

Might a good god punish a good mortal?

by William Holt

Intersivity Rebel Christian Fellowship staff member Larry Thiel took the podium in the Moyer Student Union Friday, and talked about God and going to heaven. He brought about documented history, doctrines and his own brand of ideology in discussing whether God can be all good if he can send good people who are not Christians to hell.

"Many people can be accused of both accepting and rejecting Christianity blindly," Thiel said. He said a person should arrive intelligently at his or her decision to realize God and accept Jesus Christ as the Savior of mankind. He said the intent of Intersivity Rebel Christian Fellowship is to replace ignorance about the Bible with knowledge.

"Today's college students no longer think. They just take notes and do what they're told," Thiel said. He said stu-

dents should think for themselves and explore the truth with honesty. He quoted Socrates as saying, "A life unexamined is not worth living."

Thiel said he has heard hundreds of observations and questions about God by students. Many of them have to do with the pertinence of alternative belief systems other than Christianity, and many pertain to the justice in sending a non-Christian to hell.

He explained if we could invent a hypothetical god, he'd make heaven a big party where everyone can get in. "We don't want a god who is devoid of justice."

Thiel began talking about what God's standards to get into heaven might be. Does he grade on a curve? What would be the difference between a 69 percent good person and a 70 percent good person?

His answer boiled down to the fact

that Jesus Christ came to earth to save us from our sins and a person who has accepted this will be the only type of person who will get into heaven. "You may be a good swimmer, but does that mean that you'll make it to Hawaii?" he asked the audience.

The idea of the discussion was that a person may be sincere in his or her beliefs and may do good things, but a person can just as easily be sincerely wrong as sincerely right. No one is free from sin, and the only way to heaven, other than by dying, is to accept Christ as God on earth who died for mankind's sins.

Some members of the audience asked Thiel questions.

One question was, "If God is so good, why did he create the possibility of evil?"

Thiel answered, "God could have made us robots, but he wanted a love relationship with us, so he gave us the

choice to say yes or no." He added that all evil is the responsibility of man himself or is caused by Satan, who is alive and well.

Another person asked Thiel if he thought the theory of evolution was true.

Thiel said the Bible is not a text of science. He said evolution is true. During time, change takes place.

He noted that in Hebrew, which was the original language used in the Bible, 'day' simply had to do with 'period of time,' where day and time were almost synonymous. This could cause the phrase "God made the earth in six days" to take on a whole new meaning compared to today's use of the word day.

He quoted Galileo: "The Bible says how to go to heaven, not how the heavens go."



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