

Biblical truths need no defense on Memorial Day, 27 May 2013 (Submitted to the *Advertiser*)

The *Advertiser's* Memorial Day letter, 'Sort biblical texts with humility', was a most bizarre misspeak—even more bizarre than Lois Lerner's opening statement, then cowering behind the Fifth to 'act-all-innocent.' The writer opined: "The Good Book is one good book among many. It is filled with sublime wisdom, and no small amount of nonsense."

The only nonsense was that this writer considers his opinion as replacement value for the Bible. Personally, I believe that God will provide recompense to us all at the appointed time, even those who consider it nonsense. The Bible speaks of how people will find its Truths foolishness. Those of us who believe in it as Truth and Love don't condemn others as some would assume. We prefer to offer hope and prayer for those who consider it foolishness.

If you want to believe that the world is billions of years old, I have no proof other than what I believe. Do you? Carbon-dating is man-made and everything made by the hand of man is subject to discrepancy. Everything—period. If you believe that the Bible contains 'no small amount of nonsense' you have that right as we celebrate Memorial Day. As a Veteran, I have faithfully served so that this writer can state his opinion. He has the right to say what he wants.

My military service—alongside millions of others—gives us the right to believe in God—and the Bible.

Ken Scott: Montgomery, Alabama

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Letters to the editor: Sort biblical texts with humility (Printed in *Montgomery Advertiser*, 27 May 2013)

Readers of letters to the editor will readily see a recurring pattern of argument advanced by Biblical literalists: The Bible is the unchanging, true word of God. It states that (insert cherry-picked passage here). So, none can deny that (insert writer's pet opinions here). That formula has been used to support ideas both smart and stupid, and practices both compassionate and vile, for centuries.

Loading our popguns with favorite passages from preferred scriptures is a very bad strategy. Absolutists in other religious and philosophical traditions, from Islam to Zionism to communism and beyond, have done the same. It shouldn't be hard to stand back and see the folly, futility and destructiveness of sticking totally to one's guns, both metaphorically and literally.

The Good Book is one good book among many. It is filled with sublime wisdom, and no small amount of nonsense. Doctrinists who buy into it all, literally, offer no basis for discussion with those who disagree with them. This guarantees isolation not only from non-Christians but also from fellow Christians who are locked into other interpretations of the same texts.

The issue isn't whether the Bible and other powerful texts offer good or poor guidance. They contain both. The task for our species is to sort it all out with humility, and to make use of whatever inclines toward the spiritual and physical health of humanity and our planet. Let's work on it in genuine community.

Charles Suhor: Montgomery, Alabama