

11/11/11

The Bad Roots of Today's "Gospel"
Three Undeniable Faults

1. The Apostasy Factor

Deut. 3:13, the O.T. apostasy case, states: "Certain men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city, saying, let us go and serve other gods, which ye have not known."

That scripture, paraphrased to show the basic principle of apostasy in the N.T. church defection, known as Arminianism, would read: 'Certain men, the children of Pelagius, et al, rejected the traditional literal gospel, and have deceived members of the churches with a liberalized gospel, which they erroneously believe to be the true interpretation of salvation doctrine, saying in effect, let us go and serve a more inclusive, unlimited loving God, than we have known before.'

The key factor of apostasy is false teaching, and the Arminian gospel concept is in the same category. While, Arminian believers are not apostates (being Christians), they too are involved in the belief, and dissemination of doctrine contradictory to scriptural truth. In principle, then, the apostasy element is undeniable! And, whose sin is the greatest? The unbeliever who teaches false doctrine, or the believer? The answer should be obvious. The unbeliever does not have the spiritual capacity to know and maintain doctrinal truth, so he will inevitably do what his unregenerated nature dictates. But, the Arminian believer has forsaken his responsibility to God to learn the gospel truth that He has revealed, and to be unwaveringly faithful to it, throughout his life!

In both cases, too, it must be realized that the insidious, captivating influence and power of Satan is a constant factor, not to be doubted or minimized! However, it is avoidable, and resistible by a Christian, who is fully submissive to God. James 4:7. Which, the Arminian believer has failed to be. And, yet, he can still repent, and be reformed if he would acknowledge his sinful failure, and turn to the truth!

2. The Neo-Evangelical Factor

This charge would be especially offensive to the many fundamental churches, and organizations which have fought neo-evangelicalism ever since its movement began in the 1950's. But, I am referring to neo-evangelicalism's roots, not its branches. The latter of which, the Arminian majority of the church has fought valiantly, and creditably against.

But, listen to a description of the movement's beginning, or basic cause, copied from the website rapidnet.com, whose source is Biblical Discernment Ministries, rev. 8/01: "In general, a neo-evangelical would be defined as one who has taken a "lower view" of scripture (that is increasingly less literal, or conservative), and has developed a more inclusivistic spirit towards liberalism....etc." Parenthetical portion, added.

In my website Article 16, I wrote that “Arminianism.....is always a downward adjustment of the literal meaning of the doctrines in question, which rather by design, or philosophical predisposition, makes the sense of interpretation favor man (and detract from God, in its specious liberalizing of His word),” Revised.

So, then, both movements (and that is what they are—movements, away from traditional literal doctrine) have the same unfaithful basis for their dissension, and defection.

As for the characteristics, and positions of neo-evangelicalism, a brief partial list is included below.

1. Questionable views of scripture.
2. Opposition to the inerrancy of scripture.
3. “ ” “ sufficiency “ ” .
4. Subservience to science.
5. Advocacy of a social gospel.
6. Ecumenism, i.e., cooperative evangelism.
7. Criticism of traditional fundamentalism.
8. Worldliness.
9. Eschatology views. Anti-premillennialism, etc.
10. Church unity, at the expense of truth.
11. Anti-separatism.

It needs to be recognized, that most of the world’s evangelists, including the more famous ones, are definitely neo-evangelical, in their often zealous, but misguided efforts to “save souls”. Which ministries, besides being ultra-liberal, are often more socially, than spiritually oriented!

Except for item1, regarding radical modification of the gospel, Arminian churches have countered the other matters soundly and openly, to their credit. But, it remains to the church’s detriment that they are guilty of the first fault, making them just as wrong in that respect as the neo-evangelicals! And, there is also affinity with some of the psychology used in their liberal methodology.

Unfortunately, it is typical of the predominantly Arminian church of today, to refuse to consider criticism, or be open to debate. They merely repeat the same false assumptions, and sometimes plausible theoretical arguments, but which will not stand the scrutiny of logical, scriptural analysis. And, when anything in disagreement with them is preached, published, or presented to them, it is either stonewalled, or dismissed as unwarranted extremism, or even heresy! When, in fact, they have corrupted the church with a perverted gospel!

Of course, they have never been able to justify their denunciation of Calvinism; they just continue on in the delusion that their gospel interpretation is the “plain and simple” truth, as stated by one of their purveyors. And, the fact that their belief is the mutual consensus of a large

majority of the universal church is, to them, overwhelming evidence that they must be right. On the basis of such comforting “assurance”-- that’s it, the subject is settled. If it was only that simple!

3. The Separation Factor

Instead of being Christians who are admonished to separate themselves from those in their assemblies who apostasize and teach false doctrine, Arminian believers are in the same boat with them! So, if there are Calvinistic believers in their churches, they are the ones who must separate from the apostates, and the Arminian members (who refuse to be reformed).

Adapting a well known saying to the Arminian situation, it would read, “Oh, what a tangled web we weaved, when first we let ourselves be deceived.”

The literal, conservative interpretation of separation, as it applies to the Christian relationship to the world deals with the matters of compromise, and complicity with evil in the world, not from contact with it, which is unavoidable in the natural conduct of life. In the practice of scriptural separation, it is two-sided, unto God, and from the world.

There is a subtlety involved in the degree that free-will gospel Christians regard the doctrine of separation. Would it not be agreed that one’s gospel beliefs affect the extent to which he practices separation? And it may be said, conversely, that what he thinks about the effect of separation on his relationship with the unsaved, is part of the reason that he accepts the liberal interpretation of the gospel. The theology being (1) universal atonement, (2) availability of salvation for everyone, and (3) natural free will ability to believe the gospel, and be saved..

It is much easier to live with the unsaved, thinking and telling them that anyone can become a Christian. But, that is not what the scriptures teach, so whoever believes it, is unfaithful to God’s gospel truth. However, believing correctly that salvation is by a specific decree of God, only for those whom he has chosen, draws a line that is much more constraining on normal social, or societal relations. But, there are no options in interpretation.. Only the latter belief is the literal doctrinal truth!

The Arminian problem with the doctrine of separation is that, instead of being separated unto God, they have separated themselves from God, at least in one very serious doctrinal area—that is, by believing a false gospel. Do I contend that they are completely out of God’s will, because of that act of betrayal. I hardly dare to go that far, but neither can I say that it does not, for sure! It is critically serious enough to have virtually ruined the church for centuries. What kind of a relationship can such Christians have with God? It contradicts the very principle of faithfulness, to think that they are not in a continual state of broken fellowship, as long as they maintain a serious doctrinal belief, that is contrary to scriptural truth!

The connection to Arminian gospel doctrine of the three subjects discussed herein, apostasy,

neo-evangelicalism, and separation, should be convincing evidence of what is intrinsically wrong with the false concept. One thing is for sure, none of those negative factors relate to those who believe the literally true gospel-- in any way, except by contrast!

The truth of the assertions made, in this article alone, should be very troubling to anyone involved with things contrary to God, and His word, so that he could not conscientiously go on defending the Arminian misinterpreted gospel, without serious misgivings that would compel him to rethink and impartially (objectively) study the whole vitally important subject, until he comes to the only authentic conclusion--the literally true gospel!

Obviously, this commentary contains strongly worded criticism of today's radically wrong gospel interpretation, but, relative to the gravity of this deeply entrenched church problem, it is not unwarranted, or excessive! The prevalent unfaithfulness of the vast majority of the Lord's church, is so serious, and dishonoring to its true gospel foundation, that it deserves nothing but the clearest, and strongest denunciation and reproof! Which is nothing compared to the judgment of the Lord that awaits those believers, if they do not undergo appropriate repentance, and reformation.

Today's church is established on the same major characteristic fault as apostasy, which is false doctrine. While, Arminian Christians are not guilty of most of the apostates' offenses against God, and His word, their deviation from fundamental gospel principles stems from the same bad root. Which is, per page 2, "Questionable views of scripture". Of which fault, I would hasten to add, no Christian ought ever to be guilty, having had adequate time to study the various doctrinal truths. To be identified with the same wrong key factor as apostates, should be very disturbing, and difficult for any Christian to live with!

In summation of the subject of apostasy, I would like to refer to a New Scofield Bible note on Judges 17:1. Relating to the utter apostasy of Israel, per the last five chapters of Judges, wherein is a....."picture of the climax of the downward path of Israel, resulting from the departure from the Word of God (the Law)." Yet, a godly remnant existed," as seen in the book of Ruth.

Now consider the New Testament parallel, referring to the book of Rev., Ch. 2 and 3, it could read, "picture the downward path of the church, resulting from departure from the Word of God (the literal gospel)." "Yet a godly remnant exists" (Calvinists), who have maintained faithfulness to gospel truth, and other doctrines.

Scofield further notes "a striking illustration of all apostasy." "With Micah's entire departure from the revealed will of God concerning worship and priesthood, there is yet an exultation of *false* priesthood, saying, 'Blessed be thou of the Lord'. Micah's mother makes an idol; and Micah expects the blessing of the Lord, because he has linked his idolatry to the ancient Levitical order."

Now, see the "striking" parallel in the New Testament "departure from the revealed will of

God, concerning the truth of the gospel. There is yet an exultation of a *false* gospel”, and Arminian believers “expect the blessing of the Lord, because they have linked their gospel concept to the scriptures, as if it was the true interpretation.”

I am thankful for Scofield providing the perfect stepping stone from Old Testament apostasy to its counterpart in the New Testament. Unfortunately, Scofield being himself an Arminian did not see the corresponding N. T. logical connection, regarding the church’s continual historic departure from the apostles’ tradition of the literal gospel?

It only emphasizes the depth of deception that false indoctrination can inflict, even on the vast majority of Christians. Especially, because of the captivating power of Satan over the gullible, vulnerable minds of Christians, who think and act in the flesh, instead of the spirit—whereby they would be pursuing the truth, and defending themselves against Satan’s attempts to draw them away from God, and His Word!

Why have so many of God’s people fallen into the trap? It all stems from not taking God’s word seriously enough, about how to fully live the Christian life—including dedication to faithfully follow God’s will, by learning, and living according to His revealed principles! 2 Tim. 2:15, Deut. 29:29, etc.

While, of course, the Lord should have majority faithfulness vs. the minority situation that exists—the validity of Christians’ beliefs are not measured by numbers, or consensus, but by scriptural proof of the doctrines involved. All that Arminian believers really have is the false security of a large majority consensus; not spiritual understanding of the literal gospel! And yet they go on, as they have for hundred of years, in Satanically induced and controlled ignorance, as if they don’t have a gospel doctrine “worry in the world”.

In the nearly forty years that I have been engaged in the work of contending for gospel truth, against the Arminian false concept, I have never observed a principle of their theory, or encountered a defense or argument from a proponent of the system that cannot be, or has not been, proven to be scripturally wrong! For the record, I was on their side for the first dozen, or so, years, and didn’t expect to change my position when I entered into a study and analysis of the associated controversy that has existed for centuries. But, I became fully convinced and convicted of the completely logical, explicit truth of the literal gospel that God has established for us to faithfully learn and uphold. If, as the bible states, “the truth shall set you free”, it is equally true to say, that “error will make you captive.” “Hereby know ye the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.” 1 John 4:6.

I have a hard time thinking that any Arminian believer ever was grounded in literal gospel truth! He would see the doctrinal contradictions, and the illogical assumptions, and conclusions, and would never be taken in by such a ridiculous interpretation of gospel principles. The concept being the product of the natural mind, because the spiritual mind of a believer, staying faithfully

committed to understanding the scriptures, will learn the true meaning of every doctrine, or subject he thoroughly studies. An Arminian Christian, who does come to believe the literal gospel, will see that the Arminian gospel doctrine, is to the truth—what a false god is to the real God!

The Arminian indoctrination has taken over most of the contemporary church, and they do not believe, or will even consider the possibility that they are on the wrong side of a serious controversy over the truth of the foundation of their Christian lives! Worse, still, they live under the delusion that their churches are doctrinally right, and mainly faithful in their image and testimony in the world. They do not acknowledge a historic defection, and decline, even though it is graphically prophesied in the book of Revelation, chapters 2 and 3.

Instead of the imaginary, favorable light that they see the Lord's church in, they have literally corrupted it with the leaven of false doctrine. What a pathetic commentary that is on the condition of the universal church of today! It has, to its shame, very little spiritual integrity, and its works, that are assumed to be of the spirit, are often products of the flesh-- as is their "gospel"!

Was not Paul justified in calling the Galatians "foolish", for not believing the truth? Or, the Lord, himself, in Luke 24:45, speaking to his disciples, saying "O fools, and slow of heart to believe?" What do you think he is going to say to you that hold a false belief or, in fact, says now, but you're not listening?

A doctrinal virus has infected the church. A virus, per Webster's Dict., Def. 3, is "anything that corrupts, or poisons the mind, or character; an evil or harmful influence." That virus comes from Satan (the father of lies), who surely, as he did with Job, stands before God—boasting that he has infiltrated, and captivated most of the church with an adulterated gospel.

Christians, in general, are in such a state of captive delusion, that they act as if they would rather continue to be lied to by the devil, than to hear the truth of the gospel from God! They will not consider me, or other Calvinists, as possible messengers of God's gospel truth, that they so sorely need, but rather as antagonists, and doctrinal extremists (in the heretical sense). But, belief in literal doctrinal truth can only be called extremism, in the good sense. It only appears negatively extreme to the status quo majority of Christians, who are on the wrong side of the controversy.

Arminian believers, though they dominate the churches, in reality deny their true heritage, by misrepresenting the gospel, which is the doctrinal foundation of their Christian lives! Consider also, that their unfaithfulness to gospel truth, is in effect, comparable in gravity to the act of Satan, who defiantly exalted himself against God, and of Adam, who committed original sin. Both, along with most of the universal church, have betrayed God, with life-changing eternal, and temporal consequences!

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