

Preacher's Pen points

A Neurological Disorder?



Last week television personality, Bill Maher, appeared on MSNBC's "Scarborough Country" expressing some interesting and disturbing opinions about religion among Americans. Maher affirmed in his interview that we as a nation are "unenlightened because of religion", that "religion stops people from thinking" and that "religion is a neurological disorder". He opined that most people believe in religion because they were scared into believing in Biblical fairy tales, "at pain of death, at pain of burning in hell". Amazingly Maher even affirms that American religious people have more in common with our enemies than we might think, equating the "faith-based initiatives" of Christianity in serving fellowmen with the actions of radical Moslems who flew their airplanes into the Twin Towers.

A Classic Agnostic Ploy!

It is true that religion can be a source of spiritual darkness and brain-washing. It can be a factor in neurological disorders; and there probably are a few parents who seek to scare their children into faith through the means he suggested. However, the true religion of Christ will produce no such thing. Maher uses a classic agnostic ploy—lump all religions together, both true religions and false religions, and attack them as if they were all equivalent. They are not! True Christianity stands out from all false religions on every point Maher raises.

True Christianity is religion that "enlightens".

Those who follow the true religion of Christ know the truth of His words: "*I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life.*" (Jn. 8:12). The true faith of Christ will reveal the best

path for mankind to walk.

True Christianity is a religion that encourages rational thought.

A hallmark of all God's revelation is the rationality of its approach to men: "*Come now and let us reason together, says the Lord*" (Is. 1:18). God presents rational arguments for His existence (Rom. 1:18-20) and calls upon men to test the appropriateness of His commands (Mal. 3:10).

True Christianity is a religion that brings spiritual wholeness.

The real fruit of the religion of Christ is described in this way, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; (Gal. 5:22). What person could reasonably deny that a life with these features is what every man yearns for. If this is neurosis, then call me crazy!

True Christianity is a religion that saves lives not destroy them!

No professing Christian in the past two millennia could rightly justify from the teachings of Christ any slaughter of innocent people in the name of Christ. The truth is, that wherever the faith of Christ has gone there has also gone a giving and sacrificial love that serves humanity, raises up the fallen, heals the sick, restoring men to the dignity intended by their Creator.

I submit that Maher, claiming to be rationale and scientific, makes an "unenlightened" conclusion when he speaks as if all religion was cut from one cloth. True Christianity is not a neurological disorder; it is the only hope of this dark world in which we live!

—Johnny Felker (www.truthchasers.com)