

**Essay from the bold pastor**  
**Vol. 34 - The Avengers -**

Marvel's The Avengers was a big hit at the box office. This movie was featured with American multiple comic-book heroes. It reminded me, a middle aged man from Japan, of Japanese TV show of the same kind such as "The Masked Riders Showdown" or "The Ultra Man and his Family"

The director, Joss Whedon, is known as a born "Anime-otaku" (or Animation geek) and that even further reminds me of the Japanese "Anime" culture that I used to enjoy long time ago. Being the mecca of "Anime-otaku", Japan is full of "Anime" characters and heroes. You would see them everywhere. Above "The Masked Rider" and "The Ultra Man" are just two examples of thousands.

As you all know well, there is only one percent of Japanese population who believe in God, the one and only while most Japanese believe in multiple gods.

Would atheists like imaginary heroes??

In fact, Whedon is an atheist. And he is very proud of being an absurdist, the philosophy that was contributed in rising by the views of well-known existentialism philosopher/author Camus or Kierkegaard. Our life indeed is full of irrationalities and absurdities with endless hardships. We just cannot avoid from encountering trials and tribulations in the course of our lives. Is that why Whedon would dream of "gods" like characters displayed in The Avengers?

Having said that, he does not seem like a childish dreamer at all. He attended and graduated from Wesleyan University that is considered as the best college among "Little Ivy" league. To get accepted, the prospect students are required to carry as high SAT scores as Harvard or Princeton requires. This college, ironical to Whedon being an atheist, was founded by Christians and named after John Wesley, the world renowned minister in the 18th century.

The Bible says,

**"Sensible people keep their eyes glued on wisdom, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth." Proverbs 17:24 NLT**

In this passage in Proverbs, "Wisdom" refers God (Jesus Christ). Normally, as a graduate from that college, he would be expected to seek eagerly God, the creator of "wisdom". Instead, he wandered off on to the fantasy world of animations and has become an atheist just like Israelites we read in the Bible. Various super heroes act heroically in his movies, but the one and only God, Jesus Christ, is indeed the true hero.

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