

ATH 612

Interview 1

Intro to Evangelism

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HP

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My interview was with my former classmate from middle school and college Shawn Davis. He is a native and non Christian / un-churched somewhat professed Atheist to say the least. I approached Mr. Davis about doing this 10-15 minute interview and upon explaining it was for my class, he agreed wholeheartedly for a chance to express his anti- Protestant beliefs to me. I met him and asked first his definition of God? His answer was "A source of Higher Consciousness ", which I took as him just not wanting to give a name but a title. He explained next that "to know God "is to know yourself which says we are self reliable. I asked him could he create himself again and got no answer. Shawn said next that "Jesus Christ "was and is a mythical Prophet that never walked the Earth or did anything for anybody. Our conversation to a societal question momentarily and upon asking what was the biggest problem facing mankind today and his answer was " Religious divisiveness " . He added all Church is about is making money and teaching falsely. Next he said " Sin " is an ethical or moral wrong based on another person believing it being morally wrong. We were half way through this interview when a question about the Church and Christianity made its way on the table. Mr. Davis sated it is sad and makes him angry that according to his knowledge 420 billion dollars annually is made in the African American Church without any visible community advancement. We hit a slight bump in the road because there are a lot of community outreach Churches nationally from all denominations. While I am aware funds get collected week after week that become misused, and pocketed. He also explained that Christianity along with Judaism, Hinduism, and Islam are the worshipping of a Jewish God. He feels more can be done with all this money being generated on a weekly basis. I laughed when telling him it was great he was staying abreast with what the Church is and isn't doing, but I challenged him to see what he has or is willing to do to aid some

forms of urban advancement. I joke with him from time to time about some of his face book post which reflects his silent political, socioeconomic, militant views. I have asked him a million times why hasn't he finished school and created a talk show voicing his concerns... this question always gets a response of "the world aint ready for me". The question of " Salvation " brought about something interesting, he claims its natural for all since we are born knowing right from wrong. He says we were born in sin, but since is a moral, ethical consciousness; it's not harmful because we know not to do wrong. It's like a challenge to see if we can succeed at the moral game. Next he took a page out of Oprah Winfreys book saying there is more than one way to get to God. He stated " just Do right, live right, treat others right " and we shouldn't have a problem reaching our God. He thinks in essence we can do what we please and the so called " Higher Power " he mentioned earlier will be available forever. In the case of what happens when we die, he says he is currently studying this matter and the body is a never ending energy that stays present after the body leaves. He says a Christian is a New Testament follower, "you must be reading the bible "was my reply. So far I was pleased with his to the point answers. We proceeded to the " Heaven or Hell " which he insists that if you're in your present state happy, you are in heaven, but those suffering through " trials and tribulations are going through Hell right now on Earth. He also says this is possible by mental assessment. In conclusion he says his "Philosophy "of life is Earth has always been, what we do has no effect. He says existence carries on, it's a miniscule effect on the world, we live and we die.