

CRITICS OF CHRIST

Luke 23:1-3 ... "Then the whole multitude of them arose and led Him [Jesus] to Pilate. And they began to accuse Him, saying, 'We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ, a King.' Then Pilate asked him [Jesus], saying, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' He [Jesus] answered him and said, 'It is as you say.'"

If you have been alarmed by public voices who condemn our God and say the Bible is a lie, do not panic. This has been going on throughout history and it was all prophesied in the Bible. The Bible is full of predictions about the end times, and what we are seeing today is a fulfillment of prophecies. Remember, not a single prophecy in the Bible has ever been proven incorrect, while hundreds of them have already been fulfilled. It is indeed sad and hurtful when our God is criticized and when the teachings of Christ are mocked. But it is wrong to use your anger to condemn those who condemn God.

Compared to eternity, your stay on earth is brief. You were born into a sinful world and you are surrounded by sinful people. When people condemn God, they are also condemning you. Over my lifetime, I have had people call me stupid for believing in God; one even called me retarded. It is the nature of Satan to stir up people against us in hopes of breaking us down and to convince us to turn against God. If you retaliate and call your accusers names and attack them in the same manner, you become like them; hateful, mindless, and unkind. That is not the response God expects of us. We are, instead, instructed to pray for our enemies and be kind to them as we have opportunity. This is not easy, but it is required. The Bible refers to this as turning the other cheek...when someone slaps you on the face, turn and allow them to slap you again. Your silence and unwillingness to fight back, is more humiliating to them than anything you can say or any punch thrown.

There is a positive aspect of the growing attacks on God. They clearly separate us from the world. The more you believe in God, the less attached to the world you become. The more you are hated, the more comfort you receive from Christ. The more you are ridiculed, the more your faith in God grows. This atmosphere of hate, also helps us identify the line between good and evil. If everyone, including unbelievers, were people of love, compassion and tolerance, it would be more difficult to see the difference between Godly and ungodly people. We might fall into the trap of believing that everyone is good, which is definitely not the case.

Today's scriptures demonstrate how we are to respond to our accusers. The charges against Jesus were lies, but he said nothing. But when Pilate asked Jesus if he was the king of the Jews, he answered truthfully without hostility or disrespect. Look with anticipation to your heavenly reward. It is far more valuable than any fight or argument you might get into with an unbeliever. When you fight with losers, you become like them. Celebrate your salvation and honor God in every response to your accusers.

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