

# **Liberalism In The Brotherhood - Sunday PM 02/25/18**

## **Introduction:**

This the last of three lessons on modernism and understanding its influence on our religious neighbors and even upon members of the church of Christ.

### **I) REVIEW**

#### **A) The basis of modernism - denies inspiration of the scriptures, deity of Christ, miracles, God**

1. Results in -- emotion over the mind or logic, flesh over the spirit, and man over God. "No Big Deal".

#### **B) Modernism views of Grace, Christ and His church, love, and faith**

1. Leads of a belief not based on the Bible but on man.

#### **C) Resulting in:**

1. Religious division - the more modern religion has become the more divided.
2. Disregard for Bible teaching - classes studying the Andy Griffin Show, a song by Garth Brooks, in one instance a class deciding to meet at a local fast food place.
3. Worship services aimed at entertaining and exciting.
  - i. Eluding the hellfire and smoke surrounding his pulpit, the Rev. Tommy Barnett waves goodbye. With a hearty "Hallelujah," he soars straight toward heaven and out of sight.

- ii. Second Baptist...prefers to call itself the "Fellowship of Excitement," on signs and in its church bulletins...
- iii. For a hipper, mostly single crowd, there is "P.M. Houston," a Sunday evening service with guitar sing-along and lights that transform the sanctuary from aqua to rose.

## **II) LIBERALISM'S INFLUENCE ON CHURCHES OF CHRIST**

- A) Some congregations have become as denominational as the denominations.**
- B) 70 years ago almost all non-instrumental churches of Christ preached, believed, and practiced the same things.**
  - 1. Today - instrumental music, choirs, women ministers, open fellowship, homosexual members, etc.
  - 2. Example: Max Lucado preaches at Oak Hills Church (formerly Oak Hills church of Christ) they have one acappella service and others with instrumental music, teach baptism is not essential for salvation, practice open fellowship with denominations.
  - 3. Preachers like Rubel Shelly advocate open fellowship and speak of the church of Christ as a denomination.

## **III. THE GOSPEL / DOCTRINE DISTINCTION**

- A) Gospel limited to death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, *1 Corinthians 15.4***
  - 1. As long as we have the core belief the practice does not matter.

- a. Baptism for the remission of sins not essential - at Southwest church of Christ the preacher said it is the result of a "mature faith".
  - b. The division over instrumental music was needless according to Rubel Shelly.
- 2. Teach the lost the Gospel - Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
  - 3. To the saved the Doctrine - the letters.

**B) Doctrine and gospel making a distinction that is no distinction.**

- 1. What were the apostles to teach? *Matthew 28.18ff*
- 2. What did Paul want to preach to the saved at Rome? *1.15*
- 3. Peter's hypocrisy, *Galatians 2.12-13*
- 4. What is the difference between the "no other gospel" of *Galatians 1.8* and "no other doctrine" in *1 Timothy 1.3*?
- 5. The Gospels reveals God's plan of redemption.
- 6. Acts how to get into Christ, the letters how to stay in Christ.
- 7. The Apostles preached the man and the plan.

**IV) GRACE FELLOWSHIP**

**A) Stressed God's grace and minimized doctrinal differences.**

- 1. None of us are going to be doctrinally perfect, grace will have to overcome our imperfections.

2. Some people are "brothers in prospect".
3. Sincerity is enough to allow fellowship with one teaching error.

**B) Answers:**

1. We are told to rightly divide the word of God, *2 Timothy 2.15*
2. We are told to contend for the faith, *Jude 3*.
3. Bible clearly teaches it is understandable, to be taught and defended.
4. Doctrinal error is to be exposed and not fellowshiped, *Ephesians 5.11*
  - i. A sincere person will want to learn the truth.

**V) NEW HERMENUTICS - the science of interpretation**

**A) New approach to Bible study and authority.**

1. Take the Bible as a general narrative, story, and don't get hung up on the specifics.
  - a. Lord's Supper, Singing, worship, etc.
2. Bible written in a different culture and we should not make our culture conform to the Bible.
3. Old Hermeneutic - direct command, necessary conclusion, approved example.

**B) Bible Authority**

1. Jesus taught the accuracy of the Bible, Jonah and the fish (*Matthew 12.40*), creation account (*Matthew 19.4*), Lot's wife (*Luke 17,29,32*).

2. Jesus taught the word of God is to be obeyed, *Matthew 7.21*.
3. Jesus taught by direct statement, *Matthew 16.24*
4. Jesus taught by necessary conclusion, *Luke 12.54-57*
5. Jesus taught by approved example, *John 11*

## **VI) EMOTIONALISM**

### **A) Emotion used to justify what man wants**

1. The purpose and nature of worship is to excite, make us feel good, entertain, etc.

### **B) Bible emotionalism**

1. What pleases man does not always please God - Aaron making the golden calf, King Saul sparing the livestock, etc.
2. Worship is not to be void of emotion.
  - a. We are to be encouraged, *Hebrews 11.24-25*.
  - b. Singing and prayers from the heart.
  - c. We are to be strengthened from the word of God, (To get something out of our worship we must be willing to put something into it.)
3. Bible example is our emotion comes from obedience to God and not to man, *Acts 8.39*