

1/13/14

"If I Regard Iniquity"

In my website commentary, Item 85, I made mention of a study rule that I use, which I believe has great value in determining the scope (minimum to maximum) of doctrinal meanings and applications.

Before I give positive examples, there are many instances in the history of the church, where that guiding example principle was either not used, or misused. I was just reading a study article written by Geo. Zeller of the Middleton Bible Church, in Connecticut., on John 3:16, where he was criticizing Reformed Theology (Calvinism, per se), and made the following comments.

Quoting another Arminian believer on the subject of "Who Christ Died For", "If Christ really did die for all men, then I don't know how the Bible could make it any clearer than it does". But, that is a major "if". And, as it is further claimed to be true by Zeller, who says, "It is evident that the extreme Calvinist (I am not sure that he means anything but a full 5 point one, which is the minimum to be a complete Calvinist) must ignore the clear language and obvious sense of many passages, and he must force the scriptures to make them fit into his own theological mold". Little does George know, that the converse is true, and the criticism fits him and the Arminian gospel to a tee!

In reading his commentary further he makes incorrect remarks about Calvinists, and mistaken interpretations of selected scriptures. From contact (correspondence) with him some thirty-plus years ago, and in recent times responding in my website to his same, unchanged doctrinally wrong commentaries, I have have a hard time believing that he is so obsessed with his beliefs that he can ignore almost everything said to him that is contrary to his false gospel theology--no matter how logical, and scripturally accurate the rebuttals are!

What else can be concluded, but that he is incorrigibly intent on justifying his philosophical, conceptual beliefs. The saddest factor involved in his intransigent indoctrination, is that he doesn't know that none of his gospel theology was

spiritually learned. It is all a product of his old nature--a manmade concept of gospel principles. That is, he and millions more uninformed Christians have never known gospel truth, because they have not "walked in the Spirit" to learn it, which if done consistently would have enabled them to know the truth of the literal gospel, as surely as it is promised in 1 Tim. 2:15, etc.

In other words, a Christian can acknowledge, and agree to the injunction of that scripture, and actually engage in the study process--but if he isn't committed to consciously "walk in the Spirit", it means he is trying to determine doctrinal truth in "the flesh", which can never work, any more than a non-Christian can learn spiritual truth.

Devoting one's life to the defense of a lost, or false cause, reminds me of evolutionists' impossible, imaginary philosophy opposing the self-evident cause of life and matter, and natural laws, all being the result of supernatural (read: God) creation. But, as John Calvin said, "The human mind is a fertile field, and when all its powers combine, can yield an immense increase of false inventions".

But, a continually spirit led Christian will learn scriptural truth, and with experience, will settle for nothing less, differentiating between true and false doctrine, almost automatically! Because learning the truth of doctrinal principles becomes "second nature" to him. And, second nature is just what it is: a new nature in addition to his old, carnal nature.

But, that new life principle, if not consciously used, will remain dormant and ineffective to live the Christian life the way God designed and equipped us to, instead of trying, in vain, to use one's natural intellect to attempt to live acceptably for God! What a pitiful, wasted life that produces, and the damage it does to those it influences!

When I read the superficial, human reasoning of Zeller's arguments, I am surprised that his comments are continually shallow, and unspiritual, and therefore in error, at least concerning the gospel, as foundationally important as that doctrine is! The poor man is on the wrong track, and going nowhere, and

taking probably thousands of others with him!

It is all the more difficult to understand of a Christian who is involved in a comprehensive ministry, of assistant pastor, Bible study leader, and publisher in what is assumed to be a fundamental, teaching church! It seems like Murphy's Law works in some Christian's lives, too, that whatever can go wrong, will go wrong! But, in this or any other case, it only can go wrong, if the Christian lets it!

I haven't read much more of his doctrinal studies, which may be scripturally correct, but the contrasting gospel theology makes one wonder how such a contradiction could exist. It is indeed baffling, especially with the volume of gospel truth that has been published, and preached. But, I suppose I am being too optimistic, because the truth is, that even though the Arminian gospel believers are flat out wrong, doctrinally, they seldom change over to the true gospel.

I have said, in view of the relatively small minority of believers that know the scriptural gospel truth, that I cannot say with certainty that I sought after the truth on my own, after being in the Arminian camp for over ten years; or did God make me seek and learn the true gospel, so I could serve Him in defending and promoting it? That is, because God always preserves a remnant to stand for Him, and His word!

Of course, I hope that I voluntarily studied to show myself approved, because that is the way we all should honor His word! In either case, I am so thankful and glad that I know that what I believe is true, and while I will surely have my faults and failures to stand before the Lord and be judged on, gospel error will not be one of them, and hopefully neither will any other beliefs be questionable, or wrong.

There is an interesting question in Luke 18:8, regarding the Lord's coming: "... will he find faith on the earth?" The sense being the practice of faith in believers' lives. Will there be a carelessness among Christians about sins, and bad habits? There already is, and its not apt to change much for the better. Most Christians act like God is nowhere around, probably because He doesn't visibly appear in our lives--but the truth is that He wouldn't be any more present than he already is, in

the Holy Spirit, and His word!

By which, I mean for example, if God were to walk with an Arminian believer, as He did with Adam, I can't help but believe that the first thing He would ask the errant Christian is, why he doesn't believe His gospel, but defected to man and Satan's corrupted doctrine, instead? And, He would inform him that He didn't have to come to earth to confront him with that question, because in His word He has been speaking to him about it all his Christian life! And, since that act alone broke fellowship with God, He could only be walking with him, judgmentally!

That scenario represents the typical spiritual unreality in most Christians lives today, which the scriptures attest to, especially graphically in Rev. 3 prophecy. I am sure that any believer can make the connection between the warning of "regarding iniquity my heart", and maintaining false doctrinal beliefs! And, if he had a genuine fear of a possible application to his gospel doctrine, why wouldn't he do something to vindicate himself by the self-judgment that God requires?

It is very hard to understand that a Christian will resist and refuse for years doing something that might only take a short time to correct a serious deficiency in his life, and keep him faithful, and in fellowship with the Lord! And, though we fail in some ways many times, the solution and the remedy are always the same, confess it, and acknowledge God' forgiveness and cleansing from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9.

I can imagine, or believe that there are many Christians who may attempt to do right in many areas of their lives, but the church-wide nemesis of believing the wrong things about the gospel stands in the way, unless and until those affected believers might repent, and be reformed from their false gospel philosophy. Even using the word "believers" bothers me, because even though they are no less Christians, they are not completely true believers.

So, what am saying in all of this? If the church is that seriously degenerated, what are we to conclude that man has done to corrupt the historic body of Christ? Can it really be true that most of the universal church has been largely void of a spiritual life, and honorable testimony to God, who established it specifically to

bring glory to His son, Jesus Christ, his lordship and his teachings?

The church, then, has been an institutional failure, which in no way reflects questionably upon God, because everything that was ever needed to enable the church to be faithful, successful in its purpose, and exalt the Lord and His ways, has always been abundantly available.

Therefore, while we can't fully understand everything that has gone wrong with Christianity, it was very important to God for man, originally, to have a perfectly free will, so that ideally he would make decisions honoring Him, and faithfully follow His will. But, even as difficult to understand Satan's, and other angels' fall from their special administrative relationship to God, man too, in every eternally critical test he has been given, has failed to make the right decisions--even with the highest incentives possible, especially sinlessness, immortality, and lordship of the earth.

Christians' second worst decision in life, after Adam's commission of original sin, was capitulation to "another" gospel, betraying the Lord, and leading to the church's downfall, personally, and organizationally! Significant, too, are the factors contributing to the church's demise. The one most grievous result of man's salvation theology is his believing that natural man can believe the gospel, and be redeemed, or saved, because it creates the illusion that God's will is subject to man's will! Besides being completely contradictory to man's total inability to discern spiritual truth, it demeans God's sovereign, independent execution of His exclusive plan of salvation.

And, then, to think of the hyper-evangelism ministries, and campaigns that have been conducted, and the development of mega-churches, based upon the forementioned Arminian false premise, that have filled the churches with "tares" outnumbering the "wheat", and with the wheat itself not being very spiritual, in most instances.

With the preoccupation with falsely motivated evangelism, other essential teaching of the church has been neglected, and minimized (playing right into the devil's hands), so that Christians have been sidetracked from learning the doctrinal

principles they needed to be mature, and edified believers (disciples of the Lord).

I have been trying to emphasize the importance of taking key scriptures on the subject, i.e., Ps. 66:18, serious enough to fully apply them to our lives. Why wouldn't it be safer, and logical to see the injunction of not "regarding iniquity in my heart" to apply to any kind of sin that may be committed, and forsaking the true gospel may be the worst kind of iniquity that could be committed!

Perennial bad habits are certainly included in that admonition, and from my observations, the practices of lying, gossiping, dishonest actions, etc., are typical unconquered sins that interfere with, and prevent most Christians from having an acceptable relationship with God, and the benefits of His promises, for obedience to His word.

Again, there is rampant evidence of Christians living about like they always did, with comparatively little real spiritual conduct. They are often lazy about studying the bible to get the answers to things of life that God has established for us, and that require conscientious study.

God is well aware of our old nature problem, and left us in that situation for now, for His own purposes. He expects us to learn how to deal with the two nature struggle, by continually recognizing the conflict, and yielding to our spiritual side. The more often we make that effort, the more "second-nature" it will become, by always endeavoring to give the new man the ascendancy in our lives, which is "walking in the Spirit", the essential factor in living faithfully for the Lord!

But, a sorry note is struck here, because an Arminian believer, with wrong gospel doctrine, is not "walking in the Spirit"! Having entrenched himself in an unspiritual situation, by fixating on false theology, he is continually guilty of "regarding iniquity in his heart", and what does the rest of the verse say, "the Lord will not hear me".

Can one unconfessed sin be that serious? For how long? Are those words literally true? This is what I meant about extending a scriptural warning, or principle, or precept to its fullest application. Christians, in general, don't seem to

realize the whole new set of rules they must live by, and obey, when they become believers!

When God's word says "let your yea be yea, and your nay be nay", that is exactly how positively God means what he says, and that is to be taken literally the way it is declared! Here, again, a believer with spiritual integrity will take God's word serious, and will not gamble against it, and especially not tamper with its doctrinal meaning, by daring to modify it, or handle it in any careless, or presumptuous way!

But, the latter category is the status of nearly every Christian church in the world! Which may be involve as much as 95% of Christianity today, playing church, and none the wiser with assumed faithfulness, and God's approval taken for granted!