

North Christian Church -

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9/6/16 - The "Difficult" Passages - The Gospels - Part 2

"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.'"

"known by Him"

Love is the great evidence that we know God and that God knows us.

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

Love is the great evidence that we know God and God knows us. And the evidence that we love God is that we keep His commands, and love the brethren.

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?

Different forms of religion have crept into our lives over the years that spoil the pure desire to learn from Christ and follow Him.

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.

2 Tim 2:15 KJV

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

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.

"Mishnah" acc. to Wikipedia

The term "Mishnah" originally referred to a method of teaching by presenting topics in a systematic order, as contrasted with Midrash, which meant teaching by following the order of the Bible. The Mishnah as a written compilation accordingly orders its content by subject matter, instead of by biblical context as the Midrashim do.

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.

Systematic Theology

When we get carried away with systematic theology, we literally get carried away from the beauty of scripture as its found in context. If we don't hold on tightly to keeping scripture in context, we will lose our way, as man has done throughout human history.

*** Dispensations Timeline Diagram ***

The real danger is that contemporary "Christian" developments, and men building doctrines upon doctrines upon doctrines instead of continuing to just read their Bibles in context, may have separated people from the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pastor John MacArthur

"Dispensationalism is a system of biblical interpretation that sees a distinction between God's program for Israel and His dealings with the church. It's really as simple as that."

Why the Confusion?

Is it possible that because you had bought a lie that the Gospels and the words of Jesus were not "for your dispensation", in full or in part, that this could be the

major culprit in your confusion???

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 evangelion 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).

The more we get in the way, the more work we make for ourselves, and the more we get away from doing God's work of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Eph 2:10