islam's holiest shrines is the No. 1 foreign supplier of suicide bombers in Iraq.

"The first 'radicalizing' lesson that Saudi youth receive that motivates them to travel to Iraq and fight coalition forces does not come from 'extremist' groups like al-Qaida," he observed, "but rather is taught as part of Saudi Arabia's standard secondary school curriculum."

Bottom line: "The enemy is driven by Islamic law," he warned — not poverty, lack of education or other socioeconomic factors often used by official Washington and the punditry to blur the demonstrable link between Islamic devotion and terror.

Unfortunately, Coughlin's critical findings were too politically hot for Pentagon brass trying to make nice with Muslim groups at the urging of Muslim aides involved with them. So instead of the aides, he got the boot, which is outrageous but not surprising for Washington.

England is the same PC-addled official we singled out in an editorial in 2006 for dedicating an Islamic prayer center at Quantico (the first in the Marines' history) at

the behest of a Muslim chaplain trained at a radical Islamic school raided by the feds after 9/11.

The chaplain, Abuhena Saifulislam, is friends with Islam and works closely with him on Pentagon outreach projects involving the Wahhabi lobby in Washington.

The first rule of war is to know the enemy and what motivates him. The highest levels of the Pentagon appear to have violated both parts.

To deny the connection between Islamic law and jihad, and exclude it from the U.S. military's enemy threat doctrine, is to deny not only reality, but valuable information that could help soldiers fighting terrorists in the field.

More disturbing, the Pentagon seems to have been infiltrated at high levels by Islamist sympathizers, who are throwing sand in the eyes of decision makers. Some, like England, are already blind, apparently more concerned with political correctness than protecting the nation.

News Note

Debate among American leadership over whether Islam is a peaceful religion or a warring theocracy is like the proverbial observation about Nero fiddling while Rome burns. While politicians, religious leaders and bureaucrats debate among themselves the benefits and problems of Islam in America, Islam moves forward with its plans to occupy and destroy this country. The latest public warning flag is the indictment of former Republican Congressman Mark Siljander as part of a terrorist fundraising ring that was laundering tens of thousands of dollars through the Islamic charity Islamic Relief Agency to al Qaeda. The money was taken from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Recently, the federal government named the Council for American Islamic Relations (CAIR) as an unindicted coconspirator in a case tried in Texas regarding the funding and channeling of charity money to Islamic

terrorists. The government named several Islamic charities in the case. Texas authorities are still trying to capture an Islamist father who carried out his own Honor killings on his two daughters for having boyfriends—Honor killings are often allowed and encouraged by Islamic law. Federal authorities recently thwarted a plan by Islamists to attack Fort Dix in New Jersey. And there are many other arrests and incidents across the United States of Islamists committing crimes or plotting illegal activities.

CAIR has gained stature among the news media similar to that of the ACLU. Anyone who criticizes Islam in America is opening themselves up for bullying by CAIR. CAIR has tried to shut down free speech in America by organizing a sponsorship boycott of talk show host Michael Savage, who is often outspoken and critical of Islam. In this case, however, Savage has turned the tables on CAIR by filing a lawsuit alleging copyright violations by CAIR. Savage recently expanded his suit to charge CAIR with using extortion, threats, abuse of the court system, and obtaining money via interstate commerce under false and fraudulent circumstances.

Savage's lawsuit charges CAIR is a "political vehicle of international terrorism" and even links the group with support of al Qaeda. Islam is trying to colonize and destroy America. People like Michael Savage have no doubt. It is obvious that Islam should not be allowed to exist in America because of its threat to national security. Islam is using the guise of religion and religious freedom to advance its anti-American agenda as part of the world war of Islamic Aggression. In Matthew 24:4, Jesus warned, "Take heed that no man deceive you." America's leadership is deceived regarding Islam. But our leadership is a reflection of our people. Its time to wake up before its too late.