

Neal Waldrop

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Sent: Thursday, December 06, 2018 11:48 PM
To: Neal Waldrop - gmail (nealwaldrop606@gmail.com)
Subject: Global Endeavor / Revelation Revealed / webinar on December 1, plans for December 8
Attachments: 2016-07-17_RR-T08_P088-146_Q059-077.pdf

Dear fellow readers of *The Urantia Book* and friends of the Global Endeavor,

Last Saturday afternoon (December 1), we conducted our second webinar based on topic 8 of *Revelation Revealed*, a topic that is entitled, “Comparing and contrasting the true teachings of Jesus with the traditional tenets and practices of organized, institutional Christianity.”

We began near the bottom of page 89 of the document, in order to analyze and discuss the following statement: “Christianity is an extemporized religion” [*the Midwayer Commission, 2086:4 / 195:10.18*]. As stated in the text, I proposed a paraphrase that is colloquial and very clear: “They made it up as they went along.” Here, of course, we must understand the word “They” as a reference to Christian leaders and theologians, whereas the word “it” stands for Christianity.

Participants offered various comments and reactions. Although it is difficult to summarize them, there seemed to be broad agreement that Christian leaders and theologians did indeed make up a wide range of doctrines, traditions, and observances that were subsequently associated with the Christian faith.

Some participants, however, preferred to emphasize that these doctrines and traditions were strongly rooted in the bestowal life of Jesus of Nazareth — or, at least, in the imperfect memories of the apostles and others *about* the life of Jesus among them. They did not make up the sayings of Jesus that they were able to remember.

We then discussed the excerpts from Paper 194 that appear on pages 90 and 91 on the text, excerpts that call attention to the fact that on the day of Pentecost and thereafter, the teachings of Jesus suddenly mutated into a religion *about* Jesus. In part, Peter and the other apostles “suddenly discovered that the story about him had great power with the people” [*the Midwayer Commission, 2060:1-2 / 194:1.1-2*].

Some participants pointed out that listening to a story and accepting it intellectually is far less difficult and far less challenging than the true teachings of Jesus, which call for believers to undertake a quest for direct personal experience with God and other spiritual realities, and then pass it along to other human beings by means of “a living love, a life of service” [*a Melchizedek, 1100:7 / 100:6.5*]. Further, we discussed the strong interest in stories as a cultural matter and as one of the relatively few forms of entertainment that were available then. In contrast, however, I read the following paragraph excerpted from section 6 of Paper 138:

Jesus endeavored to make clear to his apostles the difference between his teachings and his *life among them* and the teachings which might subsequently spring up *about* him. Said Jesus: “My kingdom and the gospel related thereto shall be the burden of your message. Be not sidetracked into preaching *about* me and *about* my teachings. Proclaim the gospel of the kingdom and portray my revelation of the Father in heaven but do not be misled into the bypaths of creating legends and building up a cult having to do with beliefs and teachings *about* my beliefs and teachings.” But again they did not understand why he thus spoke, and no man dared to ask why he so taught them. [*The Midway Commission, 1543:1 / 138:6.3*]

Since these instructions could not have been more explicit, we were compelled to ask ourselves whether the apostles and others deliberately decided to ignore them, or perhaps forgot that Jesus had said all this very clearly. After all, the circumstances narrated in Paper 138 (“[Training the Kingdom’s Messengers](#)”) had occurred about three years before.

During our webinar on December 8, we will discuss the teachings about sacrifice and atonement that the Apostle Paul invented, in part by reading and commenting on the excerpts from Paper 149 and Paper 4 that appear on pages 91 and 92 of the text. These teachings have profound implications, creating the net religious and philosophic context whereby the cross (or the crucifix) became the key symbol that stands for the Christian faith.

After participants have done their best to react and comment, I will probe the psychological impact on believers by asking participants to appraise various statements about salvation (survival into the afterlife) that have often been associated with traditional Christianity. If time permits, we will begin discussing teachings and practices that amount to discriminating against women, either explicitly or by implication. (Reference: pages 93 to 95 of *Revelation Revealed*.)

PRACTICAL FACTORS

1. Since the recordings of our previous webinars (November 24 and December 1) remain available on YouTube, you could watch either or both of them whenever you wish. Here is the link that would take you to the specific location on the Internet:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_6QHPLuABZojhdiE8XJRQg

As a workaround that would help you if you do not have this link immediately to hand, you could log onto the main site for YouTube and then search for “Global Endeavor.” The results would include a reference to our programs, although it may not appear at the top of the list.

2. This is the standard time line that applies to all our discussions, including the next webinar on Saturday, December 8:

— Pacific Time Zone: from 12:00 to 2:00 pm.

- Mountain Time Zone: from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.
- Central Time Zone: from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.
- Eastern Time Zone: from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

Please be aware that the starting time is only approximate, for it usually takes us a few minutes to make the adjustments to the rather complicated software that cause all the participants to be viewed and heard correctly. (On November 24 and December 1, live streaming in YouTube began at about ten minutes past the hour indicated above.)

Regards, Neal Waldrop.
Chairman, the Committee for the Global Endeavor
[December 6, 2018 at 11:48 pm]