

Chapter 1 : The Devout () - IMDb

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Saul of Tarsus hated Christians. He made it his goal to capture, then bring Christians to public trial and execution. Saul was present when the first Christian martyr named Stephen was killed by an angry mob. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. And Saul was there, giving approval to his death" Acts 7. After Stephen was martyred, Saul went door to door in Jerusalem finding people who believed that Jesus is the Messiah. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison" Acts 8: After putting these people in prison, Saul learned about their Christian friends in Damascus by somehow getting letters from the prisoners. I even obtained letters from them to their brothers in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished" Acts But something happened to Saul as he traveled to Damascus in search of Christians. According to Saul of Tarsus, God appeared to him in an unexpected way. Why do you persecute me? My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do. Saul of Tarsus believed that he was serving God by finding Christians, throwing them into prison, and even executing them when possible. But Saul was wrong. Perhaps even more intriguing, Saul was highly educated for his era in Jewish beliefs about God. Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers and was just as zealous for God as any of you. How could such a highly educated man be completely wrong? We have learned that the Messiah had to appear before Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed which occurred in 70 CE. And we have learned that Gabriel foretold that the Messiah would be killed as a sacrificial offering which occurred to Jesus. Messiah to be killed , and remain a successful Messiah? Any normal person that would submit to a "death wish" will undoubtedly fail. Very simply, a normal person posing as the Messiah will remain a dead person. Saul of Tarsus met this resurrected Messiah on the road to Damascus. The event is described as a bright-light that blinded Saul of Tarsus along with a voice giving spiritual instructions. Saul of Tarsus changed his name later and became widely known as the Apostle Paul. Finally, at this webpage, we have shown evidence that God appears to have revealed spiritual truth from outside time-space to the human race at the The conversion of Saul of Tarsus supports this high level of confidence that God exists and appeared on earth in the historic person of Jesus. Few Jewish people could understand that the Messiah would be crucified for the sins of the world. Even educated people like Saul of Tarsus who became the Apostle Paul could not grasp the idea. Despite this misunderstanding, it does appear that a large number of Jewish people did become Christians by the end of the 1st century. After the Apostle Paul became a Christian, he had to rethink his views of God and discard his religious education. This did not take long due to the blinding light experience with the resurrected Jesus. Saul of Tarsus began to preach the deity of the Messiah while in Damascus. Years later, the Apostle Paul wrote about his status as a Jew and his religious education as rubbish before becoming a Christian when compared to knowing Messiah. But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith" Philippians 3: Biblical Mystery about the Messiah Saul of Tarsus was highly educated about matters of the Jewish faith. He had to rethink "what is truth" after he met the resurrected Messiah. To explain this drastic change, the Apostle Paul writes about the "Mystery of the Messiah". To most Jewish people, Jesus remains a mystery since they have decided to reject what Daniel wrote about the Messiah as a sacrificial offering to make a covenant the New Testament. Consider how the Apostle Paul wrote about the mystery of Messiah. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus" Ephesians 3: So the mystery is that God has

always purposed to love every human Jew and Gentile and to provide a way of salvation to all people. This righteousness must be received from the Messiah only. It can never be accomplished by a human choosing to live right according to a set of rules. Consider how these ideas apply to Islamic beliefs. Islam in the Light of "Saul of Tarsus" Islam began as a militaristic religion that spread its views using the sword. Today, fundamentalist Islam retains these same characteristics. The idea of holy war jihad pervades our world. In many ways, Saul of Tarsus as a persecutor of Christians can be compared directly to Islamic methods of spreading their faith. Saul of Tarsus could not accept the Christian view of God. So Saul of Tarsus took up the sword to convince people that they were wrong for not holding to the religious views of the Jewish authorities. However, Saul of Tarsus met the resurrected Messiah on the road to Damascus in a supernatural blinding-light experience. The hardened heart of Saul instantly softened as he realized he was wrong. So he accepted that Jesus, who died as a common criminal, is actually the Messiah that offers eternal salvation to all humans. This caused great change in Saul of Tarsus. Instead of persecuting others, the Apostle Paul began to preach that Jesus is the Messiah. The result was that Paul was persecuted by non-believing Jewish people. Eventually, the Roman Empire persecuted the early Christians as well. It was during the reign of Caesar Nero that Christians were martyred for their beliefs. It took a supernatural experience to change a Saul from a persecutor of Christians to the Apostle Paul, a fellow Christian believer. However, the Einstein Method has shown that Islam does not appear to be from the Creator. No long-term prophecies have been observed. Muhammad appears to have been deceived. If the false Gabriel could foretell the distant future, then the message would be found acceptable. Logic requires that we question the Muslim worldview.

Chapter 2 : preparative | eBay

The devout Christian's preparative to death. Written by Erasmus, now render'd into English. To which are added, meditations, prayers and directions By Robert Warren.

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Chapter 3 : Christian martyrs - Wikipedia

According to Christian tradition, he was an early deacon of the church who was put to death on August 10 in A.D. under the orders of the Roman emperor Valerian.

The prophet finds comfort in the thought that their death was a deliverance from yet worse evils. The singular number points to the few conspicuous sufferers. Pulpit Commentary Verses 1, 2. The Hebrews were given to expect that long life should, as a general rule, accompany righteousness Exodus But there were exceptions to the rule. Wicked persecutors, like Ahab, Jezebel, and Athaliah, cut off the righteous ere they had seen half their days. So probably did Manasseh 2 Kings And God sometimes removed the righteous from earth by a natural death before they had grown old Ecclesiastes 7: The word translated "perisheth" does not imply any violence; but the context implies a premature death. The righteous disappear - are taken from the earth before their natural time. Yet no man layeth it to heart; i. The general feeling was either one of indifference, or of relief at the departure of one whose life was a reproach to his neighbours. Merciful men; rather, godly men, or pious men comp. Are taken away; literally, are gathered in. Compare the phrase so frequently used, "gathered to his fathers" Genesis From the evil; or, out of the way of the evil - in order that he may escape it comp. Matthew Henry Commentary The careless world disregards this. Few lament it as a public loss, and very few notice it as a public warning. They are taken away in compassion, that they may not see the evil, nor share in it, nor be tempted by it. The righteous man, when he dies, enters into peace and rest.

Chapter 4 : List of Christian metal artists - Wikipedia

The experiences of the devout life of earth are the witnesses, not to be silenced or gainsaid, of the perpetuity and the perfection of communion with God in Heaven. II.â€”And so, secondly, note the contents of the Psalmist's triumphant confidence.

It was used for a person who speaks from personal observation. The martyr, when used in a non-legal context, may also signify a proclamation that the speaker believes to be truthful. The term was used by Aristotle for observations, but also for ethical judgments and expressions of moral conviction that can not be empirically observed. There are several examples where Plato uses the term to signify "witness to truth", including in *Laws*. The Greek word martyr signifies a " witness " who testifies to a fact he has knowledge about from personal observation. It is in this sense that the term first appears in the Book of Acts , in reference to the Apostles as "witnesses" of all that they had observed in the public life of Christ. Thus, within the lifetime of the Apostles, the term martyrs came to be used in the sense of a witness who at any time might be called upon to deny what he testified to, under penalty of death. From this stage the transition was easy to the ordinary meaning of the term, as used ever since in Christian literature: John , at the end of the first century, employs the word with this meaning. Yet the term martyr was still sometimes applied during the third century to persons still living, as, for instance, by Cyprian who gave the title of martyrs to a number of bishops, priests, and laymen condemned to penal servitude in the mines. Museo del Prado Religious martyrdom is considered one of the more significant contributions of Second Temple Judaism to western civilization. It is believed that the concept of voluntary death for God developed out of the conflict between King Antiochus Epiphanes IV and the Jewish people. With few exceptions, this assumption has lasted from the early Christian period to this day, accepted both by Jews and Christians. According to Daniel Boyarin, there are "two major theses with regard to the origins of Christian martyrology, which [can be referred to] as the Frennd thesis and the Bowersock thesis. Frennd argues that the Christian concept of martyrdom can only be understood as springing from Jewish roots. Frennd writes, "In the first two centuries C. It ran its course in the great urban spaces of the agora and the amphitheater, the principal settings for public discourse and for public spectacle. It depended upon the urban rituals of the imperial cult and the interrogation protocols of local and provincial magistrates. He challenges that assumption and argues that "making of martyrdom was at least in part, part and parcel of the process of the making of Judaism and Christianity as distinct entities. Some felt they should not, while others said they could. In the end, it was agreed to allow them in after a period of penance. This issue caused the Donatist and Novatianist schisms. These homilies were part of the hagiographical tradition of saints and martyrs. The Early Church[edit] See also: Carson and Douglas J. Moo write that Stephen was stoned to death after he was "falsely accused of speaking against the temple and the law. John the Apostle is traditionally believed to have ordained Antipas as bishop of Pergamon while Domitian was the Roman emperor. According to tradition, Antipas was martyred in ca. The Book of Revelation calls Jesus, as well as Antipas, "the faithful witness" o martyrs o pistos [22] [23] [17] The lives of the martyrs became a source of inspiration for some Christians, and their relics were honored. Numerous crypts and chapels in the Roman catacombs bear witness to the early veneration for those champions of freedom of conscience. Special commemoration services, at which the holy Sacrifice were offered over their tombs gave rise to the time honoured custom of consecrating altars by enclosing in them the relics of martyrs. Christians were persecuted by local authorities on an intermittent and ad-hoc basis. In addition, there were several periods of empire-wide persecution which were directed from the seat of government in Rome. Christians were the targets of persecution because they refused to worship the Roman gods or to pay homage to the emperor as divine. The cult of the saints was significant to the process of Christianization , but during the first centuries of the Church the celebrations venerating the saints took place in hiding. Piroyansky notes that although these men were never formally canonized as saints they were venerated as miracle-working martyrs and their tombs were turned into shrines following their violent and untimely deaths. Russell has written that the "cults of political saints" may have been a way of "showing resistance to the king" that would have been difficult to control or punish. These degrees were

mentioned by Pope Gregory I in Homilia in Evangelia, he wrote of "three modes of martyrdom, designated by the colors, red, blue or green , and white. The term "white martyrdom" was used by the Church Father Jerome , "for those such as desert hermits who aspired to the condition of martyrdom through strict asceticism. Archbishop Silvano Maria Tomasi, permanent observer of the Holy See to the United Nations later referred to this number in a radio address to the 23rd session of the Human Rights Council. The majority of the one million people the Center counted as Christians who died as martyrs between and , died during the Civil War in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The report did not take into consideration political or ethnic differences. Professor Thomas Schirrmacher from the International Society for Human Rights , considers the figure to be closer to 10, They are often poor. They often belong to ethnic, linguistic and cultural minorities. And they are often at risk.

Chapter 5 : Introduction to the Devout Life - Christian Classics Ethereal Library

In a statement, her family praised her as 'the light of our lives' and a 'devout Christian'. 'Wendy Karina Martinez was the light of our lives. Not only was she an avid runner, but she was a devout Christian, a wonderful friend, and a driven professional.

Bibles For Mideast, an underground ministry dedicated to distributing Bibles and establishing house churches across the Middle East, shared the story of Munaf Ali, a devout Muslim who regularly promoted and preached the teachings of the Quran. One day, Munaf got into an argument with the gospel team of Bibles for Mideast over the divinity of Jesus Christ and the credibility of the Bible. When the missionaries attempted to give him a Bible, he cursed at them. That night, a mob of Muslim extremists arrived at the ministry, shouting "Allahu Akbar" - "God is Great". However, the team moved their shelter and fled before any harm could come to them. A short time later, Munaf was traveling home when he became extremely sick, falling to the ground. While unconscious, he saw demons coming to him to take his soul, and he shouted, "get lost, you cursed demons of Allah. You have no right to take my soul". However, the demons responded, "No. And you will be with us" before forcefully taking his soul and turning to leave. Suddenly, Christ Jesus appeared before him along with a huge number of angels, causing the demons to flee in terror. The gates of heaven were shut down because of his sin. I was born of virgin Mary as a sinless Son of Man to redeem first Adam and all of his kinship including yourself from sin and death. And I was crucified and died Jesus said again, "I was risen from the dead and opened the gates of heaven to bring you back to the eternal glory Have faith in me and be my witness. I give your life back, for I am the authority of giving life. They were shocked when he stood up and described his miraculous experience, accusing him of being possessed by an evil spirit. While Munaf was dismissed from the mosque he once led, his family, moved by his passion, joined him in embracing Christianity. Bibles for Mideast is urging the Christian community to continue praying for Munaf and his family, as they were forced to leave their native land due to ongoing persecution. However, after experiencing a dramatic encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, Paul emerged as one of the greatest missionaries of all time, spreading the gospel throughout the Roman Empire and writing 13 books of the Bible A number of reports have emerged of Muslims becoming Christians after dreaming of Jesus.

Chapter 6 : God, Jesus, And the Death Penalty - Westfall Sellers

blog.quintoapp.com After his conversion to the Catholic Faith, Trent Horn earned a master's degree in theology from Franciscan University of Steubenvill.

Well, capital voir dire must not be polite company, for, as politely as you can, you have to discuss both. In this post are some thoughts on discussing religion – Christian beliefs to be specific. Would Jesus Impose the Death Penalty? Lately I have seen an article on Facebook pondering whether Jesus would impose the death penalty. Interesting as the question may be, the more concerning question to me, obviously, is not what Jesus would do, but what people who believe in Jesus would do. So I hunted around a bit. First off, what I found is that people who believe in Jesus, and who claim to follow Jesus, are all over the map about what they themselves would do and about what they expect Jesus would do if on a capital jury. There are devout Christians who would always impose the death penalty and devout Christians who would never do so. Of course, having only defended death penalty cases, I am more interested in the former, as I can tell you from personal experience they can be formidable jurors against you. Second, I found there are really no absolutes which I guess should be obvious. There are definitely Christians – lots of Christians – who will automatically impose the death penalty upon conviction for capital murder as well as several lesser offenses. So is there a characteristic that comes up in looking at the belief systems of such people? What Would Jesus Do? Joe Neil Clayton, blogging for La Vista Church of Christ, favorably reviewed the statements of Alan Keyes during his presidential campaign, stating in part: Next, he said the death penalty was Scriptural. By accepting the penalty, Jesus approved of it. It therefore seems to follow that He accepted and still accepts the death penalty. The Bible – all of it – is literally true. It does not say that the death penalty is but one option. It is the ONLY option. Several of the authors pointed this out. To the literalist, Jesus did not alter the Old Testament at all as far as the death penalty is concerned. Further, since God himself essentially wrote it, how can the juror dispute it or even disobey it? If a potential juror is truly a literalist, then he or she, upon being reminded about the above beliefs, should but certainly do not always admit that they cannot consider any option other than death, assuming a conviction for capital murder. Do a little study and consider your own methods. Also, know this – there are denominations who claim a literal interpretation of the Bible yet have an official position against capital punishment. You always have to be careful about making generalizations, especially where religion is concerned. The point, though, is not to engage in a theological debate, but to use a doorway to get to how the juror feels about this very personal matter. You have to figure out where the juror is going to go to help him make this decision. And if that place is one of deep religious beliefs, then you have to look into it. Naturally, depending on where you are, a lot of people may not have even considered this question because they are just not that religious. But where you have a potential juror who is, do not assume he will not kill your client just because he is a Christian. In many cases, just the opposite will hold true.

Chapter 7 : Browse - Central Criminal Court

There are devout Christians who would always impose the death penalty and devout Christians who would never do so. Of course, having only defended death penalty cases, I am more interested in the former, as I can tell you from personal experience they can be formidable jurors against you.

DO you, my child, love every one with the pure love of charity, but have no friendship save with those whose intercourse is good and true, and the purer the bond which unites you so much higher will your friendship be. If your intercourse is based on science it is praiseworthy, still more if it arises from a participation in goodness, prudence, justice and the like; but if the bond of your mutual liking be charity, devotion and Christian perfection, God knows how very precious a friendship it is! Precious because it comes from God, because it tends to God, because God is the link that binds you, because it will last for ever in Him. Truly it is a blessed thing to love on earth as we hope to love in Heaven, and to begin that friendship here which is to endure for ever there. I am not now speaking of simple charity, a love due to all mankind, but of that spiritual friendship which binds souls together, leading them to share devotions and spiritual interests, so as to have but one mind between them. Do you form no other friendships. My rules apply to those you deliberately choose to make. There are some who will tell you that you should avoid all special affection or friendship, as likely to engross the heart, distract the mind, excite jealousy, and what not. But they are confusing things. They have read in the works of saintly and devout writers that individual friendships and special intimacies are a great hindrance in the religious life, and therefore they suppose it to be the same with all the world, which is not at all the case. Just as men traversing a plain have no need to hold one another up, as they have who are amid slippery mountain paths, so religious do not need the stay of individual friendships; but those who are living in the world require such for strength and comfort amid the difficulties which beset them. In the world all have not one aim, one mind, and therefore we must take to us congenial friends, nor is there any undue partiality in such attachments, which are but as the separation of good from evil, the sheep from the goats, the bee from the drone—a necessary separation. No one can deny that our Dear Lord loved S. John, Lazarus, Martha, Magdalene, with a specially tender friendship, since we are told so in Holy Scripture; and we know that S. Paul dearly loved S. Paul Timothy and Thecla. Epiphanius, and others of the Fathers by S. Paul, who kindled so strong a love of virginity in her heart that she broke off her intended marriage, and devoted herself to Christ. She is said to have followed S. Paul in several of his journeys, and a very ancient Martyrology, which bears the name of S. The first Christian Emperors built a great Church at Seleucia, where she died. Gregory Nazianzen boasts continually of his friendship with the great S. Basil, of which he says: Augustine says that S. Monica by reason of her many virtues, and that she in return loved him as an Angel of God. What need to affirm so unquestionable a fact! Bernard, and all the most notable servants of God, have had special friendships, which in nowise hindered their perfection. Thomas, in common with other philosophers, acknowledges that friendship is a virtue, and he certainly means individual friendships, because he says that we cannot bestow perfect friendship on many persons. So we see that the highest grace does not lie in being without friendships, but in having none which are not good, holy and true.