Letter Edition



1 carred a God Out of Wood ... Part 1 ~ "YAH-wood"

Letters from Woody Carver

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> "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

> > John 5:39

I wanted substance. I wanted evidence. So, I carved a god out of wood. It's not as bad as it sounds. The Bible allows this, you know. The Commandments only forbid multiple gods — gods that are held in higher esteem than THE God Himself. Now, this god IS my god. (At least that's the way I read it. So, don't judge me.)

The Bible describes God as a healer. I decided that my wooden god could heal me if I needed him to. I also decided that this god could deliver me from all my trouble. Oh yeah, I decided that this god was indeed the god who created the world. You see, according to me, the Bible is the "Word of God;" therefore, what I read and understand it to say *must be* proper theology. Through my new wood-based theology (no time now to go through all the exegetical details), I now believe that when the Bible speaks of god, it is speaking of this very god I now hold in my hand. I know it's hard to believe, but it's true. You must understand. My god told me so. (Well, not so much in an audible voice. He spoke to my heart. You know what I mean.)

I plan to cover my carved god with gold one day. It will be beautiful. When I do, I will add financial prosperity to his repertoire of blessings to me. He will make me rích and successful. I can hardly waít. (I *must* waít though. *Those that waít on the* Lord... you know.)

Some people condemn my idea of god. They insist that god is not a piece of wood; but, they interpret the Bible one way and I interpret it another way. I spend many hours going through the Bible and adding wonderful attributes and characteristics to my god. It's kind of strange but I've noticed god doesn't practice any of these characteristics until I discover them. (It must have something to do with faith or something. No matter.)

> I help him look good to the people around my neighborhood. Sometimes I don't get healed by him unless I go to the doctor. It seems the prosperity he promises fluctuates with the stock market condítions and whether or not I am employed. But, I always give him all the honor and glory for his blessings. In this way, I witness for him. (His witnesses must testify to what

What did Jesus Say:

(Continued from page 1)

they have seen. This is one of the many reasons I carved a god from wood.)

The idea behind a tangible god, one you can feel and see, is that it eliminates the necessity of such a difficult faith. Actually, I feel sorry for those who have a god they cannot see and feel. I am happy with my creation. I pray to him every day. I ask him for healing and all the things I need and he always answers me. (Sometimes the answer is no; but, no matter, "All things work together for good...")

An underiable miracle performed by my god happened just the other day. I had my god in the car with me. (I always consider him my co-pilot.) Anyway, a man pulled right out in front of me. In terror, I turned my wheel and slammed on the brakes. If my car had stopped where I had been – out in the intersection – a big truck coming from the right would have hit me. But, my god was watching out for me. As the car jostled through the intersection, my god fell onto the floor and rolled up underneath the brake pedal, preventing me from fully applying the brakes! When I realized I couldn't stop, I swerved violently and narrowly missed the car that was causing all the panic. This allowed me to roll my car right through the intersection so that the ever-nearing truck could pass behind me. Whew! I thanked my god for saving me. (Wouldn't you?)

I've decided to name my god, YAH-wood!

How about your god? How's he doing so far? Does he speak to you? YAH-wood doesn't speak to me; but the way I figure it, I speak to him in prayer and he speaks to me through the Bible. Does your god give you whatever you want? YAH-wood doesn't. I just assume it must not be his will – or perhaps he has better things for me. ("...eye hath not seen..."!) So, I praise him anyway. I feel YAH-wood caring for me, loving me, and he's always with me even when I absentmindedly leave him on the TV at home. (After all, he's omnipresent, you know. I gave him that attribute because all the other gods have it. I figured, hey, my god is as good as theirs, so why not? I have to admit it's a little harder to prove my god is everywhere at once because he actually does have a location; but, at least he's with me in Spirit!)

Oh, and YAH-wood knows everything, too. He knows what is going to happen tomorrow and the next day; but, he doesn't tell me. It must be for my own good. (Wow, what a help he could be in the stock market. Hmmmmmm, he could really perform on that prosperity thing! Oh well, YAH-wood's will be done.)

I've been thinking a lot about his omniscience lately. Last year, I nearly died from a contagion I contracted from someone somewhere. I am sure YAH-wood helped the doctors cure me. Every day I prayed (at least when I wasn't in a coma) that he would guide the doctor's hands. I knew YAH-wood was there at home, on my TV, beside the remote control, and doing everything he could to help me because he loves me. (I don't know why he decided not to tell me in advance about the person with the contagion or about the impending car accident. I could have avoided all that pain, illness and expense. Oh well... YAH-wood works in mysterious ways and I am sure it was all for my good. Praise YAH-wood!) Anyway, after the team of surgeons and skilled medical personnel, tens of thousands of dollars, six months of therapy, and hundreds of pills, shots and the special diet I have to maintain for the rest of my life, I thanked YAH-wood for healing me. (Of course, if it wasn't for YAH-wood I'd be dead!)

I know all that really matters is that when I do die my god is going to take me to a beautiful place. I call it "The

Forest." It's kind of like most folks' understanding of "Heaven." Want to come with me? Can't you just envision it? (No? Well, you gotta to cut down those trees and get to making gods if you want to clear the way. As one of our prophets said, "You can't see the forest for the trees.")

Does your god do any better than mine? That omniscience thing has me a little discouraged. I may be willing to trade my god for yours. Oh wait, you're a Christian. You don't have as much proof in your invisible god as I do in mine. Sorry, I need proof. I need evidence. Never mind.

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(Continued on page 9)

Get Ready for the "Thread-Breaking" QUIZ in Next Month's RLE-zine!

The Following Questions Will Be Asked of You:

- 1) What can God do?
- 2) What will He do on your behalf?
- 3) What is His will for you?



A friend was having a bit of marital tension in his household and was trying to figure out just what to do about it. In the course of our conversation,

I happened to mention to him, "You know, quite often God speaks to us through our wives."

My friend looked at me kind of funny and said, "Wow! I didn't know God used that kind of language!"

TILL WE HAVE FACES

A Myth Retold

By C. S. Lewis

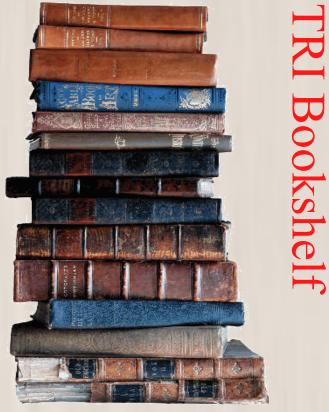
This is the last book that C.S. Lewis wrote, and it is considered by some to be his most mature novel. Till We Have Faces is based on the ancient Greek myth of Cupid and Psyche, and it is told from the point of view of Psyche's older and less attractive sister, Orual. In the Kingdom of Glome, Psyche was the most beautiful woman anyone had ever laid eyes on. She was likened to a goddess because of her appearance, and some even began to worship her. Orual loved her immensely and was horrified to find out that Psyche was to be sacrificed to the gods in order to lift the curse of famine and drought from the land. She even begged her father, the King of Glome, to take Psyche's place. The first half of this book is dedicated to Orual and her accusations against the gods for taking Psyche from her. Orual struggled with understanding why the gods remained silent on this matter, and she decided to veil herself as a "treaty with her ugliness."

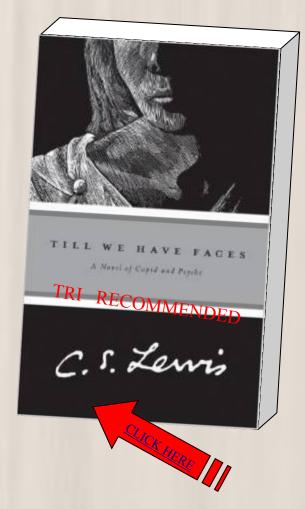
Lewis then followed Orual throughout her life as Queen of Glome where she herself attained a sort of god-like status because of her veil, her wisdom in ruling the people, and her skills in the battlefield. I will not divulge the ending, but she came to a stunning realization in the second half of the book concerning the gods and her sister Psyche.

"When the time comes to you at which you will be forced at last to utter the speech which has lain at the center of your soul for years, which you have, all that time, idiot-like, been saying over and over, you'll not talk about joy of words. I saw well why the gods do not speak to us openly, nor let us answer. Till that word can be dug out of us, why should they hear the babble that we think we mean? How can they meet us face to face till we have faces?" (Page 294)

This is C.S. Lewis at his finest. Long after I read this book I will be pondering the many layers of this story and the brilliant nuggets of wisdom that are abundantly found in it.

~ A Fellow ThINKer





Notes to Don 4 Pam Hi Don & Pam, Back on the first day we came to Christ (from agnosticism), I couldn't understand why they wanted us to say the sinner's prayer. I kept thinking, "We don't need this!" but went along anyway. Whether we were baptized by the Spirit then, or shortly later, I don't know but we couldn't shut up about Jesus, and saw the great divide between truth, and the lost state all around us. Skipping forward, we went thru Baptist churches, Pentecostal churches, etc, etc, and finally visited the Salvation Army (after reading Keith Green's e-publications of many of their old writings). The Pentecostals seemed to attract very false teachings, so we left! Just

as the Quakers, they also stand against rituals, to prevent people from putting more value in such dead things. When we visited the Quakers, they seemed relieved we came from the Salvation Army, because of similar views on rituals. I know Jesus' baptism of the Spirit is absolutely necessary, but we kept wondering where water baptism fits in, when it was done so often in the book of Acts. Your summary of Barclay's Apology and other chatter today (on Red Letter Edition - LIVE! radio/TV) is right on! Thank you, you two! PS: I am not praising the Salvation Army - they are a top-down organization, with the top dogs calling the shots. Wrong! The people must hear from the Lord - and obey! (CO)

Hi !!! I have received a parcel of 16 packs of CDs!!! I am already distributing. This is a great gift for Pentecost. YHVH keep you and yours. Sanni, Lagos, Nigeria.

Hi Don and Pam, I just wanted to thank you. I had never listened to many of the Hearty Council episodes. Recently I felt like I should go to blog talk radio and start from the beginning and that is what I have been doing. In the process I have really been ministered to, encouraged and challenged. I don't know what else to say. Words escape me. They do a lot lately. Omar laughs about it when I tell him I feel like I have less and less to say. Not like me at all! :)Just want to express my gratitude. Very Sincerely, (GA)

Thank you for the CD on "Clean or Unclean?" Several years ago, I made the decision not to eat pork or shellfish even though the New Testament seems to say the restrictions were lifted. Don's explanation of being set apart gave further understanding...The monthly e-zines and all you do are appreciated. May our Lord continue to bless you and TRI Ministries. (TX)

Blessings and love! I like what you are doing...now get rested and refreshed on Pentecost! (TX)

Thanks for the calendar with Shavuot on it...We hope things are good with you guys! (GA)

I HAVE OTHER CD's and DVD's, and play them all the time. Every time I hear something I didn't hear before. Thank you very much! (NM)

"DON'S OPEN LETTER" RESPONSES:

My friend...I don't have very many friends BUT you are one. I am concerned that you are experiencing adversity. I pray for you and just offered a prayer for Peace, Strength. I do sooooooo appreciate you and Pam. I understand the commitment you have both made. You folks have given your all. I know firsthand the oppression you must daily contend with. Do not slack off... TRI is necessary and you are on the "Truth trail," there is no doubt (TX)

Don@ThinkRedInk.

Notes to Don 4 Pam

Hi Don, I am so blessed and touched by your open letter in this week's Red Letter Edition. You know you can count me in as one of those who would jump in and help in any way that's needed. I thank the Father constantly for bringing you and Pam into my life. Because of you and what you preach, MAYBE I'll just make it into the Kingdom!!! Sometimes I despair of that, because my faults and failings are ever before me, sometimes worse than others of course. But I'm not giving up. I have met the enemy, and She is Me! Only by His grace will I ultimately gain the victory, but it's worth giving it all

I've got. What an interesting enigma and endless challenge this life is: never dull, that's for sure. THANK YOU again to you and Pam for being shining examples of what following Christ is all about, and for telling the truth no matter where it leads. Love always (CA)

I want you to relax, and don't let those sniveling folks get to you. You must realize they don't hear you when you say, "Don't follow me." They stand on the sidelines with that deer in the headlights stare. Those with ears to hear like it very much when you take a break and re-group. Your silicon chips may be crumbling because you are fretting over the wrong things. "Save Yourself!" was a good message to live by. Your crown already has too many jewels for at least 8 of us to even carry. You have saved way more souls than any man other than YAH that I know of. If and when you are to go live (6 days a week on TRI radio) again will be determined by GOD. I think it is amazing when you show up on First Day. Please take care of you and that precious Pammy. We are gonna be fine out here in the wilderness. Thanks for all you have done for us that got our ears cleaned out. We will be happy to spend our quiet time and wait for directions from the one and only source of complete TRUTH. Take a deep breath we love you. Brothers need to hear. (NM)

Dear Don, After reading your letter in the 6/2014 e-zine, it warms my heart that you consider me a friend. I hope you know that I also think of you as my friend. Thank you, (TX)

REVIEW ON THE MOVIE "HELL AND MR. FUDGE":

We went to see the movie and have had quite a long discussion about it. As [My Husband] said, it seems that Mr. Fudge read a lot of books and still didn't get the answer until it was revealed to him as he diligently sought the Word of God. We were also struck with the realization that he still believed that a righteous man went to Heaven when he died, but of course, he was NOT diligently seeking the truth of that matter. It was very interesting and I'm really



glad we went. We don't go to movies and it was different. There were people handing out study guides about hellfire and death afterward from the Amazing Facts Ministry in Roseville, CA. There was also a notice of a "prophesy conference" to be held in Clovis in June, which Jerry said we would not attend. Thanks again for the heads up. Love you guys, (NM)

TRI'S AWARD FROM CONSTANT CONTACT RESPONSES:



Yeah! That is awesome! Can it be any different? It's because we all love you guys, you love us with all our "warts", and we are learning to listen to the Spirit like never before.....what a life! (TX)

Dear Ones. All Glory To Jehovah Our God! (TX)

Don and Pam, I am very pleased to read your e-mail to me. I want to wish you a happy Pentecost. Anytime you're heading this way, let me know and lunch is on me. (NM)

It is a great pleasure. We all say MERCI!!! THANK YOU!!! Wonderful Pentecost to you all...! (SANNI, NIGERIA)



Th///King about the Feasts...

Don and Pam,

As the Feast of Unleavened Bread came to a close, I was meditating on the Feasts of the Lord. May I share my thoughts even though quite simplistic?

I was thinking that the Feasts of the Lord come in the two most beautiful seasons of the year. The Sacred New Year begins with as new growth emerges. (Doesn't this just make sense?) The Passover is God's protection and covering through the sacrificial death of Christ as we move into The Feast of Unleavened Bread. While it may be a time of doing without, it is planting the seed of Christ to free us from bondage so that we may go to a new place. The First Fruits, while originally represented by the barley harvest, is now the resurrection of Messiah with the hope of our resurrection. Then comes Pentecost after fifty days when the Spirit of God arrives with Power-- the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, the Spirit of God within. This reminds me of the lovely, fragrant flowers of spring.

The Day of Atonement in the fall gives us a wonderful opportunity to repent of sins, transgressions, and failures as we prepare to meet our Lord. The Day of Trumpets announces His arrival. Then when the foliage has matured and is at the height of color in all its glory is the Feast of Tabernacles when our Lord will meet with His people who are mature and prepared. Rejoice!

While I reflected on the number of days in the year set aside for the Feasts and the Seventh Day Sabbaths, I believe God gave us these special days as essential times to commune with our Lord, for our well-being, for self-examination, and from becoming too immersed in the cares of this world. Martha was worried and distracted by many tasks while Mary sat at the Lord's feet listening to Him. When Martha complained to Jesus about her sister not helping, the Lord admonished her saying "Martha ... there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:38-42)

About 25 years ago, a pastor posted the following quote from a book he had read: "We worship our work; work at our play; and play at our worship." In Matthew 16:26, Jesus exhorted His listeners, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Keeping Sabbaths and the Feasts of the Lord are essential in keeping our lives in a right relationship with our Lord and maintaining His perspective of how our lives are to be lived. Blessings, (TX ThINKer)



Look at the Feasts and the key words associated with their imperative observance:



Weekly Sabbath -- You will remember it. Passover -- It shall be a *memorial*. Feast of Unleavened Bread -- You will observe

Day of Pentecost -- You will proclaim it.

Mark Your Calendar:

9/25 or 9/26 Day of Trumpets

10/5 or 10/6Day of Atonement -- You will

afflict your souls.

10/10 or 10/11 Feast of Tabernacles -- You will *celebrate* it



Beyond the Printed Word...



LIVE! Call-In Show Every Sunday @ 9 AM Mountain Time



The TRI Listen / Call-in line: (323) 443-7210

(During live programming only)

Red Letter Edition—WEEKDAYS!

Every Weekday Morning at 6 AM Mountain Time

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CREA-TED or CREA-TOR?

(Continued from page 2)

Let's face it. The gods we create, whether ethereal or tangible, Biblical or pagan, private or congregational, constantly disappoint us. Regrettably, although discouragement ensues to the point (in some cases) of suicide, we never even entertain the prospect of making any changes. We egomaniacally hold on to what we have always believed; or, in the case of religion, we commit some damning sacrilege by honestly questioning what we have always believed. As a result, we offer convoluted reasoning and make outright excuses, coupling these with pathetic theological rationale. This is done while making all the evidence of life's disasters into unintelligible spiritual malarkey to help salve our agonizing intellects and common sense.

When will we toss these gods of our own creation? Envision throwing a picture of Jesus into a trash can. Imagine a trash fire burning a statue of Jesus along with the kitchen garbage. Does this bother you? Has it ever occurred to you that there is no such thing as an image of Jesus? Why then is this disturbing?

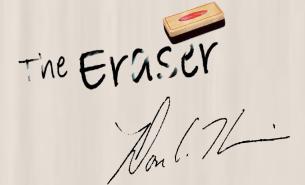
I knew a man whose Bible was left in the rain. It was soaked then dried. Pages stuck together and tore as he tried to open it. He just couldn't throw it away. Instead he wrapped it in cloth and buried it. Why was he so attached to paper, ink, and leather? Is there any difference in his behavior and the man with his YAH-wood god? (SELAH! ThINK on these things!)

If you can understand this unfounded apprehension in burning a Bible, you will be well on your way to shaking off the false religion that has you bound to an impotent god created in your own mind. Repentance in this area will most assuredly include the pain of denying the god you have believed in up to now. The forged miracles, the pretended blessings, the "answered prayers" are all tiny threads weaving one robust rope that binds your life to a counterfeit god of no value...a god of your own making... a god of your own imagination... a god who cannot save you in the end. Only upon honest introspection will the Seeker admit this truth.

Do you feel sorry for the poor deluded character

with his "homemade" YAH-wood god made of wood? Know this, if you have created a god in your own imagination — no matter how biblical — that god is no better, no more real, no more benevolent, no better a friend to you than YAH-wood was to that poor soul. Why? Because it is likely you created your god as surely as a man who would take a knife to the stock of a tree, carve off what is undesirable, and shape and form what *he* likes. We're all guilty. Jesus came to eliminate this problem; but, until all academic approaches are replaced with a relationship, no one can or will find the true God!

(...to be continued in next month's RLE-zine)



"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

John 5:39



LOOKING for Your Submissions for The Last in the Series...

Adultery, fornication, and sexual addiction of all sorts have colored our nation. What are the biblical grounds for divorce? For those now single following divorce, what about remarriage? And, what about those just thinking about getting married? It lies at the doorstep of the True Church

to get this right! It is the responsibility of every father to teach these things to his sons and daughters, but, what to teach? Older women (and there's always somebody younger!) are tasked with teaching younger women, but, is it too late when the marriage becomes... "Something BLEW!" Send your submissions now for the upcoming issue of ThINKing Pink (7/2014)

"Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed,

Something Blew!"



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