DIVINELY GIVEN FAITH REALLY WORKS

Rob Zins

Th.M, Dallas Theological Seminary, author of Romanism, speaker, debater Director of CWRC.

The first premise of the Christian gospel is that man is a sinful creature and guilty of sinning before his holy and righteous creator. All of mankind is depraved according to the gospel of Jesus. For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). We are all sons and daughters of Adam and Eve. When Adam sinned, sin entered the world and all fell in Adam (Romans 5:12-21). Without the premise of a sinful and corrupt world, there would be no gospel.

The second premise of the gospel of Jesus is that God has taken the initiative to reconcile mankind to Himself through the miraculous incarnation of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (1 John 4:10). In times prior to the coming of Immanuel—God with us—(Matt. 1:23), God spoke in various ways. He revealed Himself through Patriarchs and prophets of Israel (Heb. 1:1,2). He gave Israel His law and sacrificial system through Moses until the long awaited Messiah would come. The Christian gospel teaches that Jesus Christ was that long awaited Prophet, David’s son yet David’s Lord (Acts 2:29-35).

This God/Man Jesus came in a miraculous manner and announced that He was God incarnate sent from the Father to proclaim the gospel of God (John 6:37, 38). After being recognized from on high, “Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well pleased.” (Mark 1:11), Jesus came into Galilee, preaching His Father’s gospel (Mark 1:14).

On more than one occasion Jesus announced that He had come to do the will of His Heavenly Father. He did not come to do His own will but the will of Him who sent Him: “For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me commandment, what to say, and what to speak. And I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.” (John 12:49, 50).

During His earthly ministry Jesus did a lot of things, not all of which were chronicled. John supposes that if everything Jesus did was carefully detailed, the world could not contain the books needed to record it all (John 21:25). We are to be content with what has been written and to strive to understand, faithfully interpreting and applying it to our lives.

This is precisely where the problem begins when it comes to witnessing the gospel of Jesus to those outside of an understanding of God’s revelation to this world. There are many religions vying for the ear of an increasingly secular society. Many of these religions are using the Bible as a basis of their authority. They claim to have sorted out the meaning of the Bible and now come speaking and preaching their understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ. All manner of chaos has broken out since the ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ into heaven. Almost every major religion in the world has had something to say about the gospel of Jesus.

In our debates with representatives of the Roman Catholic religion we have found it particularly frustrating to get them to see what we believe is the heart and soul of the gospel of Jesus.

The problem stems from their understanding of Jesus’ message preached during His incarnation. The life of Jesus is recorded in four testimonies of four different authors—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Each author presents Jesus in a unique way with particular emphasis on an aspect of Jesus. But the accounts are a harmonious blend of history and theology. It is God’s unique way of presenting for us the multifaceted ministry of Jesus.

Like most religious organizations the Roman Catholic religion relies heavily on sayings of Jesus to formulate their version of the gospel.

(Continued on page 4)
You are urged not to despise God’s mercy, will be saved your faith in Christ our Master. So, as Rom. Please, do not depend on anyone else, your torment. There is no other way for anyone to those who reject Jesus will suffer eternal children will dwell forever with God and to work in us to sanctify us to live a more Spirit lives in each of us who believes in Him everyone to repent and believe in him. God’s return to judge the world. God commands (The God-man, John 1:1, 14), was graciously Savior, Jesus, the only begotten Son of God yet God still bestows His love to men God is just, He will punish sin impartially, everything be His word. God has told us the truth about Himself in the word He has given us, the Bible, which He commands us to obey. God is compassionate and just to all. God is pure and Holy; sin is destroyed in His presence. However, we have all sinned, falling short in the evil we do, the good we fail to do. Yet our problem is not just what we do, but also who we are; we are selfish, corrupt, and estranged from God. Because God is just, He will punish sin impartially, yet God still bestows His love to men. So our Savior, Jesus, the only begotten Son of God (The God-man, John 1:1, 14), was graciously sent to suffer and die on the cross for our sins and to purify us from all unrighteousness by the sacrifice of His body and blood. He was born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, and was physically raised from the dead and ascended into heaven. Jesus will physically return to judge the world. God commands everyone to repent and believe in him. God’s Spirit lives in each of us who believes in Him to guide us into truth, convict us of our sin, and to work in us to sanctify us to live a more holy life, pleasing to our Lord. God’s children will dwell forever with God and those who reject Jesus will suffer eternal torment. There is no other way for anyone to come to God except through Jesus (Jn. 14:6). Please, do not depend on anyone else, your own efforts, your religion, but simply put your faith in Christ our Master. So, as Rom. 10:9 says, “That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” You are urged not to despise God’s mercy, but call out to the Lord and trust only in Him. See also Acts 10:36-43

THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the premier issue of the CHRISTIAN ANSWERS NEWSLETTER. This is an exciting moment in the life of this ministry and it is a pleasure to share it with you. We have been working hard for a long time in order to reach the point where a newsletter can be produced and sent out to the public. Finally the Lord has ordained for it to be so.

Larry Wessels

We plan to have each issue packed with information that will be useful to pastors and laymen, evangelists and apologist, preachers and teachers, and anyone who has a zeal for God and a desire to share Christ with a lost and dying world. Since CHRISTIAN ANSWERS has more than 300 audio cassettes, 60 video titles and a number titles and a number of books, pamphlets, and articles, the newsletter will serve as a perfect vehicle to disseminate these materials which would otherwise sit on a shelf somewhere collecting dust.

This news letter, which currently has no subscription price or regular publication schedule, will allow us to reach our readers with events surrounding this ministry. Our readers will get updates on new CHRISTIAN ANSWERS television productions, seminars, lectures, debates, research projects, or anything else this ministry bay be up to.

One final thought, I’d like our readers to know that most of our staff (including myself) are currently employed in full-time secular work in order to support our families and ourselves. This eliminates the need to beg for money or sell junky jewelry or other trinkets in order to raise funds.

Obviously, we would like this ministry to be self-sufficient in paying its bills but trying to squeeze people for money with sensationalistic “emergencies” or “help or else” claims is not our style. The staff here at Christian Answers is simply trying to promote the gospel of Christ, with the means at our disposal, as the Lord leads. God bless you all.

II Timothy 4:1-2.

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN ANSWERS

Our ministry name is derived in part from 1 Peter 3:15 which states, “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” (NIV). This is the goal of CHRISTIAN ANSWERS in an increasingly anti-Christian society here in America and throughout the world.

The Biblical commands to “fight the good fight of faith” (1 Tim. 6:12), to be “set for the defense of the gospel” (Phil. 1:17), to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3), to “be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict” (Titus 1:9), to “put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not” (Rev. 2:2), to “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.” (Matt. 7:15), to “examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good” (1 Thess. 5:21), “with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth” (2 Tim 2:25), to follow the example of Paul and Apollos who “vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scripture that Jesus was the Christ.” (Acts 18:28)

These are but a few of the marching orders for the call to ministry.

The inerrant Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17) whereby the gospel is preached, which is “the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth” (Rom. 1:16), is the weapon or our evangelism. As Heb 4:12 states, “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judgves the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” This is the evangelical missionary methodology of CHRISTIAN ANSWERS— to bring the Biblical perspective to a culture that is completely ignorant of it. To bring Christian truth, Christian answers to those who, as the prophet Isaiah said, have made “lies… and falsehoods” their refuge (Isa. 28:15). To smash lies and falsehoods with the “hammer” of God’s Word (Jer.23:29).

CHRISTIAN ANSWERS utilizes all outreach that God allows us including television, radio, audio cassettes, video tapes, speaking engagements, and printed page. The materials we have been able to produce have been used by churches, Bible teachers, Christian apologists, laymen and others as well as those seeking life in Jesus Christ.

We are not afraid to stand up for Jesus Christ in public forums or wherever the Lord leads. Of course this type of ministry is not for the faint of heart and very often leads to the same type of suffering and persecution that we find in the Book of Acts. But as the old sayings goes, “one life will soon be past, only what’s done for Christ will last,” and as Paul said, “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 3:14). Amen!

Our ministry is “exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code”. Donations to our ministry are tax deductible; therefore those who contribute will receive a donation receipt good on your US income tax. This applies to donations only, not sales. We are legally registered in the state of Texas.
WHITE HORSE PUBLICATIONS

Quite Contrary by Timothy F. Kauffman
A Biblical Reconsideration of the Apparitions of Mary

This book is summed up well by its subtitle: a Biblical reconsideration. Quite Contrary detail Kauffman’s former devotion to the many visions of Mary in the world and his struggle to understand his Catholic heritage, ultimately drawing the reader into his discovery of the Word of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Kauffman tells of the striking contrast between the false gospel delivered for centuries through the apparitions of Mary, and the true Gospel of the Bible. If you have friends or family who are devoted either to ancient or modern Marian visions, Quite Contrary will help you understand the intricate history of the apparition phenomenon, its effect on the development of Catholic Marian dogmas, and how you can minister to those who are in bondage to the apparitions of Mary.

Romanism by Robert M. Zins, Th.M.
The Relentless Roman Catholic Assault on the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Romanism is an intelligent and articulate rebuttal to Roman Catholic apologist Karl Keating’s Catholicism and Fundamentalism. In Romanism, Zins looks beyond the surface differences between the Church of Rome and Biblical Christianity, and strikes at the very heart of the Romanists’ system: the different gospel of indefinite and incremental justification by works. Romanism is recommended reading for all Bible-believing Christians who want to teach their Roman Catholic friends the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who questions the wisdom of the recent Catholic-Evangelical Accord, or who just desire an understanding of the historical Romanists’ system of self justification. Zins’ work is an excellent resource for anyone who desires a deeper understanding of the difference between Romanism and Christianity.

Graven Bread by Timothy F. Kauffman
The Papacy, the Apparitions of Mary, and the Worship of the Bread of the Altar

Graven Bread represents Kauffman’s stunning sequel to his firs work, Quite Contrary. In Graven Bread, he expands on one of the most remarkable teaching of the Catholic Church and the Apparitions of Mary: the worship of the Communion bread. The Christians of the Reformation knew of the practice, and Christians today still object to it, but why has the practice of worshiping the Eucharist been clouded in ecumenical language as if it were only a slight variation of the Christian Communion meal? Kauffman addresses the practice head-on and takes the reader through a surprising sequence of historical and modern-day ‘Eucharistic miracles’ to explain the startling reason why the Papacy and the Apparitions of Mary have been demanding worship of the Eucharist for well over one thousand years.

Quite Contrary...........$7.95*
Romanism.................$8.95*
Graven Bread............$7.95*

*plus shipping and handling: $2.00 for the first book, 35 cents for each additional book to same address (small orders sent 4th class, let us know if you prefer a faster method, shipping may vary).

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of Jesus. There is nothing wrong with this. We do the same. However the severe and insurmountable difference we have with Rome is in the interpretation of the data. This is where the frustration level reaches its zenith when witnessing to a Roman Catholic or debating one of their representatives. Rome finds in the words of Jesus, a performance-based salvation. We find in the words of Jesus the impossibility of a performance-based salvation. Rome’s position is stated clearly by the Council of Trent: “If anyone says that a man who is justified [in Rome, this means Roman Catholic baptism] and however perfect is not bound to observe the commandments of God and the Church, but only to believe, as if the Gospel were a bare and absolute promise of eternal life without the condition of observing the commandments, let him be anathema” (Trent, 6th Session, Canon 20. Brackets and emphasis added).

We read in Matthew that, “From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand’” (Matt. 4:17). Luke expands on the initial stages of Jesus’ public ministry. Upon entering the synagogue in Nazareth, He opened the scroll and began to read from Isaiah 61:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are downtrodden, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.” (Luke 4:18, 19)

We realize that the ministry of Jesus Christ was to set people free from their spiritual bondage. We understand that Jesus came to proclaim the forgiveness of sin and the hope of eternal life. The question that separates us from the Roman Catholic is simply, “How?”

How is one set free? How is one delivered? How is one made a child of a God? How is one reconciled and justified? How is one saved?

Roman Catholicism insists that Jesus has set up a system of grace dispensing sacraments, a system which calls down grace from heaven through the works of men. This grace is said to enable man toward moral improvement. Moral improvement, says Rome, is a condition man fulfills for entrance into heaven. Thus, salvation is conditioned upon obedience to the gospel. Obedience to the gospel, in turn, is conditioned upon receiving the grace of God.

In 1988 John MacArthur, a noted evangelical pastor, wrote a book entitled, *The Gospel According to Jesus*. This book took the Christian community by storm. It attempted to answer the plague of modern evangelicals who were promoting a salvation so divorced from works that fruit was seen as optional in the Christian walk. The issues of MacArthur’s book are analogous to our struggle in presenting the gospel to Roman Catholics. John MacArthur showcased the ethical implications of Jesus’ teaching in order to dislodge those who ere intent on reducing the call of the gospel to bare intellectual assent with no corresponding life change. MacArthur could have borrowed the 20th Canon of the Council of Trent (above) in his diatribe against what he calls, “an insidious easy-believes that makes no moral demands on lives of sinners.”

John MacArthur says this separation of the Lordship of Christ—and the morality demanded by Him—from the gospel of Christ is not the same message Jesus proclaimed. We bring this up because John MacArthur had to walk a fine line between the moral commandment of Jesus on the one hand, and the gospel of salvation through faith alone on the other. We mention this to point out how easy it would be to slip into works salvation while trying to protect the integrity of the Gospel and its life-changing force. We do not believe in his zeal Dr. MacArthur crossed the line. However, Rome has long decided that all moral commands of Jesus are part of a performance prerequisite for eternal life. But in Rome, precious few ever become good enough to actually go straight to heaven, and few are considered so bad as to deserve hell. This is why the erroneous doctrine of Purgatory is so essential to Rome and is viewed by her as God’s graceful provision. Rome clings to its system of a grace-aided, performance-based salvation relying upon the many ethical commands of Jesus, holding out Purgatory as a safety net for those who cannot meet them, and heaven as a reward for those who do.

Rome, thinking this is the true “good news,” perceives a failure in the professing evangelical community to take the moral commands and ethics of Jesus seriously. Rome sees what MacArthur saw: “The gospel in vogue today holds forth a false hope to sinners. It promises them they can have eternal life yet continue to live in rebellion against God. Indeed, it encourages people to claim Jesus as Savior yet defer until later the commitment to obey Him as Lord. It offers false security to people who revel in the sins of the flesh and spurn the way of holiness” (*The Gospel According to Jesus*, pp.15, 16). Rome could have borrowed from MacArthur in its formulation of the 20th Canon of the Council of...
The remedy to this, for Rome is the insistence that we are going to be judged eternally on the basis of how good we can become through the sacraments. John MacArthur, on the other hand, understands the tensions which exist between salvation by faith apart from personal righteousness and the call for personal righteousness inherent in the preaching of Jesus and His apostles. This tension can be highlighted by focusing on one chapter of Scripture. Notice how closely the two concepts are aligned:

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life." (John 5:24, emphasis added)

"Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; those who did the good to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil to a resurrection of judgment." (John 5:28, 29, emphasis added).

How is eternal life to be determined? Is it on the basis of believing or on the basis of doing the good? MacArthur found some popular professing evangelicals who so stressed faith alone that works could not even be considered to be a necessary evidence of regeneration! For these the individual’s bare faith (as prompted by the Spirit of God and not resisted) plus the works produced by God’s grace (again not resisted) as dispensed from the sacramental system. However, this is nothing more than self-salvation. The Roman Catholic is constantly warned to maintain his own salvation through his non-resistance to alleged grace offered through a positive adherence to a system, and to a rigorous cult of religious obediences completely foreign to the Bible (see Gal. 2:16, 21).

The answer we believe to be most biblical, which does justice to the gospel and its life changing effect, is that salvation is by faith alone. However, this faith is not of man, but of God. Furthermore, this faith does not come to man without simultaneously testifying to Christ and His moral commands. To protect the integrity of the gospel, which demands faithfulness to the Lord, is not to summon men to their own self-regenerated faith. Rather, it is to admit once for all that faith is given by God and it therefore produces a fruit of righteousness which cannot be divorced from ethical and moral transformation (Luke 8:15). Faith given by God produces the man who “does the good.” Faith self-generated by man is only filthy rags. Such as these will not inherit the kingdom of God. Faith given by God is not intellectual assent. It is a full confidence in the finished work of God for salvation accompanied by a true desire to please God. The miracle of regeneration is that it produces faith in man that desires to obey after having clutched onto the righteousness of Christ alone as his only hope for deliverance (Titus 2:14).

The gospel of Jesus is to believe on Him. This entails confidence that what He says is true. The heart regenerated by God will produce the good fruit. The evil heart will not (Luke 8:12-14). He whom God gives to Christ comes to Him by the faith given (John 6:37, 65) and he will be raised on the last day (John 6:39). He will have done good by the same faith that was given for his salvation. For if one has faith without works he is lost. It is a faith oh his own. And if one has works without believing the gospel, then he too is lost for they are works of his pride and arrogance. But when, not if, one shows forth God’s gift of faith to him, then he gives evidence of being saved to the uttermost. His confidence is all in Christ and his works are a result of the faith he has been given by God.

We say to the professing evangelical who wishes to divorce himself from serious attention to the moral commands of the gospel of Christ, “No fruit equals no root!” We say to the Roman Catholic who wishes to place confidence in his ability to live rightly through a sacramental system, “No root equals no fruit!” Between these two thieves -licitentiousness and legalism- hangs the Prince of Glory!
A WITNESS IN MEXICO
BY GENE FOJTIK

Christian Answers Associate Gene Fojtik rebukes idols. Photo taken at roadside shrine on toll road between Laredo, Texas and Monterrey, Mexico.

“Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men’s hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat. Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trust in them”

Psalm 115:4-8 (NKJV)

Although the picture shown here was taken as a joke, there is really nothing to joke about. Idol worship in Mexico abounds, as is seen in this roadside shrine or “Capilla” to St. Judas Tadeo, but the country is not void of a witness.

I was privileged over the New Year to ministry in Monterrey, Mexico with friend Randy Marshall to the Roman Catholic community. Although the corruption and deception of the Roman Catholic religious system was enough to give anyone with discernment spiritual nausea, the testimony of the faithful elect shone as beacons of refuge to weary souls trying to row upstream without a paddle. One friend, who broke her final ties with the Catholic Church while we were there, testified of the night-and-day comparison between actual Spirit-filled Christians’ genuine love and passion for God, the brethren, and the Bible as opposed to the dead religion of Rome. The Catholic religion in Mexico seems to be fueled by cold obligatory rituals performed by people absent of the indwelling Spirit of God, a people lifeless like the idols they pray to.

Let us remember, when we make God in our own image we in fact have lifeless god because we ourselves are without life, but when God makes us or conforms us to His own image, the image of His Son, we have a life because in Him is life an life eternal. Please pray for the continued growth of God’s kingdom in Mexico.
THE FATAL FLAW
By James White

“It is to be expected that a spirit of ecumenism prevails in these post Vatican II times. Both Roman Catholics and Protestants fail to understand the true nature of the Roman Catholic religion. Foundational dogmas are often ignored or blurred. False unity, charity and respectability are considered more important than the doctrine of Christ. The Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) reaffirmed every Romish doctrine contested by the Reformers of the 16th century,” – Bartholomew F. Brewer, former Roman Catholic priest, Director, Mission to Catholics, Int’l.

The Fatal Law examines the central issues separating Romanism and Protestant churches. The Roman Catholic doctrines of the Mass and Purgatory are also carefully analyzed from a biblical perspective.


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Special Purchase Incentive: If you order more than $50.00 worth of material you may choose two of the following audio tapes to be enclosed with your order free (Check preferences):
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- Only one Gospel. This incentive also includes a free copy of Rob Zins’ book Romanism

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THE FATAL FLAW

By James White

“It is to be expected that a spirit of ecumenism prevails in these post Vatican II times. Both Roman Catholics and Protestants fail to understand the true nature of the Roman Catholic religion. Foundational dogmas are often ignored or blurred. False unity, charity and respectability are considered more important than the doctrine of Christ. The Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) reaffirmed every Romish doctrine contested by the Reformers of the 16th century,” – Bartholomew F. Brewer, former Roman Catholic priest, Director, Mission to Catholics, Int’l.

The Fatal Law examines the central issues separating Romanism and Protestant churches. The Roman Catholic doctrines of the Mass and Purgatory are also carefully analyzed from a biblical perspective.

LETTERS FROM THE FRONTLINE

Gentlemen:
I have viewed a number of hours of your programs on ACTV [Austin Community Access Television]. I have been informed and strengthened in my faith. Thank you. Please put me on your newsletter list, if I understood correctly that you have one, and I would appreciate a copy of your resource list.
One more thing: probably many besides myself would watch rebroadcasts of your programs, especially the debates. It seems that ACTV has so much “dead time” that could be given over to more rebroadcasts. At any rate, thank you for your time here and all the time you expend in God’s employ.

Sincerely,
K.L., Austin TX

Dear Sirs,
Thank you for having me on your mailing list. I am a orthodox Christian who appreciates ministries which take uncompromising stands for the Gospel of our Lord – including the doctrine of God’s absolute sovereignty in our salvation, yes, even in all things. And thank you for filling my small order. If my financial situation would allow, I would order everything you have – you have lots of good stuff! I will continue to order as I am able. I do wish to pass along a friend’s name for your mailing list. I know he would be very interested in the topics you cover! Thank your very much for your time. Please send another order form.

In Christ,

Dear Christian Answers,
I am glad about your ministry. I am asking you if you could please send me the tape, AC-17, James White vs. Gail Riplinger. I have been waiting to hear this debate for a long time now; RP-39, Angels/ Jesus in the Old Testament with Ron Rhodes; The Catholic Church in the Last Days, with Dave Hunt. I do hope that you will continue to keep in touch with me as you do produce other publications. I really enjoy them and would like to receive any that you put out. Again please keep me on your mailing list and keep in contact with me. Could you please send the tapes to my college address?

In His Love and Service,
J. D.

Christian Answers,
I ran across your name and address while browsing the Internet. I have two relatives who have gotten involved with cults. My aunt is currently a member of the Jehovah’s Witness, and my nephew is a member of the Unification Church (the “Moonies”). Can you send me some resource material on these groups, or refer me to other sources for information? I am looking for ideas with more of a Christian orientation. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
J. R.
New York, NY

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“Give an answer to every man…” 1 Peter 3:15