

Neal Waldrop

From: Neal Waldrop [nealwaldrop@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2018 9:51 PM
To: 'Neal Waldrop - gmail'
Subject: Global Endeavor / Revelation Revealed / new series of video discussions comparing the true teachings of Jesus with the traditional tenets and practices of Christianity
Attachments: 2016-07-17_RR-T08_P088-146_Q059-077.pdf

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

SUMMARY

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I am very pleased to announce a new series of four video programs during which the participants will analyze and discuss the initial pages of topic 8 of *Revelation Revealed*. This topic is entitled, “Comparing and contrasting the true teachings of Jesus with the traditional tenets and practices of organized, institutional Christianity.” These discussions will occur on four successive Saturday afternoons, starting on November 24 and extending through December 15. Thereafter we will pause for the year-end holidays and will resume on some date in January that we have not yet chosen.

The discussions will occur via the Zoom website on the Internet, but will be streamed to YouTube in real time. Therefore readers will be able to view them in YouTube. Further, the recordings will be maintained there and will be available indefinitely, so that readers will be able to watch the recordings whenever they wish.

Here is the time line for each discussion, keyed to the time zones in North America:

- 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.

BACKGROUND

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Our previous series of interactive discussions pertained to topic 7 of *Revelation Revealed* (“The extended transition from institutional to personal religion”) and ended last March. After considering various possible approaches to future broadcasts, the Committee for the Global Endeavor decided to shift to a video format, instead of continuing the audio-only framework that previously associated us with the Cosmic Citizen program on Internet radio. Subsequent research into the video options that were being offered enabled us to identify various providers of video webinar services, as well as a number of other companies that are willing to compile the corresponding video recordings and then make them available.

On the other hand, there was only one “package deal” whereby the provider of video-webinar services offers a standing arrangement that includes real-time streaming and subsequent availability

of the video recordings. That possibility comes from the Internet meeting provider called Zoom, which has established an ongoing partnership with YouTube. In other words, a Zoom webinar can be streamed to YouTube in real time, and the corresponding recording will remain available on YouTube. This, of course, is the approach that the committee decided to adopt.

PRACTICAL ASPECTS

1. For your convenience, I have attached a PDF file that consists of topic 8 of *Revelation Revealed* (60 pages). You will understand our discussion much better if you follow along as the participants work through the text, and I strongly recommend this. If you wish, you could download the full text of *Revelation Revealed* (all twelve topics) from the website of the Committee for the Global Endeavor, <http://www.globalendeavor.net>.

2. Here is a link to the location in YouTube where you will be able to watch the programs live and/or view them later:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_6QHPLuABZojhdjE8XJRQg

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.

3. Please be aware that the starting time listed above is only approximate. The practical experiments that we conducted taught us that the software is complicated and that it may take ten minutes or so to make the adjustments that turn out to be necessary before all participants are online and can be viewed and heard correctly. *As a practical matter, it is quite possible that the streaming in YouTube will not actually get started until ten or even fifteen minutes after the hour indicated.*

4. Our experience with the previous series of audio discussions leads us to believe that there will be many more readers of *The Urantia Book* who view the discussion programs at some other moment that turns out to be convenient, rather than in real time. YouTube makes this quite easy, for the recordings will remain available indefinitely.

5. On the other hand, YouTube does not automatically enable viewers to download recordings. We plan to post the recordings in some Internet folder from which you will be able to download them if you wish. Please be aware, however, that this option will not be available right away, for it may take us a few weeks to work out the details.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

If you have questions that you would like the participants to address, please write to the standard address for inquiries that appears at the bottom of the home page of the website of the Committee for the Global Endeavor:

Info@GlobalEndeavor.net

During some future program, participants will answer questions that we have selected — on the understanding that we reserve the right to edit and adapt the wording as we think suitable.

THE IMMEDIATE HORIZON

As you may already know, the persons who participate in our discussion programs are experienced readers of *The Urantia Book* with independent opinions and viewpoints. From a practical perspective, we always intend to embody a range of ideas and insights that demonstrates pluralism and diversity — NOT some unwise effort to stimulate or simulate unanimity or uniformity. We believe that you will find our video discussions very interesting and perhaps even inspiring, and therefore we hope that many of you will decide to view them.

Regards, Neal Waldrop.
Chairman, the Committee for the Global Endeavor
[November 20, 2018 at 9:50 pm]

Neal Waldrop

From: Neal Waldrop [nealwaldrop@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2018 11:25 PM
To: Neal Waldrop - gmail (nealwaldrop606@gmail.com)
Subject: Global Endeavor / Revelation Revealed / webinar on November 24, plans for December 1
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 (November 24), we conducted our first 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.” At the outset, however, I pointed out that we were conducting our broadcast on the Saturday after the Thanksgiving holiday in the United States and therefore, by implication, on the day immediately after a rather different celebration: Black Friday!

I then asked the participants whether this other day could actually be considered a pagan holiday, on the grounds that it is entirely materialistic and certainly does not celebrate or commemorate any sort of idealistic or spiritual values. Further, I later suggested that it might even be considered a plague, not as catastrophic as the Black Death that decimated Europe during the 14th century, but a plague nonetheless.

The other participants were ambivalent about Black Friday. Some of them pointed out that human beings have material needs and wants, then commented that Black Friday enables many people to fulfill them at somewhat lower cost than they might otherwise incur. On balance, I accepted this, stating that the concluding syllable *-ism* in the word *materialism* is the aspect that concerns me the most: the net implication that material values are paramount or even dominant.

Thereafter the other participants and I went on to discuss the first two pages of topic 8 (i.e., pages 88 and 89). We concluded by beginning to examine the statement, “Christianity is an extemporized religion” [*the Midwayer Commission, 2086:4 / 195:10.18*]. The others appeared to agree with the paraphrase given in the text of the document: “They made it up as they went along.” On the other hand, we did not have time to analyze the implications, and this will be the first order of business on December 1.

When the other participants and I subsequently reach the excerpts from Paper 195 that appear on page 90 of the document (those that describe what happened on Pentecost), I plan to seek comments on 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 Midwayer Commission, 1543:1 / 138:6.3*]

PRACTICAL FACTORS

1. Since the recording of our November 24 webinar remains available on YouTube, you could watch it whenever you wish (just over two hours). Here is the link that would take you to the specific location on the Internet:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_6QHPLuABZojhdjE8XJRQg

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 1:

- 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, live streaming in YouTube began at about ten minutes past the hour indicated above.)

3. Like the recording of our first webinar on November 24, the recording of our second webinar on December 1 will remain available on YouTube indefinitely. You could watch the program in real time or you could watch it later, whenever you wish.

Regards, Neal Waldrop.
Chairman, the Committee for the Global Endeavor
[November 29, 2018 at 11:25 pm]

Neal Waldrop

From: Neal Waldrop [nealwaldrop@earthlink.net]
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 Midwayer 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]

Neal Waldrop

From: Neal Waldrop [nealwaldrop@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2018 11:31 PM
To: Neal Waldrop - gmail (nealwaldrop606@gmail.com)
Subject: Global Endeavor / Revelation Revealed / webinar on December 8, plans for December 15
Attachments: 2016-07-17_RR-T08_P088-146_Q059-077.pdf

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

On Saturday, December 8, we conducted our third 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 in the middle of page 91 of the document, starting with the heading “(b) Sacrifice and atonement.” Therefore participants read and commented on the teachings about sacrifice and atonement that the Apostle Paul invented, as described and analyzed by the Midwayer Commission [1670:4 / 149:2.3] and by a Divine Counselor [60:3,5-6 / 4:5.3,4-6]. 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.

In part, participants deplored the concept of an angry God, thereby agreeing with the Divine Counselor that “It is an affront to God to believe, hold, or teach that innocent blood must be shed in order to win his favor or to divert the fictitious divine wrath.” Participants emphasized that God is a loving Father, not an angry one, then commented on the psychological and emotional implications that are closely associated with human fathers on earth. Several participants offered the view that a positive relationship with one’s own father on Urantia facilitates and/or reinforces the conviction of a Universal Father who loves and encourages us.

I then probed the impact of traditional Christian teachings by asking participants to begin appraising ten statements about salvation (survival into the afterlife) that I had circulated to them beforehand. (See the list of statements shown at the end of this message.)

Statements along these general lines have often been associated with traditional Christianity, although no single denomination proclaims or promotes all ten of them. Therefore it is best to understand them as examples. The time available on December 8 permitted participants to exchange detailed comments on the first three, but we did not reach statements 4 through 10. Therefore we will discuss and appraise them during our webinar on December 15.

After that, participants will grapple with formal question 61 appearing on page 92 of *Revelation Revealed*:

61. When the Divine Counselor declares that “the inhabitants of Urantia are to find deliverance from these ancient errors” [a Divine Counselor, 60:6 / 4:5.6], is he essentially predicting that most human

beings will eventually accept the teachings of *The Urantia Book*? Are you willing to predict that any institutional religion whose leaders proclaim Jesus as the Son of God will abandon its core doctrine that he died on the cross to redeem mankind and atone for our sins?

In all likelihood, there will be sufficient time left for participants to 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 remain available on YouTube, you could watch any or all 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_6QHPLuABZojhdjE8XJRQg

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 15:

- 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. (For the first three webinars in our current series, 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 13, 2018 at 11:30 pm]

Statements about salvation (survival into the afterlife) that have often been associated with traditional Christianity

In fairness, it is important to note that no single branch or denomination proclaims or promotes every single statement. Although these statements are reasonably representative, at least in terms of their spirit and overtones, it is best to interpret them as examples.

Possible ratings

- A – True
- B – Mainly true, but partly false
- C – Mainly false, but partly true
- D – False
- X – Cannot be evaluated

Statements to evaluate

1. God saves whom he wills. Although it is possible to be optimistic about someone who leads a godly life, in the final analysis we do not and cannot know whether God has chosen a particular person for heaven, or for hell.
2. It is necessary to believe in Jesus in order to be saved (*in order to survive into the afterlife*).
3. Everyone who believes in Jesus will be saved (*will survive into the afterlife*).
4. Everyone who believes in Jesus will be saved (*will survive into the afterlife*), but only if he or she has been properly baptized.
5. Everyone who believes in Jesus will be saved (*will survive into the afterlife*), but only if he or she has been properly baptized and has accepted the doctrines and teachings that the church proclaims.
6. Everyone who believes in Jesus will be saved (*will survive into the afterlife*), but only if he or she has been properly baptized, has accepted the doctrines and teachings that the church proclaims, and has kept the commandments (although he or she may have sinned from time to time).
7. Outside the church there is no salvation. (*This is the standard translation of the original wording in Latin, "Extra ecclesiam nulla salus."*)
8. Anyone who does not believe in Jesus will be condemned to hell.
9. Anyone who does not believe in God will be condemned to hell.

10. Baptism is necessary in order to remove the stain of original sin that contaminates each infant because of the misconduct of Adam and Eve.

Neal Waldrop

From: Neal Waldrop [nealwaldrop@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, December 21, 2018 8:15 PM
To: Neal Waldrop - gmail (nealwaldrop606@gmail.com)
Subject: Global Endeavor / Revelation Revealed / webinar on December 15
Attachments: 2016-07-17_RR-T08_P088-146_Q059-077.pdf; 2018-12-16_Statements about salvation-survival.pdf

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

On Saturday, December 15, we conducted our fourth 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." This was the final webinar in the current series; we plan to resume in January, but have not yet selected a specific date.

Controversy over the statements about salvation (survival into the afterlife)

As I previously informed you, during our webinar on December 8 we began considering and evaluating ten statements about salvation (survival into the afterlife). Statements along these general lines have often been associated with traditional Christianity, although no single denomination proclaims or promotes all ten of them. Therefore it is best to understand them as examples.

As a practical matter, the time available on December 8 permitted participants to exchange detailed comments on the first three, but we did not reach statements 4 through 10. Therefore we proceeded to discuss and appraise them during our webinar on December 15.

I introduced the discussion by summarizing the ratings I had received by E-mail from one of the panelists who had participated on December 8, but who knew that he would not be available on December 15. Soon after we began our discussion of statements 4 through 10, one of the panelists expressed fundamental objections to the overall approach.

After the discussion on December 8, he said, he had had the opportunity to reflect on these matters and had decided that he was no longer willing to participate in the group effort to evaluate the ten statements. He did not believe it was Jesusonian to do this kind of thing; it also, in his view, went against the teachings of *The Urantia Book* that tell us to appropriate the best of other religions and people's beliefs, and then leave the rest behind. So we should be investigating why *The Urantia Book* says there is enough in Christianity to immortalize it. We should be figuring out what they meant by that and highlighting what is best about Christianity, not making ourselves feel superior by highlighting what is worst about Christianity. Therefore, as previously stated, he objected to the whole exercise in principle.

I thanked him for expressing these views and said I would interpret them as effectively amounting to a rating of X, "Cannot be evaluated," that would apply to all of the remaining questions. In addition, I stated that even though what he had just said seemed to be an extreme reply, I treasured his right to say this and the pluralism and diversity that we are seeking to epitomize during these broadcasts.

Another participant reacted to this exchange of views by saying that he very deeply appreciated the atmosphere and the culture of the conversation, the context that I had created, and also the breadth of the discussion. In response to the adverse remarks that the other participant had expressed, he commented that there was an interesting question of who was our audience and what was our purpose as we conversed.

He assumed that our audience was entirely a group of *Urantia Book* readers, and no one else; and that our purpose was to elucidate ideas that are already in *The Urantia Book*. He believed that if the audience were different and larger, particularly including persons who do not read *The Urantia Book* and Christians in general, he was not sure that this would be a purposive conversation — because we would then be acting along the lines that the other participant had referred to, essentially negating the value and validity of another religion. Jesus did not engage in that. Instead he looked for truth, expanded upon it, and allowed it to slowly, steadily, naturally crowd out what was in error, rather than directly criticize it. So this, he thought, was an interesting philosophical point about the nature of our conversation and our audience.

In reply, I agreed that our audience was readers of *The Urantia Book* and predominantly committed readers of *The Urantia Book*, not simply casual readers. There is nothing that would impede someone of another faith — Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, whatever — from looking at our programs if he or she wishes to do so. for they were available, and will remain available, on YouTube. I believed, however, that the message we were exploring is of the greatest interest to committed readers of *The Urantia Book*. If they were not our entire audience, they were the overwhelming majority of it.

Now the context of these procedural questions corresponds to the title of the document, *Revelation Revealed*. While I was writing that document, it was my task to try to dig deeply into what the revelators were telling us, to overcome possible misunderstandings, and indeed to seek to reveal aspects of the teachings of *The Urantia Book* that in my judgment had not received enough attention up to now.

So the word *revealed* in the second half of the title has to do with making known, whereas *revelation*, the first word — even though it is a linguistic cognate — has to do with the spiritual purpose that the revelators were undertaking. Now we get to the question in front of us. Topic 8 reads as follows: “Comparing and contrasting the true teachings of Jesus with the traditional tenets and practices of organized, institutional Christianity.” If we are going to compare and contrast, it is necessary to start with the true teachings of Jesus and then go through, as best we can, at least some of the traditional tenets and practices of organized, institutional Christianity.

I said I believed that the ten statements I had compiled do embody the general spirit and overtones of some statements that have been made by various Christian believers throughout the history of Christianity. Therefore I believed that evaluating these statements was part of the overall task of comparing and contrasting the true teachings of Jesus with the traditional tenets and practices of organized, institutional Christianity.

Further, I believed that our purpose was not only to exchange views, but perhaps to provide additional grist for reflection on the part of committed readers of *The Urantia Book* — in the event that one of us, or perhaps several of us, were to say something that these readers found interesting or useful, and preferably both interesting and useful. That, at least, was what I hoped would happen.

Concluding clarification. Topic 8 in *Revelation Revealed* includes references to Christianity that can correctly be considered favorable and positive. For example, a paragraph on page 112 identifies the social ministry and charitable activities whereby the various branches of institutional Christianity have demonstrated a desire to assist human beings in structured and organized ways. The most notable such passage, however, occurs on pages 124 and 125. It mainly consists of three excerpts from *The Urantia Book* that are quite intriguing and that precede formal question 72. That question is long and detailed; the wording thereof describes it as a “challenge of nuance and equilibrium that may even encompass some degree of ambiguity.”

For a table that summarizes the ten statements and the ratings that the participants assigned, see the second attachment.

Formal question 61

Participants then proceeded to grapple with formal question 61 appearing on page 92 of *Revelation Revealed*:

61. When the Divine Counselor declares that “[the inhabitants of Urantia are to find deliverance from these ancient errors](#)” [*a Divine Counselor, 60:6 / 4:5.6*], is he essentially predicting that most human beings will eventually accept the teachings of *The Urantia Book*? Are you willing to predict that any institutional religion whose leaders proclaim Jesus as the Son of God will abandon its core doctrine that he died on the cross to redeem mankind and atone for our sins?

In general, the participants answered yes to the question contained in the first sentence, but pointed out that the adverb “eventually” is indefinite and probably refers to a very long period of time that persons now alive cannot evaluate accurately. In much the same vein, no one was willing to predict that an institutional religion whose leaders proclaim Jesus as the Son of God will abandon its core doctrine that he died on the cross to redeem mankind and atone for our sins. One panelist commented, however, that if institutional religions do not abandon this doctrine, they are likely to find that believers are increasingly abandoning them.

Discrimination against women

The participants read and discussed two quotations from New Testament epistles that Christian tradition ascribes to the Apostle Paul (the quotations that are reproduced on page 93 of *Revelation Revealed*). There seemed to be a widely shared view that the relative disregard for women owed more to the society and sociology that prevailed during the early centuries of Christianity than to any

theological factor that was specifically associated with the Christian faith. Some participants pointed out that other organized, institutional religions have also treated women in ways that are discriminatory and unfair.

One participant, noting that the second excerpt comes from the epistle named “1 Timothy,” called attention to the apparently unanimous view of Bible scholars that this epistle was actually written by a follower of the Apostle Paul who lived in a subsequent generation, not by Paul himself. (This appraisal agrees with wording shown on page 117 of *Revelation Revealed*, and also in Annex 2, in which the text summarizes the conclusions of scholars concerning the New Testament epistles that were traditionally ascribed to Paul.)

The same participant also remarked that it is not entirely clear that the Apostle Paul actually wrote the discriminatory comments about women reproduced in the first quotation on page 93 (i.e., 1 Corinthians, Chapter 14, verses 13-15). Some scholars apparently wonder whether these statements were inserted during editing that may have occurred in subsequent generations.

Promoting celibacy

During the final few moments of the webinar on December 15, a participant read the excerpt in which a Brilliant Evening Star calls attention to and comments on the preference for celibacy that marked the writings of the Apostle Paul, a preference that became a highly influential feature of the Christian tradition (i.e., 977:1 / 89:3.6). Since the time available did not permit us to discuss this passage, participants will do that when our webinars on topic 8 of *Revelation Revealed* resume in January.

PRACTICAL FACTORS

Since the recordings of all our webinars are available on YouTube, you could watch any or all 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_6QHPLuABZojhdjE8XJRQg

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.

Regards, Neal Waldrop.

Chairman, the Committee for the Global Endeavor

[December 21, 2018 at 8:15 pm]