

Redwater Restorer

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness..." (Matthew 3:3)

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Faith - Not A Blind Leap

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Redwater
Church of Christ

Services:

Sunday
Bible Class 10:00 a.m.
AM Worship 10:45 a.m.
PM Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday
Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

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Works:

Four States
Lectures
Sept.24-26

Camp Ida Youth
Encampment
June 6th-11th
June 13th-18th
June 20th-25th
June 27th-July 2nd

The story could be repeated in just about any congregation. A young man grows up in the church. Following his baptism, he takes an active role in worship and daily service. Everyone that is familiar with this young man says the same thing: "He is a strong Christian." And yet, within months after entering college, this "strong Christian" is on the path to becoming an unbeliever. His decision to leave the church was not sudden. Rather, it occurred over several weeks as this young man wrestled with questions tossed out by his newfound friends.

The problem was this young man never developed a foundation for his faith. In fact, a great deal of his belief system was built around the beliefs of his parents. And to compound the problem, on occasions when this young man sought out answers on which to solidify his faith, he commonly received the same answer: "Well son, we don't know the answer for everything. Sometimes you just have to believe -- you have to take a blind leap of faith." In other words, this young man "believed" but he did not know **why** he believed. He was living an "inherited" religion.

So picture an eighteen-year-old who suddenly finds his faith challenged. His friends (and professors) confront him with questions and information that directly conflicts with his belief in the God of the Bible. And sadly, all this young man has to defend himself with is the notion that he had taken a "blind leap." Having, therefore, no good reason to keep on believing, when faced with tough questions, this young man falls headlong into the trap set for him by the "roaring lion" -- our adversary, the devil (1 Peter 5:8). **Satan was successful in his task because we**

failed in ours. How many souls have been forfeited as our young people find themselves in a similar situation? They are presented with problems or alleged Bible discrepancies, and due to a lack of sufficient knowledge, they cast their entire belief system aside and begin supporting and defending worldly views. Unfortunately, this young man was not the only one we have told that faith is a "blind leap." Literally thousands have **not** been trained "in the way he should go" (Proverbs. 22:6), because we did not show them the evidences upon which their faith should have been based.

If we are ever going to break this cycle, then the first thing we must teach our young people is that faith is **not** a blind leap. We have the evidences around us to support our beliefs. We can prove the existence of God. We can prove the Bible is the inspired Word of God. We can prove Jesus Christ's deity. But it all starts with establishing the fact that the Christian religion is not simply a "close my eyes and hope it's true" belief. Only after we establish that primary principle will we have a foundation strong enough upon which to build.

Brad Harrub

(For the reasons set forth by Bro. Brad Harrub in this article, we have chosen for our Sixteenth Annual Four State Lectures the theme of "Christian Evidences." We cordially invite you to come and enjoy the lessons prepared to reinforce your belief in God, Jesus Christ, and the Bible as God's Inspired Word.)

Mark Miller