

"Rally for Reason"?

by Wayne Goff

Thanks to some friends and the news media, I learned *after the fact* that thousands of atheists showed up at the National Mall on March 24 to promote a "Reason Rally." That's okay, I probably wouldn't have gone anyway.

Richard Dawkins, author of *The God Delusion*, encouraged fellow atheists to ridicule those who claim to be religious. "Mock them, ridicule them in public," he urged. "Don't fall for the convention that we're all too polite to talk about religion."

As a Christian, I would never advocate that Christians "mock" and "ridicule" unbelievers. We are to "*love our enemies*" (Matt. 5:44), and "*bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust*" (Matt. 5:44-45).

At the same time, Christians are to be "... *ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear*" (1 Pet. 3:15). We do not have to apologize for the Faith of the Gospel, but should instead "*earnestly contend*" for it (Jude 3). We do not have to apologize for accepting truth on the basis of clearly defined "*evidence*." Atheists often demand that we accept as **fact** only that which can be proven by empirical evidence. But mankind operates on a wider basis than that every day to obtain information, knowledge and understanding.

As for "**reason**," let us agree with the words of Isaiah: "*Come now, and let us reason together,*' says the LORD, '*Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool*" (Isaiah 1:18). God will forgive us of our sins through the blood of His loving Son, Jesus Christ, and will accept us into a realm of fellowship which we do not deserve. May God give all of us time, opportunity, patience and love for one another as we *reason together*.

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