

11/7/12

A Consolidation of Commentary
Arguments, Refuting The False Gospel
Doctrine of Today's Church

My website, The Literal Truth, contains a number of commentaries speaking of the systemic problem of gospel corruption, that has prevailed throughout the universal church for centuries.

First of all, most of the church doesn't even know that their gospel doctrine is scripturally wrong. They think that their interpretation of it is perfectly fine, and that they are faithful to the Lord in their belief. The sad truth is that their understanding of the gospel did not come from God, but is their own carnal, unspiritual conception, under the influence and control of Satan!

Being falsely comforted by an overwhelming consensus of mutual agreement, they think they are fundamentally safe, and sound in their salvation doctrine, even the vanguard of gospel truth, that they should be, but instead are a mockery of it!

Why, or how, then, have they become deceived into believing, and staying engrossed in a perverted understanding of the foundational doctrine of their salvation? There is a simple fact that distinguishes the difference between the people involved in (1) the Calvinistic, literal gospel position, and (2) the Arminian, liberal, free will concept. The first group is composed of those that "walk in the Spirit", or their new nature, and the second ones are those that "walk in the flesh", or their old nature! At least in their comparative understanding of the gospel!

Or, put another way, the Calvinist, literalists believe in the gospel, that is according to God, and the Arminian, liberals believe a gospel that is according to man!

Neither should it be assumed that being a Christian, they are going to think and act spiritually, just because they are indwelt by the Spirit of God. When the

Bible refers to our two contrasting natures "lusting "against each other, it denotes an adversarial desire for power, or ascendancy. This never-ending contest (in this lifetime) requires a conscious decision, and effort of us, to live according to the life principle of our new nature, which is the "Spirit of God", in us!

A scripture that clearly defines the necessity of taking the steps required to live spiritually, and not in our natural ways, like we always did before becoming a Christian is, "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Also, "This I say, then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh."

Regarding the gospel controversy that has gone on throughout much of church history, there is a true representation of the principles involved, and a false concept of them!

Without going into specific doctrinal differences here, suffice it to say, that the conflicting beliefs cannot both come from the mind of God. "God is not the author of confusion." Man, and Satan are!

Following the obvious logic of foregoing statements on the subject, it must be recognized, and inferred, as has been theologically proven, that one party in the conflict is scripturally wrong, and thus unfaithful to the gospel truth that God instituted.

The proof of which side is right, is in the correct interpretation of the related principles, and that can only be determined spiritually! Two people who disagree, or may not know, as yet, the answer to a doctrinal question, but who are both committed, and continuing, to "walk in the Spirit", would eventually come to the same right conclusion! If agreement is never reached between two Christians, it has to be that at least one of them is thinking in the flesh, or only with his natural mind!

Am I saying that all Arminian Christians are thinking unspiritually, and in the flesh? Yes, at least regarding the gospel, because God cannot excuse a wrong, or variant answer to any doctrine, or subject he has established in His word! Spiritual truth is absolutely specific, and incontrovertible, and cannot be discerned by the natural mind! 1 Cor. 2:11-14.

The troubling implication of which, is that Christians who stay aligned with the Arminian, false gospel concept have, by that telling fact, lived their Christian lives, mainly in the flesh, or their old natures! If God cannot walk with them, because they have adulterated His gospel, He may not walk with them in other things, as long as they remain unfaithful to His gospel truths!

That one unorthodox belief, which is a critical act of disobedience, causes them to be out of fellowship with God! Unfaithfulness to the true gospel, makes them disloyal to God! What else can be safely assumed, or concluded? "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Amos 3:3.

It seems necessary to expand on the subject of the effect of a free will gospel believer's relationship with God, after capitulating to perverted gospel doctrine. In a previous commentary, I tried to simulate what the result of that unfaithful act would be. I said something similar to the following scenario, which indicates how little we may understand what a spiritual walk with the Lord, is!

Emphasizing our predisposition to act in our natural capacity, rather than by our spiritual faculties (especially due to their typical underdeveloped state), imagine what our reaction would be if the Lord personally, and materially appeared in our life.

Recalling that Adam walked reverently and obediently with God in the garden of Eden, in the cool of the night, and even though it was before he fell in sin, do you think that custom was continued after the fall? Unless, and until he may have been converted to a believer, it couldn't have been ongoing; Adam having lost the Spirit, by which he could commune with God!

Consider, then, the case of a typical Arminian, free will believer today, who is directly visited by the Lord, as mentioned previously. Hypothetically, for the purpose of our discussion, assume that the Lord might say to Adam, "I came physically, to tell you that you have disobeyed me, by believing a false interpretation of my Gospel."

The Christian, without argument, or disagreement, would immediately believe the Lord, and reply "Forgive me Lord, I repent of dishonoring you, by

believing a false gospel. I will study thy word to learn the truth, and be reformed from my unfaithfulness to thy word".

I am hoping that you didn't miss the obvious fault that was revealed in this exchange between the Lord, and the believer! Which is, why did the Lord have to physically appear, for the Christian to listen, and heed what He said?

The Lord would then ask why he didn't know that He was speaking to him spiritually through His word! Also, "Why didn't you listen to my messenger when I sent him to you, about this problem?" Is the Lord not as real spiritually, as He would be if physically visible? "Now faith is the substance (substantiating) of things hoped for, the evidence (conviction) of things not seen." Heb. 11:1.

But, only by purposely, or obediently living by the dynamic of "walking in the Spirit", will that principle be real, and experienced by the believer! The opposite life dimension, of course, is the flesh, or natural man; living by which, is the root cause of the gospel controversy that continues, unrepented from, with no hope in sight for major reformation!

Without which, looking ahead to the Judgment Seat of Christ, is the applicable scriptural warning, "There will be weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth", when it is too late to do anything about it, like the foolish man who "built his house upon the sand" (man's word), instead of "the rock" (God's word)!

While I know that the significantly serious sin of believing false gospel doctrine, causes a break, or interruption in a Christian's walk with the Lord, I cannot say, dogmatically, that there is no spiritual communion with God in other parts of a believer's life. But, I can safely conclude that a serious disconnection, or hindrance in such a one's relationship with the Lord has occurred!

I note from experience, and observation that Christians know other doctrinal truths, and have effectively lived them, and taught them to others. Being spiritual subjects, it is virtually impossible to understand them with natural intelligence, and be able to communicate the truths to others, for their edification!

And, it is reasonable and rational to recognize sincerity, and spiritual love in

most Christians' lives. There are, of course, bad habits, and other unChristian ways involved in Christianity. Those are things that often outweigh the good positive conduct, which is why in the total critique, that the church is characterized as "lukewarm", in Rev. 2, and 3. It is not a pretty picture, especially when the adjectives "wretched", "poor", "blind", and "naked" are added to the account.

Therefore, though most of the church has succumbed to the devil's influence, and exploitations of man's adulteration of God's perfect, holy gospel, I don't know to what extent God may, or can approve and bless other things that Christians may do with some degree of spiritual integrity!

What I do believe is, that besides being unfaithful to God, it is foolish and dangerous to maintain a doctrinal position, that will not stand the scrutiny of thorough examination, which would determine whether it be truth, or error!

But, Satan's master stroke of power over the Arminian gospel believers, seems to be that they will not submit to the test that could rescue them from the dilemma, of which they appear ignorant! Remember, they let themselves be taken captive by their doctrinal disloyalty.

Also, it is just more proof, or evidence that their thinking, and acting in the flesh, instead of the Spirit, which got them into their pathetic, failed condition--is the same thing that keeps them there!

But, it is not an unbreakable mold! As long as one lives, there is always the opportunity of repentance, and reformation! There cannot be a sinful situation that can't be solved, or escaped from. 1 Cor. 10:13, "There hath no temptation (trial) taken you, but such as is common to man, but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able, but also with the temptation, make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

Also, "My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength" (Spirit, which is in you), "is made perfect in weakness"(our flesh, or weak spiritual condition). That is, when we admit the latter problem, and yield to God's power, for deliverance!

The lukewarm, blind, etc. description of the end-time church, indicates that there is very little spiritual life in the believers of that time, which, prophetically includes today's church world, in general!

What is man's primary responsibility on earth? To live for God, by loving Him, above everyone, and everything else, and seeking to know, and obey His will! And since the fall, of course, it is only possible for a Christian to do that. In that context, what would be the effect of believing another gospel?

Consider whether the following consequences could not logically result from that one major act of disobedience to God.

1. Loss of fellowship with God. An uncertain, disloyal relationship.
2. Withdrawal of the Lord from the church. If the fault is prevalent.
3. Unspiritual life, and service. As long as the doctrinal problem continues.
4. Loss of access to the throne of grace. The righteousness of Christ by which we must come to God, may be restricted, or not be granted, as long as one stays in that unfaithful state.

Can anyone be sure that the above consequences are not true, to some serious extent? Shouldn't we fear the possibility, even probability? It needs to be said that there is a general lack of a proper sense of responsibility, to fully submit oneself to God in everything He has commanded us to do! Why would anyone dare to say, in respect to the first commandment, that he loves God with all his heart, and then ignorantly or otherwise fail to study His word, and learn gospel truth--but rather, insult Him by accepting man's radical misrepresentation of His word?

There is another significant factor involved, which contributes to the lack of edification, common to today's believers. Rather than learning the fundamental principles by which a Christian can grow in the knowledge of the Lord's teaching, the Arminian free will believer, is sidetracked into a preoccupation with evangelism, or "soul winning", to the exclusion of learning other doctrine, essential for spiritual growth, and edification!

The irony being that he neglects the things that he needs to know, and do, to

be a mature servant and disciple (or, a faithful adopted son, or daughter), and devotes the bulk of his time, and efforts to the commonly misguided concentration on evangelism! Misguided, because of the erroneous belief that natural man has a free will, and can believe the gospel, and become a Christian, by "faith"!

When, in fact, an unsaved person cannot understand spiritual matters, including the gospel! "The natural man receiveth not the things of God, for they are spiritually discerned." 1 Cor. 2:11-14. Believing doesn't get one into the church (the body of Christ), it gets one into heaven! God, directly and independently makes one a believer, in the act of regeneration (spiritual rebirth)!

Regeneration, and salvation are not synonymous, or simultaneous events, even though regeneration ensures salvation. They need to be recognized as separate chronological events, in order to understand, and formulate correct theology, which Arminian, free will contrarians have not done, to their detriment!

By the analysis of cause and effect, failing to know and follow God's principles that apply to His requirements of us, are verified by the results of the two greatest sins, with eternal and temporal consequences, that man has committed:

1. The original sin of Adam, which caused the human race to be eternally condemned, except for God's decree to redeem a predestinated number of certain ones, which is an unmerited act of grace.
2. The failure of most Christians to literally believe the true doctrine of the gospel, by which they are made Christians. Such an act of betrayal has corrupted the church, in general, by their acceptance of a perverted gospel, formulated by man, and exploited by Satan.

The word of God is spiritual food for the Christian, and just as it is important, physically and mentally to have a balanced diet, it is logically essential for a believer to have a balanced regimen, or intake of spiritual food. So, if he partakes mostly of things relating to evangelism, and neglects other scriptural nourishment, he is going to be spiritually unhealthy!

And, that is exactly what we have in the church today, immature, and undeveloped Christians! The scripture commonly referred to in evangelism of,

"He who winneth souls is wise", sounds as if that would justify emphasis on the work of soul winning.

But, again, because of the mistaken interpretation of the gospel, thinking that unsaved people can become Christians by believing the gospel, which they cannot do, falsely motivates Christians to be more engaged in that service

The verse referred to on this subject means something opposite from the general assumption of its meaning. He is a soul winner, because he is wise, not wise because he is a soul winner! It is a jump-to-conclusion oversimplification of the underlying doctrine involved. It is, in contrast, unwise to superficially assume what the words mean, and run with it, as if it is obvious, and unquestionable!

The cursory way that the Arminian free willers read scripture, carelessly making it fit their liberalized theology, characterizes their unspiritual thinking, and resultant deviant interpretations of salvation doctrine!

Also, being programmed by their Arminian, free will constitution, to center their attention, and service upon misconceived evangelism, explains something of why they seem untaught and unaware of the vital importance of "living (thinking and acting) in the Spirit", instead of the flesh (or, their old, carnal nature).

It no doubt agitates, or angers the church's status quo (rather than shaming them, which it should), to be told that none of the basic premise, and rationale for their gospel concept comes from God, but only from the natural (unspiritual) mind of man!

That thought, if ever considered, should be a shock to them to think that it could be true! And that most of Christianity today believes a radical mininterpretation of the gospel, even though it is the very foundation of their Christian life!

The only reaction that will do any good, is repentance, and reformation! Church prophecy, sadly, indicates that it never happens, in general, but there is the warning included that "Whosoever hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." Which means, that there is always the provision for repentance; tempered only by the risk of delay!

Historical Factors

It is assumed that the contemporary church thinks that their gospel interpretation is the same as the original churches believed. But, history records a movement of dissension against the traditional, biblical gospel belief.

A man, apparently a British monk and theologian, named Pelagius, introduced liberalized gospel principles, i.e., that (1) man is not totally depraved, but has a free will to believe, or not believe the gospel, (2) that the atonement was provisional for all mankind, (3) that election is based upon the foresight of individual faith, or belief of the gospel, (4) that saving grace is not irresistible, and (5) some believe that salvation can be lost, but possibly regained!

The items above are the Arminian, liberal gospel principles, which correspond negatively to the literal gospel interpretations known by the acronym TULIP, or 5-point Calvinism, per below.

1. **T**otal Depravity. Unsaved man has a 100% sinful nature.
2. **U**nconditional Election. Predestinated, unmerited salvation.
3. **L**imited Atonement. Christ's sacrificial death for the elect.
4. **I**rresistible Grace. Inevitable salvation of the elect.
5. **P**erseverance. Eternal security of the believer.

God has established the above facts as absolute principles, or factors of His plan, and work of salvation.

The essential difference between the two theologies, is that the Calvinistic system is absolutely true, and the Arminian concept, with the possible exception of Item 5, is absolutely false.

Only the natural mind of man would try to dispute the foregoing facts, because in that capacity, even a Christian cannot discern spiritual truth.

That is why their arguments are so illogical, and futile. And, it is one thing to

contend against man, even a Christian, but to risk "fighting against God", knowingly or not, is foolish and irreverent, and risking judgment for coming under the purview of the inherent principle of Rev. 22:18, that being the warning against "adding to", or "taking away" from "this book" (the Bible).

To emphasize the seriousness of mishandling God's word, it should be seen as imperative, that we take Him literally at His word, to the extent of being afraid of failing to get it right! And that is a healthy, reverent fear, which God will honor!

There is little evidence of that kind of humble respect for, and submission to the authority of God, other than rhetorically. And it doesn't count for much to have reverence to God in some things, and not in others, or all things. It is further indication of failure to "walk in the Spirit", instead of the natural ways of the "old man."

In the context of the main subject of this commentary, the prior point is exemplified by the universal church's flagrant unfaithfulness to the true gospel, and their organized resistance against appeals and warnings from Calvinistic, literal gospel adherents!

The contemporary church is so unreachable, and incorrigible that they would rather live with their false security, than be rescued from their doctrinal bondage! The various words that apply to the Arminian majority's indoctrination with a corrupt gospel, such as, "deceived", "duped", "deluded", "blind", etc., are the result of using carnal, natural reasoning, and thus allowing Satan to have access to their minds.

Hence, a self-imposed return to bondage, from which a Christian has been freed. "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, hath made me free from the law of sin and death." Rom. 8:2. "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Gal. 5:1. And the following quotation is especially applicable to the Arminian false gospel, "This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you." Gal. 5:8.

"A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. Therefore, let us keep the feastwith the unleavened bread of sincerity.....and truth"; of Gospel doctrine,

discipline and conversation (conduct). Gal. 5:9, and 1 Cor. 5:8, with added phrase, from John Gill commentary.