



AREOPAGUS PROCLAMATION

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Who Cares?

by Daryl E. Witmer

Haunting lyrics in the famous 1966 film *Alfie* voice the quest for some sense of meaning in the grinding routine of life: "What's it all about, Alfie? Is it just for the moment we live? What's it all about? What's it all about, Alfie?"

Perhaps you've asked yourself that question. The alarm clock rings and you haul yourself up and off to another day . . . of what? For what?

Tony Campolo once taught at the University of PA. He says that one day, right in the middle of a lecture to a class of about 750 students, a young man stood up and yelled out, "Bull - - -!" Campolo responded by saying, "That kind of behavior will get you in trouble." The student answered, "Who cares?" So Campolo said, "I'm going to throw you out of this class." To which the student repeated, "Who cares?" Campolo said, "If I throw you out, mister, I'm not going to let you back in — ever." Once again the young man responded, "Who cares?"

By this time, Campolo said he had pretty much figured out

where this exchange was going. Had he said, "If you get thrown out of this class, you might get thrown out of the whole university," the fellow would have yelled, "Who cares?"

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If Campolo had then said, "If you get thrown out of this university, you won't be able to get a good job. And if you can't get a job, you won't be able to buy all the things you don't need." To which the guy would shout at the top of his lungs: "Who cares? Who cares? WHO CARES?!"



So who really does care anyway? Why are we here? Do we have a reason, a purpose, a goal, some noble charter in life? Do we even know where we're going?

Former U.S. Senate Chaplain Richard C. Halverson once observed that human progress "requires a legitimate end, and in our culture all our ends are means. Individually or collectively we have no legitimate, no ultimate goal. So really, in the final analysis," he said, "where is our progress?"

Historic biblical Christianity cites an ultimate purpose for living that transcends all the passing notions of this age and every age.

The prophet Isaiah was speaking for the infinite yet personal God of all creation when he wrote in

the Old Testament Bible Book bearing his name, **Isaiah 43:6b-7**: "Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth, everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory, whom I have formed, even whom I have made."

In other words, according to Scripture, man's created charter in this life is to **glorify God**. The Westminster Catechism states that "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever."

God is personal and knowable, yet altogether separate from His creation. Only in Jesus Christ can we come into fellowship with God. In Him alone is our **greatest hope**. And yet being willing to give up everything else that *doesn't* matter in exchange for what alone *does* matter may ironically be our **greatest challenge**.

Tony Campolo ended his story by stating that it is impossible to be a true disciple of Christ until we "rise up and say 'Who cares?' to everything that this culture is trying to sell us."

Perhaps you've been reading our thoughtletters for some time now and have become convinced that there really *is* a solid rational basis for Christian faith. You have come to know *about* Christ. But you've never come to *know* Him. If you'll contact us, we'll be happy to offer you further personal guidance about how to experience such a relationship.

Sources & Resources

- Personal correspondence from Tony Campolo, dated 4/14/1994.
- Perspective newsletter, by Richard C. Halverson, Vol. XLVII, No. 4, 2/15/1995.
- Peace with God (BGEA) website: <https://peacewithgod.net>

More Evidence in Defense and Confirmation of the Christian Faith