# **Background Information**

### 1. In Common with CARM

- a. Both Matt and Edward are web developers for God
- b. CARM has over 1125 pages
- c. Book of Edward has over 1400 pages
- d. Both efforts represent significant Internet works
- e. Both are committed to "reason" Isaiah 1:18; James 3:17.
  - "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 will be like wool." Isaiah 1:18 AMP Note: it was apparent on the radio show that Matt is not committed to reason, but rather is committed to reason by orthodox doctrine.
  - "But the wisdom from above is first of all pure (undefiled); then it is peace-loving, courteous (considerate, gentle). [It is willing to] yield to reason, full of compassion and good fruits; it is wholehearted and straightforward, impartial and unfeigned (free of doubts, wavering and insincerity)." James 3:17 AMP *Note: Reason using with Scripture is the goal.*
- b. On Friday's show you stated: "If the Bible says it, you've got to believe it." I totally agree and fully submit to God's Word! Note: this is not what Matt demonstrated on his radio show.

### 2. My Big Difference with CARM is Orthodoxy

- a. The CARM web site and ministry espouses traditional orthodox doctrine, much of which I believe is unsupported by Scripture.
- b. Orthodox doctrines evolved from the first century and have become ingrained within Christianity, without being seriously reviewed for 2000 years. Is the trinity doctrine really supported by Scripture?
- c. The belief system of orthodoxy was also "forced" into existence by the Catholic Church that violently rid itself of all opposition.
- Now, in 2007, with computer software that easily searches
  Scripture for truth, do these doctrines still stand the test of
  Scripture? I currently have 96 Bibles searchable on software with
  76 distinct translations and the ability to search 45 simultaneously.
- e. Today, Christians do not have to accept orthodox doctrine, they can search Scripture for truth like the Bereans did, but much easier.

- f. Today, over 20 million Christians devoted to Christ and God have left the Orthodox Church according to George Barna in his book Revolution. My small NT group is composed of individuals who have left orthodoxy and have exchanged it for Scripture truth. We are simple people who just take God at HIS word in Scripture.
- c. I believe it is fair to say that Matt views me as a teacher of heresy or of information that opposes orthodoxy. *Note: Matt confirmed this on his radio show.*

### 3. My calling from God: Explain Matthew 7:21-23 to the Church

- a. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, 'Lord, Lord,' have we not prophesied in your name, cast out demons in your name, and done many wonders in your name? And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness."
- b. Let's be clear about Jesus' words He is rejecting and condemning Christians to hell. It is not Jews or Muslims who prophecy, cast out demons, and who do might works "IN THE NAME OF JESUS."
- c. The complete answer from God is at <u>www.bookofedward.org</u> in the book titled: "Book of Edward: Christian Mythology." Volume I is the Matters of the Heart. Volume II is God does not Change. Volume III is Itching Christian Ears. Volume IV is Appendixes and Reference. All books are on the web free to read. Also in print.
- d. I spent 27 years in study, 10 years in research and 5 years writing these books full time. There are over 1367 Scripture references.
- e. Rather than simply passing me off as a heretic and dismissing this Scripture work I received from God, every Christian should take heed. The contents of this book my save a Christian's soul.

#### 4. A big question arises directly from Matthew 7:21-23.

a. IF Jesus condemns even a single Christian to hell as is clearly indicated by this statement of his, what does that say about the orthodox view of salvation that you cannot lose your salvation? It speaks clearly that there is more to salvation than mouthing Jesus as your savior! Note: Matt denied this verse applies to Christians [at least who Matt defines as real Christians].

## Start of Jesus Discussion

God said: "For I am the LORD, I do not change." Malachi 3:6 (NKJV)

**Moses taught:** "God is not a man, that HE should lie, nor a son of man, that HE should repent. Has HE said, and will HE not do? Or has HE spoken, and will HE not make it good?" Numbers 23:19 (NKJV)

**God said** "You cannot see MY face; for no man shall see ME, and live." Ex 33:20 -- *No man [human] can see the face of God Almighty and live.* 

**John taught:** "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has declared HIM." Jn 1:18 & 1 Jn 4:12 NKJV – Jesus declared God to us because he was close to God's heart! This is a spiritual metaphor, not a physical one. John confirms God's statement that no human shall see HIM and live.

**John taught:** "Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father." John 6:46 (KJV)

- a. No MAN has seen God! Jesus is qualified as being "of God."
- *b. Ergo, the human being called Jesus did not visually see God, but being from God – declared God to us.*

**Malachi taught:** "Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before HIM for those who fear the LORD and who meditate on HIS name. 17 They shall be MINE," says the LORD of hosts, on the day that I make them MY jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him. 18 Then you shall again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve HIM." Malachi 3:16-18 (NKJV)

**Jesus said:** "[Only] he [or she] who does the will of my Father [will enter heaven]. Mt 7:21 Note: Jesus confirms Malachi's teachings.

**Jesus said:** "Whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven." Mt 10:33 KJV

*a.* When a Christian disobeys the teachings of Jesus and it is obvious to others, they deny Jesus before men [on this earth].

## Is Jesus God?

**Moses taught:** "God is not a man, that HE should lie, nor a son of man, that HE should repent. Has HE said, and will HE not do? Or has HE spoken, and will HE not make it good?" Numbers 23:19 (NKJV)

"God is **not a man** ... **nor a son of man**." Numbers 23:19 (NKJV)

- a. Jesus was commonly referred to as a "son of man" but the Bible teaches us that God is not a son of man.
- b. NKJV, RSV, KJV, NASB, NIV
- c. NCV "God is not a human being ... HE is not human."
- d. NJB "God is no human ... no child of Adam."
- e. NRSV "God is not a human ... or a mortal."
- f. NAB, NLT "God is not a man ... HE is not human."
- g. Over 588 uses of this phrase in NKJV.
  - o 258 in NT Gospel & Acts refer to Jesus
  - Only 1 in entire Bible refers to God Almighty
  - 1 in 588 in the form of a denial of a characteristic is significant from a statistical perspective.

"Therefore, in all things he [Jesus] had to be made like his brethren [other humans], that he [Jesus] might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people." Hebrews 2:17 (NKJV)

"The LORD [God] has sworn and will not relent, 'You [Jesus] are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek' ." Hebrews 7:21 (NKJV)

**Jesus said:** "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him my new name." Revelation 3:12 (NKJV)

God the Father – shows up 48 times in Holy Bible starting at Jn 6:27. *a. Everyone would do well to study every one of these verses.* 

God the Son – shows up 0 times in Holy Bible.

**Jesus said:** "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because <u>for this purpose</u> I have been sent." Luke 4:43 (NKJV)

"From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 4:17 (NKJV)

- a. The true Gospel of Christ is stated in this verse.
- b. Jesus never taught to just mouth his name for salvation.
- *c. Jesus preached a return to God's righteousness.*

"Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous." 1 John 3:7 (NKJV)

*a. Bible teaches righteousness practice, but it doesn't mean we are perfect.* 

"For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:20 (NKJV)

a. Jesus preached a minimum righteousness standard.

Jesus said: "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's [God's] house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." John 14:1-2 (NKJV)

Jesus said: "And this is eternal life, that they may know YOU, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom YOU have sent." John 17:3 (NKJV)

Jesus said: "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, and to my God and your God.' " John 20:17

Jesus said: "You have heard me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice because I said, <u>'I am</u> going to the Father,' for my Father is greater than I." John 14:28

"Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" Acts 7:56 (NKJV)

"We know ... that there is no other God but one. For even if there are socalled gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), yet for us there is only one God, the Father, **of whom** are all things, and we for HIM; and one Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom** are all things, and through whom we live. However, there is not in everyone that knowledge ..." 1 Corinthians 4-7

"It is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Th 1:6-8 NKJV

"Why do you call me good? No one is good but ONE, that is, God." Mt 19:17 a. Jesus makes a distinction between who he is and who God is.

"By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now **already** in the world." 1 John 4:2-3 (NKJV)

- *a. Ignatius, the third Bishop to Antioch, wrote about the Trinity doctrine in the first century. See Epistle of Ignatius to Ephesians, Magnesians, Trallians and Romans, etc.*
- b. If you deny the 100% humanity of Christ, you have the spirit of the antichrist.
- c. I.E. Spirit example of how this works. Jackie's illustration.

"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God. " Revelation 3:14 (NKJV) a. If you want to understand who Jesus is, read and study his words received from God in the NT. Stop listening to Orthodox doctrines.

### **BIG ISSUE #1**

"Therefore the LORD HIMSELF will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call his name Immanuel. 15 Curds and honey he [Jesus] shall eat, that he may know to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16 For before the Child [Jesus] shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings." Isaiah 7:14-16 (NKJV)

**BIG ISSUE #2** is Rev 3:1 Seven Spirits of God discussion.

#### CARM Arguments

"Before Abraham was, I am" in Jn 8:58 is not a statement from Jesus in the Bible asserting that he is God.

- a. It is a statement that commonly meant "I existed" as I would even tell my grandson. Ben, before you, I am!
- b. Jesus only spoke and did what the Father told him to do. Ergo, Jesus was the Word manifested in the flesh because he spoke only what God told him to say.
- *c.* To claim this statement as a support for the hypostatic union doctrine has to ignore too many other statements from Jesus.

Hebrews 1:8 is an errant Scripture that is explained in the Book of Edward and does not mean Jesus was God. Verse 9 should read, "Therefore Jesus, your God has appointed you. This verse cannot be justified in light of many other verses. Scripture does not contradict itself. Ergo, the meaning of this verse has been twisted or added by scribes over countless generations. It is a verse designed to rationalize the trinity doctrine. ADDED by Church. My humble opinion.

In John 20:28, Thomas praised Jesus as Lord and also he praised God for Jesus. If this verse was to prove Jesus was God – it would have been

written – "Thomas said, my Lord Jesus, who is also my God. Orthodoxy has to ignore the words of Jesus in order to morph him into God.

a. Indeed there is a purpose for morphing Jesus into God Almighty.

# Salvation Facts

CARM site has a false salvation message.

Paul's belief unto righteousness truncated off because of orthodoxy

#### Salvation apart from mouthing Jesus as Lord

Jesus said: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes in HIM who sent me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life." John 5:24

Note: See Chapter 12 in the Book of Edward for a full discussion of this issue.

# **Resurrection Facts**

"After that, Jesus appeared in **another form** to two of them as they walked and went into the country." Mk 16:12

a. Jesus new body did not have the limitations of his earthly body.

"But their **eyes were restrained**, so they did not know Jesus." Lk 24:16 *a. Jesus, in his new body, had powers beyond his earthly body.* 

"Then *their eyes were opened* and they knew Jesus; and he vanished from their sight." Lk 24:31

- a. Jesus, in his new body, could control men's perception of him.
- b. He had the ability to suddenly vanish from other human's midst.

"Now as they said these things, *Jesus himself [suddenly] stood in the midst* of them, and said to them, 'Peace to you." Luke 24:36

a. Jesus, in his new body, could suddenly appear to other humans.

"Behold my hands and my feet, that it is myself. Handle me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." Luke 24:39

- a. Jesus, in his new body, manifested flesh and bones to humans.
- b. This does not mean that his new body was a human body like ours.
- c. Ergo: Jesus' human bones did not go to heaven.

"Now it came to pass, while Jesus blessed them, that *he was parted from them and carried up into heaven*." Luke 24:51

- a. This is not a feat that our human bodies can accomplish
- b. The lesson of the resurrection is that we will eventually get a new body not subject to the pain and constraints of our present earthly body. God who created us will recreate us anew.

"After [Jesus] had spoken to them, *he was received up into heaven*, and sat down [in eyesight of God] at the right hand of God." Mk 16:19

- a. Jesus new body did not have the limitations of his earthly body.
- b. Every elementary school student knows that this earthly body could not exist beyond the earth's atmosphere without external support.

# CARM statements not Scriptural

- 1. Jesus is God and man at the same time.
- 2. Jesus is God in the flesh.
- 3. Right now, in heaven, Jesus is still in the form of a human man.
- 4. Jesus rose from the dead in the same body that he died in.
- 5. Salvation is found in Jesus, and only in Jesus, who is God in the flesh.
- Only God in flesh, Jesus, could do that [make a perfect sacrifice to God].
  a. This is double speaking as are a lot of the doctrinal statements found on the CARM site.
- 7. You need to be made right before God, by God.
- 8. The righteousness of Christ is given to you if you accept him ...
  - a. Salvation is much more complicated that this simplistic view.
- 9. Christ gets your sin, you get his righteousness.
  - a. Ignores Christ minimum righteousness standard found in Matthew.
- 10. Once you have trusted in what Christ has done, then you possess eternal life and you will never face the judgment of God.
- 11. God is a Trinity. God is three persons.
- 12. Time past, present and future analogy is flawed. These are not ONE.
- 13. Because of the Trinity, God can become flesh in the form of the Son.
- 14. Christ has two natures and is worthy of worship and prayer.
- 15. Jesus is the only way to be saved from the coming judgment of God.
- 16. Forgiveness of sins is found in Jesus alone.*a. Ref is name under heaven, but ignores name Yahweh in heaven.*
- 17. The gospel is that Jesus died for sinners on the cross.
  - a. Christ's gospel is "Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand."
- 18. God will only find pleasure in you through Jesus Christ.
  - a. God loves the pilgrimage of HIS righteous people.
  - b. David was a man after MY own heart, says God.
- 19. 5 of 7 essential doctrines unscriptural.
  - a. Jesus is both God and man
  - b. Jesus rose from the dead with a human body
  - c. Salvation is by grace through faith ONLY
  - d. God exists as a trinity of persons.
- 20. Neither salvation nor damnation is dependent upon denominational differences.
- 21. There is no path to salvation for other faiths that practice righteousness.

22. You have nothing to offer God concerning righteousness. So, what about the minimum righteousness standard Jesus stated in NT?

# In agreement with CARM

#### 1. Mission Statement

- a. Equip Christian to refute error
- b. Learn about Biblical Christianity
- c. Know God better
- d. Be more sanctified
- e. Identify false teachings

#### 2. Essentials of Faith

- f. Who God is
- g. Who Jesus is
- h. Salvation by Grace
- i. Jesus' resurrection

### 3. CARM's "Lost Tomb of Jesus" web statement

- j. Web statement reasonable
- k. Documentary proves nothing
- I. If true, needs further examination

# In disagreement with CARM

- 1. Doctrines supporting these essentials of Faith
  - a. Trinity (God is three persons)
    - Ignores 7 spirits and a lot of other scripture
    - See Chapter 10 in Book of Edward for a full discussion
  - b. Hypostatic union (Jesus' two natures God + Man)