

10/29/12

"That Form of Doctrine  
Which was Delivered (to) You"

This commentary is necessarily confrontational to Christians who believe the Arminian free will "gospel". Taking issue with its false interpretations, requires appropriate strong words of criticism, including charges of betrayal of trust in following man's erroneous concept of the gospel, etc., instead of learning God's literal doctrinal meanings, as they are revealed.

Church prophecy bears out the unfaithful departure from the real gospel--and the resultant decline, even virtual ruin of the church. Rev. 2, and 3. Yet, little attention is given to it, by the church in general. Their minds are so deeply entrenched (brainwashed) in false doctrine, that they are incorrigibly closed-minded to anything that contradicts their beliefs.

Furthermore, if a Christian is wrong in his interpretation of the gospel, by which salvation principles he became a believer, how can he know for sure what other things he may be at fault about? The "great commandment" spoken to Israel, and of course, applying to Christians is, "thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." Deut. 6:5.

A Christian automatically says he loves God, but if he believes a perverted concept of His gospel, hasn't he betrayed that love? What better way can we prove our love for Him, than to be faithful to His word?

I have spent most of my Christian life denouncing, and refuting the counterfeit gospel that pervades the universal church--by elaborating on literally interpreted scriptural truth, countering centuries of false salvation theology that most of the church is steeped in, to its unrealized shame!

Admittedly, it seems incredible that one in the minority position that I am in, could be right, and the overwhelming majority of the church be wrong about its

gospel beliefs. But, in contrast to the liberal Arminian faction, I have diligently studied and learned the gospel principles, as they are established in the scriptures! Plus, there are volumes of true gospel commentaries written for many years, which similarly disprove the Arminian concept!

Yet, I haven't done anything that every Christian is not supposed to do! "Prove all things, hold fast that which is right." 1 Thess. 5:21. The church, in general, has not done that, because if they honestly did, they would prove themselves wrong, just like I did some forty plus years ago! The biggest block to which, was my wrongly assuming--along with practically everybody else, the necessity of "free" will belief before one could be saved. Which I learned was a doctrinally untrue key tenet of Arminian gospel theology, that, consistent with its false premise, is rife with distortions of the absolute principles of God's predestinated plan of salvation, by which He makes us Christians!

The church's plight in its willful doctrinal bondage is exacerbated by their adamant refusal to listen to, or heed the preaching and publication of the great number of warnings, and reformation appeals, in which they could see the error of their ways, and come to the truth which they have shamefully ignored and neglected, all their lives.

But, it has been like Noah preaching to the world, with no or, (in the church's case) little visible positive results! In regards to which, it may be true, sadly, that if a Christian doesn't listen to God directly in His word, he probably would not listen to Him indirectly through messengers, such as myself.

Which is to say, no one can make God's word more understandable than He already has! It is offensive to God for man to think he ever could do that! That is, even if man states it perfectly well, in his own words! It is his "reasonable service" to defend and confirm the truths that God has revealed.

Claiming and contending for wrong interpretations, is something else, and is always the result of "tampering with His word", which is a serious breach of trust, that the Lord has given us to keep!

The Arminian, conventional "gospel", prevailing in the church today through-

out the world, blatantly changes the absolute specific elements of God's plan of salvation, into a free will offer to all mankind, as a provisional basis of possible redemption, subject to man's acceptance, or rejection. Such a ridiculous concept trivializes God's sovereign, independent will, and mischaracterizes Him as condescending to the corrupt will of sinfully corrupt, fallen man!

The following scriptural passage very well applies and speaks to the historic gospel controversy, and should be carefully considered by every Christian to examine, and prove whether his Gospel beliefs are true interpretations of related doctrine.

Rom. 6:17, "But God be thanked that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you." The form of doctrine was the gospel, which is the doctrine of the scriptures, of Christ, and his apostles. It is a pattern or exemplar, according to which ministers are to preach, and Christians are to hear and receive. Which logically means that it is never to be deviated from, especially in any way that diminishes, or contradicts it!

Yet, that is what has been done to gospel truth by unfaithful defectors, and millions of foolish followers of them for centuries, until the church has degenerated into the dishonorable state that it is in today. And sadly, it has all been prophesied in the Revelations account of church history. But, very few understand or pay any heed to the warnings of that, and many other applicable words of scripture.

The Apostle Paul commended the Romans for obeying from the heart, that form of doctrine (the gospel), which was delivered to them. A modern-day church, ironically, would think that those words apply to them, as well. While it is true that they have obeyed that "form" of doctrine that was delivered to them, it has usually been a different interpretation than the true gospel that the Romans heard, and believed.

Anything different introduced as gospel doctrine, is misrepresentation of the word of God, ignorantly or otherwise! Scripture can only be expressed in different words, when it does not change the actual meaning that God intended for us to

learn. And. there is no room for competing interpretations (opinions, theories, editing, etc.).

The words in the verse, "which was delivered you", assure the authenticity of the doctrine received, because (1) it came from God, (2) to Christ, (3) from Christ to his apostles, and (4) from the apostles to the saints at Jerusalem, and other early churches!

The obedience cited, is faithfulness, because "faith receives truth upon the veracity of God, and not upon the dictates of carnal (natural reason)", per John Gill commentary. Which, by the way, is the contrast between Calvinism, and Arminianism (or truth vs. error).

What assurance can Christians have, since the early church period, that the "gospel" they received is really the truth? It is natural to assume that a pastor, evangelist, or one who may witness to us, can be trusted to have given us the truth. But, failing to personally study the scriptures, to verify or disprove what we have been told, is where we can easily go astray from the truth, and as history has sadly confirmed, rarely has there been reformation from the self-caused state of ignorance, and unfaithfulness to the Lord, and His word, that most of the church is in.

Referring again to the title, or theme of this commentary, it is all because they "have not obeyed that form of doctrine" delivered by the apostles to the original churches. That is essentially the root of it!

If nothing I have said, changes anything or matters to you, at least agree that there is (1) a conservative, literal interpretation of the gospel, and (2) a different, liberal concept of it. The radical difference between the two positions is obvious. So should it be readily agreed that they cannot both be right, or allowable as church doctrine.

Neither is there any justification for the controversy to go on unresolved for all the long time it has been a conflict. If an honest will existed on both sides to come to the true interpretation, it would be accomplished. But, to its disgrace, the Arminian, free will majority faction will not submit to a mutual objective

scriptural study of the issue. They just go on interminably perpetuating their false liberal propaganda as if it was the simple "grammatically" clear explanation of gospel doctrine--as some of their writings insist upon, making it, therefore, the end of the discussion! Case closed, according to them, as if heretics can call those who know the truth, heretics!

Whereas, instead of scripturally proving their beliefs, they rely on the consensus of most of the church, that believes what they do--without proof! Which is, in reality, a foolish gamble, of betting humanly conceived false assumptions against gospel truths, which they either deny, out of hand, or refuse to objectively study--"never coming to the knowledge of the truth."

It is ironically sad, that instead of "resisting the devil", they are "resisting God", ignorantly, but no less guilty of irreverence and unfaithfulness! ".....for if this work be of men (which it is), it will come to nought. But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God (which they, most of you, are doing)". Acts 5:38-39. Technically, it is His word that is dishonored and defiled, but it is equivalent to the same thing!

Sometimes, even Christians don't seem to realize, or think about, and dedicate themselves to the basic, essential question of what they are in this world for! Which is evidenced by the lack of true commitment to God's will in everything in our lives--as if some things are optional, or not subject to as much submission to Him, as other things.

Instead of the weak-willed, half-hearted relationships to God, that typically exist, we are on this earth to primarily and completely, live for Him. Everything is subject to God, or His will. So, since it should be obvious, and logical that He wants us to know the truths He has revealed, we must persist in that responsibility until we are fully convinced that we understand and believe the principles, or essence of everything He has established for us to learn, and represent--as his adopted children, and faithful servants!

The thought that we might fail to do whatever God wants us to do, ought to be a very compelling motivation for us to want to obey and please Him in

everything that we do, or should do! And lest we tend to take pride in the extent to which we might fulfill that responsibility, it should be humbling to acknowledge that "it is our reasonable service ." Or, that the most we can practically do, is the least we should do!

And, in so doing, are we not then in a position of faithfulness, so that He can bless us with everything we may need, or rightfully desire? How, then, can we justify any serious deviation from that degree of faithfulness? It must especially be noted, that any defilement with false doctrine, i.e., a perverted gospel, would be so disobedient to God's will, that it would break a Christian's fellowship with Him, unless and until he repented, and became reformed by related truth!

Making God the center of our lives, consciously and continually, instead of ourselves, is essential in our responsibility to purposely live for Him, and not to be habitually consumed with our own interests.

Or, it is not what He can do for us (as important , and blessed as that is), that is the main object of our relationship with Him--but, rather that we should show our reverence. love, and devotion to Him personally, for who He is, and what He is!

Yes, we can ask what we will of God, our father, and cry out for help and deliverance from fears, troubles, persecution, etc. Yet, even as David so often besought God's help for his many trials, and needs, he also repeatedly paid tribute to God for His greatness, and attributes, and power, and for His mercies, and love, and care!

Which should teach, and remind us of how important it is to keep the proper perspective between God, and ourselves, so that we don't get so personally absorbed in our lives, that we forget or otherwise fail to exalt God, and express love, and reverence to Him--not merely as as an adjunct to our petitions, but as a sincere frequent custom.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee." Which means, being preoccupied with God, to the extent that He is the center of our world, like He is supposed to be, and not ourselves being the center of our

life, as usual.

Everything should be made subject to Him. That is, our will being oriented to His will! The little phrase that is often misused by the world, is nonetheless an excellent guiding thought, "What would Jesus do?" It serves as a check against possible mishandling a situation, or trusting our own judgment, and acting independent of God.

How many Christians actually live as if they have given God full control of their lives? Is there any way to know? Yes. There is a negative condition in the majority of the church which proves that they have not truly submitted themselves to the will of God! It is the false, Arminian gospel concept with which most Christians are indoctrinated.

Their constitutional gospel theology is a product of the natural mind, and as such can not be the truth! As scripture tells us, the natural mind cannot discern, or understand spiritual truth. 1 Cor. 2:11-14.

In my commentaries on the long-standing gospel controversy, I have thoroughly exposed, and refuted the humanly conceived doctrinal assumptions that have marked an errant, declining church for centuries. Yet, throughout church history, there has been a minority who have believed, and defended the true gospel principles that God instituted!

No matter how unfaithful most of God's people have been about salvation truth, God has always had a faithful remnant! It is unknowable how many of them became that way of their own volition, in obedience to the scriptural injunction to "study to show thyself approved, rightly dividing the word of truth", or if God had to cause some to know, and represent the true gospel!

At any rate, they represent in principle, those "who have not bowed their knee to Baal" (or, in the church's case, to Satan (in effect), he being the Father of lies, which false doctrine essentially is, though masquerading as the truth! While, it may appear impossible in today's church world, to have unanimity of beliefs, it needs to be realized that the first church at Jerusalem (and no doubt other early churches) did have total unity in doctrine, and all other church

matters! Acts 2:41-47.

But, what do we really have today? Nearly total unity, but in false gospel doctrine! And, if someone (especially credible, and respected) directly accused almost any church in the world of that, what would their reaction be?

After the confrontational shock, it would be what it has been throughout most of the church's history, (1) disbelief, (2) ignorance, (3) anger. (4) retaliation, (5) counteraction, (6) charges of heresy, (7) refusal to consider the opposing contentions, and (8) probably various other negative reactions!

Whereas, Christians should be so resolved to learn the truth of God's word, that they would be willing to hear, and consider doctrinal disagreements, or other differences, and accept justified rebukes for their beliefs, or actions!

That is how a Christian should conduct himself, so that if he is right, the truth will be confirmed, or if he is wrong then he should be thankful and glad to know it, and be freed from his error!

God's doctrinal meanings are absolute, and specific! They are not open, or subject to opinion, or editing, nor do they permit varying interpretations! Neither, are the subjects too difficult to accurately determine their intended truths.

That doesn't mean it is a simple matter to arrive at true conclusions. "Study to show thyself approved", requires diligent application, by God's design, and purpose!

There is no shortcut way to faithful discipleship! The serious student will see it as a labor of love, that promises fulfillment, and will, by God's grace, persevere in his efforts.

Nor, is it only for certain ones to attain such accomplishment. Every believer, who has normal mental ability, is required, and given the grace, to be fundamentally sound in doctrine. There are, however, those whom God has designated to be pastors, and teachers, who are given the ability to have increased knowledge and wisdom, required to serve the church by edifying, and guiding it. And, also

proclaiming and defending its truths, against dissenters, and detractors!