

12/6/12

A Closer Look at the Modern Church

A thought to develop:

The difference between (1) thinking (assuming) one knows a particular truth vs. (2) actually knowing the truth.

In essence, it is a matter of opinion or theory vs. fact, or subjective vs. objective thinking, and reasoning, or conjecture vs. logic. For the first ten or so years of my Christian life, I thought I knew the truth of the gospel, just like most of the church thinks today!

When the subject of predestination was raised emphatically, by a fellow Christian, my unexpressed reaction was that no matter what the doctrine of predestination means, it could not affect the "necessity" of a free will decision, in order to be saved!

Free will, as a natural faculty of man, is universally considered to be a "foregone" assumption. But, it is only relatively true! That is, it applies to natural decisions, and choices of life. But, man's will is not spiritually free. Nor, does God require assent, or a cooperative decision, in order for one to become a Christian. God does it all, from start to finish!

I will cite an example of how the false premise of human free will, as affecting salvation, is central and key to the Arminian gospel theology. The case in point is included in my commentary "Will Power Problem", and reads as follows: "While it wasn't directly germane to the subject in discussion (whether there is a God, and if one could know it for sure), Huckabee (Mike) said words to the effect that if God forced anyone to positively respond to the gospel message of salvation, it would essentially be a form of "rape" of his will.

By which, he was implying that God would not do such a thing! And, no

doubt most of you reading this would agree with him, and rightly so, but for the same wrong reason. God does not force our old natural will to do anything, but gives the elect a new will with which to spiritually believe! 2 Cor. 5:17.

Yet, the believer retains his old nature, and natural will, which contends against his new spiritual nature, as long as he is in the world. The Huckabee quotation shows how strong the captivating influence of the "free will" theology underlying it, is!

And, that is the basis of the corrupt works it produces--all to be burned up as "wood, hay, and stubble", compared to spiritual works which can stand the test of fire, and survive as "refined gold", in quality. Again, it is "flesh" vs. "Spirit."

The opening sentence of this commentary, posed the two basic thoughts, or questions that must be considered. The contrast being, that one's beliefs are the result of either (1) assumption, or fabrication, or (2) true knowledge! No Christian will ever be justified in thinking he knows spiritual truths that he hasn't scripturally proved!

Honesty, and other moral principles ought to move the Christian from thinking he knows the truths, or theorizing about them, to an eventual certainty of correct interpretation of the doctrines in question!

If, and when that happens, it would be an emancipating experience to finally be sure he has learned from God, directly and indirectly, the scriptural truths that refute, and expose the Arminian false gospel, that has masqueraded as God's word for centuries!

But, if a Christian is not spiritually active, by making continually conscious decisions to "walk in the Spirit", he cannot discern doctrinal truths. because he would only be using his natural intellect, or thinking as the old unspiritual man. Which, produced the perverted doctrine of today's prevailing "gospel".

Can you think of anything worse that a Christian, ignorantly or otherwise, can do than (1) not to believe God's literal truth, and (2) to corrupt His church, by believing the false teaching of man, instead? Not to forget the devil's hand in it!

Well, that is exactly what has happened, and almost all Christians are guilty of it! Misuse, and abuse of God's word is a fault of which no Christian ought to ever be complicit in! But, it is a fact, that cannot be denied, or minimized.

Turning away from God, and either carelessly or ignorantly misinterpreting His gospel, or listening to those who have radically altered it, is unconscionable, and reprehensible! Then, continuing on through life, perpetuating and reinforcing man's adulteration of God's precious word, may be the worst kind of sinful behavior that a Christian can commit!

I said previously that a false interpretation of doctrinal truth can only come from the unspiritual mind of a Christian's old nature. To the mind of a Christian who learned the truth from God, false doctrine is a dead giveaway, that it could not come from God! And, by continuing to live by that life principle (the law of sin and death, from which we have positionally been freed) a believer will stay in a state of doctrinal bondage, and captive to the influence of Satan, to whom he gave access the day he yielded to the "gospel" conceived and propagated by man!

And yet, in their spiritual blindness, and nakedness, they think they are relatively faithful, and reverent to God, when in truth, they have shamefully betrayed Him! I realize from experience, that practically nothing that I, or others who know the truth, have said, will be heeded or hardly considered by the vast majority of Arminian Christians who are enslaved with the false gospel indoctrination!

In essence, the church practices a form of idolatry by going after another god, (who is the real God, characterized in the image of man! The gospel having been revised (compromised) to accommodate the rationale produced by man's limited concepts. The thought that our ideas of righteousness, justice, and love could ever approach the level of God's perfect attributes, which are employed in the administration of human affairs is ridiculous, and foolish to even imagine!

Even an attempt to make just judgments with our natural, unspiritual intelligence is not only disobedient to the principles God established for us to live

by, but futile, or impossible to arrive at in the "flesh".

A Christian who tampers with the word of God, by tempering it to fit his ideas, or opinions, or wishes is on a path that is not only dangerous, but forbidden! We have no liberty, or independent right, to take issue with interpretations of doctrine, that we may not like, or do not want to adopt in the absolute, or literal sense of their meaning!

It reflects man's natural penchant, or reluctance to submit to authority! Even the perfect authority of God, which when honored and willingly yielded to, is the safest, and most life-fulfilling allegiance we can ever have! A partially committed life to God, produces only a partially developed Christian.

That kind of limited devotion to God, and His will, makes a believer vulnerable to the many temptations of life, and snares of the devil, who never lets up in his consuming mission to draw Christians away from faithfulness and loyalty to God.

Neither are we in our natural intellect any match for the supernatural mind, and wiles and ways of the enemy of God, and our souls! He cannot prevent, or interfere with our eternal security, but, if we give him access that can affect (not possess) our mind and body, he can practically ruin our relationship with God, and our personal, and corporate church testimony in the world, if we let him! God's word says "Neither give place to the devil"....."for he goeth about seeking whom he may devour".

So, what is the diagnosis of the Lord's universal church, regarding its gospel theology? Answer: misinformed, unfaithful, deluded, spiritually weak ("because thou art lukewarm"), as Rev. 3:16-17 prophetically describes the church of our time, "wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked".

Judging by the church's typical reaction to appeals for their reformation from these solemn, and dire charges, most Christians reading, or hearing those words, will not acknowledge the application of the descriptions to themselves!

Hence, there being little hope of repentance, and reformation for most of

the church, which is in this shameful condition. Again, my question is, why would a Christian let himself not only be deceived into believing false teaching, but especially to refuse to test his challenged beliefs against the scriptures, and not heed, or seriously consider that his interpretation of the gospel may indeed be wrong, as charged?

It is so difficult to understand why! The Lord knew the church would fail, and He cannot be questioned for any part of it, because if we believe in the totality of His perfections, we immediately must acknowledge that He is infallible, and nothing negative can be ascribed to Him!

Did the church have to fail to keep the faith and testimony of the original, and early churches? We have to say no, because God would provide the resources, and ability to be successful. And, as evidence, the original church, despite persecution and other trials, was in every way faithful and obedient to Him!

Therefore, if one church could do it, they all could! In fact, many churches in our time have had easier situations to deal with, than they did! A distinguishing difference, and key to their success, is that the early church persevered, and faced their responsibilities, and testings, and problems until they had the necessary results. Which, in reality, means they never let up in their devotion to duty!

Furthermore, they actively resisted the devil! And, make no mistake, the more faithful Christians try to be, the more the devil would try to tempt them to disobey God! "Hath God said?",....."ye shall not surely die" etc. Gen. 3. But, victory is promised to us if we are watchful, and resistant (by using the "whole armour of God") against Satan's wiles!

It might be difficult to prove by the experience of an Arminian believer who has played into the devil's hand, but it seems logical that if Satan has already gained some control, or advantage, adversely affecting the church's relationship with the Lord, that he might not need to bother them very much. Which can give them a false sense of safety. Whereas, believers who haven't failed the Lord in such a serious way (as in the Arminian gospel syndrome) would be targets for

Satan's vengeance against God!

As an example of the latter situation, and allowing, hypothetically at least, that my gospel beliefs are right, Satan would attack me, and try to stop, or hinder me from proclaiming the truth. If I gave him an opening, he would use any tactic he could devise to undermine anyone's efforts to faithfully represent God's truth!

My natural weaknesses, and withdrawing tendencies, have held me back at times, and the lack of support and agreement from other Christians has made it difficult, and lonely for fellowship. But, I know that I have learned the true gospel, which I proclaim, mostly by internet publishing of commentaries on that, and various other subjects.

At times, I have thought I couldn't, or maybe shouldn't go on with what is, essentially a confrontation, or assault on millions of fellow Christians, with often strong critical expositions and accusations, but, I know if I give up, or fail, I not only adversely affect myself, but, I would be failing God, who would never fail me, and will give me victory over my problems, whenever I trust Him for it!

If we endeavor to do whatever is right, according to His word, then we know that the reward will far outweigh the cost! When that cost includes alienation from one's extended family, and other brethren, it is a heavy burden to bear! It changes the whole social atmosphere from inclusion, and camaraderie, to tolerance, at best, and mental exclusion, at least!

To accuse a brother, or sister of disobedience and disloyalty to God, however just and right the rebuke is, is not conducive to a friendly relationship if the fellow believer reacts in angry retaliation, and enmity which continues unresolved!

I have authored a website for five, and a half years, mainly on the subject of gospel truths, versus the church's corrupt interpretation of the doctrine, along with commentaries on other controversial issues in the church, and society. Included are creation vs. evolution, marriage, prophecy, the model church, certain principles, presidential profile, baseball/media empire, human relations, anti-war activism, flesh and Spirit., etc.

In my series of commentaries, I have made very specific criticisms of the prevailing Arminian free will misrepresentation of the literal gospel, in view of the damage which Christians have brought on themselves, and the church. Arminianism is named after Jacobus Arminius in the sixteenth century--who was a principal dissenter against the literal gospel, scripturally referred to as the apostles' tradition. Since the reformation period, the name associated with the latter, biblical position, is Calvinism, after John Calvin, the Swiss theologian and reformer.

It needs to be noted for accurate accounting of gospel history, that the opposing theologies of the two sides of the controversy, are not competing theories that are both conceivable, or plausible doctrinal arguments, subject to being decided upon by the informed, independent minds of Christians!

Neither did the two controversial interpretations both develop during the course of church history. Because, while it is not acknowledged by the Arminian advocates, the advent of their heterodox concept dates back to the fourth, and fifth century, with the introduction of liberalized gospel modifications, by a British monk and theologian, named Pelagius.

It seems that the concept gained acceptance gradually until just before the reformation period in the sixteen hundreds. When it was accelerated by the ministry of Arminius, the major activist, and promoter of the man-made mockery of the pure gospel instituted by God!

It is bad enough for non-Christian religions to substitute their imaginary musings, and concepts about God, and to formulate rites, and ceremonies, and doctrines, by which to "worship" Him, in hopes of being accepted by virtue of claimed belief, and good works.

But, when Christians corrupt the doctrinal facts of their faith, and dare to call it the true gospel, it is the height of unfaithful, disloyal conduct against the Lord, who, contrary to their gospel misconceptions, sovereignly, and independently made them members of the body of Christ, according to His pre-ordained specified plan of salvation, without any cooperative action, or

agreement required of man!