



Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

Life - American life - before the advent of color television is nearly lost over the horizon of the past. The shared experiences of our culture - pre 1960 - were formative for the now-retiring Boomer crowd. Here's a title, from a daytime quiz show, that is nearly memory-extinct: **"Who do you Trust?"**

It was 1958 when Johnny Carson and Ed McMahon teamed to lead this afternoon game show; couples competed, answering questions for points against other couples. The twist: the man would be asked - by query category - whether he felt prepared to answer, or whether he trusted his wife to do so. *Who do you trust? Johnny and Ed played the afternoon gig until they left in '62 to work late together...*

Who do you trust? Good question; the payoff for placing your trust in the right place was a few bucks, back in '58. These days, the stakes are much higher. On November 4th, we'll all go in the "soundproof booth" to answer the *Who do you trust?* question between Obama and McCain.

Before the election, you can go to the movies with the same challenge. Who do you trust? The Candidates behind the box office window will be an interesting contrast, to be sure.

The movie **Religulous** opens on



October 3rd. Made by comedian and talk-show host Bill Maher, he makes no mystery about his attitude toward faith: "I hate religion. I think it is a neurological disorder." Son of a Jewish mother and Catholic father, he was raised in the Catholic camp... but ditched his upbringing to become the man he is today. The movie mocks anyone who embraces any religion; in his own words, "...since there is nothing more ridiculous than the ancient mythological stories that live on as today's religions, this movie would try to be a real knee slapper. Unless, of course, you're religious, then you might not like it."

On November 10th - the week of his 90th birthday - **Billy Graham: The Early Years** will be released to screens across the country. An American icon for more than half a century, the film attempts to capture the story of Mr. Graham's youth, his conversion... and the belief milestones that unleashed his lifetime calling. A real figure in the drama is Charles

Templeton, a Canadian contemporary of Graham's with whom Billy founded Youth for Christ in 1944. In 1949, Graham wrestled with the veracity of the Christian faith... and, at Forest Home Conference Center in the Southern California mountains, surrendered himself to the utter dependability of the God of the Bible and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Within the next decade, Templeton faced the same decision... and aligned with the agnostic philosophy of the much-later Bill Maher, renouncing his Christian identity and becoming an "evangelist" for the other side. His book, ***A Farewell to God: My Reasons for Rejecting the Christian Faith*** captured his argument for agnosticism. He died in 2001. I wonder: Where is he now?

"You can't be a rational person six days of the week... and on one day of the week go to a building and think you're drinking the blood of a 2,000-year-old space god," says Maher.

" 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.' "So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God." (Romans 14:11-12) says Paul.

So... who do you trust?

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