

7/18/13

The Lonely Road of Truth

It is important for me to try to explain the personal conflict that exists between the two sides of the age-old gospel controversy. That being (1) the Calvinist position of a literal interpretation of the scriptural doctrine vs. the Arminian concept of a liberal view of those principles!

First off, there may be only relatively few who can understand and appreciate my situation, or anyone else's who believes the same as I do. Consider, if you will, the effect of what I, and others have learned and propagated, on practically every Christian the world over, whether they know it or not! What I know to be the true gospel, exposes the contrary interpretation of it, which is the false gospel that prevails throughout the universal church.

Going back to the time that I began to learn what was wrong with my gospel beliefs (in the early 1970's) I recall the instance that got me started in seriously studying the doctrine. A lady in church simply stated that we Christians were predestinated to be saved. I don't think that she knew much about the doctrine, but said she believed it.

I acknowledged to myself that predestination, or election is, of course, an important biblical truth, but that man is not forced to believe, and has a free will to either accept, or reject the "offer" of salvation! In other words, both things somehow were supposed to be essential factors in salvation, which I would later learn is contradictory, and illogical!

So, I set out believing that I had to scripturally prove my conventional free will belief, which was the same as almost everyone else. It wasn't easy for the first two or three years or so, to make the transition from ten to twelve years of false indoctrination, to the literal salvation doctrine that is the true gospel.

In the forty plus years that has transpired since then, having compiled and

published (on the internet) the results of careful study of the gospel, and other subjects--I have received very little response, positive or negative.

I should also state that in the six plus years that I have had a website there have been many visits or hits--some brief, some longer. With the name of the site being "The Literal Truth", it would attract attention. I suspect it is mostly negative, but I do not know for sure what effect the commentary has had on the readers. The writings pertaining to the gospel are, of course, intended for misinformed, or errant Christians. I would add too, that every expository voice of scriptural truth is a message from God against doctrinal error, and needs to continue as long as His word is misrepresented, especially when it is heresy!

It is disappointing to me, and a sad case for them that the church in general has abandoned biblical gospel truth (that it never learned), and in spiritual blindness followed the conventional, status quo liberal misinterpretation of it--ignorantly and irresponsibly calling it the word of God!

Another example of the spiritual delusion, and dishonor to God is the following case. I prepared and submitted a letter to approximately thirty evangelical ministries, bible schools, etc., explaining that I had published website commentaries on the Calvinist/Arminian gospel controversy, and asked them if they would look at the material, and respond objectively to the conservative position taken.

I only received two replies, one from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, and some other organization that I do not recall the name of right now. Neither spoke to the issue, or purpose of the correspondence, but put me on the mailing list for their association's evangelistic outreach, news, etc.

It is to be expected that not more than a small percentage of the liberal gospel faction would be interested in anything questioning their conventional interpretations. Two things make it understandable, (1) if they haven't paid conscientious, faithful attention to the scriptures, which are the source and authority for doctrinal subjects, why should I be surprised that they don't listen to secondary conveyors of God's truth, like myself?

But, for which they have no allowable excuse, because they run the risk of refusing to listen to God, when they reject His messengers, who speak in defense and confirmation of His word!

(2) The other factor which, sadly, explains their disinterest is end-time church prophecy in Rev. 2 and 3, which describes the pathetic unspiritual condition of the typical contemporary churches, that clearly indicates that there will be no major reformation of faithfulness, because they would not repent, or hardly consider expository appeals, or other attempts to rescue them from their self-imposed gospel bondage to the devil!

Can't anyone in their ranks grasp the dire significance of Christians believing a false gospel, and thinking they are serving God, but are in fact serving the devil, who is the author of the lies it embodies, or at least exploiting man's unspiritual misinterpretation of it? "If we judge ourselves (here), we shall not be judged (there)"--at the Judgment Seat of Christ! 1Cor. 11:31.

What are they going to say to a largely failed Christian life, by never coming to the truth and repenting of their shameful disobedience, and foolish acceptance of a corrupt gospel; the same thing Paul chastised the Galatian church for, in saying to them, "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you that ye should not obey the truth....." Gal. 3:1? I could have left Galatians blank, and the name of almost any church in the world could be inserted!

Turning to the main subject of this article (per title), I would like to emphasize some of the reality that a Christian in my situation must expect and confront, being in such a minority of Christians who believe the true scriptural gospel.

The main failures that the church has committed are:

1. Disobeying the will of God, by not believing the biblically true gospel.
2. Disseminating false doctrine, like the lying prophets in the Old Testament.
3. Trying to live the Christian life, and serve the Lord, in the "flesh", or their old nature, instead of "walking in the Spirit", their new nature; apparently not discerning the difference.
4. Failure to "study (especially the gospel scriptures, spiritually) to show themselves approved unto God", and rejecting expositions of their false salvation principles, and appeals for their reformation.
5. Resulting unfaithfulness, causing personal and church unspirituality. Rev. 3:16.

An important point to make, that upon careful consideration should be very revealing and convicting, is that Christians, by and large, do not take God seriously enough! My website article No. 17 was written on that subject, so I won't go into

great detail here.

To emphasize the subject, consider the concise, but terse meanings of the ten commandments, or any admonitions or instructions from God that are not just optimum guidelines, but mandates to be obeyed as reverently and respectfully as we are able to (that is, that we can be enabled by the Lord to do).

Furthermore, the principles and precepts of God are timeless. Isa. 40:8..... "the word of our God shall stand forever." It is never outdated, or inapplicable to our lives, neither can it be improved upon. Also, we can be heedless and unfocused, and not act like we know that His word is as worthy of our attention, and reverential interest as if He was directly talking to us, audibly!

But, in all of these considerations the underlying cause of the church's unfaithfulness is a basically simple, but shamefully ignored and neglected command from God. In fact, it is so essential to obeying the will of God. that failure to follow the principle can only result in unspiritual Christian conduct, or life in general

As I have discussed elsewhere, a Christian cannot live for God, if he doesn't "walk" with Him--which cannot be assumed or claimed as an unconditional endowment, or privilege. This again, is an example of not taking God seriously by not listening and learning how to live as a believer should. This is especially vital in the beginning, to get grounded in the fundamental key to faithfulness.

That key, is predominantly absent in most Christians' lives, and it is the common cause of the church's generally unspiritual condition. Worse still, is the fact that most believers either don't understand the principle, or oversimplify it.

What is the primary factor? To reiterate what I have said many times, that is critical to any degree of faithfulness, which is seriously lacking in most believers lives, is "Walking in the Spirit, and not the flesh, the old nature, which is the unchanged mental mode guiding their decisions, as always! For, if they had thought and acted spiritually, according to the life principle of their new nature, they would not have accepted or stayed with the false gospel doctrine they were presented with!

Without spiritual discernment, they could not understand biblical truths, nor "resist the devil", who was either the author of the corrupt gospel, or exploited the

concept and teaching of it.

It ought to be acknowledged, and trusted that God does not require anything of us, that He doesn't give the grace and ability to accomplish--whether it is correctly interpreting His word, or performing whatever He, or life, requires us to do.

God restored free will to Christians, for us to make necessary and rightly desired choices. Which means, among other things, that we are to have the resolve, and take the initiative to do whatever His will requires, or permits. First, and uppermost is obedience and faithfulness to His word, i.e., His guiding principles, precepts, commandments, and instructions.

And, nothing can rank higher in importance than the gospel! Because, it is the doctrinal foundation of our Christian life. As (or if) we become established in that body of truth, then we can build upon that immovable, solid foundation by growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord, and His ways that He has revealed for us to learn, and follow Him as loyal sons and daughters. That is, glorifying Him in every aspect of our lives.

But, the church today, even though every Christian is redeemed by the efficacy or application of the same gospel principles as all other believers, most of them misinterpret the true meanings of the doctrinal elements, and thus have begun and continue their lives with a "gospel" foundation of sand vs. rock, followed by works of "wood, hay and stubble."

A true spiritual edifice cannot be built on a defective base, or premise. How can I say with certainty that they have not produced spiritual works? The answer is relatively simple, but the truth of it is lost on nearly the entire church. That statement may sound preposterous, and incredible to most of you reading it, but it is irrefutably true, and indicting!

As I have previously commented, the basic cause of the church's indoctrination with a false interpretation of the gospel, is its failure to "walk in the Spirit", or live by the operating principle of their new nature, which is the Spirit of God, that they have been endowed with.

Therefore, living by the dictates of the natural, fleshly capacity of their old nature, they could not discern spiritual truth--which, of course, includes the

scriptural, literal meaning of the gospel.

Now, then, how could it be that they can think and act spiritually in other areas of their life, including praying, worshipping, learning doctrine, teaching others, or anything else pertaining to it? I'm reluctant to say categorically that they can't, but it is incompatible with the fundamental principle of faithfulness.

Yet, if at any time, they were to actually try to walk (live) spiritually after their wrong decision to accept a manmade perverted concept of the gospel, having thus become allied with Satan--they would logically seek, and learn the truth of their old carnal nature, and living unfaithfully (unspiritually), as the scriptures attest in Rev. 2 and 3, church prophecy.

Here again, what I am going to say is a strong denunciation and accusation, and therefore offensive to you, which I would not dare to do if I wasn't sure it is true. To which, you might reply that it is only my opinion, and can't be claimed as factual.

But, here is where a serious mistaken assumption is made that follows suit for those (most Christians) who also take for granted that their gospel theology is right. The unhealthy spiritual condition of today's typical Christians is proven by their conventional, erroneous gospel beliefs, that they foolishly and incorrigibly maintain to be the truth, all their Christian lives!

God is the author of truth, and Satan and unspiritual man are the authors of lies, so if a Christian is actually listening to, and following God, he will discern the literal truth, because the Spirit of God will guide him to it. Plus, a Christian ought to be reconciled to the fact that God's word is absolute, and not subject to opinion, or theory, but has only one true meaning of each revelation, and He will ensure that we learn it, if we faithfully follow Him in pursuit of the truth of every subject involved.

The test of true science is "to know", orig., "to discern, distinguish". Per Webster's Dict., New World, College, 4th Ed., "1 [Archaic]" (but fundamentally timeless) "the state or fact of knowledge; knowledge, a systematized knowledge, derived from observation, study, and experimentation (if physical, or tangible)". Parenthetical note is mine, to distinguish empiricism from, i.e., biblical doctrine, which is an exact science, and nonetheless true.

'The title of this commentary states that the quest and advocacy of certain

truth can be a "lonely road". This is particularly relevant to controversial, or adversarial subjects, where one side challenges the claims of the other party. Heightened by the fact, in this case, that the expositor is in a very small minority position, with scarcely an ally in his personal circle.

That scenario is bad enough in a professional, or general sense, but is far more difficult and trying in the close relationship of family, and friends. And, we are not talking minor technical differences, or contrasting opinions.

The issue is so divisive and polarizing, that there is very little common ground, except that we are fellow Christians, and agree in general principle about God, His love and mercy, and other attributes, as well as righteousness and sin, and a host of other revelations of God, and His requirements of us.

About fifteen years after I learned the truth of the gospel, and had tried at length, unsuccessfully, to inform and otherwise to get my church to reform its Arminian gospel beliefs, I finally broke ties with it, because I could not compromise what I knew to be the truth, that the church would not recognize, or agree with.

It was not an easy thing to do to walk away from brethren I had been in fellowship with for some twenty seven years. And, the prospect of becoming alienated from one's natural family and friends is also a hard thing to face, even in a society where such things are not uncommon to some extent.

Though there has been little, or practically no direct confrontation with family and friends, I don't know how much attention any of them have paid to my website publications, or what their reaction has been. Also, the majority consensus supporting the church's position, is a formidable obstacle to contend with, personally and socially--but not scripturally, if the literal gospel is faithfully sought after. Truth will expose error whenever it is honestly and fully studied!

I cannot concede anything that would compromise my convictions, and responsibility to openly defend and confirm my beliefs of God's word, not as opinions, but as facts--that not only I, but every Christian should believe (as God meant it to be)! Unity in the truth is the epitome of the church's required mutual testimony of faithfulness!

Everything goes downhill when there is doctrinal division. Amos 3:3 says, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed"? And, as long as the false babble of the Arminian gospel characterizes the church, it must be spoken against and

castigated, with the truth it misrepresents! If I could possibly be wrong about this issue, I should be scared of intervention from God for mischaracterizing His word! But, unlike the ones whose doctrine I am referring to, I have scripturally proven the literal gospel, and am completely convicted of its truth!

In the history of the church, there has been disunity in gospel theology since around the third century. God established His gospel, which stood for 200 + yrs. until man began tampering with it, particularly a British monk and theologian named Pelagius, who dissented against the "apostles' tradition" (the literal gospel) and planted the seeds of "another gospel", by which he took issue with the literal, sovereign grace (monergistic) interpretation of it.

In the flesh, or unspiritually, he dared to introduce liberalized revisions of established gospel doctrine. To begin with, he denied total depravity, or the scriptural truth that man has no innate, natural ability to believe spiritual truth, including the gospel. That is why God's plan of salvation is not an "offer" that man can "believe", because part of believing is spiritual understanding of what sin and the need for redemption is about, and natural man cannot discern even the simplest spiritual truth!

What gives impetus to the Arminian false assumptions, is misinterpreting the scriptures that reveal who may be saved, and how! The analogy or simile of "planting bad seeds" is descriptive of the act of advocating false gospel theology.

God sows good seeds! Satan sows bad seeds! Man sows good, and bad seeds! The example above of Pelagius planting the "seeds" of another gospel tells us two key things, (1) He (Pelagius), even if he was a Christian, was not acting in the Spirit, because the "Spirit of God" would not (could not) lead him into anything scripturally, or spiritually wrong!

(2) The other point to be made is that bad seeds cannot be planted in faithful (spiritually active) minds--but only in carnal, natural minds, thinking and acting in the flesh, whether Christians, or not!

What would it take for Arminian believers (that is, most all of you who read this) to start questioning some of the wrong assumptions that you believe, such as the one we have been discussing here? Or, even your jumping to the conclusion that because I believe something very different about the gospel than you do, that I must be the heretic, that I accuse them of being.

As for the Pelagius matter, could it not be acknowledged that there was such a person in church history, who disputed the traditional literal gospel, that had been the biblical salvation doctrine of the church for the first few centuries of its existence?

In light of the Arminian gospel believers' silence, or refusal to objectively compare their liberal beliefs to the Calvinist, literal doctrine, they are not likely to know about, or acknowledge authorship and influence of their adopted concept. Because, in their misguided persuasion, they blindly assume that they are scripturally correct!

It is not facetious, or unfounded to call Pelagius the father of today's contemporary gospel, later to be succeeded by Jacobus Arminius, the principal promoter of the movement named after him, in the reformation era--who could rightly be identified as the C.I.C., or Corrupter-In-Chief, having denied, and denigrated every integral principle of God's perfect gospel.

Whether you have a clue, or not, that is your heritage: a manmade, heretical gospel that most of you are indoctrinated with! Whenever you might be inclined to wonder, or question how Adam's one disobedient act could have such dire consequences for man on earth, and eternally, think about the fact that your own capitulation to false doctrine, helped cause the church to degenerate into the pathetic, unspiritual state that it is in now.

It ranks second only to the original sin of Adam, and most of you don't even know that you have committed such a serious sin as corrupting the church (the body of Christ). Oh, you might say, the Lord would warn me, or keep me from doing anything that bad! Well, if you were (1) attentive to His word, you would (2) heed the teaching of it about Satan's temptations, and (3) not let your old, unspiritual nature govern your life (as it has)!

If you had actually thought spiritually in the beginning, you wouldn't mechanically have trusted a pastor, or teacher to preach the "word", without testing it scripturally yourself! That is, you would follow the example of the Berean Christians, by "receiving the word gladly, and then search the scriptures daily to see if those things be so".

A preacher, or teacher is responsible for what he teaches, but every Christian is responsible for what he learns! God has instituted His own system of "checks and

balances"; which may be called the harmonizing of truths, that is accomplished by rightly "comparing scripture with scripture".

The Apostle Paul rebuked the Galatian Christians for doing exactly what most of you have done--let themselves be "bewitched", so that they would not "obey the truth". Do you know why you were so easily led astray? Because the church is preoccupied with misconstrued evangelism, or soul-winning, instead of listening to the Lord's command to "feed my sheep", not only the "milk" of the word, but the "meat" so that they can properly grow and develop into mature, spiritually healthy followers of the Lord!

Departing from scriptural truth, and wandering in the "wilderness" of the church world of "another" gospel is orchestrated by the devil, with the same wiles and tactics he used against you in the first place, and by which he works constantly to keep you captive!

You may note that I sometimes switch from third person grammar to second person, so that fewer readers might think they were exempt from the classification of false gospel believers. The total of which, I would say could include at least 95% of believers, universally.

It is both ironic, and sad to contemplate that those Christians who wrongly believe that natural man has a free will, don't realize how they have abused the true free will that God gave them as believers, to their spiritual detriment!

What a shame that a Christian doesn't understand that probably the most valuable, and special capacity that God could give him, a free will, he misused by letting himself be lured into believing false gospel doctrine, and won't even use his free will to escape the unfaithful plight he put himself into!

When the bible says "Neither give place to the devil", it implicitly means that Satan cannot take anything away from you, that you don't surrender possession of, or your scriptural right to possess! Speaking of which, you had a right and responsibility to possess true gospel knowledge, but you forsook God's truths for the devil's lies! And, you have been playing church ever since!

How so? 1. Having failed to learn the true gospel, you are without knowledge of the fundamental doctrinal foundation that the Christian life is built upon! 2. You cannot worship God in truth, because you have betrayed Him, and not repented from it! 3. You cannot honestly pray to God, because you have denied Him full

access to your mind, and have not confessed and pled for forgiveness for your doctrinal disobedience!

4. You cannot rightfully sing many hymns, and spiritual songs, because the conduct of your life contradicts many of the words of praise, and claims of faith and spiritual victory that the lyrics of the songs express.

6. Revelation prophecy tells you that you are "lukewarm, wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked", and you aren't spiritual enough to know, sadly, that it describes you, and that most of you won't do anything to escape from your degenerate condition!

7. God has sent messengers down through the centuries to help you see the adulterated truth that you have adopted as the real gospel, and warning you to repent and be reformed. But, most of you have paid no heed, and foolishly persisted in maintaining your blind bondage to a Satanically directed, manmade corruption of God's gospel truth!

8. You have given the devil just what he wants, by being disobedient to God, so that he can stand before God, accusing you of your unfaithful conduct, and relationship to Him! Satan is doing in your life (with justification), versus what he wrongly did in Job 's life, except for the self-righteousness that Job finally saw, and repented from--which was a happy ending!

What is keeping you from exercising the required self-judgment that could turn your failed conduct into long-needed acts of contrition, and repentance and reformation? Or, is all this falling upon spiritually deaf ears, as usual?

It is bad enough to be a financial gambler, but for a Christian to be a spiritual gambler is foolish and unconscionable--which is evident to those who are faithful to the gospel, in the damage that it has done to most of you personally, and as the secondary cause of the church's unspiritual condition!

The primary cause, as I have elaborated upon, is failing to live by the spiritual life principle, that is the essence of our new nature! Rom. 8:2 tells us, "For the law of the Spirit of life, hath made me free from the law of sin and death." Rom. 8:1, says that "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

So, as far as the eternal punishment aspect goes, every Christian is

automatically made free from the condemning consequence of our old sinful nature. But, we still have that nature, along with our new, spiritual nature, and so we are only potentially free from it, and there will be strife between the two life principles throughout our earthly existence.

Therefore, we can only resist our old carnal ways, by being aware of the conflict, and do as it tells us in Gal. 5:16, "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." So, we must make serious intentional decisions to continually think and act spiritually, which will lead us into doctrinal truth, as well as giving us the ability to do everything God requires of us!

The fact that the church, in general, is immersed in false gospel interpretations, proves that their method of trying to determine doctrinal truth is only by natural intellect, with which one cannot come to spiritual truth, any more than a nonbeliever can!

I realize that the same unspiritual thinking that got the great majority of you into a life of gospel unfaithfulness, will keep you from listening to the truth you never knew, and practically seal your doctrinal bondage to the devil; which situation you have been ignorant of, as well!

Because, if you thought spiritually, you would know that you cannot (will not) resist the devil, as long as you are allied with him in any way. And he owns the corrupt gospel doctrine that you are obsessed with. Having given him accesss to your mind, can you deny that he would exploit you in other ways, as well?

Mental captivity is a strange, but effective method of control. Once a person is subject to the power of another, and doesn't try, or can't escape, his captor doesn't have to do anything else to him, because he has him under control.

The captive really has no independent ability to do anything. He is like a puppet on a string, and doesn't even know it. That is what an Arminian believer got himself into, when he let the devil lure him into believing a manmade, liberalized misinterpretation of the biblical gospel!

And, so he lives his subjugated Christian life thinking he is living for, and serving the Lord, when, instead, he is doing Satan's bidding like an automaton, and hasn't the mental, or spiritual cognizance to know the difference. Now, if that isn't powerful mind control, what is?

But, even though Revelation prophecy shows no major repentance from this unfaithful, end-time church condition, it does state the possibility of it for some, at least, in the admonition of, "Let him who hath an ear, hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." And, as long as a Christian lives, God always gives "space to repent". Which means there is always hope, and no excuse will ever suffice for failing to act on it!

But, no more than Adam could blame Satan for tempting him to disobey God's conditions, by which he would become immortal, can a believer claim anything but full culpability and responsibility for yielding to the devil's temptation to accept a perverted interpretation of the gospel!? God's voice is always clearer and stronger than Satan's, if we are listening to Him, and not the devil's agents!