

9/17/15

Critique of Email Message:
"A Minute with God"

The underlying, Arminian gospel theology of an Email I received from a relative, compels me to write a response to publish in my website, exposing the extreme **erroneous gospel beliefs** that the contents reveal, which I realize is the common false doctrine of a vast majority of the universal church! I also know that consensus agreement does not constitute or establish true interpretation of scripture. Doctrinal truth is self-evident, to be learned and declared, or testified to, but needs no human validation or verification! Other than propagation of it, intact, "defense and confirmation" may be required against false interpretations of its meanings, or attacks against its authenticity and application.

The first statement the E-mailer makes is that "because of what is going on in the world today", that "Heaven could end up a ghost town". He attributes the reason for that perception to Christians not engaging with God, in praise and prayer, and implicitly commitment, for souls to be saved.

He spoke to the addressees as if God was talking to them, saying some people hardly have time for him (God), and that he loves them, and will always(?) bless them, and always be with them. Unconditionally? Then, "God" asked them for 30 seconds of their time with him that day, adding "don't pray, just praise", and that he wanted the message to "go across the world before midnight, and to drop everything and pass it on", as if there was some great urgency, and positive effect that might result!

The writer said "forward this to all your friends, and that God said if you deny me in front of your friends, I will deny you on the day of judgment", the reasoning for which is not a spiritual interpretation, but, a misapplication of scripture, that sounds more like a sales pressure gimmick! And he says to "forward the message if God has opened doors for you, and been good to you". Saying in closing that

God has been very good to him, giving him a wonderful family, great friends, and health, and so much more!

In critiquing the message, I would start with saying that for the first ten years of my Christian life, I believed in the same conventional interpretation of the gospel, that he does. However, I was prompted to study the doctrine of election, or predestination after a lady in our church commented to me that that is how, and why we are saved!

Without any discussion at that time, I was determined to prove the commonly held belief that (1) the atonement was made for everyone, and that (2) man has a free will to either accept, or reject the "offer" of salvation. To the natural human mind (even the old nature of a Christian) without spiritual knowledge of the subject, it is an understandable, plausible assumption. But that rationale doesn't exonerate a Christian, from not learning the actual spiritual truth of biblical doctrine.

It took me a few years of careful, objective study to become thoroughly convinced, or convicted that the commonly misconstrued gospel belief could not be supported by correctly interpreted scripture. For example, it took some deprogramming to learn the fact that **there is no human effective action involved in the process of salvation!** "Salvation is of the Lord"; the complete institution and process of it, from the decree of predestination, to the act of spiritual conversion!

Natural man cannot believe anything spiritual, including the gospel (1 Cor. 2:11-14), unless and until he becomes a Christian (is drawn by, and regenerated by God, independent of any human act)! That, of course, is contrary to what the average Christian falsely believes--who is steeped in the prevailing Arminian gospel concept, that salvation is invitational, and must include cooperative action between God and man!

Because any such assumed synergy, would take away from God's independent sovereign grace in His decree of salvation, and impart unjustified merit to unredeemed man's actions, which are of no inherent spiritual value, or in any way acceptable to God! And, neither does any effort of Christians affect anyone else's

salvation!

That being true, think of all the wasted assumed evangelical ministry of the misguided institution that believes they are genuinely engaged in legitimate worldwide service for the Lord. Simply put, if we don't do whatever we do, according to the specific meaning of biblical doctrine, without any significant variance--however well-intended--it will still not be spiritual, but only works of the flesh, which God cannot accept!

Because of the incorrigible reluctance of the church, in general, to listen and favorably react to it, commenting on the doctrinal truth of the gospel is a lonely work, in that sense. With little or no support and fellowship with others of the same doctrinal convictions, the status quo opposition can be a disheartening and difficult position to be in, continually.

But not completely discouraging, because of the peace, and assurance that the Lord gives a believer who is committed to know complete doctrinal truth, and that he is doing the right thing, by faithfully serving God, in "defense and confirmation" of that truth! Absolute doctrinal truth is vindicating, and no other interpretations can be valid, or justified, and give anything but false comfort and security!

Even though I am in a small minority position, I have proved beyond doubt, or question that the so-called Calvinistic interpretation of the gospel is the literal truth of the meanings of the principles that God established for the church to faithfully learn and maintain--even as the original church at Jerusalem, and supposedly other early churches, were of "one heart, one mind, and one accord". That God always has a "faithful remnant", mainly refers to Israel, but certainly applies to the church, as well!

And, only a radical misconception of the gospel, and how God's plan of salvation actually works, could produce the statement that, "Heaven could end up a ghost town", because of "what is going on in the world these days". When, in fact, heaven will be populated with the exact number of people that God predestinated to eternal salvation! No more, no less! And, while to the natural, spiritually unenlightened believer's mind, that is an extreme position to hold, and is

not a simple matter to consider, it is nonetheless a scriptural fact, which is indisputable, as well as every doctrinal subject that God has revealed for our edification!

It is, therefore, significant that the conventional church's interpretation of the gospel, **makes them avoid discussion of the doctrine of election**, because they cannot reconcile their unfounded assumptions of universal atonement, and natural free will, to that exclusive principle.

Therefore, what justification, or value is there in any assumed gospel belief that contradicts, and has no effect on the governing, or controlling factor of (1) the doctrine of election, or (2) the atonement, which are only applicable to the elect? What, then, is the "midnight" urgency of the message in question, which is based on incorrect gospel interpretation (mass false indoctrination), instead of the literal scriptural gospel?

Scriptural truth is an exact science, the meanings of which are to be literally learned, and are not open to variant interpretations, or theories, or opinions, which is all that most of the church has, and regarding the gospel, at least, has been gambling for centuries that it is spiritual truth, which is impossible, because it is a product of the "flesh", or the "old nature". The new nature of a believer, **when he allows it to have control of his mind**, cannot falsely interpret scripture, because it is the "Spirit" of God, in him!

The church, in general, seems bound to remain (1) ignorant of the true gospel, and (2) unwilling to even confront the possibility of being doctrinally wrong, so they go on assuming that their "gospel" consensus (which proves nothing, scripturally) must be right, by the sheer weight of the overwhelming number of Christians who believe it!

I assume that the Email writer at least knows of the age-old controversy between the Calvinist, literal scriptural interpretation of the gospel, and the liberal, Arminian concept of gospel beliefs, that prevails in most churches today. Arminianism is named after Jacobus Arminius, a leading Reformation era objector, and protester of original, orthodox gospel truth, from which the church has

increasingly defected, ever since the early church period. Ironically, they have been misled to believe that the Calvinists are the heretics, instead of themselves! A notorious corrupting influence in that era, was the false, free will teaching of Pelagius, a Catholic monk and "theologian", exploiting a foible of fallen human nature whereby, as someone has said, " error gets plenty of publicity, but truth gets a hard time".

There is, in fact, a classic modern time political parallel of why people are so easily influenced, even **controlled by the wrong reasons** for making important decisions, such as, i.e., voting for a political candidate for a government office. As everyone should have known, Obama had no valid qualifications to be elected President of the country, but in spite of all the un-American subversive associations, and actions of his past, he was elected because of too many unprincipled voters idolizing his charismatic persona, gullibly believing his lying promises, and particularly being motivated by his racial characteristic, as the first possible black President!

As for most of the Christian church world's obsession with a humanly contrived gospel, it is one thing, which is bad enough, to believe and propagate false teaching in the name of the Lord, but even worse to say, or imply that the words, or thoughts of misinformed believers may be stated as if God would say them. It is a serious betrayal of the Lord, to mishandle His word, which we are required to learn the truth of, and warned against adding to, or taking away from it (which means misrepresenting it, in any way), that would certainly include any form of judging, or editing it!

Referring to the statement that if one denies God in front of his friends, that God would deny him on the day of judgment, the subject needs clarification, and correction. It cannot apply to a Christian, because all of his sins are forgiven, and he is eternally secure, no matter what he may do wrong in his life on earth--which, as a believer he is responsible to confess, and make amends for if possible, in order to maintain unbroken fellowship with God, through His promised forgiveness and cleansing. 1 John 1:9.

The foregoing is just another example of trying to make a spiritual judgment, by one's natural intellect, instead of "walking (thinking and acting) in the Spirit", which we are admonished to do as a whole **new way of life**, as much as we can, by yielding to the Lord for his enabling power! Whatever God requires of us, He gives us the ability to do, if we meet His condition of faithful obedience to the principles, and precepts of His word!

There are two key things that God has established for Christians to discipline themselves to do, to prevent their adoption of false teaching (i.e., the gospel according to man, or any other doctrinal error). Of the two things noted, (1) is following the precedent of the Berean Christians, who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so"! Acts 17:11.

I am sure that God established the Berean Christians' example as a required principle for every believer to follow completely, until they are sure of their doctrinal beliefs, in conjunction with item (2), 2 Tim. 2:15, which says: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth". Which is a mandate, to which the vast majority of today's Christians cannot claim faithfulness! And no matter how many thousands of hours may be spent studying the bible with the natural, carnal mind, spiritual understanding of scripture cannot be attained!

Because if those two essential disciplines were faithfully practiced, spiritually vs. naturally--that is, consciously motivated and controlled by our new nature, and not by trying to live the Christian life with our old, unspiritual nature, the church would not have **walked away from God, into virtual doctrinal idolatry**, and be in the unfaithful, degenerated condition that it is in today.

If "idolatry" seems to be an unjust charge, a standard dictionary calls an "idol", a "false notion, or idea that causes errors in thinking, or reasoning ", which can be accurately paraphrased as, "a false concept of God, or His word, that causes errors in thinking, or reasoning" in interpreting scripture! Even if unintended, or unrealized, it has the effect of worshiping "another" God, or an untrue image, or

concept of Him, and His word! I believe it is certainly no less serious than that!

The true gospel is the doctrinal foundation of the Christian life, and for a believer not to know all the revealed facts of his salvation, is shameful and inexcusable, causing a wrong mindset, and destruction to the quality of his testimony. That major fault, which pervades most of the universal church, is what Revelation prophecy of the end-time church, calls "lukewarm", and "who knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked"!

To their discredit, I am sure that most churches do not think that description applies to them, partly because they make the mistake of comparing themselves with other churches, which God says is unwise. 2 Cor. 10:12. Especially, since they are all in the same negative category, guilty of believing false teaching of the gospel.

And, though the related Revelation prophecy (which someone has called "church history written beforehand") doesn't indicate any major revival, or reformation, it does state that "He that hath an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches", meaning that some individuals, and perhaps churches could escape from the otherwise incorrigible plight, to which they originally let themselves capitulate. Strong criticism? Yes, but nonetheless, it is the true effect of not believing the full basic truth of the gospel.

Living in serious fundamental doctrinal error, constitutes unfaithfulness to God and His word, and broken fellowship with Him! "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Amos 3:3. And, when Paul spoke to the Galatian church about their problem of mingling faith with works, he said to them, "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you that ye should not obey the truth?" In various ways, in His word, God is saying that same thing to the great majority of the church who believes in a misinterpreted gospel, or "O foolish Christians, who hath bewitched you that ye should not obey the truth?"

Why is it so hard for Christians to realize the priority claim that God has on their lives, and that they must be spiritually committed to obey his commands, or follow his rules? Yet, many of them responsibly follow the orders, and perform the

job requirements of their work, or employment! And, since most believers apparently haven't heeded His word about the first, and probably the most important thing they did wrong, the import of the question to the Galatians will be the first words he will say to them, "O foolish Christians, etc."--not, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant", but just the opposite!

Think about it! Can God be inconsistent with the demands, or requirements of His will, as He has clearly revealed them in His word? The cost of serious doctrinal error, is an extremely important thing to understand, and avoid during a Christian's earthly life, before having to guiltily face the Lord in the judgment to come! No excuses will do any good to put the blame on those who preached, or taught them the wrong doctrine, for though they are responsible for what they teach, **a believer is responsible for what he learns**!

I know that these are strong, critical differences, and accusations that I have made relating to some of the stated, or implied contents of the Email message, especially the widespread related false gospel mentality, that has prevailed in most of the churches for centuries. I do not make these statements inconsiderately, or unregrettably, but with the conviction and concern of nearly forty-five years of study of the causes and effects of the church's historical gospel corruption, and other aspects of its decline!

The following, in effect, is what the great majority of Christians today, and for most of eighteen centuries are guilty of:

Never having known the complete true gospel, they have--in their ignorance, and irresponsibility--accepted and perpetuated a false belief, or misconception of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ! That is, they have spent their entire Christian lives following "another" God; an imaginery, tainted image of the real God, by believing a false interpretation of biblical gospel doctrine, and ascribing authorship of their foolish ideas to God!

The cause of which is, that they have not "walked in the Spirit", but in the "flesh", contrary to their new spiritual nature, by which means they are commanded and instructed to learn and uphold all the principles of the Christian

life, which God has revealed in His word!

It must be that the most distinguishing special gift that God endowed man with, and at least Satan of the angels, is a free will, with which they could make their own decisions in life! But, of course, it is both offensive and grievous to God, that Satan, and Adam and Eve, and most of those whom God redeemed, have listened to the wrong voices, and turning away from God, have created **a religious empire based on false gospel doctrine!** And, in their willful ignorance and disobedience, dare to think that their churches are comparatively in order, and honoring the Lord?

In reality, what greater misuse, and abuse of the attribute of a free will could Christians have committed, than to do something that virtually ruined their spiritual life and testimony, along with most of the universal church, living as derelicts from the true faith, who played into the devil's hands, by yielding to those who themselves were partakers of false gospel doctrine! That, sadly, is the **self-perpetuating corrupt heritage** of most of the world's churches!

Therefore, think how critically important it is for every Christian to begin his new life established in gospel truth? The starting point must be the model example of the original church, to see the picture of the key factors involved for the total faithfulness that God desires, and requires for every believer and thus every church!

1. The original church at Jerusalem, around AD 65, had the testimony of being completely united in doctrine, and church practices (that is, "one heart, one mind, and one accord"), as established with the teaching, and guidance of the apostles. From what we know, that degree of church faithfulness probably didn't last beyond the second century, when false teaching of the gospel crept into (began to infiltrate) the churches, and has increasingly affected, or infected, most of the total church throughout its history.

2. Why did its original testimony begin to break down? Human nature, that is, Christians' old natures, were allowed by them to operate, instead of their new natures, raising questions and doubts about certain biblical principles--that is, the

traditional, correct interpretation of them. Which began the process of a corrupted gospel proliferating for centuries into almost total acceptance by the modern church.

3. It was new Christians, later in the early church period, who adopted the false gospel principles, that began to be introduced. Because, those who became believers prior to the advent of the false teaching of the gospel would not, or I am going to say confidently could not, be deceived with false concepts of it! Once a Christian is spiritually convinced of the truth, any contradictory interpretations would be seen through and rejected, out of hand. In other words, the modern, prevailing excuse for the gospel is not scripturally defensible in itself, and it does not align with, or harmonize with other doctrines!

Error cannot be reconciled to truth. The Arminian theology (which is the erroneous gospel of nearly the entire worldwide church) is rife with the evidence of poor scholarship, i.e., illogical conclusions, that were produced by natural, unspiritual thinking of Christians, who never learned how to "walk (think and act) in the Spirit"--thus "never able to come to the knowledge" of the gospel truth that God established!

Strange, that most people trust the position and relative authority of others, even in biblical subjects, when no Christian's word should be accepted, without scriptural verification or proof of its validity, even as the example of the Berean Christians, which should always be followed. Acts 17:11. There is no greater failing in life, than for a Christian not to know the truth of what God has revealed for him to learn, and faithfully live by!

Though it is typically misinterpreted, as evangelistic doctrine, the words of Rev. 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock", etc., are an appeal to believers, from Christ, who because of those who misrepresented his gospel, has been excluded from his church, and they (without spiritual awareness and discernment) don't even know he is gone! It is their unfaithful actions (as with most of you) that caused the Lord to withdraw from the church, because he could not associate with Christians who believe in corrupted teaching of His word! So, too, must Christians

separate themselves from brethren who "walk disorderly", i.e., in doctrinal error! Rom.16:17, 1 Cor. 1:10, 1 Cor. 11:18, 19.

The Lord's plea in Rev. 3:20 is further continued: "if any man (believer) hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me". Those are words of prophecy, applying to the end-time churches, which is nearly all of the universal church today, and sad to say, the words are mostly falling upon deaf ears of those who are lost in the false security of their gospel deceptions and delusions!

Doesn't a wrong concept of the word of God, affect one's image of God, making him worship a different characterization of God, than the true scriptural revelation of Him? In the matter of the Arminian false gospel principles, it irresponsibly liberalizes the truth of the atonement, and its corresponding application to who will be saved, and how it is accomplished!

Which means, they have taken comfort and assurance in man's word, and not God's! The works of which are wood, hay, and stubble, to be judged and burnt up; not rewarded! And that is the collective result of nearly all assumed evangelistic ministry conducted for centuries! The simple truth being, that if what we do is not done God's way, especially doctrinally, it is of no spiritual value, and represents a wasted lifetime of "religious", not spiritual activity that has served the devil, more than God!

I know that a such a strong accusation will undoubtedly cause resentment and anger among most Christians, but I also know that they will be angry with me for telling the truth, which I would never dare speak or write if I wasn't unquestionably sure that it is the sum and substance of the corruption and degeneration that has overtaken most of the universal church for many hundreds of years!

"My brethren, these things ought not so to be". Jas. 3:10.

Addendum

Though it is sadly not evident to them, most of the church today does not live

by "walking in the Spirit", that is by the principle of their "new nature", so some commentary would be in order regarding the conflict between a Christian's two inherent natures, or "flesh" and "Spirit", as they are scripturally identified.

In sharp contrast to reality today, let's look at an ideal church environment, or condition, noting that the ideals of Christianity should be seen as attainable principles and objectives, even as the original church at Jerusalem, and supposedly other early churches faithfully maintained.

If such a model church were to exist now, how would it be different than the modern church? First, a new convert would from the beginning, be edified by sound doctrine, i.e., the correctly interpreted gospel, and proper worship practices of prayer, and music, and other services that may be involved.

The new believer, to insure that he learns the truth, should follow the example of the Berean Christians, who "received the word gladly", but afterwards "searched the scriptures daily to see if those things be so"! In fact, a faithful pastor or teacher would advise the believers to do that very thing, so that they would know they were not being indoctrinated by any elements of false teaching. That only happens today in the orthodox, Calvinistic churches, who hold the same faithful gospel interpretations as the early churches did!

They must also learn early on, the absolute necessity to understand the fact of the two competing opposing natures that Christians have, and how important it is to develop the habit of "putting off" the old man (renouncing and denying the old, unspiritual nature), and "putting on" the new man (thinking and acting in their new, spiritual nature).

As one writer states it, it is a question of which nature "will have the ascendancy" over the other! Because, only the new man can understand spiritual truth, and if that fact is realized in the Christian's life, he will develop the experience, even daily, to make the decision to live by that new life principle that God implanted in him.

Coupled with the imperative to "walk in the Spirit", and not "in the flesh", is

the necessity to "resist the devil", and not give him access to us, for he constantly seeks to draw us away from God. In other words, he will try to get us to act in our old nature, where he can influence, or control us if we let him! Unfortunately, that is just what the great majority of Christians have done, allowing him to have access, and virtual, if not literal control over them!

Rom 8:2 should be a lifelong scripture by which every Christian could claim victory over their old nature! It says, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus" (which is my new nature) "hath made me free from the law of sin and death" (or my old nature). That means permanently true freedom from eternal condemnation for every believer, but it is only true conditionally in our life on earth, if we purposely act upon that part of the deliverance from sin, which means to consciously "walk in the Spirit". If not, then a Christian puts himself back into the old life bondage that God gave him potential freedom from! Gal. 5:1

It may sound too hard to believe that such a relatively simple procedure, consistently followed would ensure doctrinal faithfulness! But, what I said, in essence, three paragraphs back, about continually making the decision to act upon the promise and power of our spiritual nature, will make it become habitual or instinctive, for us to prove whether what we are confronted with is the truth, or not!

What is harder to understand is why the church is overwhelmingly entrenched in, and overcome with false doctrine, that in itself proves that it was learned in the "flesh", or by their old nature, because the Spirit of God in us, if yielded to, will not lead us into doctrinal error! And, that just as certainly, our old nature can never produce anything but unspiritual opinions, or assumptions! In other words, it cannot understand the spiritual meanings of scripture, and therefore, can only futilely attempt to learn those truths by our natural, unspiritual intellect!

That mode of thinking and acting, as previously commented, has produced a self-made empire based on a corrupted gospel, and other doctrinal misconceptions! The whole thing, then, is a colossal example of the scriptural explanation of "a house built upon sand", or a defective foundation of error,

rather than "a house built upon rock", or the eternally sound material of truth!

The church is in its deplorable condition, because it has not listened to God directly, in His word! There is no intermediate voice between God and Christians that can be trusted to speak God's truth, without personal, biblical verification of it, or disproof if it is not! And, God certainly does not need me, or anyone else to speak for him, as if man can speak His word better than He does, or with any special effect. What God might choose to do, in added grace and mercy, is to use man as His messenger, to possibly get some of the church's attention, who might finally turn to God in repentance, and admission of their critical need of reformation, before it is too late!

Think too, of what it might cost to ignore or reject a voice of truth, if indeed the writer or speaker may be led by God to deliver a particular message to those in critical need of it! Would not such ones, by refusing to listen to the messenger, be refusing to listen to God, as well? Remember "God works in mysterious ways", so that a Christian must not refuse to enter any door, that God may have opened!

May this commentary serve the will of God, in its purpose of "defense and confirmation of the truth", so that its message which is sorely needed to be heard, and heeded by most Christians, will be received and acted upon to the glory of God, and the good of believers, and the church!

Everett Falvey

