

Thoughts

Christianity and Other Systems

Compiled by
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Fred Allan () said: "Most of us [Christians] spend the first six days of each week sowing wild oats, then we go to church on Sunday and pray for a crop failure."

Saint Augustine (354-430) said: "All diseases of Christians are to be ascribed to demons."

Saint Augustine (354-430) said: "There is no salvation outside the [Roman] Church."

Saint Augustine (354-430) said: "Rome has spoken; the case is concluded."

Georges Bernanos () said: "Hell is not to love any more."

John Billings (Henry Wheeler Shaw) (1818-1885) said: "The wicked often work harder to go to hell than the righteous do to enter heaven."

John Burroughs () said: "Science has done more for the development of western civilization in 100 years, than Christianity did in 1800 years."

Robert Burton (1577-1640) said: "One religion is as true as another."

Hermann Busenbaum (1600-1668) said: "The end justifies the means."

Samuel Butler (1612-1680) said: "An apology for the Devil - it must be remembered that we have only heard one side of the case. God has written all the books."

G. K. Chesterton () said: "A dying monarchy is always one that has too much power, not too little; a dying religion always interferes more than it ought, not less."

G. K. Chesterton () said: "A puritan's a person who pours righteous indignation into the wrong things."

William Dowling () wrote: "Haverhill, Jan 6, [1643]. We brake down about a hundred superstitious Pictures; and seven Fryars hugging a Nunn; and the picture of God and Christ, and divers other very superstitious."

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) said: "This that you have heard is the case of everyone of you that are out of Christ. The world of misery, that lake of burning brimstone, is extended abroad under you. There is the dreadful pit of the glowing flames of the wrath of God; there is hell's wide gaping mouth open."

Abraham L. Feinberg () said: "I believe in heaven and hell - on earth."

Anatole France () said: "Religion has done love a great service by making it a sin."

Sigmund Freud () said: "When once the Apostle Paul had posited universal love between men as the

foundation of his Christian community, extreme intolerance, on the part of Christendom towards those who remained outside it, became the inevitable consequence."

Saint Fulgentius (468-533) said: "Hold most firmly, and doubt not that not only all the pagans, but also all Jews, heretics, and schismatics who depart from their present life outside the Catholic Church, are about to go into eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels."

Richard Le Gallienne () said: "Organised Christianity has probably done more to retard the ideals that were its founder's, than any other agency in the world."

G. M. Hopkins () said: "Thou art indeed just, Lord, if I contend with thee; but, sir, so what I plead is just. Why do sinners' ways prosper? And why must disappointment all I endeavour end?"

Aldous Huxley () said: "Maybe this world is another planet's Hell."

Aldous Huxley () said: "What's the highest ethical ideal in Christianity? It's expressed in A. Kempis's formula - 'The Imitation of Christ'. So that the organised Churches turn out to be nothing but vast and elaborate Academies of Dramatic Art."

T. H. Huxley (1825-1895) said: "It is the customary fate of new truths to begin as heresies and to end as superstitions."

W. R. Inge () said: "To become a popular religion, it is only necessary for a superstition to enslave a philosophy."

W. R. Inge () said: "Christianity promises to make men free; it never promises to make them independent."

Samuel Johnston (1709-1784) said: "The road to Hell is paved with good intentions... In which case, the road to Heaven must be paved with bad ones."

Ben Jonson (1572?-1637) said: "Many might go to heaven with half the labour they go to hell."

G. C. Lichtenberg () said: "Probably no invention came more easily to man than when he thought up heaven."

Dr John Lightfoot (1645) said: "Heaven and earth, centre and circumference were made in the same instance of time and clouds full of water and man was created by the Trinity on the 26th of October, 4004 B.C., at 9 o'clock in the morning."

Friedrich Von Logau () said: "Though the mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceeding small."

Thomas Babington Macaulay (1800-1859) said: "The Puritan hated bear-baiting, not because it gave pain to the bear, but because it gave pleasure to the spectators."

Thomas Babington Macaulay (1800-1859) said: "She [the Roman Church] thoroughly understands what no other Church has ever understood, how to deal with enthusiasts."

Karl Marx () said: "Religion... is the opium of the people."

H. L. Mencken (1880-1956) said: "Christian theology is not only opposed to the scientific spirit; it is opposed to every other form of rational thinking."

John Stuart Mill (1806-1873) said: "It can do truth no service to blink [ignore] the fact... that a large portion of the noblest and most valuable teaching has been the work, not only of men who did not know, but of men who knew and rejected, the Christian faith."

Edna St Vincent Millay () said: "Man has never been the same since God died. He has taken it very hard."

John Milton (Lycidas) () said: "Their lean and flashy songs grate on their scrannel [1. thin or slight. 2. Squeaky or unmelodious] pipes of wretched straw, the hungry sheep look up, and are not fed."

Montaigne (1533-1592) said: "Our religion is made so as to wipe out vices; it covers them up, nourishes them, incites them."

Montaigne (1533-1592) said: "Man is quite insane. He wouldn't know how to create a maggot, and he creates Gods by the dozen."

F. N. Morley () said: "All religions die of one disease, that of being found out."

Herbert J. Muller () said: "The First Crusade... set of on its two-thousand mile jaunt by massacring Jews, plundering and slaughtering all the way from the Rhine to the Jordan. 'In the temple of Solomon,' wrote the ecstatic cleric, Raimundus De Agiles, 'one rode in blood up to the knees and even to the horses' bridles, by the just and marvellous Judgement of God.'"

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) said: "I call Christianity the one great curse, the one enormous and innermost perversion, the one great instinct of revenge, for which no means are too venomous, too underhand, too underground and too petty - I call it the one immoral blemish of mankind."

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) said: "God is dead; but looking at the way Man is, there will probably be caves for thousands of years in which his (God's) shadow will be seen."

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) said: "The Christian resolution to find the world ugly and bad, has made the world ugly and bad."

Bertrand Russell () said: "Catholics use their political influence to prevent Protestants from practising birth control, and yet they must hold that the great majority of protestant children whom their political action causes to exist will endure eternal torments in the next world."

Bertrand Russell () said: "Christ believed in hell. I do not myself feel that any person who is really profoundly humane can believe in everlasting punishment."

George Santayana (1863-1952) said: "For Shakespeare, in the matter of religion, the choice lay between Christianity and nothing. He chose nothing."

George Santayana (1863-1952) said: "Men have fiendishly conceived a heaven, only to find it insipid; and a hell, only to find it ridiculous."

Schopenhauer () said: "The controversy which is so perseveringly carried on in our own day, between super-naturalists and rationalists, rests on the failure to recognise the allegorical nature of all religion."

William Shakespeare () said: "In religion what damned error but some sober brow will bless it, and approve it with a text."

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) said: "Must then a Christ perish in torment in every age to save those that have no imagination?"

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) said: "Christianity might be a good thing if anyone ever tried it."

Elizabeth Cady Stanton () said: "The memory of my own suffering has prevented me from ever shadowing one young soul with the superstitions of the Christian religion."

John L. O'Sullivan (1813-1895) said: "All government is evil, and the parent of evil... The best government is that which governs least."

Michael Tanner () said: "Where they find suffering, they immediately look for someone to blame, and end up hating themselves, or generalize that into a hatred of 'human nature'. They look for 'peace of mind', using it as a blanket term and failing to see the diversity of states, some of them desirable and some of them the reverse, which that term covers. They confuse cause and effect, thinking that the

connection between virtue and happiness is that the former leads to the latter, whereas in fact, the reverse is the case."

William Temple () said: "The Church exists for the sake of those outside it."

Tertullian (c. A.D 160 - c. 225) said: "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church."

Tertullian (c. A.D 160 - c. 225) said: "It is certain because it is impossible."

Mark Twain () said: "Of the delights of this world, man cares most for sexual intercourse, yet he has left it out of his heaven."

Salvation is not begged or bought;
Too long this selfish hope sufficed;
Too long man reeked with lawless thought,
And leaned upon a tortured Christ.
(Ella Wheeler Wilcox ())

Harry Leon Wilson () said: "Hell is given up so reluctantly by those who don't expect to go there."

Alfred North Whitehead (1861-1947) said: "I consider Christian theology to be one of the great disasters of the human race... it would be impossible to imagine anything more un-Christlike than theology. Christ probably couldn't have understood it."

Thomas R. Ybarra () said: "A Christian is a man who feels repentance on a Sunday for what he did on Saturday, and is going to do on Monday."

W. B. Yeats (1865-1939) said: "And what rough beast, its hour come round at last, slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?"

Xenophane (), ridiculing the traditional views of the gods, said: "If oxen and lions had hands,... they would make statues of their gods in their own image."

Israel Zangwill (1864-1926) said: "Let us start a new religion with one commandment: 'Enjoy thyself'"

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