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God In The “Image Of Man”
(As Characterized by Today’s False Gospel)

Characteristics of the large majority of Neo-Gospel believers in the universal church:

1. An early transition from potential students of scripture, to judges, critics, and revisionists.
2. Change of gospel identity from the word of God, to the word of man.
3. Loss of gospel faithfulness, from the early church (of one mind, in the true gospel) to the modern church (of mostly one mind, in a false gospel).
4. Minimal, or questionable spirituality—mainly due to naturally conceived wrong gospel beliefs, not spiritually learned, because the Spirit of God, faithfully followed, cannot result in erroneous interpretations of His word. Hence, the Neo-Gospel label.

A Christian has no right to theorize about salvation principles, or to develop a theology at variance with the literal interpretation of the doctrinal revelations which God has made fully clear, as rendered. Whether intentionally, or ignorantly, the resulting product is merely a perception of the truth, and in the case of the Arminian concept of it, is a corruption of the real gospel!

There is an ill-advised philosophical statement that “perception is reality.” That may have relative application to some things in life, but biblical doctrine is not one of them! Scriptural principles are an exact science, and their literal meanings must be learned specifically, without any conjecture, speculation, or alteration!

Which means, in other words, that God does not need any help from man to make his truths understandable. In fact, it ought to shame a mere mortal human to think he can be a judge of God’s word, instead of a humble, completely dependent student of it!

To the ones who know the true meanings of scripture, the errors of opposite, or contrary beliefs, or theories are completely refutable, especially when the conclusions of the manmade gospel are as doctrinally illogical, as they are, and so blatantly mischaracterize God, as in the title of this commentary, God In The Image of Man.

“Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.” That is, they who actually “walk (think and act) in the Spirit”, which cannot include a false gospel believer! How can it, when he does not agree with the essential truth of a major doctrine, that God has declared in His word, and by which principles, or divine decrees and acts, he has made us Christians?

Turning back to the basic controversy we are involved in, I would note a number of typical rashly critical attacks, in my experience, against the Calvinist belief system that will show something of the headstrong, unrelenting attitude of most Arminians—especially their pastors, bible schools, evangelists, etc.

The earliest instance was some forty years ago (which I recounted in my study, “Disputing the Free Will Concept”), when a pastor said in reaction to a limited atonement comment I had made,

that “he could not believe in a God like that”, which is typical Arminian bad theology, because believing is not optional—God makes His elect ones Christians (believers), independent of any human action.. The pastor’s reaction shows the stubborn resistance that deep rooted error can have, even against the truth.

In another occasion (also mentioned in the previously cited commentary) was a regional pastor, who was so sure that his liberal gospel view was right, that in a speech at a school graduation, he referred to his experience of almost leaving a bible school he attended, because of what he called, “the damnable doctrines of Calvinism”. Which, in his ignorance, since they are biblically correct, would make them “the damnable doctrines of God.” Incidentally, I had reason to believe that I was the target of that diatribe!

The scriptural admonition of being careful, “lest haply, ye be found to fight against God” ought to be a fearful thought to consider in any situation of maintaining doctrinal differences. Another case involves similar strong denunciation by John R. Rice in his tirade against Calvinism. I wrote a rebuttal in reply to his book, “Predestined to Hell? No!”, which is also in my website.

A more recent example is noted in my article on a Bill Maher/Mike Huckabee TV interview. It shows how falsely dogmatic, and authoritative the Arminian position is. In the interview Huckabee said words to the effect that if God forced anyone to positively respond to the gospel message of salvation, it would essentially be a form of “rape” of his will. By which, he was implying that God would not do such a thing. And no doubt most of you reading this would agree with him, and rightly so, but for the wrong reason!

God does not force our old, natural will to do anything! Instead he converts his chosen ones into new creations, with spiritual wills, able to believe--because the natural man cannot comprehend, or knowingly respond to spiritual truth!

It is the false interpretation of scriptures on the subject of “believing” that is the root of why Huckabee, or most Christians, being like-minded, would make such a critical statement as the “rape” of one’s will!

When man assumes from scriptural references to salvation, that God wants everyone to be saved, and that they can be saved, if they “believe” the gospel--that becomes the driving force, or “justified” motivation for Christians to do everything possible to help people get saved.

To wit, producing hyper-evangelism preoccupation, even at the expense of doctrinal study, and other spiritual growth and development. I.e., a particular large bible college, training new pastors, announced some years ago that they were discontinuing courses in exegesis, or expository studying, and preaching, to concentrate its education, and training on evangelism.

That may sound justified, even a compelling priority, if indeed salvation is universally

available. Believing that to be true, who could argue against the full scale effort, or campaign to facilitate the accomplishment of such a “priority”?

But, what if the concept or conviction is wrong? Note that I did not say spiritual conviction! That is easily, almost automatically assumed, but not true, just because it is claimed. “The proof is in the pudding”. If the doctrinal interpretation is right, then it is a spiritual conviction, because that is the only way that doctrinal truth can be known!

If the interpretation is not true, it cannot be called a spiritual conclusion, because the Spirit cannot, and will not produce a misunderstanding of biblical truth—only the natural intellect will wrongly interpret it, because that is all it can do!

Remember, a Christian does not automatically think spiritually. It involves a conscious “putting off” of the old man, and “putting on” the new man. Eph. 4:22-24. That is not a simple mechanical procedure. It is a process of the renewing of the spirit of one’s mind, from the old nature to the new nature, as stated in the passage cited.

Back to the question of what if the Arminian theology is wrong. Then, centuries of prodigious human time, and effort preaching, witnessing, evangelizing, is itself of no avail. Diverted by false beliefs, and the devil, into a largely unfaithful, contradictory preoccupation.

All that time, deluded into thinking the opposite, that they have been at least relatively faithful in honoring and serving God. Think of how much is at stake that can be continuously affected, or lost by a simple wrong decision. A lifetime of gospel infidelity, personally, and the virtual ruin of the church, collectively!

God’s provision for correcting, and repenting from any sin, or error is always available, so that there is no excuse for staying in that self-caused, shameful condition. But, God does not usually intervene, and steer us back on course. Because, He equipped us with the spiritual capacity to do the things He requires of us. He doesn’t have to do something special to guide us, or correct our mistakes, because everything we will ever need to keep us faithful is already fully provided in His word!

The highest privilege in life one can have is to be given a position of trust by God! Is that not the supreme responsibility, and function of a free will? Think how ridiculous it is to claim that natural, sinful man could have a free will, capable of making a decision about anything spiritual.

But, for Christians, in whom free will has been restored in their regeneration, to violate the trust and responsibility inherent in that new life, is an unconscionable betrayal of God. Yet, that is exactly what most Christians have done, however oblivious they are to their gospel infidelity. And then, it is exacerbated by their refusal to listen to anyone who tries to tell them about it.

The doctrine of separation is another issue that is not properly understood, or followed in

today's church world. There is a vast difference in (1) believing and conveying to the world that salvation is universally available, than (2) that it is confined to a certain predestinated number of people, only! The first, being an unfounded assumption, and the latter being doctrinal truth!

The Arminian Christian will practice separation from certain habits, and vices like smoking, drinking, swearing, etc., but by believing and giving the impression to the world that the burden of responsibility for salvation is upon them to accept, or reject—they, then, do not become the objects of derision, and alienation, and persecution that the more doctrinally separated Calvinist (literal gospel believer) does.

And, there is a possible internal application of separation within the church, that needs to be taken very seriously, and understood, and obediently followed. “Come out from among them, and be ye separate”, is a command taken from Isa. 12:11, whereby the Jews were called to come out of captivity, away from superstitions, and idolatry (including moral, and doctrinal pollution).

I have noted, elsewhere, from an ordinary dictionary that idolatry can include “a false notion, or idea that causes errors in thinking or reasoning”; to wit, a false concept of the gospel, which prevails today throughout the universal church! The sin of which is failure to “walk in the ways of God”, or to “keep his commandments”, like idolatrous Israel did!

We know the scriptures instruct us to separate ourselves from apostates, because of their false teaching. Since the constitutional error of the Arminian gospel is false doctrine, as well, the same reason applies, that a literal gospel believer (a Calvinist) must separate himself from them. For further commentary on the subject, see “The Bad Roots of Today's Gospel”, in my website, Item 63.

In other words, the conventional gospel beliefs of the contemporary church, force one like me to separate from them. It is that simple, that necessary to avoid compromise between the principles of truth and error—which God would never approve of, or allow! Which also means that there is no justification for variant doctrinal opinions, or theories—which when persisted in, constitute heretical false theology!