

Neal Waldrop

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Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2019 9:27 PM
To: Neal Waldrop - gmail (nealwaldrop606@gmail.com)
Subject: Global Endeavor / Revelation Revealed / webinar on April 20
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Dear fellow readers of *The Urantia Book* and friends of the Global Endeavor,

I am very pleased to announce that on Saturday, April 20, we will resume our webinar series 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."

Theology: its value and limitations

Panelists will start at the top of page 103 of *Revelation Revealed* (which is where we left off on March 2). Therefore participants will discuss the value and limitations of theology as it may contribute to spiritual belief and practice, taking careful note of the six excerpts from *The Urantia Book* cited on that page. In part, the revelators declare:

Theology does not produce religion; it is religion that produces theologic philosophy. [A Melchizedek, 1130:3 / 103:1.4]

When theology masters religion, religion dies; it becomes a doctrine instead of a life. The mission of theology is merely to facilitate the self-consciousness of personal spiritual experience. [A Melchizedek, 1141:4 / 103:9.6]

In addition to the six excerpts highlighted in the text, I will ask the panelists to consider and comment on the following paragraph from section 9 of Paper 195:

Primitive man lived a life of superstitious bondage to religious fear. Modern, civilized men dread the thought of falling under the dominance of strong religious convictions. Thinking man has always feared to be *held* by a religion. When a strong and moving religion threatens to dominate him, he invariably tries to rationalize, traditionalize, and institutionalize it, thereby hoping to gain control of it. By such procedure, even a revealed religion becomes man-made and man-dominated. Modern men and women of intelligence evade the religion of Jesus because of their fears of what it will do *to* them — and *with* them. And all such fears are well founded. The religion of Jesus does, indeed, dominate and transform its believers, demanding that men dedicate their lives to seeking for a knowledge of the will of the Father in heaven and requiring that the energies of living be consecrated to the unselfish service of the brotherhood of man. [The Midwayer Commission, 2083:2 / 195:9.6]

Augustine versus Pelagius

Thereafter, participants will proceed to analyze and react to several pages of *Revelation Revealed* narrating an intense controversy that occurred in the early decades of the fifth century — contention that pitted Pelagius, a relatively obscure British monk who was then preaching in Rome, against Augustine, bishop of Hippo in north Africa, an ecclesiastical superstar whose extant works in Latin have made him the most prolific author who ever wrote in that language and, not incidentally, the most influential theologian who lived and taught in Western Europe during Christianity's first few centuries.

Nonetheless, the teachings of Pelagius emphasizing the essential goodness of human nature and the freedom of the human will are considerably closer to the revelators' views than the doctrines that Augustine proclaimed and promoted. For example, Pelagius denied the idea of original sin and the need for infants to be baptized, whereas Augustine asserted that human beings could not attain righteousness by their own efforts and were totally dependent upon the grace of God, while emphasizing the role that he associated with the organized, institutional church. Further, Augustine's extended struggle with Pelagius and Pelagianism eventually led him (Augustine) to repulsive teachings that amount to predestination — convictions that clearly influenced John Calvin and, through him, the entire spectrum of Evangelical thought among Protestant Christians.

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. Here is the standard time line that applies to all our discussions, including the next webinar on Saturday, April 20:

- 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. In relation to our preceding webinars associated with topic 8, live streaming in YouTube began at about ten minutes past the hour indicated above.

Regards, Neal Waldrop.
Chairman, the Committee for the Global Endeavor
[April 17, 2019 at 9:27 pm]