

FBF Newsletter

March 2011



Helping people find and follow Christ

Quick Notes:

- > Make powering the ministry through prayer part of your church involvement. Monthly prayer guides are available the first Sunday of every month.
- > Come together for a time of prayer for ministry-related and personal requests on the first Thursday of every month.

From Pastor Chris:

Objectivism Isn't

This past Christmas I received a copy of Ayn (rhymes with pine) Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*. Sales of the 1957 novel are soaring, and I wanted to see what all the buzz was about. "Who is John Galt?" is the story's famous opening line, and this inquiring mind wanted to know.

And now I see that a movie adaptation is set for release on April 15, a day of infamy for tax-payers across the land. The movie even has "Part One" in the title, which sounds to me like Hollywood thinks there's just too much money to be had for only one bite at the apple.

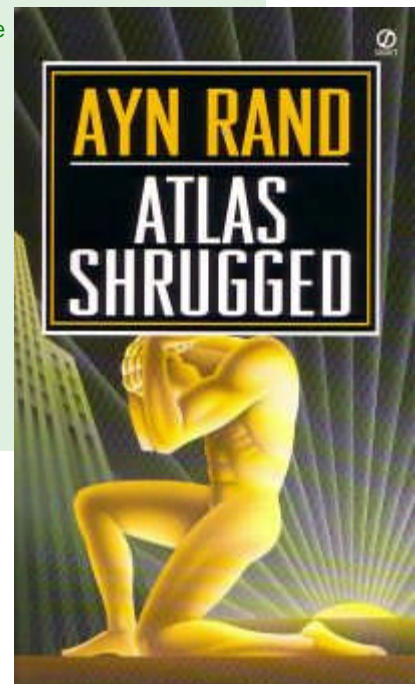
If for nothing else, many find *Atlas Shrugged* refreshing for its heroes - men and women of business. In literature and films, successful business people who are the heroes rather than the villains are rarer than, well, heroic rather than villainous Christian characters. Rich corporate big shots as the good guys, and sponging moochers and grasping loot-ers as the bad guys? Now that's creative! Who would have ever thought of that?

But, alas, there are no Christian good guys in *Atlas Shrugged*. There are no particular Christian villains either, because it's Christianity itself that plays an evil role.

Rand, who died in 1982, was a staunch atheist. Her own philosophy, which she dubbed "objectivism," saw the Christian values of faith, love, and mercy as diabolical evils.

For Rand, to believe in anything beyond the material is to commit intellectual suicide, and to urge belief is to commit intellectual murder. For Rand, love is valid only as the just response to another's worth. To love the unlovely is to call ugly beautiful, and wrong right - a moral monstrosity. And mercy - forget about it. Mercy considers only need, not merit, and in Rand's objectivism need is never argument enough to merit action.

The problem is that Rand's



objectivism isn't. Like all atheists, she cheats. I first noticed it in the occasional intimate encounter in *Atlas Shrugged*. For all of her cold-eyed common sense about business (for example, companies exist to turn a profit, not to create jobs, maintain communities, serve the public welfare, or support the government), no reader could guess from what they learned in *Atlas*

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Small Group and Bible Study Opportunities

A six-week study for women begins on Tuesday, March 1. The study will use the book, “Becoming More Than a Good Bible Study Girl,” and will be conducted at Faith Bible Fellowship on Tuesday evenings from 6:30–8:00 p.m. Contact Jane Hopping if you’d like to take part and are not already signed up.



One or more men’s discipleship groups will also start in March.

We’re using a discipleship tool developed by the Navigators called HighQuest. The purpose of HighQuest and of our discipleship groups is to equip men to walk with God for a lifetime by supporting the personal spiritual practices that are found

ational to living a Christ-centered life. HighQuest is not a typical Bible study, but a guided self-discovery approach that teaches men to feed themselves spiritually on Scripture.

Because of the way groups function, HighQuest groups will be capped at four participants. One group, meeting on Tuesday evenings beginning March 8, is already full. We are open to establishing a second Tuesday evening group and another for Saturday mornings. Interested men should contact Pastor Chris (fbfortn@aol.com).



Ed Jaeger’s Sunday School class on the subject of worship has been awesome—the product of a lifetime of study and serving the Lord. If you haven’t been in

a while, Ed’s class will reward you well for getting back in the Sunday School habit.

Some are spending time in Romans to better prepare for Pastor Chris’ current preaching series. Here’s the remaining schedule for our study of Romans:

- 3/6, The Problem of Unbelief and Sovereignty (Romans 9-11)
- 3/13, The Right Response to Grace (Romans 12:1-21)
- 3/20, Government and God (Romans 13:1-14)
- 3/27, Legalism Hates Liberty, but Faith Loves People (Romans 14:1-15:12)
- 4/3, Decision-Making and the Will of God (Romans 15:13-33)
- 4/10, God Remembers the Forgotten (Romans 16:1-27)



A developing disciple of Jesus Christ is growing in the knowledge of the Scriptures and applying it in daily life. See the back page of this newsletter for the three other characteristics of growing Christ-followers.

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Who Is John Galt? (continued from Page One)

Shrugged where babies come from. For Rand, sex is all about self-fulfilment, admiration and affection, conquest and surrender, even intimacy – everything *but* babies. Hmm. How could someone who called herself an “objectivist” have overlooked that important and obvious material fact? I suspect Blaise Pascal anticipated Rand when he said, “The heart has its reasons of which reason knows nothing.”

In the hero’s speech near the end of the book, there’s more typically atheist cheating. Violence is denounced as an illegitimate means of making the most of one’s abilities, shed-

ding oppression, and achieving self-fulfilment. As Christians we are in broad agreement, but Rand’s atheism offers no philosophical underpinning for why it should be so. It’s not Rand, but fellow Russian Dostoyevsky, who’s right on this point: “Without God, everything is permissible.”

For the Christian, faith is not irrational – it is trusting in a rational God when he speaks of what lies beyond the limits of man’s intellectual reach, no matter how far those limits may recede. For the Christian, love is something far greater and nobler than mere reward for qualities realized and services

rendered. For the Christian, mercy is an attribute of God that we can and must emulate, as we have been shown mercy by God in Christ.

Jesus said, “But whoever would be great among you must be your servant . . . for even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:43,45). John Galt says, “I swear by my life and my love of it that I will never live for the sake of another man . . .” Christians know Jesus as Lord, but who is John Galt?

