

North Christian Church -

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5/3/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part
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Determining Truth

Whatever theology is clearly stated in the scriptures is the truth about a matter, and experiences can only complement, or be interpreted by, the correct theology.

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?

A spiritual oxymoron...

There are things that we simply cannot comprehend, though these things are fundamental to our faith! Heb 11:1 - faith is the substance of things not seen, not understood.

Got a problem?

Since God is infinite, His theology is also... and the flesh hates this.

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.

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.

Faith and Humility give Freedom

Have fun reading your Bible. There's no rush, so go into each day wondering what God is going to show you today.

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).

Jdg 7:7

The LORD said to Gideon, "I will deliver you with the 300 men who lapped and will give the Midianites into your hands; so let all the other people go, each man to his home."

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.

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.

Grace Gifts

God has provided authorities for OUR benefit. We need the structure, and leading, and discipline that authority provides us while on earth. Our opinion or personal taste doesn't matter.

Jer 3:15, Heb 13:17, 1Co 16:15-16, 1Th 5:12-14