



OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works” Hebrews 10:24

JULY 16, 2006

YOU NEVER KNOW

On May 5, 1818 a Jewish family in Trier, in the Rhineland region of Germany welcomed their son into the world. The new child’s father was an attorney and had descended from a long line of rabbis. But being a committed Jew living in Germany during that era he found it very difficult to feed his family since the authorities would not allow him to practice law. Eventually the father joined the official denomination of the Prussian state, Lutheranism, which accorded him advantages, in addition to providing for his family.

But what was the real cost of that fateful decision of abandoning the faith held by his ancestors? Part of the answer might

lie in the choices his impressionable son would make a few years later as a college student.

In his early youth the son had become a believer in Christ and astounded many with his grasp and abilities to convey his convictions to others. His first known work was entitled "Unity of believers in Christ according to the Gospel of John 15:1-14. Unfortunately, soon after receiving of his high school diploma and entering university, something very mysterious happened, he had become a zealous atheist. In one of his verses, the young man wrote: "I long to take vengeance on the One Who rules from above."

This man had formulated in his mind that religion is an expression of material realities and economic injustice. Thus, problems in religion are ultimately problems in society. Religion is not the disease, but merely a symptom. It is used by oppressors to make people feel better about the distress they experience due to being poor and exploited. In summary of religion he referred to it as the “opium of the masses.”

While he addressed a wide range of issues, he is most famous for his analysis of history in terms of class struggles, summed up in the opening line of the introduction to the **Communist Manifesto** which he co-wrote a year before the European Revolutions of 1848. Many today still align themselves with the philosophies of this grandson of a rabbi and refer to themselves as “Marxist.” Yes, Karl Marx, the renowned defamer of our

Lord and social revolutionary might have been swayed from positive religious convictions because of the life his father had modeled for him years before.

NEVER COMPROMISE

Even though Karl Marx’ father was a Jew I believe we can draw some practical Christian principles from the above discourse. As parents we need to be aware of the little scrutinizing eyes because our offspring yearn to mimic the actions of the adults in their lives.

Deuteronomy 6:7 "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Ephesians 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Our children know, or will soon find out, if we stay late at work and miss a Wednesday night Bible class or two. They might even start asking questions if we feel pressured to take a job that will require us to be absent on a few Sundays. Economic pressures have been around for centuries and many of us find ourselves in some dire circumstances just trying to make ends meet.

Matthew 6:25-34 "Therefore I say to

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Oak Grove
Church of Christ

(502) 749-9209

Sunday

Bible Class:

9:30 AM

Morning Worship:

10:30 AM

Evening Worship:

6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class:

7:30 PM

Evangelist:

Bruce J. Dehut

Home Bible Studies Available
Upon Request

you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 "Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 "Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? 28 "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 "and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 "Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 "For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Our children may not grow up in the same fashion as Karl Marx and influence millions of people to rebel against religion. But their own precious soul is worth us striving not to cause them to stumble and exemplifying the spirit of Christ in our own lives.

- Bruce J. Dehut

THE ATHEIST AND THE BELIEVER

Author Unknown

There's a little old Christian lady living next door to an atheist. Every morning the lady comes out onto her front porch and shouts "Praise the Lord!"

The atheist yells back, "There is no God".

She does this every morning with the same result. As time goes on the lady runs into financial difficulties and has trouble buying food. She goes out onto the porch and asks God for help with groceries, then says "Praise the Lord".

The next morning she goes out onto the porch and there's the groceries she's asked for, of course she says "Praise the Lord".

The atheist jumps out from behind a bush and says, "Ha, I bought those groceries - there is no God".

The lady looks at him and smiles, she shouts "Praise the Lord --- not only did you provide for me Lord, you made Satan pay for the groceries!"

A HEARTFELT FAITH

"Let no one hence infer that we are opposed to feeling. God forbid! A religion without feeling is a body without a spirit. A religion that does not reach the heart and arouse all our feelings into admiration, gratitude, love, and praise is a mere phantom. But we make feelings the effect and not the cause of faith and true religion. We begin not with the feelings, but with the understanding: we call upon men first to believe, then to feel, and then to act. The gospel takes the whole man – the head, the heart, the hand; and he only is a genuine Christian who believes, feels, and obeys from the heart the whole mould of doctrine delivered to us by the apostles."

Alexander Campbell, Millennial Harbinger, Volume 10, 1830, page 12

WORDS OF DYING ATHEISTS

by Kent E. Heaton Sr.

as originally published in the November 14, 1999 edition of The Trenton Bulletin

Caesar Borgia: "While I lived, I provided for everything but death; now I must die, and am unprepared to die."

Thomas Hobbs: "I say again, if I had the whole world at my disposal, I would give it to live one day. I am about to take a leap into the dark."

Thomas Payne: "Stay with me, for God's sake; I cannot bear to be left alone ... O Lord, help me! O God, what have I done to suffer so much? What will become of me hereafter?"

Sir Thomas Scott: "Until this moment I thought there was neither a God nor a hell. Now I know and feel that there are both, and I am doomed to perdition by the just judgment of the Almighty."

Voltaire: "I am abandoned by God and man; I will give you half of what I am worth if you will give me six months' life." (He said this to Dr. Fochin, who told him it could not be done.) "Then I shall die and go to hell!"

Robert Ingersoll: "O God, if there be a God, save my soul, if I have a soul!" (Some say it was this way: "Oh God, if there be a God, save my soul if I have a soul, from hell, if there be a hell!")

In the last century, a well-known atheist was riding with Alexander Campbell in a buckboard. As usual, they were discussing atheism. Campbell's visitor pointed to an ox grazing in the nearby field, and said: "I have no more fear of death than that ox." To which Campbell replied: "And no more hope, either."

THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

Sunday Morning Service

Announcements: **J. O. Smith**

Song Leader: **Steve Smith**

Opening Prayer: **Jr. Stout**

Lord's Table: **Brandon Yates
Larry Runner
Randall Alford
Robert Hood**

Scripture Reading: **Mark Sharp**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Closing Prayer: **Chris Runner**

Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: **J. O. Smith**

Song Leader: **Steve Smith**

Opening Prayer: **Randall Hood**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Lord's Table: **Brandon Yates**

Closing Prayer: **Doug Smith**