

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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10/25/15 - The Gospel, Salvation, & Sanctification - Part
14

Christian Cautions and the Necessity of Self-Examination

by Jonathan Edwards

Human Rationalism

Seeks to impose the human experience on the Bible, forcing it into subjection to human will. It often quotes scripture out of context and with utter disregard for plenary revelation.

The Origins of False Doctrines

Man, in his eagerness to nail down scripture, often misappropriates it, which is often the source of the most convincing counterfeit doctrines. Just because a doctrine is sewn together with some scripture, it doesn't mean it's right.

Jonathan Edwards

"Men are very apt to bring their principles to their practices, and not their practices to their principles, as they ought to do. They, in their practice, comply not with their consciences; but all their strife is to bring their consciences to comply with their practice."

Selective Rationalism

When a believer chooses to pursue a course of human rationalism in an isolated case. If a doctrine is formed as a result in the soul, there's no telling the damage that can be done to self and/or others.

The Wicked: Their Understandings Are Inconsistent With Themselves

by Jonathan Edwards

Jonathan Edwards

[The wicked's] practical judgment is inconsistent with their own reason.

Jonathan Edwards

[The wicked's] lusts have a far greater hand in the judgments that they make of things, and by which they govern themselves, than their reason.

Jonathan Edwards

[The wicked's] reason tells them, that it is well worth the while for every man to deny himself outward pleasure for the good of his soul. But their governing opinion or judgment is contrary, viz. that it is not best; and that pleasures, and the

gratification of their lusts, are worth more than any benefit they would obtain by seeking their salvation.

“like a beast”

- or an animal, which lives by its natural instincts; when a human lives this way, the fleshly (natural) instincts dominate their thoughts/actions (eg: their judgment is governed by human rationalism)

Human Rationalism

One of the hallmarks of human rationalism is that the world will actually listen to it. Believers must learn to avoid such conversations as they are fruitless. It's impossible to convict someone of sin if the supernatural is agreed upon as “inadmissible in court”.

What We See Is Logical

- Satan said, “I will make myself like the Most High” (**Is 14:14**)
- There are many gods, all spawns of Satan, the “god of this world” (**2Co 4:4**)
- The world promotes that our God is the same as the god of this world, hence “achieving” Satan’s original desire

Righteous Indignation

It is correct to be upset when we hear of others staking a claim to God and Heaven when they simultaneously denounce Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

The Salvation Issue

Heaven is the destination but not the goal of salvation. Being saved FROM sin is the goal. A “cheap gospel” presents [“being saved” = “going to heaven”], without any mention of WHAT the issue is – SIN!

Salvation

Salvation for many people is a drawn out process (speaking from the man-ward side). While the judicial act of justification is a moment in time, man has a habit of exploiting God's patience in "counting the cost" of salvation (eg: denying self, following Christ).

Patience Is a Virtue

Patience is especially useful in the process of evangelizing. Our job is to teach the Gospel accurately, including the challenging aspects of it that suggest a person “count the cost” of discipleship (e.g.: denying self, following Jesus) before accepting the invitation.

Patience

It's better to face off with resistance to the true Gospel than without resistance to an accommodating, less "offensive" gospel. This goes for children, too! There can be NO watering down the Gospel!

Patience

Patience is often the key ingredient for righteous consummation. It is unsung in today's instant gratification society. We must present the true Gospel and wait patiently while others respond.

Pr 25:15

By forbearance [patience] a ruler may be persuaded, and a soft tongue breaks the bone.

Jas 1:19-20 [Amplified]

Understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters. Let everyone be quick to hear [be a careful, thoughtful listener], slow to speak [a speaker of carefully chosen words and], slow to anger [patient, reflective, forgiving]; 20 for the [resentful, deep-seated] anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God [that standard of behavior which He requires from us].

Patience Is Power

The pinnacle of true power is not manifest in raw force, rather it is shown through virtues such as patience. It takes more power to exercise patience than force one's hand. The long-lasting effects are also greater.

“how you should respond to each person”

- regarding evangelizing, each person is unique, depending upon a variety of things; Jesus is a perfect example of tailoring the Gospel approach to different unbelievers.

Sowing Seed (Mt 13:3-23)

A person's soil must be properly conditioned to receive true saving faith by grace.