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## News and Notes

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### **A Short Guide for the Instruction of Biblewomen.**

**T**HE following has been prepared at the suggestion of lady missionaries working with Indian Biblewomen who have at some times to visit Muhammadan homes and talk with Muhammadan women. It is a simple outline which can be amplified at the will of the instructor. It is small enough to be translated into the vernaculars and placed in the hands of the zanana workers (or others who might think it worth using) in booklet form.

#### **CHAPTER 1. GOD.**

##### **(a) Muslim View.**

1. God is one and there is none beside Him.
2. God is Almighty and can do anything.
3. God is altogether different from men.
4. God cannot be a Father because that means he would have children like a human father.
5. Only God has power and no one can do anything apart from Him. All our acts are by His will.
6. God is a Speaker.
7. Attributes of God which have the same name as those in which Christians believe bear different meanings when Muslims use them. *E. G.* When *Holy* is used of God in Islam it means one who is far removed from anything which would be unworthy of His Glory.

**(b) Christian View.**

1. The Christian too believes that God is one but believes that God has revealed Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. While the Christian believes God is almighty, he believes also that He is Love, whereas the tradition of Islam says that God does not care whether man goes to Hell or to Heaven. The Christian says God cares.
3. God is not *altogether* different from man. There are some things in which they are alike. God knows, feels and wills and so do we.
4. God is Father. This is a beautiful name which implies the love of God and His desire that we should all be obedient children bound to Him by love and not fearing Him as slaves fear a master. This also means that He made man in His own image.
5. The Christian says that God made man free and with power to choose evil or good. Otherwise we could not be His loving children but only His obedient slaves.
6. The Christian too believes that God speaks through His prophets and lastly through His Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Christian says too that what God has spoken in His Book He will certainly perform. What he has promised cannot be abrogated.
7. God's character is righteous and He can never do anything which is not in harmony with that character. While the Muslim says God can do anything so glorifying God's power, the Christian says God cannot do wrong and glorifies his righteousness. God knows what is right and wrong and because He knows we know too because He made us in His own image. Conscience is the echo of His voice in our hearts.
8. When the Christian says God is living, he means that God is one who comes into living relationship with men.
9. The Christian believes that Creation was not specially to show God's power but to show His love.

**CHAPTER 2. JESUS CHRIST.****(a) Muslim View.**

1. He was born of the Virgin Mary. But some Ahmadis deny this.
2. He is an Apostle of God.

3. He is the Word of God.
4. He is a Spirit from God.
5. He was sinless ; but they say this about all the prophets.
6. He performed miracles, cleansed lepers, raised the dead and give sight to the blind from birth.
7. He did not die on the cross. Some say He died a natural death and some say that another was crucified in His place.
8. He is living and not dead ; but the Ahmadis say He is dead.
9. He will come again from the fourth Heaven to earth before the last day to make men Muslims and then He will die.
10. He is not the Son of God because they think this means God had a wife and that the Trinity is Father, Mother and Son.

**(b) Christian View.**

1. Our Lord Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin and because He was born a man, He is called the Son of Man. We do not call Him Son of God because He was born of the Virgin. He was God's Son before He was born and Son of Man after He was born though He remained Son of God.
2. The messengers of God brought His Word. Jesus Christ *was* the Word.
3. He *is* the Word of God but Muslims do not realise what this name means. God, the Eternal Speaker could not ever be without His Word. Christ is the Eternal Word of God and expresses the mind and heart of God.
4. We believe in the Spirit of God but do not confuse Him with Jesus Who lived as a man in the world. The Spirit is God's Voice which speaks His Word in our hearts, the One who enables us to know Jesus Christ as a present living Saviour.
5. We not only say that Jesus Christ was sinless (negative) but say He has in Himself every perfection and that thus He is the pattern of the best life that can be lived.
6. The whole life of the Lord Jesus Christ was the greatest miracle and it ended by the great miracle of God raising Him from the dead. He works miracles in men to-day, raising them from the death of sin to the life of righteousness.
7. Jesus did die on the cross. He laid down His life willingly that men might hate the sin which brought the Holy One to death and know the great love of God which was willing to suffer with and for men.
8. He is the ever-living Saviour, the same yesterday, to-day and for ever.

9. We believe in the final consummation of God's kingdom when every knee shall bow to Jesus Christ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.
10. When the Christian says that Jesus Christ is the Son of God he thinks not of pagan incarnations but of the perfect likeness in character of Jesus Christ to God so that He spoke truly when He said "He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father."

### CHAPTER 3. SCRIPTURE.

#### (a) Muslim View.

1. The Quran is the final Word of God to men.
2. The Quran confirms the books which were sent down on the prophets, *e.g.*, the Tauret which was sent down on Moses, the Zabur which was sent down on David, and the Injil which was sent down on Jesus.
3. But there is now no necessity for these revelations. They are all cancelled by the Quran.
4. The Law and Gospel now in the hands of Christians have been corrupted.
5. The Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are not the Injil which came down on Jesus but only books written by His disciples.
6. The Gospel which came down on Jesus has been taken up again with Him into Heaven.

#### (b) Christian View.

1. It is true that the Quran is last in time but it cannot be God's final revelation unless it is better than the Gospel, the Psalms and the Law. What is better in the Quran than, *e.g.*, Ps. 139, or the Sermon on the Mount?
- 2 & 3. God's revelations cannot be cancelled. He gave His revelation through the history of the Jews, and history cannot be cancelled. In the Law, Prophets, Psalms and Gospel, God has made promises. God's promises cannot be cancelled. These books also contain the laws of God which are the

expression of His Holy Nature. These laws cannot be cancelled or God would be untrue to Himself.

4. When Muslims think the Christians and Jews altered their Scriptures so that prophecies about Muhammad should not be found there, they forget that we have old manuscripts which are older than Muhammad's day and that our modern translations of the Bible depend on these.
5. Jesus never wrote a book and the Gospel is really the Good News of God, through the life and teaching, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which could only be recorded when all these things had come to pass.
6. Since there was no such book it could not be taken up.

#### CHAPTER 4. SIN.

##### (a) Muslim View.

1. Sin is breaking a law.
2. Though sins are divided into small and great sins yet disobedience to a ritual command is classed with sins against the moral law, *e.g.*, breaking a fast and committing a murder are on the same footing.
3. Sin is regarded as an external pollution which good deeds or ritual practices may wash off. The Muslim turns to the saying "When the Muslim performs his ablutions all his sins will be forgiven him." Giving alms and fasting atone for some sins.

##### (b) Christian View.

1. Sin is a breaking of the Law which is the expression of God's Holy Character.
2. Sin *grieves* God.
3. Sin is a lack of love for God and Man.
4. Sin breaks the loving bond which should be between God and Man.
5. Sin defaces the image of God and makes us less than what God wishes us to be. The Christian believes that righteousness is Godliness, *i.e.*, God-like-ness.

6. Sin is the absence of goodness as well as positive wrong-doing.
7. Sin is rather in the heart and intention than a mere external thing.

## CHAPTER 5. SALVATION AND THE WAY OF LIFE.

### (a) Muslim View.

1. Outward formalism is the general rule in the religious life of the Muslim.
2. Repentance and sometimes mere formal repentance is sufficient to cancel sin.
3. If we are good we will be acceptable to God.
4. Salvation is from the fire.
5. Salvation is at the *end* of a life lived as a true Muslim.
6. All that is necessary for salvation is that a man should *know* what to do, and believe and do it. This belief is mere assent.
7. No man can be sure that he will be saved because this is only as God wills. Some go to the fire by God's will and some to Paradise.

### (b) Christian View.

1. The Christian view of the ideal life is inward holiness.
2. Christianity believes that the love of God in Christ, *moves* men to repentance. And repentance is not simply confession of weakness but confession that we have wilfully done despite to God's love. Simply *calling* men to repentance is not enough. And repentance which is merely a formal apology cannot work a change in our life.
3. God loves sinners and his love wins men to goodness. Herein is love not that we loved God but that He loved us and gave his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. While we were yet sinners Christ died for us.
4. Salvation is here and now. It is a divine gift through Jesus Christ which gives *power* to be good. Without this men are powerless.
5. Forgiveness is not something we earn after our life has been

- spent in good deeds but God's forgiving grace is at the very beginning of a saved life.
6. Not knowledge of the right but love for it is needed and this comes by trust in God (not mere assent) and love for God which lead men to love what He loves.
  7. God willeth that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.
  8. God shews the beauty, truth and holiness of His Character in Jesus Christ's loving life and death and so we are led to hate the sin He hates and love His law. This law is not imposed on us but is written in our hearts, becoming the law of our very nature and not a mere legal thing.
  9. Jesus Christ shews us the way of life and He is Himself the Way.
  10. We are not left to save ourselves by strict obedience to a code but God Himself saves us when we are restored to His loving fellowship by the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **The Policy of Qadian Declared.**

“**W**E are determined to change the whole order of things. We shall create a new heaven and a new earth. We shall make Islam and its true followers triumphant in the world. We shall brook no opposition, tolerate no check or obstacle. We are determined to destroy Christianity and that godless, accursed materialistic Western civilisation which is based on Christianity.” *The Review of Religions, March 1936.*

On the back page *The Review of Religions* advertises itself as giving “an Impartial Review of the Prominent Religions of the World and Removes Misconceptions about ISLAM.”!!!

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### **Prayer and Praise.**

*Father of Mercies who to thine Apostle Peter didst reveal in vision thy boundless compassion for all men and didst by thy Spirit cause Barnabas and Saut to be set aside for the ministry to the Gentiles; Forgive we pray thee, our unbelief, and so enlarge our minds and kindle our souls that we may consider nothing too hard for thee but, fervently desiring the salvation of all men, may with diligence labour to extend thy kingdom; nothing doubting that the hardest hearts can be won by thy love and that Christ, if he be lifted up, will draw all men unto himself,*

LET US PRAY for the work which is being done by zanana missionaries in Muslim homes.

LET US PRAY for the day when the lot of women in purdah may be ameliorated and that in the fulness of time the women of Islam may enter into the inheritance of Christ's freedom.

LET US PRAY for a woman student who is much inclined to Christianity.

LET US PRAY for back-sliders, that God may shew to them their errors and bring them back in humility and penitence unto himself.

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### NEW MEMBERS.

Miss Wigfield,	Methodist Mission, Medak,	Nizam's Dominions.
Miss Bowes,	Methodist Mission, Woodgaon,	do
Miss F. Vale,	Methodist Mission Hospital,	Mysore.

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### NOTICE.

Any notification of change of address, names of new members or remittance of subscription, etc., should be sent to the Superintendent, Orissa Mission Press, Cuttack, India, and *not* to the Secretary of the League. The annual subscription to the League is Rs. 2-0-0 (English 3s. od.)

Matters of interest to members of the League, items of news and requests for prayer should be sent (if possible, early in the month) to the Hony. Secretary :—

Rev. J. W. Sweetman,  
Kenfield, Nainital,  
U.P., India.

