

Islam for Christians

John W. Herbst, PhD

September 21 through October 26

Thursday Evenings, 7 PM

St Andrew's Episcopal Church

45 Main St, Newport News VA

Over six weeks, Dr. Herbst will deliver six lectures on Islam in light of Christianity, focusing on Islam as it is practiced in the United States. Through these lectures Dr. Herbst will explain what modern Muslims believe, how they practice Islam, and how Christians and Muslims can co-exist and even work together for the glory of God. Topics include: How to figure out what Muslims *really* think; Meaning behind the “Five Pillars;” Muhammad and Jesus; the Qur’an and the Bible; Islamic “sects;” Women in Islam; what we can do about terrorists; Israel, Islam, and the Middle East; what Christians can learn from Islam. Each lecture will last about 45 minutes, with time for questions afterwards.

John W. Herbst has a PhD in Bible from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond VA, and has taught Islam and Religion at J Sargeant Reynolds Community College and John Tyler Community College, and Bible and Biblical Languages for Regent University in Virginia Beach. He is an ordained Baptist minister. He and his wife the Rev. Anne R. Kirchmier live in Newport News.

Schedule

September 20 – Islam and Modern Media: What is Islam, and How can Christians Learn what Muslims Really Think?

We see all sorts of conflicting reports about Muslim and Islam from all kinds of sources. How can Christians know which reports are correct? Also, what is the big difference between Islam and other religions?

September 27 – The Pillars of Islam, and *Jihad*: What Muslims are Supposed to Do.

Dr. Herbst will describe what Muslims are trying to accomplish as they perform the five “pillars” of Islam. He will also explain the idea of *jihad*, which Muslims often call the “sixth” pillar (hint: for most Muslims *jihad* is not what you might think!)

October 4 – Foundations: Muhammad and Jesus; the Qur’an and the Bible

Dr. Herbst compares of modern Muslim ideas about Muhammad and the Qur’an, with Christians views about Jesus and the Bible.

October 11 – Modern Issues: Islamic Sects; Islam and the West; Women in Islam

The most important “types” of Islam are Sunni, Shia, and Sufi. What is the practical difference between them? How do members of these groups get along in practice, especially in the western world? And how does Islam treat women in the West today?

October 18 – Islam, the Middle East, and Terrorists: Wisdom for Troubled Times

Many Americans do not know much of traditional Muslim teaching about Israel and the Middle East. Our lack of awareness leads to misunderstandings about the goals of terrorists who call themselves “Muslim” (hint: ISIS, al Qaeda, and others are not interested in overthrowing America!). Dr. Herbst summarizes the views of Muslims and Jews about Israel, and explains the main goals of the terrorists.

October 25 – Life together: What Christians Can Learn from Muslims, and How We Can Live in Harmony.

Can Christians learn about God from Muslims? Yes! How Islam can make us better disciples of Christ, and how Christians and Muslims can live and work together in peace.