

North Christian Church -

Pastor Ed Collins

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9/4/16 - The "Difficult" Passages - The Gospels

#7 - E. W. Bullinger

"[Seven is] the great number of spiritual perfection. A number which, therefore, occupies so large a place in the works, and especially in the Word of God as being inspired by the Holy Spirit."

Our Beloved Deliverance

EBC (Eusebeia Bible Church), FICM (Freedom In Christ Ministries), and NCC (North Christian Church) combine to complete a 7 year and 7 month journey. That's how long it took to deliver this congregation unto the completed Gospel message!!!

Taking a Deep Breath

We're at one of those moments in time, after a REALLY long, hard-fought battle...when it's all over, the warrior doesn't always know how to live OFF of the battlefield!

Luke 11:9-10

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened." - Jesus

1Co 10:12

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

A Shepherd's Adoration

I love you. All of you. I have fought hard for you, by grace, in humility. I have watched you delivered unto the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and nothing is sweeter for a shepherd, like me.

May we never depart from the supreme intimacy of the Gospel. (eg. Jn 15)

"known by Him"

in context in 1Co 8:3, refers to a special favor or approval of God; is reminiscent of Jesus' words in Mt 7:22a, 23a "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord...And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME.'"

Holy Intimacy

God is love. There's nothing more intimate and eternal than God's love. We are able to experience His love supernaturally (1Jn 4:7-11).

Holy Intimacy

Jesus never had sex. Paul, as far as we know, after his conversion, never had sex. Neither were deprived of the greatest love and intimacy. In fact, one might argue they were spared the "distraction" of having sex (not that the temptation wasn't present).

Seven Years and Seven Months

My beloved, you have been delivered up to the Gospel. You know it now. You've seen the scripture. You understand it. Now go live it!

The Word of Christ

Can you imagine embarking on a quest for faith, a faith that comes from hearing the word of Christ (Ro 10:17), without first consulting the actual words of Christ, Himself?

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Mt 28:19-20

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

John 5:24

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

"Difficulty" With the Gospels

The only reason the Gospels (those books that contain Jesus' words) are "difficult" is because man has selective hearing. Arguably the greatest attack on the Gospels from within so-called "Christianity" has been from hyper-dispensationalism.

The Printing Press & Systematic Theology

The sharp rise in the science of theology, based on the sharing of ideas between notable theologians is directly related to the printing press. This allowed theologians to build doctrines upon doctrines.

Dispensationalism

"As a system, dispensationalism is rooted in Scripture and expounded in the writings of John Nelson Darby (1800-1882) and the Plymouth Brethren movement."

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dispensationalism>)

Systematic Theology

This type of Bible teaching has been "progressing" for centuries, becoming

particularly popular in the last 100-200 years. Of particular noteworthiness is the extensive work of Lewis Sperry Chafer in his "Systematic Theology" (pub. 1947), whose spiritual heritage links through C.I. Scofield back to Darby.

*** Dispensations Timeline diagram ***

Why the Confusion?

God is not interested in confusing His own children, especially regarding the Gospel of Jesus Christ; Satan is (1Co 14:33, 2Co 11:3)

"the gospel of Jesus Christ"

from evaggelion Iesous Christos - refers to the good news about Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Savior, the Son of God (Mk 1:1 cp Ro 1:9)

Simplicity and Purity of Christ

To both Mark (wrote his Gospel in 50s AD) and Paul (wrote Ro ~56AD), and ANY/ ALL writers of the NT, there wasn't some artificially "dispensationalized" viewpoint about the Gospel of Jesus Christ!!! There has always ONLY been one Gospel!

Why the Confusion???

If the Gospel was never confusing to the writers of the NT, why in the world would it be confusing to us now? The answer is easy: the "doctrines of demons" (1Ti 4:1)! To interrupt the continuity of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to violate the whole Bible (ref: 1Co 10:1-4)!

"the same spiritual drink"

OT saints were not made alive by "another gospel" from "another spirit"; it's always been the good news of Jesus Christ!

2Co 11:4

Paul was afraid that the doctrines of demons would successfully "split" the simplicity, purity, and unity of the one true Gospel. To Paul, there was always just a single Gospel.

Selective Hearing

Why would we ever choose to listen to some of Jesus' words, but not all? (Ro 10:17) Context is indeed key; however, man has manufactured unholy contexts in order to "write off" the words of our very Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as desired.

Listen To the Spirit

Since the Holy Spirit is also called the "Spirit of Christ" (Ro 8:9), and this same Spirit "inspired" the Word of God (1Co 2:12-13, 2Ti 3:16), we know that the whole Bible reflects the "word of Christ" (Ro 10:17).

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