

Book Review: Colliding Worldviews

reviewed by Patch Blakey

Letter from a Christian Citizen by Douglas Wilson is a very small but quite effective response to a book by Sam Harris, *Letter to a Christian Nation*. I have not read Sam Harris' book and have no intention of doing so for two reasons. First, it is easy to get a clear view of where Harris is coming from in his argument by reading the extensive quotes in Wilson's book. Harris is a self-prophesying atheist who rages against the triune God of the Bible. But this is nothing new, which leads to my second reason for not reading Harris' book. The Bible says "... the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Cor. 2:14). It is impossible for unbelievers, even very intelligent and highly educated unbelievers, to understand what God says because these things are spiritually discerned, and unbelievers are spiritually dead.

On the other hand, Wilson's brief book is a wonderful and concise apologetic for the Christian faith. Wilson is gracious in his responses to Harris' numerous atheistic points, while also pointing out Harris' fallacies and inconsistencies. Here are a few samples.

Writing to Harris, Wilson

says, "Consider the tsunami from *your* premises. You spoke of the day 'one hundred thousand children were simultaneously torn from their mother's arms and casually drowned' (48). Now I can only understand you being indignant with God over this if He is really *there*. But what if He is *not* there? What follows then? This event had no more ultimate significance than a solar flare or a virus going extinct or a desolate asteroid colliding with another asteroid or the gradual loss of Alabama to kudzu or me scratching my head just now. These are just atoms banging around. This is what they do."

Letter from a Christian Citizen

by Douglas Wilson

Powder Springs, GA: American Vision Press,
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Wilson also interjects his down-home humor into the discussion while maintaining a very serious position. Wilson writes in response to Harris' denial of valid human witnesses to the resurrection, "One last thing. The closed system that makes up your universe *is* impervious to any evidence to the contrary. Once you grant that

the world works this way, anyone who comes bustling up to you with stories about men who came back from the dead is a *prima facie* nut-job. Simple. But you need to look at your closed-system universe again and look more closely at the price tag this time. Not only is this vast concourse of atoms spared the spectacle of a Jewish carpenter coming back from the grave, it is also spared *all* forms of immaterial realities. This would include, unfortunately, your arguments and thoughts. They are as immaterial as Farley's ghost. Show me your arguments for atheism under a microscope. Then I will think about believing them. What color are they? How much do they weigh? *What* are they made of?"

Letter from a Christian Citizen is a quick yet thought-provoking read. It is instructive as well as entertaining. Even more so, it is a very helpful booklet to help prepare one's children and oneself to counter the

volumes of bilious atheistic blather that are so commonly accepted today as unanswerable by many well-intentioned but unprepared Christians. Wilson's book would make a great addition to any high school apologetics class, and it's also good for promoting productive discussion around the family dinner table.