

Mount Vernon / Ohio Nov. 4th 1822

Dear Sir With sentiments of high esteem for you, from
a correct knowledge which I have of your important
services rendered to our happy Country I venture to
address you in this letter, accompanied by two pamphlets
of my own scribbling, I cannot be persuaded that they
will be received and read by you with inattention
no person in the Universe perhaps has more exalted
Ideas of your Virtues than myself. For many years
past, Priests have proclaimed from their pulpits
(where truth only should be uttered) that Mr. Jefferson
was an enemy to the Christian Religion. I have long
since abandoned priestly dominion, and entirely shelter
under the mild and peaceable Gospel of Jesus Christ, the
most perfect model of Republicanism in the Universe,
My reasons for laying aside the foolish Idea of a
plurality of Gods, or that three eternal independent
Gods, can make but one God, you will discover in my
work. To deny this superstitious Priests their bulls and
anathemas, and condemn all such dependents as incorrigi-
ble Hereticks and infidels, ~~Altho~~ indeed Sir I am not
so vain as to suppose that I can give instruction to men
of Universal Knowledge, yet I am induced to believe, that
men of the highest attainments in Philosophy will be
the first in receiving, evidencing, reason and truth, the
subjects on which I have written I am sure will not
be uninteresting to you, I am too well acquainted with
the firm unshaken and heavenly principle of your soul

Smith James, M. Vernon. O. Nov. 4. 22.
Nov. 24

(which govern your publick and private actions) than to
suppose that I am addressing a superstitious being.
For twenty years past I have made the study of Christianity
my great concern, the theme becomes now pleasing and
glorious, if the production of my pen should afford you
any satisfaction, I am fully paid, and will by you be con-
sidered as an evidence of a grateful soul for the services
done by you, to the safety Happiness and Honor of the
American People

Truth is my great Object, should you discover a
contradiction, or reason put to the torture you will be indebted
to me on now kind offer, to correct me.

I do solemnly invoke the Almighty that your
declining days may be spent in firmness peace and
Happiness, as your former were in integrity, wisdom and
honor to your self and our Great Republick

From sentiments of highest esteem and regard
I am Respectfully Yours, &c

James Smith

W. Thomas Jefferson Esq
President of the U. States