

8/19/1

Arminian Gospel Distortions

Related Factors:

1. Today's prevailing, Arminian free will gospel did not come from God, because it is perverted theology. It has come into the church because most Christians have succumbed to the temptation of the devil, by believing in false gospel doctrine.

2. Nearly every true gospel principle has been radicalized, or liberalized by adulterating absolute truths into false interpretations, so that they will conform to the assumed premises of:

(1) Universal divine love of mankind.

(2) Universal atonement for sin.

(3) Universal provisional salvation.

The above itemized theological beliefs drive the Arminian gospel concept.

3. Most everything connected with the false Arminian Gospel (AG, abbr.) theory is corrupt, i.e., evangelical preaching, teaching, and praying; including doctrinally wrong lyrics of many hymns, and gospel songs.

4. No alliance can be claimed by AG believers with the apostles', and original and early churches' true gospel doctrine. Nor, with eminent faithful conservative figures in church history, such as Calvin, Luther, Gill, Spurgeon, and many others.

5. Salvation is not optional! One can neither choose it, nor refuse it!

(1) God does not ask or invite anyone to become a Christian.

(2) He directly, and independently transforms His chosen ones into believers. (3)

He gives those whom he has elected, new natures, by which they spiritually believe, and live for Him (if they "walk in the Spirit", and not "the flesh").

6. A Calvinist (literal gospel believer) is an orthodox Christian.
7. An Arminian (liberalized gospel believer) is an unorthodox Christian: a heretic. There is no less critical name for it!
8. A CG (Calvinistic Gospel) believer is approved of God for his doctrinal faithfulness.
9. An AG believer is out of fellowship with God, because of his doctrinal unfaithfulness.
10. The Apostle Paul, if he were here now, couldn't have fellowship with you, if you are an AG believer! He would immediately rebuke, and chasten you, like he did the foolish Galatians, saying "who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth?" Apparently they were deceived into believing false doctrine, like most of today's churches are!
11. The reason for the AG beliefs, is the "flesh", the old nature of Christians. The new spiritual nature of the believer, if exercised, or acted upon, will learn the true gospel principles. Which means that he must take the steps to "walk (think and act) in the Spirit." It is not automatic, as is implied in the scripture, "If we live in the Spirit (are Christians), let us also walk in the Spirit"; it being a continual, conscious requirement!
12. The basic impetus, or driving force of a Christian who falls into doctrinal error, especially regarding the gospel (the foundation of his salvation) is a natural predisposition to avoid and resist what he doesn't like, or want to believe. For example, the absolutism of certain gospel principles, which he will tend to interpret in a way that is most favorable to man, wherever it is conceivably plausible, by editing, or embellishing the literal meaning of words, as desired, per Item 2, Page 1.
13. To facilitate, and formulate the contrived gospel concept, the AG theory denies, and defies most literal interpretations of integral salvation principles, per

summary below.

AG Interpretations of Gospel Doctrine

1. The Doctrine of the Atonement.

Misinterpreted as universal, or general, and provisional vs. the fact that it is limited to the elect, and efficacious for their ordained salvation. Acts 13:48.

2. The Doctrine of God's love.

Declared as universal, even of man in his fallen, sinful state vs. the truth that He only loves the elect, and only because of their eventual adoption, and relationship to Christ, whose righteousness is imputed to them.

3. The Doctrine of Election.

The AG view bases election on the foresight of faith (itself misconstrued) vs. God's independent, unmerited choice of certain ones, only.

4. The Doctrine of Human Depravity.

Believing that ability to believe the gospel is included in man's nature, which is predicated on the false assumption that belief of the gospel precedes, and results in spiritual conversion.

5. The Doctrine of Grace.

Belief that the grace of God makes salvation available, and optional to all mankind. The truth being, that the grace of God is His application of redemptive love to the elect, and is an irresistible act of God.

6. The Doctrine of Perseverance.

To some of the AG persuasion, salvation can be lost under some circumstances. Whereas, in fact, since one doesn't do anything to obtain salvation, he can't do anything to lose it! Meaning that eternal security is inherent, and irrevocable in the act of spiritual regeneration.

A Brief Historical Statement

The source of the AG concept doesn't go all the way back to the founding of the church. But the CG does, because it represents the literal, unmodified gospel

of the original, and early churches.

The AG defection came into the historical picture around the late second, and early third century. It was mainly introduced by Pelagius, a British monk, who dissented against the traditional gospel, with heretical "free will" teaching, that was later proliferated by Arminius in the fifteenth century--eventually gaining practically universal acceptance, after the brief gospel reformation period. But, the good work of notable reformers, such as Calvin, Spurgeon, Gill and others is recorded, and the true gospel is represented by the contemporary voices of the faithful minority faction (virtual remnant) today!

If the contemporary gospel beliefs are right, the apostles have been wrong, and by implication Jesus and God, who gave it to them! If the AG believers can't see what shaky ground they are on, "entangled again with the yoke of bondage, from which they were freed", having yielded to Satan's temptation and believed "another gospel"--then they will remain living proof of the end-time prophecy of Rev. 3, of being "wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked".

How much stronger words of judgment can be used to describe the pathetic decline of the church? While there are other areas of unfaithfulness involved, the betrayal of most Christians to keep the faith "once delivered to the saints" (the true gospel), is the main factor causing the church's downfall!

1 Sam. 4:21 says, "The glory (of the Lord) is departed from Israel, because the ark is taken". The root word for which is the name "Ichabod". Is there not, in principle, a distinct situation like that in the church, where God's glory should be exhibited? Eph. 3:21, "Unto him (God) be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen".

What happens, then, when the Gospel is robbed of its glory (true testimony), by the church corrupting it? It is the New Testament church/gospel counterpart of the Old Testament ark/law of God example of the glory being departed.

And, is there not a clear parallel in the cause of the glory being lost? In the Old Testament it was the ark being taken, in the New Testament it is the true gospel,

having been removed by a false one taking its place! The similarity is that both incidents involve special applications of the word of God. 1. The ark contained the "testimony" (the law, given by God). It was put in the Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle. 2. The gospel, by comparison, is the foundational doctrine of the church, and is to be kept faithfully, as a testimony of God's grace, and glory in the church.

Note too, the solemn words of Rev. 3:20, "Behold, I (Jesus) stand and knock (for admittance into his own church).....", is usually, because of the AG theory, taken to be an appeal to sinners to be saved, but it is actually a picture of Christ being excluded from His church, by abandonment of His gospel truth, and capitulation to a radical misinterpretation of it.

The effect being, that since the truth of His word is denied, or perverted, then He is rejected, as well. It would be an automatic result, because Jesus would not be associated with false doctrine, nor be in fellowship with those who believe, and promote it!

The Arminian gospel is not the gospel of God, or the Lord Jesus Christ, but is the gospel of man (a product of the natural mind, or the flesh vs. the Spirit), adopted by those (the great majority of the church) who let themselves be led astray by Satan, into the sin of misinterpreting, and manipulating the true gospel to establish their perverted revision of it!

They don't seem to understand that the principles, or doctrines of God are spiritual absolutes--not subject to debatable interpretations, theories, or opinions! There is no innocent, or honest dissent, or variance of meaning that is allowable!

God's different revelations are each of one intended meaning, which is determinable by every believer who obeys the commandment of 2 Tim. 2:15, which tells us to "study to show thyself approved unto God. a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." And that can only be done by a conscious decision to use our spiritual capacity; that is, our new nature, by "walking (thinking, and acting) in the Spirit", not the flesh! And this is a

continual requirement, not a one-time commitment.

May we look at some other factors that interrelate between the tabernacle, and the church. The tabernacle is a type of the church, as a habitation of God, through the Spirit. As previously noted, the Most Holy Place contained the ark of the covenant, which held the "testimony", or the law of God. the Ten Commandments on two tables (tablets) of stone.

When Moses descended from the mount, after God gave him the two tables, he came upon the scene of the Israelites worshiping, and dancing before the idolatrous golden image of the calf. Moses then broke the tablets, protesting (under God's direction) the breaking of His law.

Looking again at the parallel likenesses of the ark of the covenant (containing the law of God), and the church as the repository of God's word, the comparative purposes of the two should be obvious. And, consequently, just as Israel was guilty of idolatry, by turning to other gods, so has the church done a similar thing, by accepting the false teaching of "another" gospel (in effect, from another god). They are both acts of betrayal of God, and forms of idolatry.

I think even an AG believer must agree with that logical conclusion. The problem lies in identifying which side of the gospel controversy is guilty of the unfaithfulness of violating their responsibility of allegiance to the Lord, and His gospel.

A thought to be considered: (1) It is, of course, true that one could faithfully uphold the literal truth of the gospel, and yet be unfaithful in other ways. But (2), it seems very doubtful, if not impossible, that one could be unfaithful to the gospel, and yet faithful in other things!

First of all, one who believes in a wrong interpretation of salvation doctrine, and doesn't come to the truth, has permanently broken fellowship with the Lord! The gospel is such a major foundation, and constitutional part of our faith, our Christian life, that we couldn't function faithfully without loyalty to its truths.

Living a lie, by being a proponent of a scripturally false gospel, makes one a

traitor to underlying truths of the cross of Christ, by which he was redeemed! The credentials of our faith are the literal truths of the gospel, that God intended for us to learn, and uphold, even die for, if necessary. Certainly it is never to be altered, or contradicted in any way by the foolish conceptions of man!

How in the world can belief in a barely conceivable, illogical theory be anything more than a gamble against all odds? It is not belief of the truth, but in a concept of the natural mind, by which it is impossible to comprehend spiritual truth! 1 Cor. 2:11-14. But what keeps a Christian locked into that unspiritual mode (his old nature) is a delusive captivation of his mind, that apparently few ever realize, and escape from.

It is probably the most egregious example of the devastation that a Christian can cause, to himself and the church, by the misuse, and abuse of the precious faculty of human free will, that he was endowed with, when converted. The most unfaithful thing of all, being his dishonor, and disobedience to God, by corrupting the true principles of the gospel, by which he was redeemed, and made a believer!

Which has resulted in a colossal church tragedy, that should have been, and could have been avoided, but for willful, incorrigible defiance of the authority of God, and His word! It is ironic, indeed, that those Christians who wrongly think that natural man has a "free will", and it is the means by which he may accept, or reject salvation--misuse their true free will, and listen to, and heed other voices than God's, and turn away from His gospel, without spiritually studying its literal truth in the scriptures!