

Da'wah Course DP206 at IIU

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July 15 to September 30, 2003

Lecture 1 Outline: July 29, 2003.

Reading Assignment:

1. Methodology of Da'wah by Shamim Siddiqui, Ch 7, pp. 116-160.
(Not recommending slogans on pp. 160-161.)
2. The Message of Islam and Approaches of Da'i by Dr. Manzoor Alam, pp. 3-20.
3. How to Present Islam: A Rational Approach by M. Amir Ali, to be posted.

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- A few comments about Dr. Manzoor Alam's book.

Presenting Islamic Beliefs and Practices: A Rational Approach:

Comment on the concept of "original sin", the foundation of Christianity.

Contrast with Islamic concept of sinless at birth (Qur'an 91:7-10).

Society influences and need for re-purifying a person. Physical purity and spiritual purity.

Physical purity: body, clothes and environment.

Spiritual purity: Beliefs and deeds.

Analogy of a building: Foundation, pillars, roof, walls, etc.

Beliefs: the foundation of Islam:

1. One God only, attributes and their significance. Man as the best creation on earth.
2. Prophets and Messengers: the Last Prophet/Messenger
3. The guidance: the Books of Allah and Qur'an, the last revelation for mankind.
4. The angels, Allah's workers.
5. The last day.
6. The life hereafter: Resurrection, Judgment, the Life of Paradise or Hell
7. Qadr (Qadar), destiny: physical, choice, knowledge.

Deeds: remaining part of the building:

1. Acts or rites of worship: Meaning of worship (love & obedience),
Five pillars of Islam.
 - a. Shahadah, witnessing.
 - b. Salat, prescribed prayers.
 - c. Zakat, wealth cleansing tax.
 - d. Sawm, fasting in the month of Ramadan
 - e. Hajj, pilgrimage to Makkah.
2. Excellence: (a) relationship with Allah,
(b) profession, occupations, job and business,
(c) relationship with people (moral code and duties).

3. Moral Cod, enjoining good and forbidding evil. Positives, negatives.
4. Duties and rights:
 - (a) Duties to Allah: Allah Alone, servitude to Him only, depend upon Him for help.
 - (b) Duties to mankind starting at home.
 - (c) Duties to the community.
 - (d) Duties to the earth, Khalifah on the earth (Qur'an 2:30).
5. Shari'ah: minimum is to know what is Haram (forbidden).
 - (a) Food and drinks.
 - (b) Earning money and wealth.
 - (c) Spending the wealth.
 - (d) Sexual relationship.
6. Conveying the message of Islam to the mankind, a primary duty.
7. Implementation of the rule of Allah in all aspects of life:
 - (a) Individual life.
 - (b) Family life.
 - (c) Social life.
 - (d) Economic life.
 - (e) Political life.

Definition of Deen.

Introduction to the Bible:

1. Old Testament (TANAKH) and New Testament.
2. Books of the Bible and their abbreviations. See the table.

More reading:

<http://www.museumstuff.com/links/history/religion/christianity/>

Bibles on line:

<http://www.museumstuff.com/rec/gen81991049534549.html>

Introduction to the Christianity:

1. The Mother Church of James (brother of Jesus).
2. The mission of Paul (Saul of Tarsus).
3. Constantine's conversion and establishment of the Church
4. Orthodox Church in Constantinople.
 - (a) Eastern Orthodox Church.
 - (b) Greek Orthodox Church.
 - (c) Serbian Orthodox Church.
 - (d) Russian Orthodox Church
 - (e) Armenian Orthodox Church.
 - (f) Other branches.
5. Catholic Church: offshoot of Orthodox Church:
Anglican Church and Episcopalian Church are offshoots of the Catholic Church.
6. Protestants: offshoot of the Catholic Church. Martin Luther and John Calvin.

- (a) Lutheran Church.
 - (b) Presbyterian Church.
 - (c) Congregational Church.
 - (d) Baptists and its branches: Evangelicals, Fundamentalists, and “Born Again”.
 - (e) Other branches
7. “Arius Heresy” - remnants in the Unitarian Church.
8. Christian Cults: Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormons, others.

More reading:

<http://www.essortment.com/in/Religion.Christianity.History/>

Developing Islamic Personality:

Study of the Qur’an 2:177 (Ayat Al-Birr, the verse of righteousness).

- Nothing to do with facing the east or the west.
- It is beliefs and deeds:
 - (a) Belief in Allah, the Last Day, the Angels, the Book and the Prophets. Complete set of beliefs; also see 4:136.
 - (b) Give the wealth for the love of Allah (despite love of the wealth) to:
 - The near relatives, the orphans, the needy, the traveler, those who ask and for freeing the necks.
 - (c) Establish Salat, pay the Zakat, fulfill the covenant when make one, patience and perseverance in tribulation and adversity.

[Note: Infaq is mentioned before Zakat showing both are required. Verses about Infaq are more than 68 and about Zakat are 32.]

These are the sincere; these are the God-conscious.
