

North Christian Church -

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5/1/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part 80

Golden Rule for Interpretation

"When the plain sense of scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise" - David L Cooper

"And the Word became flesh"

The very expression of God's thoughts became manifest in a human being. The profundity of this cannot ever be overstated, for how does one fully comprehend the supernatural becoming natural, or the God of the Universe humbling Himself, or the love that motivated the Cross?

Why the Flesh Hates Theology

The existence of theology is antagonistic to the flesh; not just because of the content of it, but also because of its infinite structure. The flesh desires to control its surroundings, facilitating dominance over it. However, the Word is unbounded, which precludes the flesh from achieving its end-goal.

A right thing must be done in a right way.

How To Master the English Bible By James M. Gray

While You Read Your Bibles...

My great comfort is in knowing that the Holy Spirit (assuming you keep on reading) will ultimately iron things out in your souls. You must remain humble and resist the flesh's temptation to pervert theology when you see it.

Theology vs. Application

Theology lays out principles. Life is where those principles are applied. The Bible gives us insight into both. The common error is to make theology out of human experiences recorded in scripture. (e.g., Job's wife, the Corinthian's failures, etc.)

The Fruit of the Flesh

Why has mankind struggled with prejudice throughout history when God is clearly impartial, Christians even? (cp. Ro 2:11; 1Ti 5:21)

Fleshly Doctrines

The flesh prefers to use human experience as the basis of its doctrines. For example, consider something that you are REALLY afraid of - chances are, you have had some personal exposure (directly or indirectly) with that thing.

Boxing the Supernatural Out

Human beings learn prejudice through their experiences. While it makes rational sense to do so, it boxes out God's supernatural promises (cp. Jdg 7:7; Mk, 10:27; Php 4:13).

Impossible???

- Mk 10:27 Looking at them, Jesus *said, "With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.
- Php 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

On 1Jn 3:4-6

- C. I. Scofield: "[John] is stressing the fact that a Christian cannot keep on practicing sin, because he is born of God."
- J. V. McGee: "If you can be happy in sin, my friend, then you are not God's child because God's children have the nature of their Father."
- J. MacArthur: "If no check against habitual sin exists in someone who professes to be a Christian, John's pronouncement is absolutely clear - salvation never took place."

1Jn 3:6 Theology

Believers abide. No believer's lifestyle is characterized by sin. Anyone who does live that way is not a believer.

Distinctions

While the new creature walks away edified, in peace, loving every moment of learning God's Word by grace through faith, the flesh walks away frustrated because of its learned prejudices. The flesh is inherently uncomfortable with supernatural theology.

W. MacDonald on 1Jn 3:6

The question naturally arises, "When does sin become habitual? How often does a person have to commit it for it to become characteristic behavior?" John does not answer this. Rather he puts each believer on guard, and leaves the burden of proof on the Christian himself.

Theology 101

When it comes to theology, you must accept the openness of it at face value. If something is stated clearly, then you must accept it on faith, regardless of whether it is something you can personally relate to.

Theology 101

Theology smashes any notion of human rationalism. We cannot read the personal records of individuals in the Bible and back into our theology. We must seek to understand that which already exists as theology, that is, the mind of Christ.

Conclusions

In THEOLOGY, man has every right to say that a person who is saved will bear good fruit! In PRACTICE, man never has the right to judge someone else's salvation status.

Keeping It Simpler

There's enough theology, proper, to occupy us for the rest of our lives. We do not need to add complexity by manufacturing doctrines as a result of observing the actions of others, even if we are reading about them in the Bible.

Eph 4:11-12

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

Eph 4:13

until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Calling Out Spades

If your excuse for NOT submitting to and obeying me, your shepherd, is that I'm imperfect, well, consider yourself my final proof point this morning on the very topic of using human experience to narrow proper theology.