

An Allegorical Gospel Debate

Two Christians met, and had the following rare, but important, conversation. The first one said, “I am a Calvinist”. The second, who obviously wasn’t, said “What is a Calvinist, and what am I, then?”

The Calvinist, whom we will call John (after John Calvin, the 16th century conservative reformer) said he believed in a strictly literal interpretation of scripture, as to gospel doctrine (to be discussed), and all other revelations. The other man, we will call Jake (after Jacobus Arminius, a 16th century liberal activist). Jake said he believed in the “conventional” gospel theology, that as far as he knew most of the contemporary church believed. He is, then, an Arminian, in contrast with a Calvinist, because of the prevailing liberal gospel theology.

Jake asked John for an example of liberal vs. literal interpretation. Which question, he was informed, is unusual in today’s church world, because of (1) complacency with the status quo position, (2) presumption of truth (due to ignorance, from neglect of study), and (3) Satanic deception and control (by giving him access to their minds).

John says, for one example, most Christians believe, or assume that everyone is eligible for salvation, because of their misunderstanding of John 3:16, and other scriptures on the subject. Which is the liberal view of God’s plan of salvation. In a word, the greatest modern church fault is that gospel truth is largely unknown, or ignored, having been supplanted by misinterpreted scripture, and fabricated doctrinal “philosophy”.

John told him that the literal belief of personal salvation, is that only certain chosen ones are able to be saved, which is according to the doctrine of predestination, as supported by the correct interpretation of all other related doctrine.

So, why do we leave the disagreement unsettled, and not seek to know the truth of the controversy? Did God say, “Oh, that’s o.k., you will have differences of opinion on various points of doctrine”, or did he say “study to show thyself approved....rightly dividing (discerning, and proving) the word of truth?” Well, we know he said the latter, but how many Christians act as if he had said the former? Apparently, most of them.

What about you, reader? Have you proven your beliefs to be the truth, or do you perpetuate and parrot the ideas of man, as influenced by deviant, free will advocates like Arminius? In connection with which, Jake asks, “Doesn’t man have a free will to either believe or reject the gospel?”

John replies no, because man lost his spiritually free will, when he committed the original sin of disobedience to God, in the test he was given in the garden of Eden—where he had lived in innocence, but fell from the grace of God, and lost his personal relationship, and communion with him.

These are thoughts and questions that many Christians may discuss with others, in their own circle of mutual beliefs (often hyper-critically, and disparagingly), but would seldom engage in with someone who has strong principles, contrary to theirs.

If a Christian says he wants to know the truth about a subject (and who wouldn't say that?), but accepts the false interpretations of man, as the truth, without testing and proving them, he is allowing himself to be deceived by both man, and the devil.

He is foolishly ignoring the precedent of the Berean Christians, who "accepted the word of God (preaching) readily, and then went home and searched the scriptures to see if those things be so". Which, a Christian must do objectively, or else he may unwittingly be influenced by those whom he unwisely trusts to be reliably correct.

We have been given a serious, unequivocal mandate from God to learn his truth, literally, as he declared it, and then to propagate it to others, who themselves are responsible to verify its accuracy. But, unfortunately, the church is full of doctrinally lazy, irresponsible believers who blindly and gullibly follow their human leaders, and not their heavenly one (at least, in such an important matter as the true gospel).

And the cycle has gone on for generations and centuries, all shamelessly in the name of the Lord. And he will have none of it. Hence, the degeneration of his church by unfaithful stewards of his word (leaders, and Christians in general). What a pathetic picture this is—but only to the discerning eye (and most importantly, God)—that the contemporary church, which doesn't even see the error of its ways, is more faithful to the word of man, than to the word of God.

Reference is particularly to the gospel, but what ensures soundness in other doctrine? The same person who bought one lie, can as easily be duped into subscribing to another, unless he sees his mistake, and repents—thus restoring his fellowship with God, and fidelity to his word.

But the overwhelming evidence shows that there is very little of that degree of self-judging happening in the discredited church of today, which has been going downhill gradually ever since the early years of its establishment by God, through Jesus, and the apostles. So, you know they had it right at the beginning, and Acts, chapter 2 tells us how faithfully the original church at Jerusalem kept that trust, in every detail.

But we, by and large, have betrayed our heritage, by not keeping the apostles' tradition of maintaining the true gospel. For which, without appropriate repentance and reformation, there is nothing left but judgment for believing and advocating a corrupt concept of the literal gospel.