

ISSUE

August 2005

Rajab 1426

AN-NOOR

The newsletter of
Muslim Center of
Middlesex County
(MCMC)
publication@
mcmcnj.org

www.mcmcnj.org

1000 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08854

(732) 463-2004

FRIDAY EVENINGS LECTURES

MCMC is offering a lecture series on Seerah and other selected topics by various speaker every Friday evening after Magrib prayers. Please join us!

HADITH SCIENCES LECTURES

Tuesdays, after Maghrib prayer at MCMC

Lecturer

Shaikh Rauf Zaman
Imam of MCMC

MCMC Evening School

Qur'an Recitation ■ Islamic Studies ■ Homework Stations

Spring session (4/5-6/30) has started – Register Today!

More details on Page 7

God's Love

One day the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, saw Quraysh prostrating to the idols in the Ka'bah and he exclaimed, "O Quraysh, you have violated the religion of Ibrahim!" they responded by denying that their action was a violation of the religion of Ibrahim. Rather, it was because of their love for God that is why they were worshiping those idols "so that they may bring us closer to God."

The Jews of Madina, when he invited them to Islam, said "we are God's children and loved ones," and the Christians were not to be outdone: they claimed that their veneration of Jesus Christ was because of their love for God.

The Prophet is told to address them all with the proclamation "*if you love Allah, then follow me.*" (Al 'Imran, 3:31) Thus, true love for God implies accepting the messenger He sent and following his way of life and his methodology. It means giving up the worship of false gods, as the idols that Quraysh worshiped, desisting from arrogance and claiming special privileges with God, as the Jews did, and avoiding elevating a human

being, albeit a righteous human being, to the level of God, as the Christians did.

Today many people, of all religious denominations, claim to love God. Most of them would also claim that God loves them since they are the true believers (in their own eyes). Let us examine the reality of their claim in the light of the Qur'anic teachings about love for Allah and His love for His creatures.

At the same time, let us examine the claim of those who ignorantly accuse Islam of having a God who does not love His creatures but, rather, is harsh towards them and treats them as slaves.

One Ayah (verse) of the Qur'an is sufficient to debunk this accusation and to correct all the false claims of having love for God or being loved by Him. It is Ayah 31 of Surah 3:

"Say: 'If ye do love Allah, Follow me: Allah will love you and forgive you your sins: For Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.'"

The ayah, first of all, is an encouragement to love God and to desire that He loves you, to assess your worth in the light of the extent to which you have cultivated love for God, and to recognize that you are nowhere without having achieved a high degree of this love. Second, it tells us that love for God does not become a reality by mere

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**QUR'AN
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LECTURES**

**Wednesdays,
after Maghrib
prayer
at MCMC**

Lecturer

**Shaikh Rauf Zaman
Imam of MCMC**

God's Love

Continued from page 1

lip service and empty claims. Third, it points out a definite path to achieve God's love for you, and that is nothing less than following the Sunnah.

Ibn Kathir, in his tafsir of this Ayah, says: "this noble Ayah is decisive in relation to anyone who claims to love God though he does not follow the path of the Prophet. His claim is false until he follows Muhammad's law and religion in all that he says and does, since he fits into the saying of the prophet 'whoever does any deed that is not in accordance with our matter (i.e. teachings and practice) will have it rejected.'"

The ayah that follows this one is also significant: "Say: obey Allah and the messenger. But if you turn away then Allah does not love the disbelievers." Ibn Kathir says 'this proves that opposition to his Sunnah (i.e. the Prophet's) is kufr (disbelief) and Allah does not love those who have this quality, even if they claim openly or in their heart to love Allah.'

The ayah, in directing us to follow the Prophet, peace be on him, is not only telling us what to do in order that Allah may love us. Equally important, it is telling us how to inculcate in ourselves a strong love for Allah, since our relationship with Allah is not a one-way street.

The following ayah from Suratul Baqara tells us of those persons who are motivated to do good deeds by love for Allah.

"It is not righteousness that ye turn your faces Towards east or West; but it is righteousness- to believe in Allah and the Last Day, and the Angels, and the Book, and the Messengers; to

spend of your substance, out of love for Him, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer, for those who ask, and for the ransom of slaves; to be steadfast in prayer, and practice regular charity; to fulfil the contracts which ye have made; and to be firm and patient, in pain (or suffering) and adversity, and throughout all periods of panic. Such are the people of truth, the God-fearing." (Al Baqara, 2:177)

In a number of Qur'anic verses we find the mention of certain qualities which, if present in anyone, Allah loves him. These are the qualities that one must inculcate, therefore, to be loved by God. Here are some of those verses.

"... For Allah loves those who turn to Him constantly and He loves those who keep themselves pure and clean." (Al Baqara, 2:222) i.e. they turn to Him in submission and repentance.

"Nay.- Those that keep their plighted faith and act aright,-verily Allah loves those who act aright." (Al 'Imran, 3:76) i.e. they keep their promise, are faithful and are God-fearing.

"Those who spend (freely), whether in prosperity, or in adversity; who restrain anger, and pardon (all) men;- for Allah loves those who do good." (Al 'Imran, 3:134)

"...If thou judge, judge in equity between them, for Allah loveth those who judge in equity." (Al Ma'ida, 5:42)

"Truly Allah loves those who fight in His Cause in battle array, as if they were a solid cemented structure." (Al Saff, 61:4)

As if the above verses are not plain enough, Allah tells us also of those whom He does not love and the reasons why, thus leaving us in no doubt whatsoever as to the type of personality He loves.

"Allah loves not the oppressors, ... the unbelievers, ... the transgressors, ... the mischief-makers, ... the oppressors ..." Etc.

The extent to which God's love is obtained is the extent to which one has been able to acquire the qualities of those who He loves and to rid oneself of the qualities of those whom He does not love. And the way to do so is to follow His Messenger and His Message.

Allah says: "Say: 'If ye do love Allah, Follow me: Allah will love you and forgive you your sins: For Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.'" (Qur'an 3:31)

By Imam Rauf Zaman, MCMC

The Miracle of Qur'an

The Holy Qur'an is the greatest of all the miracles bestowed upon the Prophet of Allah, Mohammed peace be upon him, for the guidance of mankind. Although it was revealed in prose, its elegant style surpasses any form of beautiful poetry and as such is a masterpiece of Arabic literature, ever produced. The expression of the Holy Qur'an is lucid, impressive, forceful and its expressions are logical and persuasive.

The Quran consists of actual words of God revealed to Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, the seal and the last one of all the Prophets.

The Qur'an comprises the 77,934 words. It is divided into 114 chapters or surahs of varying lengths. The largest begin one twelfth of the entire book and the smallest containing three verses only. Out of 114 chapters, 93 were revealed in Makkah and 21 in Madina. For the purpose of convenient recitation, the Holy Quran is divided into thirty volumes of equal length, each called a *juz'w* or *para*.

Quran was revealed in small parts. The first revelation began on the 15th night of the month of Ramadan in the 41st year after the birth of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him. Its first surah was in the cave of Hira. The revelation was:

Recite in the name of thy Lord Who hath created. Hath created man from a clot. Recite thou: and thy Lord is the Most Bounteous. Who hath taught mankind by the pen. Hath taught man which he knew not.
[Alaq,96:1-5]

The last revealed verse of Quran is:

Forbidden unto you are the dead meat, and blood, and the flesh of the swine, and that over which is invoked the name of other than Allah, and the strangled, and the felled, and the tumbled, and the gored, and that which wild animals have devoured, unless ye have cleansed, and that which hath been slaughtered on the altars, and that ye seek a division by means of the divining arrow: all that is an abomination; Today those who disbelieve have despaired of your religion; wherefore fear them not, and fear Me; Today we have perfected for you your religion, and completed My favor upon you, and am well-pleased with Islam as your religion; Then whosoever is driven to extreme hunger not inclining to sin, verily then Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.
[Al Maidah, 5:3]

9th of Zulhaji, 10th year of Hijra, 63rd year of the life of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him. Remember that Quran was revealed in its entirety in twenty two years two months and two days. In analyzing the content of Quran, there are marked differences in both the subject and the style of earlier and later revelations. The theme which are stressed in Makkah surahs are:

- * The mercy of God to man
- * The ingratitude and misuse of the gifts of God, by man.
- * God's power in nature.
- * Judgement by God
- * Heaven and Hell

Among the entire number of chapters in Quran, 21 were revealed in Madina. These Surahs are generally longer and contain about one third of the entire volumes of Quran. The subject matter of these madani surahs are:

- * General laws and regulations effecting the life of a believer
- * Comments on public events
- * Statement of policy
- * Advice to humankind
- * Warning to hypocrites

The Quran affirms all that was fundamental in previous revelation and which is still needed by mankind. The revelations which had been lost, overlooked or forgotten but still needed, is revived. It further expands on every aspect of human life. It is guidance for the entire humankind for eternity. It persuades its reader to create faith in God through understanding his signs. It makes provisions for mankind's welfare - material, moral and spiritual. It teaches all that is need for the perfect regulation of human life through various laws.

In short, all that is basic for the promotion of human welfare in all spheres, whether pertaining to principles or conduct, within social, family or community life is addressed.

The Holy Quran has accordingly challenged the world to produce its like. It is a miracle because it brought about the greatest transformation that the world has ever witnessed.

Compiled by Anwer Hussain,
MCMC

FIQH LECTURES (THAHARA & SALAH)

Thursdays, after
Maghrib prayer
at MCMC

Lecturer

Shaikh Rauf Zaman
Imam of MCMC

BASIC ARABIC GRAMMAR

Saturdays, after Fijr
prayer
at MCMC

Lecturer

Shaikh Rauf Zaman
Imam of MCMC

September 2005
Rajab – Sha’ban 1426

HDate	Day	Fajr	Snrs	Zuhr	Asr	Maghrb	Isha	
1	26	Thu	5:06	6:25	1:01	5:35	7:32	8:48
2	27	Fri	5:07	6:26	1:00	5:34	7:31	8:46
3	28	Sat	5:08	6:27	1:00	5:33	7:29	8:44
4	29	Sun	5:10	6:28	1:00	5:32	7:27	8:43
5	1	Mon	5:11	6:29	12:59	5:30	7:26	8:41
6	2	Tue	5:12	6:30	12:59	5:29	7:24	8:39
7	3	Wed	5:13	6:31	12:59	5:28	7:22	8:37
8	4	Thu	5:14	6:32	12:58	5:27	7:21	8:35
9	5	Fri	5:15	6:33	12:58	5:25	7:19	8:33
10	6	Sat	5:16	6:34	12:58	5:24	7:17	8:32
11	7	Sun	5:18	6:35	12:57	5:23	7:16	8:30
12	8	Mon	5:19	6:36	12:57	5:21	7:14	8:28
13	9	Tue	5:20	6:37	12:57	5:20	7:12	8:26
14	10	Wed	5:21	6:38	12:56	5:18	7:11	8:24
15	11	Thu	5:22	6:39	12:56	5:17	7:09	8:22
16	12	Fri	5:23	6:40	12:56	5:16	7:07	8:21
17	13	Sat	5:24	6:41	12:55	5:14	7:06	8:19
18	14	Sun	5:25	6:42	12:55	5:13	7:04	8:17
19	15	Mon	5:26	6:43	12:55	5:11	7:02	8:15
20	16	Tue	5:28	6:44	12:54	5:10	7:01	8:13
21	17	Wed	5:29	6:45	12:54	5:09	6:59	8:12
22	18	Thu	5:30	6:46	12:53	5:07	6:57	8:10
23	19	Fri	5:31	6:47	12:53	5:06	6:56	8:08
24	20	Sat	5:32	6:48	12:53	5:04	6:54	8:06
25	21	Sun	5:33	6:48	12:52	5:03	6:52	8:05
26	22	Mon	5:34	6:49	12:52	5:02	6:51	8:03
27	23	Tue	5:35	6:50	12:52	5:00	6:49	8:01
28	24	Wed	5:36	6:51	12:51	4:59	6:47	7:59
29	25	Thu	5:37	6:52	12:51	4:57	6:46	7:58
30	26	Fri	5:38	6:53	12:51	4:56	6:44	7:56

* Salah times are for Piscataway, NJ and vicinity. Please adjust times according to local sources. Zuhr time is calculated as 3 minutes after zawaal. It is not allowed to perform salah (with sajdah) for a 6 minute period before the start time for Zuhr.

** Asr time is based on Hanafi fiqh. In Shafee/Maliki fiqh, it starts about 45 min. earlier.

Iqamah Times at the Masjid (MCMC)

Fajr	5:45 (8/18-9/5), 6:00 (9/6-9/19), 6:15 (9/20-10/21), 6:30 (10/22-10/29) 5:30 (10/30-11/3) & 6:00 (11/4-11/14)
Zuhr	1:15
Asr	6:00 (8/18-9/19), 5:30 (9/20-10/3), 5:00 (10/4-10/29) & 3:30 (10/30-1/19)
Maghrib	On Time
Isha	9:00 (9/1-9/19), 8:30 (9/20-10/3), 8:00 (10/4-4/1)
Jum'ah	1:00

In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

“That day Hell is produced, that day man will remember; but how will the remembrance help him? He will say

‘Oh! If only I had prepared in advance for this life of mine!’”

Al-Qur’an, Surah Al-Fajr 89:23-24

October – November 2005
Sha’ban – Ramadan 1426

HDate	Day	Fajr	Snrs	Zuhr	Asr	Maghrb	Isha	
1	27	Sat	5:39	6:54	12:50	4:54	6:42	7:54
2	28	Sun	5:40	6:55	12:50	4:53	6:41	7:53
3	29	Mon	5:41	6:57	12:50	4:51	6:39	7:51
4	30	Tue	5:42	6:58	12:49	4:50	6:37	7:49
5*	1	Wed	5:43	6:59	12:49	4:49	6:36	7:48
6	2	Thu	5:44	7:00	12:49	4:47	6:34	7:46
7	3	Fri	5:45	7:01	12:49	4:46	6:32	7:45
8	4	Sat	5:46	7:02	12:48	4:44	6:31	7:43
9	5	Sun	5:47	7:03	12:48	4:43	6:29	7:41
10	6	Mon	5:48	7:04	12:48	4:41	6:28	7:40
11	7	Tue	5:49	7:05	12:48	4:40	6:26	7:38
12	8	Wed	5:50	7:06	12:47	4:39	6:25	7:37
13	9	Thu	5:52	7:07	12:47	4:37	6:23	7:35
14	10	Fri	5:53	7:08	12:47	4:36	6:22	7:34
15	11	Sat	5:54	7:09	12:47	4:34	6:20	7:32
16	12	Sun	5:55	7:10	12:46	4:33	6:19	7:31
17	13	Mon	5:56	7:11	12:46	4:32	6:17	7:30
18	14	Tue	5:57	7:12	12:46	4:30	6:16	7:28
19	15	Wed	5:58	7:13	12:46	4:29	6:14	7:27
20	16	Thu	5:59	7:15	12:46	4:28	6:13	7:25
21	17	Fri	6:00	7:16	12:45	4:26	6:11	7:24
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29	25	Sat	6:08	7:25	12:45	4:16	6:00	7:14
30	26	Sun	5:09	6:26	11:45	3:15	4:59	6:13
31	27	Mon	5:10	6:27	11:44	3:14	4:58	6:12
1	28	Tue	5:11	6:28	11:44	3:13	4:57	6:11
2	29	Wed	5:12	6:29	11:44	3:12	4:56	6:10
3	30	Thu	5:13	6:30	11:44	3:11	4:54	6:09
4**	1	Fri	5:14	6:32	11:44	3:10	4:53	6:08

* 1st of Ramadan (expected)

** Eid ul Fitr (expected). There is a possibility that Eid ul Fitr (1st of Shawwal) will be on November 3, 2005.

NOTE: Salah times available online at www.mcmcnj.org

In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

On the authority of Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him), the Messenger of Allah (may the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said:

“The gates of Paradise will be opened on Mondays and on Thursdays, and every servant [of Allah]

who associates nothing with Allah will be forgiven, except for the man who has a grudge against his brother.

[About them] it will be said:

Delay these two until they are reconciled; delay these two until they are reconciled; delay these two until they are reconciled.”

(hadith related by Muslim)

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Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said: Allah Says 'O son of Adam, spend and I will spend on you' (Bukhari ; 4407 ; Muslim 993)

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For more information, please contact:

Shaikh Ahmed Salem, Ph.D. (Education), Principal

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