

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Burn A Koran Day

(Jerry Fite)

The Dove World Outreach Center is hosting an “International Burn a Koran Day” on September 11, the nine year anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center in New York. Dr. Terry Foster heads the Center. He has written a book entitled *Islam is of The Devil*. His website offers ten reasons for not accepting Islam, but entitles it “Ten Reasons to Burn a Koran”. Under the heading of the “Braveheart Show,” a short video clip of Dr. Foster warns viewers of the dangers of Islam and promotes the September 11 book burning.

It has been interesting to see the reaction of the media to such religious militancy. A CNN interview with Dr. Foster clearly paints him as one who is insulting Muslims and showing lack of sensitivity in burning a book which they consider to be holy. Religious groups and organizations are protesting Dr. Foster and his burning of the Koran by condemning his “intolerance”. Tolerance today is the synonym for Christianity in the minds of many.

When one examines the New Testament, a militant spirit against error is commended. Paul writes about his mission as “*casting down imaginations, and every*

*high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5).* “Onward Christian soldier” is the timeless watchword of the Christian in every generation, not a title of an outdated song. But look closely to Paul’s statement. He prefaces his words of casting down the strongholds of the enemies of Christ by saying, “*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. . . the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds” (2 Corinthians 10:4).*

Unlike militant Muslims carrying out the teachings of the Koran, Christianity persuades hearts to change through the preaching of truth, not forcing people into compliance through swords, guns, and bombs. When Agrippa said, “*with but little persuasion thou wouldst fain make me a Christian,*” he was reacting to Paul’s persuasive preaching, not Paul’s drawn beheading sword (Acts 26:28).

Dr. Foster appeals to the Bible to justify his actions and asks all to answer, “What does the Bible say?” He says that “book

burning” is practiced in the New Testament, and is the justification for his September plans.

While Paul was in Ephesus preaching the Gospel, God worked miracles through him for the space of two years. When the true miracles were seen, those who practiced their magical arts “*brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all” (Acts 19:19).*

Paul did not declare a “magic book burning” to declare war upon religious trickery and falsehood, but those who had converted from their false ways burned their own books. The combination of Paul preaching the truth of the Gospel and true confirming miracles served as the spiritual weaponry to break down strongholds of falsehood in the hearts of people. The book burning that would be equivalent to that of Acts 19 would be the Islamic converts to Christianity coming together to burn their own Koran.

Dr. Foster’s “Koran burning” is wrong not because of the lack of tolerance or his manifesting too much militancy, but his perverting of Scripture. This will always hurt the cause of Christ.