

A Great Inconsistency!

While back I was in attendance at a Gospel Meeting. The preacher started out by informing us that his text would be taken from the *New International Version* (NIV) of the Bible. Later in his message he attempted to take to task a cardinal point of Calvinism. He made some good arguments against the error, but it was totally inconsistent with his choice of versions. The thought struck me with a new force that any preacher/teacher who used the NIV as their main text ought not ever to speak out against any facet of the doctrine of John Calvin. The NIV teaches within its text every error of Calvinism. We see this using the “TULIP” (an acrostic word showing the major tenants of Calvin).

“T” for Total depravity, i.e., inherited sin, sinful nature, original sin or adamic sin/nature. The preacher and/or teacher using the NIV had better not speak of this error unless they are ready to meet Psalms 51:5 which reads in the NIV thus, “Surely I have been a sinner from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.” That is an unfaithful translation, but that’s the NIV. Also, you need to know that the Greek word *sarx* which is faithfully translated “flesh” in reliable translations has been perverted in the NIV to read “sinful nature.” Don’t take my word for it, take the NIV and read for yourself (Romans 7:5,18,25; 8:2,3,5,8,9,12,13; 13:14; I Corinthians 5:5; Galatians 5:13,16,19,24; 6:8; Ephesians 2:3; Colossians 2:11,13; II Peter 2:18).

“U” stands for Unconditional election (salvation); sometimes referred to as predestination. You had better not speak of this false teaching while using the NIV. You may be asked to consider Romans 9:16 in said perversion, “It does not, therefore, depend on man’s desires or effort, but on God’s mercy.” Again if you look at II Corinthians 2:2 and 5:5 in the NIV you will find this phrase, “...guaranteeing what is to come.” The context deals with the seal of the Holy Spirit. The NIV changes past tense to future tense and then inserts “what is to come”, which words are not found in the Greek text! That is dishonest and reinforces the error of Calvinism.

“L” stands for Limited atonement; i.e., only a certain limited number will be saved. I Peter 2:8 reads in the NIV: “...and a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” I emphatically deny that Christ forces any man to fall in order that the limited number will be saved. Yet, I could not teach or preach that while using the NIV. The translators of this perversion should have noted their contradiction when they pointed out Jesus tasted of death for all men - Hebrews 2:9; 5:8-9 (even in the NIV)! In II Peter 3:9 even the NIV is forced to admit God does not want any to perish “...but everyone to come to repentance.” Shades of contradiction — this is as absurd as the Book of Mormon!

“I” means Irresistible grace; hence the direct operation of the Holy Spirit. Acts 16:14 in the NIV states, “The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message...” It has Lydia’s heart opened before she heard the Word. I Corinthians 1:14 in NIV is changed, “The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to Him, and he cannot understand them...” (Emphasis mine - JLW). If this were true there would be no need to ever encourage a sinner to read the Bible, to hear Gospel preaching, to study any Bible topic — for the Word of God does come “from the Spirit of God,” but per the NIV the sinner cannot understand such anyway! Without the so-called irresistible grace you are doomed. This doctrine makes God to become a respecter of persons — but you dare not point out such error while holding up your NIV!

“P” is for Perseverance of the saints, i.e., once saved always saved, once in grace always in grace, impossibility of apostasy. The NIV has perverted II Corinthians 13:5-6 by removing the language “except ye be reprobates” and “we are not reprobates.” They watered it down to “you fail the test” and “we have not failed the test.” They have omitted the Greek word for “reprobate” entirely. Why? Lest anybody conclude that it is possible for one to fall from grace.

Calvinism is taught time and again in the pages of the NIV. If you would ever speak the truth against Calvinism make sure that you are using the NIV. But, if you are using the NIV it may be you do not speak against Calvinism!

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BELVEDERE BEACON
Ye are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14)
Volume 10 Number 38 September 20, 2009
A PUBLICATION OF THE BELVEDERE CHURCH OF CHRIST
535 Clearwater Road, Belvedere, SC 29841-2574
(Greater Augusta, GA area)
SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
SUNDAY: WEDNESDAY:
Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am. Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.
Morning Worship 11.00 am.
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.
EVANGELIST: Ken Chumbley - Tel. No. (803) -279-8663
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Who Has the Preeminence?

There has always been a desire on the part of some to be preeminent among the followers of Christ. In Matthew 20, the mother of James and John came to Jesus with her sons and requested the places of preeminence in the kingdom for her sons (20:20-28). In Mark 10:35-45, James and John came to Jesus themselves with the same request. On both occasions Jesus’ response is the same. There is no place in the kingdom for the domination of or for exercising lordship over other disciples. Jesus made it clear that in the kingdom, He has “all authority” (Mat. 28:18). Paul wrote “And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, Which is his body” (Eph. 1:22-23).

Many years after learning this vital lesson himself, John encountered Diotrephes “who loveth to have the preeminence” (3 John 9). This expression in the Greek is a compound verb, combining a verb which means “to love” and a verb which means “to have first place.” The second of these verbs occurs only once in the New Testament in Colossians 1:18 where it is used of Christ, “that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.” Diotrephes was running the church to ruin because of his exaggerated appraisal of his own worth and his lack of concern for the truth and the welfare of the church.

Regrettably, there are still some of the sort of Diotrephes in the church who seize power for themselves thinking that the church stands or falls because of them. They believe that their judgments, ideas, and plans are more important than the church itself. Their love for preeminence usually exhibits itself like that of Diotrephes in 3 John 9-11 by: (1) accusing faithful preachers falsely, (2) forbidding others in the church to receive faithful Gospel teachers, and (3) expelling from the church those who refuse to bow to their will. Such domination in the church is always wrong. We must never place ourselves in such a position or allow others to do so (Rom. 16:17). The church of our Lord is greater than any personality.

The church does not depend upon any living person(s) for its existence and well-being. The church is built upon Christ (1 Cor. 3:11) and is founded and sustained by truth (1 Tim. 3:15). The church does not belong to us; it belongs to Christ (Mat. 16:18). Our obligation is to respect and submit to His authority (28:18) by abiding in His Word (John 8:31). We must speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent (1 Pet. 4:11). We show our love for Christ and for His church, the body of Christ, by doing His will (John 14:15). Those who refuse to abide in the teachings of Christ do not have God (II John 9).

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HUMAN CREEDS VS. THE BIBLE

Of the thirty nine books that make up the Old Testament and the twenty seven books that constitute the New Testament, is composed the complete collection of sacred documents that is called, by way of distinction, *the Bible*. And in this volume we find all that has been handed down to us as “divine revelation.” And notwithstanding the ill-advised procedure on the part of men and of organized groups of men to formulate and adopt creeds, disciplines, confessions of faith, and church directories to tell people what God would have them do, and to direct them in their religious service and discipline, it is generally agreed by those who accept the Bible as a book of divine revelation, that “whatever cannot be found therein and proven thereby, in not to be made binding on the consciences of men.” If we accept any of the Bible, we must accept all of it. When God has spoken, who are we that we should discriminate as to what part

If these creeds contain less than the Bible, they contain too little; and if they contain more than the Bible, they contain too much; but if they contain and consist in the Bible alone, nothing more and nothing less, then the creed becomes simply a copy of the Bible itself, and the “creed” is no more.

word we willing to Who are we pick out the part we are going to believe and arrange that as our creed, or our articles of faith? Any creed that does not contain and include all the Bible is entirely too small. And any creed that contains more than the Bible, contains too much, and is entirely too large. All human creeds are obstacles and barriers to the unity and peace of those who profess to be the people of God and the servants of Jesus Christ. People in their religious life, faith and practice would be infinitely better off if all the creeds, disciplines, and confessions of faith, as bonds of union and communion should pass out of existence, disappear from the earth, and their very names pass into oblivion. They do not consolidate nor unite the people of God. They divide and dismember them. They segregate groups into sectarian parties and denominational churches. They refuse to accept into their fellowship those who cannot conscientiously subscribe to their creed, and thus the creed becomes an insuperable barrier to unity, harmony and peace.

Creeds are fruitful sources of envy, strife, and of every evil work. They are fundamentally the fountain, the fountain of bitter waters, from which flow all the untold and multiple evils of alienation, separation and discord among peoples once happy and united in their works of faith and labors of love supported and sustained in the advocacy of the one God, on Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one book of divine revelation called the Bible. Human creeds and confessions of faith are the one source and origin of “enmities, strife, jealousies, wraths, factions, divisions, parties” and abominable spiritual idolatries and schisms which drown men in perdition and destruction (Galatians 5:19).

— from “Perfection of Divine Revelation” in *Baccalaureate Sermons and Essays* by G. H. P. Showalter, 1946, pp. 30–31.

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, Maomi Aaron’s sister, Leann Rogers, who is having health problems, Myrtle Grimsley, and Lanny Niver together with his daughter and son, and Tim Smith.

Tiffany Jackson who was visiting with us Sunday responded to the invitation. She indicated that she had sinned and confessed that sin but desired the prayers of the church.

Nolan Aaron was sick Sunday and unable to be out. Ethan Arnold was sick Sunday evening.

Lanny Niver is in Tennessee regarding the health issues of his son.

Our next pot-luck will be held October 4 after the morning worship. Plan to stay and eat together.

USE THE TIDE

An old gentleman states that when he was a small boy, he lived on the coast. One morning after a great storm he saw an old ship stranded. The storm had blown her in, and she was badly damaged and deserted by her crew. He said that sometimes, when the tide would come in strongly and surround the old ship, she would almost be loosed from her moorings and go out. He stated that often he would go and stand by her and hope she would go out. He would say, “Go out, old ship; go out with the tide.” But she never did. Finally, one morning after a severe storm he went down to look at the old ship, but the storm had blown her to pieces. Only the floating pieces of the old wreck were to be seen. She had many an opportunity, but she never went out.

How like many a backslider! The tide of opportunity to repent has risen for many and it was hoped they would go out from their sinful ways, but they settled back and never went out. If we are not living as we should, we had better take advantage of the opportunity to repent while the “tide is in.” Jesus said: “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3). Remember: “I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (II Corinthians 6:2). Now is the only time we are guaranteed—for the “tide may soon be out.”

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