

Losing My Religion: Part 2

By Glenn Lambdin

Let me say that in this series of articles it is not my intention to attack any specific religion or cause anyone to feel the need to defend their religious belief. Also, it was suggested that I define "fundamentalism." Therefore, according to Wikipedia: **Religious fundamentalism** refers to a "deep and totalistic commitment" to a belief in the infallibility and inerrancy of holy scriptures, absolute religious authority, and strict adherence to a set of basic principles (*fundamentals*), away from doctrinal compromises with modern social and political life

As I mentioned last week, I have lost my religion. So where does that leave me? It leaves me finding myself going back to the concept of logic and reason and how that plays into our existence as humans. Logic and reason seem to be the golden stitch that connects the universe and keeps it in perfect order. In our Western societies, we demand logic and reason in all things; our governments, laws, schools, medical care, to name just a few. We demand it in all things except in our religions. Religion, it seems is the one place where we can totally ignore logical and reasonable thought and justify our actions and behaviors regardless of our absolute departures from critical thought.

For many, we allow inherited religious beliefs to mold our behaviors in matters of ultimate importance. Some ancient self-proclaimed prophet claims that we must behave a certain way, including acts of violence on others, and the religious faithful obey. Our religions have embraced deranged tribal hatreds and ancient ignorance that have been canonized and passed down to us as if they were universal truths. Millions are willing to die for these beliefs and millions more are willing to kill for them. How many women, wives, and daughters are being abused because some religious text allows their abuse?

The religious faithful are willing to accept the absolute impossible by simply saying, "I believe in miracles." Imagine some TV evangelist insisting he or she spoke with a donkey. We would say that person is crazy. But how many of us believe that some ancient desert dweller was able to converse with a donkey as written in our holy scriptures? It doesn't fly in the face of logic. And just glossing over it by saying it was a miracle really does nothing more than place a seal-of-approval on a myth that is incompatible with reason. Simply put, donkeys can't talk! But I guess if you can believe they can, then I suppose it's easier for me to understand why religion is among the main causes of armed conflict on this planet. I guess it also makes it easier for me to understand why many of the most monstrous and heinous acts against humanity have been inspired by religious beliefs. Even today, we are killing one another over ancient writings that someone convinced us were actually written by God. Millions of innocent humans are dead without a shred of evidence that even a single drop of the writer's ink came from the Almighty.

The events of Sept. 11, 2001 saw the Western media portraying the men who hijacked the planes and killed thousands of innocent people as crazed lunatics and cowards. In fact, these men were neither. What these men were was faithful. Men of faith - faithful to the ancient writings and hatreds that have been passed down to them. Writings that lack any evidence of God's involvement.

Perhaps my god is logic and reason.conclusions to follow next week.