

*In search of...*

# Truth & Right

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## Unitarian/Universalists

First, understand that Universalism as a religion is a belief that all people will be reconciled to God. The New Testament does not teach, nor the Old Testament, that eventually all people will be reconciled to God. Paul said when Jesus is revealed with His mighty angels it will be "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day" (II Thessalonians 1:7-10). John speaks of those who will be in hell: "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable,

and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Revelation 21:7-8).

From the Unitarian Universalists website I found the following. In giving a definition they said that "Universalists said there was no hell. And all individuals are capable of learning what is good." Going on it said "Unitarians believed, and still believe, that everyone has the capacity to learn the right and do what is right. Our tradition encourages us to understand and weigh the religious voices and visions of every place and time in light of our own experience." I found that definition under their "Affirmation of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender People" section. They are very active in supporting legally recognized marriage between

members of the same sex. The last paragraph in Mr. Knapp's article criticizing us gives a practical definition of what they are about: "As a Unitarian/Universalist, I rejoice that I am part of a religious tradition that does not deny the validity of the sexual orientation of gays and lesbians, nor dispute their need for loving relationships, but welcomes them into every aspect of religious life, including membership, leadership and the ministry." - REV. RONALD KNAPP, Visiting Minister, Unitarian/Universalist Fellowship of Yuma

Actually what Mr. Knapp said isn't the half of it folks! When you are welcomed to this caring and open-minded religion that encourages each to seek their own spiritual path it includes fellowship with Pagans, Atheists, Agnostics, Humanists, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews and even some they call Christians. I found that in their "Beliefs Within Our Faith" section. They claim a free faith not bound by a statement of belief. Obviously, any Christian can see that includes the doctrine of Christ which a Christian must not go beyond (II John 9). No friends — no true Christian is a part of this faith! Do you get it? You don't have to believe in God to be one of them! You can be an Atheist! To fellowship Atheists is to fellowship fools (Psalms 14:1).

"And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again" (II Corinthians 5:15).

Their appeal is you can believe whatever "you" desire to

believe. They aren't intent on following what the Apostles gave by inspiration. They have a faith "made for the people" rather than the people changing to fit God's pattern and thus please God not themselves! "But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts" (I Thessalonians 2:4). "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord" (I Corinthians 14:37).

Everywhere in the Bible their philosophy is condemned. The Prophets taught along the same lines and said: "I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts" (Isaiah 65:2). "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). "I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word" (Psalms 119:101).

Their people are not united on God's Word but more so it appears on social things and politics. Compare the following: "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel" (Philippians 1:27). "Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus" (II

Timothy 1:13). "I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:14-17). "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:20-21).

There is no real spiritual benefit in their kind of "faith" — it allows members to fulfill their own carnal desires!

"Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ... Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. ... Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them" (Romans 1:22, 25-27, 32).

Bob Lovelace

# DEAR GOD, I WANNA TAKE A MINUTE, NOT TO ASK FOR ANYTHING FROM YOU, BUT SIMPLY TO SAY THANK YOU, FOR ALL I HAVE.

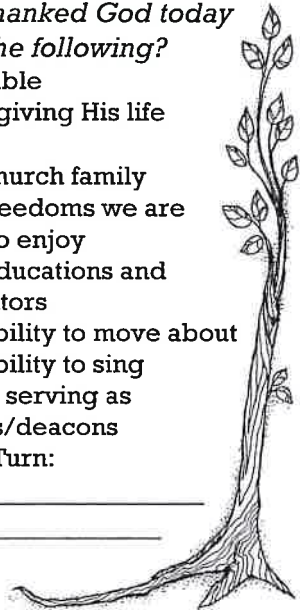
*Have you thanked God today  
for any of the following?*

- The Bible
- Jesus giving His life for us
- Our church family
- The freedoms we are able to enjoy
- Our educations and educators
- The ability to move about
- The ability to sing
- Those serving as elders/deacons
- Your Turn:

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**WELLSBURG CHURCH OF CHRIST**

92 Rose Cottage Lane  
Wellsburg, WV 26070  
304-737-1422

<http://www.truthandright.org>



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# Monthly Challenges

**DIRECTIONS:** *Each first Sunday of the month, we will have challenges that you should attempt to complete by the end of the month. If we all, as members, complete these challenges, our church will grow in spirit and in number.*

## 1) CREATE A PROSPECTIVE CHRISTIAN LIST

**Mark 16:15** *"And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.'"*

Write down names of anyone you think might be open to contact and hand it to the elders, and provide contact information (e-mail, address, phone number, etc.), if available. Some of these interested people might be:

- a) church members' spouses who may not belong to our church
- b) people who have visited in the last 18 months
- c) people who have demonstrated any interest in our congregation
- d) parents of children who attend Sunday School
- e) people you work with or go to school with
- f) people at businesses you deal with on a day-to-day basis
- g) someone new to the neighborhood/new to work or school
- h) teammates
- i) people with similar hobbies as you
- j) members of other congregations (you would be surprised here, especially write down those who talk about God freely and proudly)
- k) anyone and everyone else you can think of

## 2) USING YOUR BIBLE IN THE WORLD

Share the following verses with someone who does not attend this congregation at least twice this month:

**Matthew 6:25-34**

**25** "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? **26** Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? **27** And who of you by being worried can add a *single* hour to his life? **28** And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, **29** yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. **30** But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more *clothe* you? You of little faith! **31** Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' **32** For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33** But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. **34** "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.