

North Christian Church -

Pastor Ed Collins

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5/24/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part 90

Trust In the Process

In particular, trust in the supernatural God of the Universe. For example, when it comes to God's sovereignty vs. your free will, in many ways, it's actually better that we don't understand it fully because it demands faith!..."without faith it is impossible to please Him" (Heb 11:6).

Ro 8:28

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

"to will and to work"

His "causing all things to work together for good" means that certain fruit, with His divine stamp of goodness on it, will be borne in each of our souls, as believers.

Determining Truth

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

Accepting Parables

A child would simply believe and get out of the way, allowing the Spirit to work in them with it.

1 Pe 1:6-7

In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Fruit-Bearing

True believers will produce fruit, because God says so; and if they don't for a time, He'll rectify it, because He says He will; and if they never come back, they were never His child in the first place, because they are what scripture calls apostates.

Jn 15:1-2

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.

Parable Branches

Just because scripture calls out a "branch", it doesn't always refer strictly to believers; rather it establishes a certain relationship to the vine/tree/root. (*Jn 15:2; Ro 11:16-24) - *under one interpretation.

Parables

Man has a tendency to impose his own restrictions on the parables in the Bible. Parables are predominantly meant to drive a single point or two home. They are NOT meant to be plucked apart and forced to shed light on things outside of their primary scope of revelation.

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Pastor's point:

We must learn to read parables correctly...in keeping with the intended context and scope of the parable.

Reading Parables

If you learn to read the parables correctly, what you'll find is that they are like sculptures...beautiful and effective at conveying our Great Author's intentions...but they exist as full "sculpture", not as bits and pieces hacked into doctrines that possibly don't even exist!

Jn 15

Is it possible that Jesus was simply sharing the nature of the relationship between a vine and branches when He made the strong statement that the Vinedresser, God, doesn't care for fruitless branches???

Jn 15

You might even challenge your own traditional thinking and ponder whether or

not Jesus' intention was to even make distinctions between believers and unbelievers, strictly speaking?

"cast them into the fire"

Scripture depicts the burning by fire as ultimate judgement, as that reserved for unbelievers (Mt 7:19; 13:40-42).

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Ro 8:28

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God [believers], to those who are called according to His purpose.

Matt 4:19-20 NIV

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.

Ro 8:28 [Amplified]

And we know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan and purpose.

Is God a Puppeteer, or...?

Your theology will have to either suggest that YOU can do good things, e.g. your "new creature"; or, you will have to propose that God is an eternal puppeteer (just consider Heaven for clarity).