

Editorial

The importance of finding passion

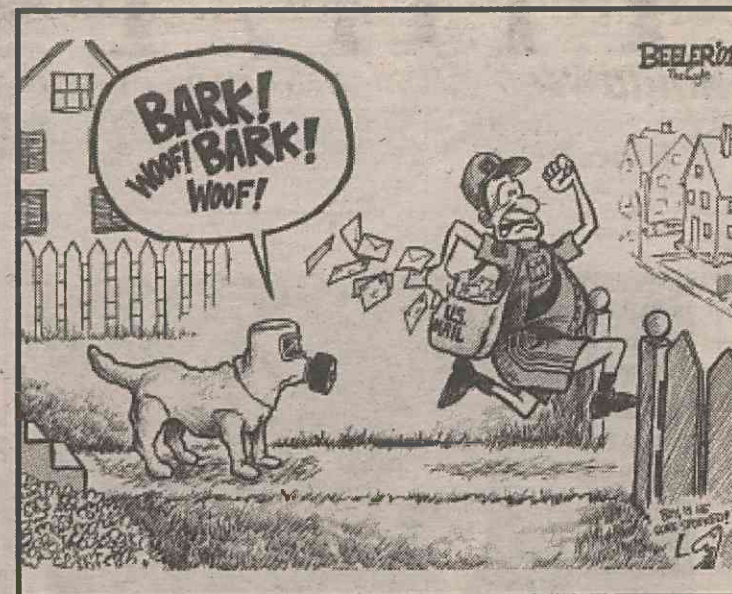
Some people go their whole lives without really knowing what it is they believe. Some people drift through life without ever understanding who they are or what they are passionate about. These past few months, here at Elon and all over the world, we have been presented with problems of

monumental impact, that have shaped our lives and forced us to question our actions. We have been given the opportunity to take a stand, fight for our rights and most important, for what we believe in.

Whether it is religion, philosophy, the law or a college policy, it is important for us to remember in these turbulent

times, there is always room for change. It is what keeps our momentum going; knowing that we can get better and make a bigger impact on the world.

This week, we wish to acknowledge and encourage those who continually strive to make a difference. And to those who are having trouble finding their place in this busy world where anything goes, college is about finding yourself. Keep looking. When you find that passion you will see it is irreplaceable.



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Many of today's Christians miss the point of Christianity

Josh Davis

Opinions Editor

You are a sinner. None of you are perfect. Only Jesus led a perfect life, and did I mention that he's your *only* hope of living an eternal life in heaven?

The above paragraph outlines the basic doctrine of many self-proclaimed Christians, each of them believing that Jesus gave his life for the sins of man. If I hadn't grown up in a Southern Baptist community with a vague sense of Christianity, I might call the above ideas those of a confused and illogical generation following the historically-distorted preachings of a delusional and suicidal vagrant.



But I grew up in America, and I've seen the Reaganesque way in which Christianity is induced into our society and more diverse global cultures as a fix-all to life's problems, without familiar or sanely logically explanation. Therefore, I accept that most followers of popular Christian-

ity are simply blind to its inherent faults. I call it Reaganesque because the idea that Christianity is a solution to all human problems makes about as much sense as Reagan's "trickle-down" economics did in the 80s.

Maybe it is time that we start making *what we believe* the part of our lives that we question most, instead of that part of our lives that we leave untouched and set in stone. Many Christians are too afraid to question their beliefs in the face of a popular majority.

But fear is not a concept Jesus was familiar with. He didn't pressure his listeners into following him as many Christian groups and leaders do today.

The most recent example of institutions scaring people into religion are the numerous "haunted houses" operated by churches that include a Christian "salvation" theme. These establishments operate in total hypocrisy to their objective to promote Christianity as an unthreatening proposition for peace. By scaring people into Christianity, churches are presenting a false picture that following Christ is one's only option to living a satisfactory life and that religion isn't supposed to be enjoyable. Such practices have nothing to do with following Jesus.

Instead of scaring people into adopting his beliefs, or implying that a majority of followers *must* be right, Jesus simply told people what he

believed, which to a present day listener's ear might sound like so much balderdash. But, what one does find in Jesus' sermons is a theory on a way to live life civilly, based on the ideas of love, peace and understanding that he introduced. These ideas are to be embraced by all of us.

Do people go to church on Sunday to *analyze* the words of Jesus? Of course not. Ask a Christian why he or she believes what they do, and few would be able to provide a specific explanation. Now ask what the preacher said last Sunday, and they could most likely recite it word for word. What happened to the *autonomy* associated with religion?

As a child I learned that Southern Baptist Christians go to church to be reminded of the "fear doctrine" and to remain immobile by filling their bodies with turkey dressing and cranberry sauce. When did Christianity, a religion following the word of an anorexic desert-wanderer become about food?

Don't be surprised. It seems as if following the Bible has rarely ever been about actually reading it. There are three ideas that a majority of Christians believe in that are not written in The Bible that Christians first turn to when proving their cause:

The first idea is that God wrote The Bible. This is not said once. Contrary to popular belief, Jews and Christians wrote The Bible, and most notable of these authors was the English Church. If God wrote The

Bible, then that allows me to say sufficient evidence exists that Jerry Garcia advised him on the book of Revelation.

The second idea is that Jesus led a perfect life. Assuming that he was the undisputed Son of God, no evidence or documentation exists that says the actions Jesus took were in any way, exemplary or righteous. In fact, there is actually no criteria to prove this to any extent. It might actually be a little easier to gauge Jesus' life if we knew what happened during those mysterious first ten or so years that are just conveniently skipped over in the beginning of the New Testament. I guess God simply "flaked" on those details. How many parents have you known to be admittant to their children's faults?

The third misconception among Christians is that Jesus had any modern concept or opinion on human sexuality, human reproduction, American public policy or global and political economies. Ironically, many Christians use their religious doctrine as a tool for coming to conclusions on these modern day, fairly nonreligious issues.

Religion should be individual, and in Christianity, should focus on an individual's relationship with God. The comfort of religious practice should come in knowing that one is spiritually afloat and not worrying so much if others aren't in the same boat. Spread the word, but don't necessarily expect people to listen.

THE PENDULUM

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