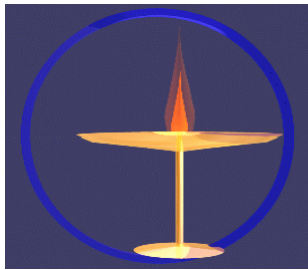


Introduction

What Saith The Scripture



God Is Too Good The Error Of **Unitarian/ Universalism**

a study developed for the Saints of
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There are a lot of groups in our world today that mimic Christianity. If you were to quickly look at some of these cults, externally they seem to be as Christian as the local Methodist, Baptist, or Presbyterian Churches. Yet when you dig a little deeper you find that, in spite of the well-meaning rhetoric, these are groups of lost people trying to re-create that which Jesus has already fully given at the Cross. The Unitarian/ Universalist movement falls solidly into this category.

This article is based on an interview that was made with a Unitarian/Universalist who has been a minister in this sect for over thirty years. I will not give the man's name, nor his place of residency. I intend on preserving his privacy. However, I do want you to know that the following historical perspective and doctrinal positions are truly Unitarian/Universalist, not something that I fabricated. Unitarian Universalists are *not Christians* by their own testimony. The Unitarian Universalist website (uua.org) states:

"Are Unitarian Universalists Christian? Yes and no. Yes, some Unitarian Universalists are Christian. Personal encounter with the spirit of Jesus as the christ richly informs their religious lives. No, Unitarian Universalists are not Christian, if by Christian you mean those who think that acceptance of any credal belief whatsoever is necessary for salvation. Unitarian Universalist Christians are considered heretics by those orthodox Christians who claim none but Christians are "saved." (Fortunately, not all the orthodox make that claim.) Yes, Unitarian Universalists are Christian in the sense that both Unitarian and Universalist history are part of Christian history. Our core principles and practices were first

articulated and established by liberal Christians. Some Unitarian Universalists are not Christian. For though they may acknowledge the Christian history of our faith, Christian stories and symbols are no longer primary for them. They draw their personal faith from many sources: nature, intuition, other cultures, science, civil liberation movements, and so on."

They reject the Biblical and historic person of Christ, do not believe that His sacrifice on the Cross had any validity, and believe that all men will see God *if God can be seen* (whether they like it or not). The Unitarian Universalist website states (uua.org):

"Some Unitarian Universalists are nontheists and do not find language about God useful. The faith of other Unitarian Universalists in God may be profound, though among these, too, talk of God may be restrained. Why? The word God is much abused. Far too often, the word seems to refer to a kind of granddaddy in the sky or a super magician. To avoid confusion, many Unitarian Universalists are more apt to speak of "reverence for life" (in the words of Albert Schweitzer, a Unitarian), the spirit of love or truth, the holy, or the gracious. Many also prefer such language because it is inclusive; it is used with integrity by theist and nontheist members. Whatever our theological persuasion, Unitarian Universalists generally agree that the fruits of religious belief matter more than beliefs about religion—even about God. So we usually speak more of the fruits: gratitude for blessings, worthy aspirations, the renewal of hope, and service on behalf of justice."

Testimony Of A Unitarian/Universalist Minister

The following is an article that was published in the Valdosta Times (Valdosta, Georgia). It is written by a Unitarian/ Universalist minister. BEGIN QUOTE:

"The [Unitarian/ Universalist] association was founded in 1961. It was a merger of the Universalist Church of America and the American Unitarian Association. These two churches had been in discussion about the merger for a hundred years. But it was difficult to bring off primarily because of sociological differences between the two. Universalists tended to be small town, rural and lower middle class. Unitarians tended to be big city, highly educated and middle, upper middle class.

There was a joke told by one of our greats of the last century, Thomas Starr King. He was a Universalist minister who was called to be minister of Unitarian Church in San Francisco back during the Civil War. He is one of two people who are in Congressional Hall of Fame for being credited for keeping California out of the Civil War. King said once, the difference between Unitarians and Universalists is that Universalists believe God is too good to damn all men. And Unitarians believe they are too good to be damned. Theologically there was probably some truth to that.

Universalists started out in the late 19th century as a response to Calvinism. They believed in universal salvation. The original Universalist theologians believed there would be some time spent in hell, but ultimately no matter how bad you were you would be brought back to the bosom of God. The more radical Universalists believed that all human beings would be brought to God quickly.

The Unitarians came from much older stock There are lots of examples of unorganized Unitarians throughout history leading back to Arias. It was an early heresy that

held Jesus was fully man, and therefore, could not be fully God.

They were originally called Unitarians in Transylvania, which is now part of Romania, but was part of the Austrian Empire. Transylvania is better known for Dracula and vampires, none of whom were Unitarians. Dracula actually never set foot in Transylvania.

The Unitarians trace their heritage back to that time because in 1568 the king of Transylvania, John Sigismund, was converted to Unitarianism by his court preacher, Francis David. David had begun as a Catholic priest and had gone through the Lutherans and the Calvinists and come finally to the Unitarian position, and not finding any mention of the Trinity in the Bible, decided that God was one. Because of his own spiritual pilgrimage he had paid very dearly for being a disbeliever in whatever the establishment believed in.

He persuaded the king not only to be Unitarian, but also to issue an edict of toleration. For about seven years there was complete religious toleration. That was extremely rare in Europe. The word Unitarian was first used in a pejorative sense.

The American Unitarians actually don't have direct roots to that time. The American Unitarians go back to the Pilgrim days. What they were originally were non-creedal, as we are today. They were non-creedal because they all knew each other's beliefs. If anyone said something unacceptable, they would take him down to the border of Rhode Island and dump him over.

America became a nation and became more sophisticated and new ideas of revolution were stirring - intellectual revolution. The same things that led to the American Revolution led to a change in those early congregational churches in terms of freedom of belief and moving away from Calvinism.

It came to a head about 1805 when a liberal Christian was given the most prestigious seat at Harvard Divinity School and there was a big ruckus. The conservatives tried to force his ouster. They lost and formed Andover Newton Theological School.

About the same time, the more conservative people tried to force their congregations to toe the theological line. They made the mistake of not counting noses. They actually voted if you could be a member or not and they voted themselves out of membership. The Unitarians were forced into existence against their will between 1805 and 1819, church after church. Then they organized a denomination in 1825, but a majority of the churches refused to join because they didn't trust this new denomination not to do the same thing with them and try to force them into some proper belief.

Like Transylvania Unitarians, they held that each individual had the right to read the Bible for himself and decide for himself. The very early Unitarians were biblical literalists. Biblical literalism did not survive, but the idea that the right of individual to believe for himself did survive.

In Transylvania today, the church is clearly Christian, persecuted by the Communist government. In America

today, the Unitarian/ Universalist church is not a Christian church. It does contain Christian members. We have moved beyond that to recognize the validity of all world religions, the possibility of wisdom coming from any world religion [underline mine] as well as secular Sources. That takes us out of the explicitly Christian sphere. The center of our spectrum is humanism. END QUOTE

Response To The Unitarian/ Universalists

The Unitarian/ Universalist Association is, because of their own scant doctrinal structure, nearly impossible to offer a defense against. If you ask a UUA member what they believe in, their mere reply will be "I believe in God". The Bible has a reply for such a little belief:

James 2:19-20 "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"

The Bible makes it clear that scant belief in only God ("Yeah, I believe there's a god") is useless in our Father's eternal plan of redemption. The Unitarian/ Universalist Association cannot be called, even by the greatest stretch of the imagination, neither Christian nor a Church. If they were to fall under any classification, the best that you could hope for would be a "humanitarian mission". To be perfectly frank, though, they are not hypocritical in what they believe. They do not claim to be either Christian nor Church, but a group of people who support universal love and acceptance, believing at the same time that God accepts all men regardless of their actions. As

one of their preachers states, They believe in universal salvation.

1. The UUA does not believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God. The Unitarian Universalist website states (uua.org):

"We do not, however, hold the Bible-or any other account of human experience-to be either an infallible guide or the exclusive source of truth. Much biblical material is mythical or legendary. Not that it should be discarded for that reason! Rather, it should be treasured for what it is. We believe that we should read the Bible as we read other books (or the newspaper) - with imagination and a critical eye."

We also respect the sacred literature of other religions. Contemporary works of science, art, and social commentary are valued as well. We hold, in the words of an old liberal formulation, that "revelation is not sealed." Unitarian Universalists aspire to truth as wide as the world-we look to find truth anywhere, universally.

They believe it to be a collection of history and teachings that belong to an ancient people. They feel that the Bible has no more validity than any other ancient writing, and that no special revelation from God was applied toward the Scripture. The Bible is just a book. An old book with value only because it shows how the ancients lived, but just a book.

To the Christian, the Bible is more than "just a book". Orthodox Christianity historically has accepted the Bible as the inspired Work of God, God's Word to man. The Bible is more than just a collection of ancient writings, a

history of people in times past with little or no connection to the present. It is a living Word, as applicable today as it ever was because of the Infinity of it's Author.

Just as we use a twelve inch ruler as a standard to measure three dimensional items, Christians use the Bible as a guide to measure a fourth spiritual dimension. We use that "Book" as a guide on how to live. We enter Eternal Life believing that the words recorded in it are truly the promises of our Lord Jesus. The UUA rejects this standard, and in so doing follow a moral ethical code based on "majority decision" amongst it's members.

When you ask a Christian, "Why is it wrong to steal?", he will tell you, "Because the Bible makes it plain that it's a sin". If you ask a UUA member the same question, the response you'll likely get is "Most people know that it's wrong", or "Because all world religions condemn it", or "Because it is against my conscience". Theologically I prefer the ruler that states, "Because the Bible makes it plain that it's a sin". Why? Because saying this, to me, is the same as saying "God says it's a sin", and I know such a Ruler cannot be wrong. If I go by common consensus, or by conscience, I cannot guarantee the result will be so righteous.

Common consent and conscience has allowed the abortion of millions of "unwanted babies" in America every year - around 4000 babies aborted each day. Is this God's standard? No, but it is the popular one. Common consent and conscience allowed the murder of 6 million Jews (along with millions of other who were non-Jewish) in Nazi concentration camps during World War 2. Is this God's standard? Absolutely not, but it was commonly

accepted at that time. Common consent in the Babylonian era allowed for genocide and mass rape. Common consent among the Canaanites allowed for child sacrifice. Common consent led to the mass murder of Christians in the Roman era. Common consent and the human conscience has led to some of the vilest forms of evil in human history, and this warped ruler is that which led God to flood the earth thousands of years ago, killing all but eight souls. Frankly, common consent and conscience scares me if it's divorced from the Word of God. How about you?

2. The UUA believes that Jesus was only a man, born just like all other men. The Unitarian Universalist website states (uua.org):

"Classically, Unitarian Universalist Christians have understood Jesus as a savior because he was a God-filled human being, not a supernatural being. He was, and still is for many UUs, an exemplar, one who has shown the way of redemptive love, in whose spirit anyone may live generously and abundantly. Among us, Jesus' very human life and teaching have been understood as products of, and in line with, the great Jewish tradition of prophets and teachers. He neither broke with that tradition nor superseded it."

Of all the teachings of the cults, the one that says "Jesus was just a good Teacher" is perhaps the most difficult to reconcile. In his epic work **Mere Christianity** Dr C.S. Lewis stated:

"A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things that Jesus did would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic, on a level with

the man who says that he is a poached egg, or else he would be the devil of hell. You must make your own choice. Either this was and is the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse.."

Jesus was, as attested by the Scriptures, completely without sin. **God the Father recognized that Jesus was unique, His only Begotten Son:**

Mark 1:9-11 (KJV) "And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. {10} And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: {11} And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

God the Father attested to Jesus Christ as God the Son. The UUA do not believe that God is Triune, therefore they ignore Scripture that clearly establishes the Doctrine of the Trinity:

Mark 9:7 (KJV) "And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him."

Jesus Christ was worshiped, but more than this, He *received worship*, something that only God should do:

Mark 5:6-7 (KJV) "But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshiped him, {7} And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus,

thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not."

Was Jesus *mere man*? No, He is both *fully God and fully Man*, the manifested Member of the Godhead. Jesus *voluntarily* went to the Cross for us (Philippians **2.1-11**). He is and has always been co-existent and co-equal with God the Father and the Spirit. The Bible teaches that:

| | God Is | Jesus Is |
|---------------|--|--|
| Creator | Genesis 1:1 (KJV) "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." | Ephesians 3:9 (KJV) "And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:" |
| Redeemer | Isaiah 47:4 (KJV) "As for our redeemer, the LORD of hosts is his name, the Holy One of Israel." | Galatians 3:13 (KJV) "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:" |
| Self Existent | Exodus 3:14 (KJV) "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." | John 8:56-58 (KJV) "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. {57} Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? {58} Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am." |

| | God Is | Jesus Is |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Returning To Save Israel | Zechariah 14:4-5 (KJV) "And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. ... and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee." | 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 (KJV) "Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you. {12} And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: {13} To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints." |

The continuation of our universe depends on the **immutability and omnipotence of Jesus Christ**. He is not just *another Prophet*, but He is God, very God or very God.

Colossians 1:16-17 (KJV) "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: {17} And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

Hebrews 1:3 (KJV) "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the

right hand of the Majesty on high;"

Science does not *establish law*, but through *repeatable observation* recognizes God's Divine Law of Nature. Jesus holds the universe together. He is, so we are! Because Jesus controls all of nature, He has established boundaries in nature such as the law of gravity. The universe and its natural laws will not always exist:

2 Peter 3:10-12 (KJV) "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. {11} Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, {12} Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?"

But while we are in this life the truth that Jesus *never changes* keeps our universe stable (Hebrews 13:8).

The Bible makes it very clear that Jesus is both fully sinless Man and fully God, Virgin born, who died for our sins and rose again on the third day for our continued salvation. Any belief less than this is heretical!

3. The **UUA rejects the Biblical concepts of Heaven and Hell**, and in this sense they follow the teachings of the ancient Saducees. Since they reject the teachings of Heaven and Hell, they **also reject the idea of salvation**

and sin. They believe that this life on earth is the only chance that anyone will get, that there will be no other opportunities at life after you die. When you die, you just are no longer anywhere.

Of all the teachings of the UUA, I find the teaching that there is no afterlife the most disturbing. I am reminded of an old song at this moment, I can't remember it's title, but it had a line in it that went:

**I pray that there's a Heaven,
but I know that there's a Hell.**

The UUA member feels that a loving God created man with a finite life span and, placing him on this earth, will guide him to find whatever heaven or hell he will make for himself in this life. The UUA position paints a picture of a one dimensional God with one operating trait (love).

This is a far cry from the Father that Jesus knew. Our Lord preached more about hell than any other New Testament writer. He spoke of Hell directly fifteen (15) times, alluded to Hell as "Outer Darkness" three (3) times, and ten times preached about a final judgment where the wheat (the Children of God) would be separated from the chaff (the unrighteous or unsaved). He always concluded these sermons by describing how the wheat would go to life everlasting whereas the chaff would be cast into Hell where there would be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Of course, if you believe the Bible is no more than a "Book" of ancient tales you're pretty safe. That is, unless

you stop to think about it. Is it possible that a God as Loving as the UUA believes in would allow a Hitler to escape punishment for snuffing out millions of lives? Sure, the maniac killed himself. But was this really a just punishment for causing so much unrepairable damage? What about Hitler's victims? Do you think they got a fair shake at creating a "Heaven on earth"? What about the little children and babies he had destroyed? Perhaps that's too far away, too much ancient history to impress you. Well, what about the O.J. Simpson trial? If O.J. didn't murder the wife of his children, then who did? Did that person get away with murder? No, my friend. I believe that there's a Heaven, but I KNOW that there's a Hell. There is no way that a kind, loving Heavenly Father would allow such horror to go unpunished.

4. The UUA rejects the idea that God is Triune in Being. They reject the idea that God is One in Three Persons, Father, Son, and Spirit.

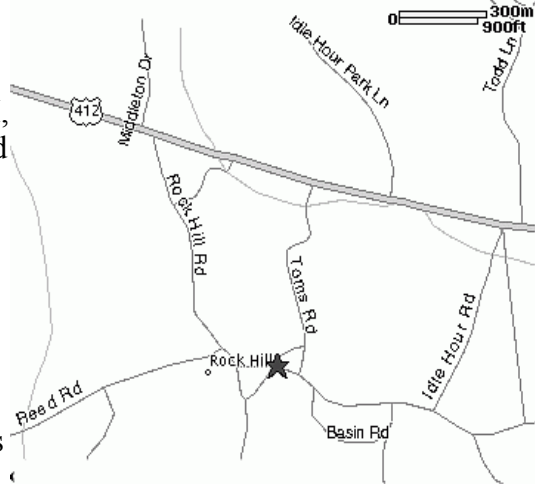
Again, the Bible makes it plain that God is Triune in Being. Just because the word "Trinity" isn't in the Bible is no reason to disbelieve the doctrine. The word Christmas isn't in the Bible, neither is Rapture, Hypostatic Union, Christophane, Inerrant, Canon, Doxology, or any one of a hundred other words that Christians developed to help convey evident Scriptural Doctrines. But the fact of the Trinity is clearly shown in Scripture.

Rock Hill Baptist Church is located between Parsons and

Lexington, Tennessee, on Highway 412. Look for our sign! We have services on

Wednesdays (Adult, Youth, and children's Bible studies) at 7:00 PM, Sundays at 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Rock Hill is a family oriented Bible believing Church - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! Our Pastor, Brother David Buffaloe, will answer any questions you have about our

Church if you contact him at 731-845-6104, or through his website at bibleteacher.org; or e-mail him by writing webmaster@bibleteacher.org. Rock Hill is an independent Church affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention, and is a regular contributor to missions through the Cooperative Program.



| Attributed To God The Father | Attributed To The Holy Spirit | Attributed To Jesus Christ |
|--|--|--|
| He alone is the Savior: Isaiah 43.10-11 | He is the Savior: Matthew 1.20-21, Phillipians 3.20-21 | He is the Savior: Matthew 1.20-21, Phillipians 3.20-21 |
| He alone Indwells His people: Zechariah 2.8-11 | He Indwells the Church age Believer: 1 Corinthians 3.16 | |
| | He is called God: Acts 5.3-4 | |
| He is called the Alpha and Omega: Revelations 21.4-7 | | He is called the Alpha and Omega: Revelations 22.12-16 |
| He is Self Existent: Exodus 3.13-14 | | He is Self Existent: John 8.56-58 |
| The Trinity created the earth and populated it: Genesis 1.26-27 | The Trinity created the earth and populated it: Genesis 1.26-27 | The Trinity created the earth and populated it: Genesis 1.26-27 |
| The Trinity discouraged the Tower of Babel: Genesis 11.5-8 | The Trinity discouraged the Tower of Babel: Genesis 11.5-8 | The Trinity discouraged the Tower of Babel: Genesis 11.5-8 |
| All Three Members of the Trinity are clearly shown in Scripture: Isaiah 48.12-16 | All Three Members of the Trinity are clearly shown in Scripture: Isaiah 48.12-16 | All Three Members of the Trinity are clearly shown in Scripture: Isaiah 48.12-16 |