

## **Losing My Religion: Conclusion**

**By Glenn Lambdin**

The last two weeks I have shared how I have lost my religion. I have stated how I can no longer believe that there are any writings that are truly the inerrant and infallible works of God. I have stated that I believe there is no legitimate evidence that proves that God authored any holy writing and that the practice of fundamentalist religions, as defined, has been a plague on mankind as evidenced by millenniums of heinous acts inspired by religious beliefs. Frankly, I believe there is far more legitimate evidence that shows that these holy works were written by the hands of man and selectively compiled, manipulated, and packaged by political and religious leaders in an attempt to control the masses.

I certainly don't want to take anything away from or minimize the loving acts of faithful worshipers. In fact, if it wasn't for the generous believers of St. Rita's Church in Sierra Madre, my mother and her family would never have made it to America from Nazi Germany some sixty years ago as displaced citizens. And I don't believe an endless supply of good deeds by believers can atone for a single atrocity performed in the name of religion. I also believe it is important to recognize that great deeds of sacrifice and loving acts of kindness are and have been routinely given to the world by non-believers for no other reason than their love for humanity. Kindness is universal and is experienced equally outside of religious belief.

As I mentioned two weeks ago, I am now a heretic because I can no longer logically believe in the historical doctrines of a faith that I followed for twenty years. What I am not, though, is an atheist. I now believe that God is far greater than the god these ancient holy scriptures created. I believe the real heresy is found in the text of these scriptures that try to humanize and define the Almighty. I believe these textual attempts to define God has minimized and reduced him to little more than a tyrannical war-monger ready to send the majority of mankind to a place of eternal suffering for nothing more than being perfectly human. God, I believe, is far greater than that.

A few years ago, I heard a comedian, John Fernandez, at the Ice House in Pasadena. During his routine, he threw out the statement, "If there is a God, than God is God." For me, this was profound and still resonates in my ears. It said everything that we can possibly ever or fully understand about God. It said it all.

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