

Bob,

I'm still wanting to comment on your "Truths of God"; I don't agree with everything but I appreciate how fearless you are in your writing. However, I don't think I could ever debate you on the content because you have such solid reasons and you went to law school, for crying out loud, so I'm sure they taught you how to win any argument, right?

B.

B.,

You should feel perfectly qualified to comment on Truths of God and to disagree. While I get much more joy and confidence from people agreeing, I probably learn more from people who have valid counterarguments. It certainly isn't a debate. However, I would ask you to consider the challenge of communicating an idea to people with radically different views on a particular subject. Say an atheist, an agnostic, a Christian, a Muslim, a Jew, a Buddhist, etc., reads something from Truths of God. Like anything philosophical, every individual will have his own opinion on a particular idea or paragraph. But when reading Truths of God, I have to ask people to try to consider the viewpoint of a person who I might be speaking to more directly that has a radically different group perspective than you have based upon the faith to which they subscribe. I might word something that seems obvious to you in such a way that encourages an evangelical Christian to look at a subject in a different light than he has otherwise been able to consider. The opposite could also be true, and something that you might disagree with could enable you to better see why other people believe it.

Unfortunately I'm not on the side of anyone in particular, other than God and the Earth and humanity in general. Consequentially no one in particular is on my side either. A very good friend of mine has confessed that she can't read what I write because when she reads it she just reads hate. Literally, she used those words, and it upset me at the time. At no point have I ever incited anyone to violence. At no point have I suggested that the wrongdoers I speak out against be punished. Using the Bible and the words of Jesus as my tools I encourage tolerance. I teach forgiveness, and being good to one another, and protecting the Earth. I write that people can serve God easily in their everyday lives, even if they don't choose to acknowledge him as such. It isn't about division but finding common ground. And yet so many who read what I write see hate and react with disgust. I think Truths of God has an effect like calling out a demon in a fictional story. The hate some people feel from Truths of God comes from the rage of seeing what they are.

How many potential catastrophes do we face right now that are within our control as human beings? Here are two that are entirely thinkable. What happens to this country if someone kills the President? I could speculate on the consequences, but it will be simplest to say that so much of the good we've done would simply be gone. What if a terrorist group manages to detonate a nuclear weapon in an American city? It's safe to say that the reaction to the 9/11 attacks would pale by comparison. And many Americans would believe our reaction to be justified because "they" started it, but it would be no more true than to say a Serbian terrorist started the first World War. In the atmosphere that's currently building, the third World War would likely be started by us if terrorists were so successful. So many of us are just itching for an excuse. It's the dark side of the human nature of some. A rational sentiment is, "who would want that?" The

answer is many, Christians, Muslims, atheists and others among them. How many people profited handsomely from the war in Iraq, a direct result of 9/11? What are 70,000 American lives to a person who doesn't believe in the value of life? Bin Laden knew very well that no less than multiple tens of thousands of innocent Muslims would likely die as a result of the 9/11 attacks. They weren't his people, they were just people. You should watch "Jesus Camp." The person interviewing the woman running the Jesus Camp asks her how the camp differs from Muslims indoctrinating their children for war, and she boldly answers, "because we're right." And atheists, the ones in televised debates and writing books, say that religion is the problem, concluding that if people accept that there is no God, everyone will behave as rationally as they perceive themselves to be. I think it's safe to say that Stalin, Pol Pot and the like, arguably Hitler although many of his devout followers were genuine in their Christian(!?) beliefs, among this century's worst destroyers, pretty much discredit that notion. Among those executed by Hitler and Stalin were priests and the faithful who stood against that madness. You wrote about your disgust with Arizona's new anti-immigration law, which is a product of the kind of public sentiment that has grown nationwide. Can you imagine the level of intolerance if many of those same people didn't believe in a good God that commands us to love one another and respect the sanctity of human life? Perhaps their churches aren't leading them well on this issue, but without many of those same churches, they may come to far worse conclusions.

No one who reads and understands Truths of God would hope for a successful terrorist strike or the death of the President. A decent, old-school Republican friend of mine told me in earnest not three weeks ago that this country is headed for revolution. He was talking about the kind of revolution where we shoot one another. And we were only talking about health care reform. How absurd does that sound? This friend of mine isn't some radical or the least bit prone toward inciting violence. And so-called conservatives are sending one another a constant barrage of anti-government, anti-Obama emails like, "Obama's Army," suggesting that creating a team of doctors to be called in a public health emergency is somehow his private SS. And they're all buying into it, and forwarding this garbage to one another all the time. Our government over at least the last eight years has used internet chatter to detect potential terrorist attacks, and it's good to see our tax dollars being used effectively to actually fight terrorism. But the internet chatter from Americans against the government over issues as mundane as health care and reducing green house gasses should cause people great concern. Rush Limbaugh saying, "these people need to be wiped out"?! WTF? Can we really be on the verge of shooting one another, with the majority of America's Christian churches quoting "beset by enemies all around" (from King David who was, in fact, surrounded by an army trying to kill him at the time), over things like providing medicine to people who need it? It saddens me deeply, when we have so much good in our lives. But anyone who reads and believes Truths of God would never want such a revolution and may even find cause to speak out against those who are hatefully revving one another up. So I write what I write and hope and pray that people like you will believe and share it with others.

That being said, I genuinely want people to share with me their disagreements, keeping in mind that some of it is tailored to the understanding of other people. Thank you for your willingness to comment on Truths of God. I will look forward to hearing from you on this in the future.

So it is.  
Bob.