

The Great Debate of 2016: Is God a Moral Monster? Gilmore vs Rosenberg

Forty years ago this coming September, America was engaged in presidential debates prior to the general election of 1976. During that same time another debate, the Warren-Flew debate on the existence of God, occurred on the campus of a Texas university. Although the 1976 presidential debates, as always, were significant, a good case can be made that the Warren-Flew debate was even more significant. In fact, some have called it “the debate of the century.”

Tuesday, September 27, 2016, the night following the first general election presidential debate, a different kind of debate is scheduled to take place on the campus of one of America’s most influential universities—The Ohio State University. This debate, the Gilmore-Rosenberg debate on the existence of God, will be a crucial event. I wish not to minimize the significance and value of the 2016 presidential debates. However, I do want to emphasize to our readers that there is a sense in which the upcoming Gilmore-Rosenberg debate is of even greater significance. The following are some of the reasons why it is the case that the Gilmore-Rosenberg debate possibly will be THE great debate of 2016.

The Participants. **Dr. Alexander Rosenberg**, an atheist, is the R. Taylor Cole Professor of Philosophy at Duke University, Durham, NC. He also has secondary appointments in the biology and political science departments at Duke. He has served as a visiting professor at the University of Minnesota, University of California at Santa Cruz, and Oxford University. He received his doctorate in philosophy from Johns Hopkins University. Rosenberg is the author of several books including *The Atheist’s Guide to Reality* (2011). He is co-director of Duke’s Center for the Philosophy of Biology.

Dr. Ralph Gilmore, Christian theist, is Professor of Bible and Philosophy at Freed-Hardeman University, Henderson, TN. Gilmore received his doctorate in philosophy from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. He was an honor student in apologetics and philosophy of religion at Harding Graduate School of Theology, studying under Thomas B. Warren for whom Warren Apologetics Center is named. Professor Gilmore is editor of *Kingdom*, an online academic religious journal published by Freed-Hardeman University College of Biblical Studies. Dr. Gilmore has appeared in numerous discussion and debate forums on biblical and philosophical issues.

The Propositions. The issues to be addressed in the Gilmore-Rosenberg debate involve the most important fundamental question of human life. Mortimer Adler says in *The Great Ideas* (i.e. *The Great Books*) Syntopicon that more consequences for thought and action follow from affirming or denying God than from answering any other basic question. The late atheist Christopher Hitchens said, prior to his death, that the God question is the most powerful and urgent question confronted by humanity. The intellectual battle to be waged at Ohio State on September 27 between Christian theism and atheism remains the most important duel in the world, as William F. Buckley, Jr. put it in the magnum opus of his early years—*God and Man* at Yale. Unlike many recent debates on the existence of God both debaters in the Gilmore-Rosenberg debate have agreed to affirm and defend a precisely stated affirmative proposition. Dr. Alexander Rosenberg will affirm the following: “Since I know that there is vast human and animal suffering, I know that a benevolent, omnipotent God does not exist.” Dr. Ralph Gilmore will deny. Following the discussion of Rosenberg’s affirmative proposition, Professor Gilmore will affirm and defend his affirmative proposition: “The use of suffering as moral criticism against God implies the absolute moral law of God; therefore, God exists.” Dr. Rosenberg will deny.

All things considered, is there a greater place on Earth to have a credible high level debate on the most fundamental question of human existence—Does God exist? Be there! Do not miss this event! It can be THE great debate of 2016.

MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS **October, 2016**

Please arrive 10-15 minutes early. Contact the person in charge of your section if you will be absent. Thank You

Deacon in Charge #1— Donnie Westbrooks (528-7549)

Front Table & Count Contribution

Communion in Front Meet in Room 115

Mack Fisher (preside)	Andy Milton (preside)
Benton Flatt	Steve Flatt
Jeff Williams	Seth Milton
Anthony Reep	David Webb
Porter Davidson (alt)	Courtney Norton (alt)

Count Contribution

Mack Fisher	Andy Milton
Benton Flatt	Steve Flatt
Jeff Williams	Seth Milton

Deacon in Charge #2 - Jason Bennett (783-3577)

Back Table, Balcony, Nursery &
Assist Counting Contribution

Communion in Back Meet in Back of Auditorium

Whit Carlen	Monte Lowe
Ken Castleman	Terry Sissom
Rhett Fortner	Brad Stevens
Adriel Stout	Joey Stephens
Donald Anderson (alt)	Phil Hall (alt)

Communion in Balcony Meet in Back of Auditorium

Joe Carter	William Dunn
Scott Capps (alt)	Jack Gaw (alt)

Deacon in Charge #3 - Don Viar (432-4329)

Usher, Distribute Announcements, Pick Up
Attendance Cards

Usher & Distribute Announcement Sheets

#1 David Lane	#3 Joel Cowan
#2 Luke Johnson	#4 Jim Loyd

Pick Up Attendance Cards

Whit Carlen	Rhett Fortner
Ken Castleman	Terry Sissom

Greet Visitors After Morning Worship

#1 Phillip & Allison Burr	#3 Brad & Kristy Stevens
#2 J.C. & Annita Young	#4 Charles & Maxine Fraiser

Minister in Charge—John Mayher (252-0964)

A. M. Opening Prayer

2 - Jason Fowler
9 - Bill Flatt
16 - Jim Dale
23 - Brian Carver
30 - Houston Bynum

A.M. Closing Prayer

2 - Bryan Liner
9 - Jack Gaw
16 - David Edgington
23 - David Chaney
30 - Dewey Thrasher

A. M. Scripture Reading

2 - Ken Mabry	16 - Sean Flatt
9 - Bobby Lane	23 - Doug Burgess
	30 - Chris Bell

P. M. Opening Prayer

2 - Ken Clark
9 - Bob Farris
16 - Charlie Moore
23 - Phil McCanless
30 - Dean Olson

P. M. Closing Prayer

2 - Sean Kelly
9 - Sean Flatt
16 - Larry Harkleroad
23 - Don Foy
30 - Curtis Skinsky

Sunday Night Communion

Brad Fortner Austin Patterson

Wed. Announcements & Closing Prayer

John Rhodes

Van Drivers

Sunday Morning - Chris Bell (528-3863)
Sunday Night - Sam Brown (931-738-7323)
Wednesday Night - Courtney Norton (615-210-2239)

Women's Nursery Assignments

Allison Burr (252-2084)

Newborn-12 Months

12-24 Months

9 AM	Leah Milton	Cradle Roll Class
Sun.	Jane Montgomery	
10 AM	Kim Morgan	Brook Gilbert
Sun.	Sharon Vetter	Jeana Piggott
6 PM	Sandy Cupp	
Sun.	Sarah Johnson	
6:30 PM	Gaye Ann Hill	Cradle Roll Class
Wed.	Beverly Bynum	

Christian Service Group: Leaders for the month of **October** are **Jim & Marian Dale**. Assisting are **Bobby & Sarah Lane** and those with **last names beginning** with the **Letters A, B, C and D**.

NHC Worship Service 2:00pm

October 2 - Wednesday PM Auditorium Class

October 30 - Wednesday PM Fellowship Hall Class

News, Prayers & Announcements

Baptism: Today we rejoice with **John Taylor** and his family. This past Friday, after prayerful consideration about his baptism when he was younger, John was baptized unto Christ to be assured he has answered the gospel as he now understands it.

We rejoice with his decision.

Our Sick and Prayer Requests:

Fay Borden remains in Cookeville Regional, room #538.

Olar V. Fox, mother of Roslyn Stout, has been dismissed from Cookeville Regional and is now at Mabrey's Healthcare in Gainesboro.

Kaye Bowman's biopsy has been rescheduled for the 28th in Franklin. She requests our prayers.

Ann Pangle fell and broke her arm. You may send cards to: 6797 Arbor Place, Cookeville, TN 38506

Virginia Mabry and **Curtis Shinsky** are both recuperating at their homes.

Diana Neal had a colonoscopy at Cookeville Regional on Tuesday, and will have a colon resection on the 22nd.

Remember our **Young at Heart** on their New York trip leaving the 22nd and returning on the 28th.

Those who are dealing with cancer:

Kathy Adams, Linda Alcorn, Kenneth Allen, Dean Boles, Kaye Bowman, Rene' Canfield, Karma Carter, Joy Carter, Jeremy Fortner, Anthony Hammock, Blake Houston, Tim Jennings, Dave Leaf, Angela Leffew, Rhett Massey, Buddy Morgan, Paula Palk and Jan Shepherd

Our Shut-Ins

Bethesda: Lyman Schroeder, Jan Shuster, Cornelia Steakley & Lyda Taylor

Heritage Pointe: Peggy Cooper, Wilma Hayes & Marian McDoniel

NHC Healthcare: Evelyn Solt, Aletha Tino

At Home: Hugh & Kathy Adams, Herman & Becky Bean, Maggie Brown, Sue Clack, Matilda Craighead, Margaret Cunningham, Mary Dyer, Geneva Glasgow, Ralph Medley, Pat McCanless, Opal Nichols, Claudine Smith, Marty Smith, Jordan Terry and Charles Williamson

Thank You! Dear Church Family, I want to thank you for all the prayers, cards, visits and food. It is comforting knowing that we have so many people who love us. Thank you so much.

In Him, **Ashley Viar**

Dear Church Family, thank you for all the prayers, cards and expressions of concern on my behalf these weeks since my fall. The healing process will be slow but is progressing. I am thankful to be able to drive and get out to take care of things. It was so good to be back in worship and to see everyone. Thank you again for your love and support.

In Christian Love, **Earline Elkins**

1ST ANNUAL MANNA ON THE HILL: Our next congregational meal will be in the upper parking lot (weather permitting) next **Wednesday, Sept. 28th**, from 5:30 - 7:00. Come enjoy food and fellowship! There will be no Bible classes that night but there will be singing and a short devo after a dinner of burgers, hot dogs and all the trimmings. Be sure to sign up on the family bulletin board by Monday, Sept. 26th and indicate how many of your family will attend. We look forward to seeing everyone here!!



Lads 2 Leaders: There will be an informational meeting this **Sunday, September 25**, after the evening service, for anyone wanting to participate and/or help with lads to leaders this year. There have been some changes to the program so make sure you come find out how you can be involved.

Area Meeting: Tuesday, October 4 - Anyone wanting to go hear Bro. Phil Sanders at Center Grove Church of Christ in Gainesboro, we will leave the back parking lot at 6:00pm. See John Mayher

Healing Hands: We will be going to Healing Hands Friday, **October 7 and 21**, leaving at 8:00am. See Frances Bumbalough.



MAGI: The items we need for September are toothpaste, marbles, and flashlights.



Women's Prayer Group: We will meet this Thursday September 22th, in the Library.



It's that time of year again. Please start bringing your individually wrapped candy and set it by Matt's office. We need a big pile of candy this year.

BIRTHDAYS

October 2 - 8

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 2 - Jerry Ford | 6 - Callan McCord |
| 3 - Julia Foy | 6 - Jeff Williams |
| 3 - Wanda Jared | 7 - Lily Davis |
| 3 - Ethan Lankford | 8 - Jackie Dunn |
| 3 - Makayla Rawdon | 8 - Mary Dyer (90) |
| 4 - Megan Dycus | 8 - Jordan Fitzpatrick |
| 6 - Kaden Lee Bandy | 8 - Austin Lane |
| 6 - Kayla Flatt | 8 - David Milton |
| 6 - Hazel McCanless | |



Church of Christ
521 S. Jefferson Ave.
Cookeville, TN 38501

Web Site: <http://www.jacoc.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JeffersonAvenueCOC>

<u>Sunday, September 18, 2016</u>	
Bible Class.....272	Church Office.....931-526-4605
Sunday Morning.....502	Information Line.....931-528-1006
Sunday Evening.....241	Fax Line.....931-520-8708
Wednesday Night.....260	Mother's Day Out.....931-260-7861
Contribution.....\$18,611	
	Email
	Church Office (Mary).....info@jacoc.org
	Church Office (Carol).....carol.hart@jacoc.org
	Buddy Johnson.....buddy@jacoc.org
	Matt Collins.....mattc@jacoc.org
	John Mayher.....john.mayher@jacoc.org
	Bo Perez.....bo@jacoc.org
	Mother's Day Out.....laura.fox@jacoc.org
	Service Schedule
	Sunday Bible Study.....9:00 AM
	Sunday Morning.....10:00 AM
	Sunday Evening.....6:00 PM
	Wednesday Bible Study.....6:30 PM

<u>DEACONS (cont.)</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>
Brian Carver	Jason Bennett
Randy Chaffin	William Birdwell
Ken Clark	Sam Brown
Jim Dale	Phillip Burr
Jason Fowler	
Chad Gilbert	
Seth Gilbert	
Jim Hicks	
Sean Kelly	
Chuck Lankford	
Bryan Limer	
Bob Mackie	
Ken Mayes	
Brian McDaniel	
Andy Millon	
Dean Olson	
Jimmy Patterson	
Dave Piggott	
Gaylon Presley	
Bud Simpson	
Pete Story	
Don Viar	
Donnie Westbrook	

<u>SHEPHERDS</u>	<u>MINISTERS</u>
*Glenn Binkley	Buddy Johnson
Doug Fowler	<i>Pulpit Minister</i>
Don Foy	Matt Collins
Bobby Lane	<i>Youth Minister</i>
John Rhodes	Bo Perez
Leighton Sissom	<i>Hispanic Ministry</i>
*Chairman of Month	John Mayher
	<i>Visitation Minister</i>

A News and Notes

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September 30 - Bison Day & Harding

October

3 - Fall Break
16 - Devo @ Simpson's
21 - FHU Visit
23 - Super Sunday

November

6 - Devo @ Mayes'
13 - T4C @ Smithville
16 - Friendsgiving
18-20 - Fall Retreat @ Indian Creek

December

9 - Christmas Party
@ Mackie's
21 - Winter Break
22 - Opry Mills

www.jayouth.org