

Pastor's Note 6/09

Summer is here....Thank you captain obvious!

We have been blessed this year with what most say is common rain fall for this area, but since we moved here in 2006 it has been uncommonly dry. Because of the “normal” rainfall things are greener and plants are healthier in my yard than I have ever seen them. Water in proper and abundant amounts has an amazing affect on plants.

In the same way God’s Word in proper and abundant amounts has the same amazing affect on the human soul. We have summarily reviewed the triune nature of God and the human and divine natures of Christ. These truths can only be seen with the eyes of faith. In the same way the 66 books by approximately 40ish writers (*we can not be sure of the exact number of writers because we do not know how many son’s of Korah there were, and the actual writer of some books is not given*) can only be acknowledged as divinely inspired through those same eyes of faith. **2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.** However just because biblical authority rest on faith that does not mean it’s truth has been in anyway been discredited in the realms of science, archeology, history, or any other humanly devised systems of validation, without **wholly resting on human reason.** (*ie faith in man*)

That is the dividing line between all who study God’s word, some choose to place their faith in God and others choose to place their faith in man. There is no debate about what God’s word says, because with over 25,000 manuscripts some over 2,200 years old there is an amazing consensus among linguistic scholars (*of all faith groups*) about what actually constitutes “The Holy Bible”, and what it actually says. The points of scholastic disagreement are statistically irrelevant because they have no real bearing on what the bible says.

The debate is about what it means; this is where we have two basic groups of theologians and all who study God and His word are theologians. First: those who hold a “human world view” that says; human reason has authority over God’s Word, this group uses what is known as the “Historical Critical” method to study and deduce meaning from scripture. Second: those who hold a “biblical world view” that says; God’s Word stands above human reason; this group uses the “Historical Grammatical” method to study and deduce meaning from scripture. The question is not are you biased, we are all biased, the question is which bias to be biased with. When God’s Word says things that are illogical or irrational (*which it often does*) the first group finds a man pleasing logical explanation while the second group defers to Gods truth accepting it on faith and does not try to explain what God does not.

So while I acknowledge my bias..... That does not mean we can agree to disagree about the truth. The truth is absolute and stands whether of not we choose to agree with it. Another phrase that irritates me is “well that is your interpretation” this is the postmodern way of dismissing what a person says whether or not you disagree, so you don’t even have to deal with it. This statement implies that truth is relative...your truth is your truth and my truth is my truth. While this might be politically correct it is illogical.... If I do not believe in gravity, will my nose not break if I trip and fall on it? The answer is clear in this example and it can be equally clear with biblical truth if we clearly identify who its divine author is and defer our reason to His revealed truth.

I do not desire to put God’s word in a nice little box that suits my needs. I will acknowledge that God is so great that a single verse of scripture can have many clear and truthful understandings and applications. However, if you and I have applications that contradict each other... one of them must logically be wrong and if we derive a meaning that contradicts any other clear scriptural truth that meaning is wrong. In this day and age, it is not P.C. to say that something or someone is wrong or sinful. But just because our society is afraid to call someone or something sinful doesn’t make it any less so.

If you are without sin, I invite you to continue reading this series as a scholastic endeavor to improve on your perfection. But for the rest of us I will continue to explore God’s Word for the next few months. While I have acknowledged my bias, scriptures authority is an issue of faith. There are also mountains of evidence in the realms of science, history, archeology that give clear witness to God’s nature, and the inerrant (with out error) and infallible (with out fault) nature of His Word.

God gives clear witness to these truths in His creation. ***Rom 1:19-20 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.*** Again, I site a biblical truth that speaks the heart of everyone. God's word tells us all we **need** to know however it does not promise, nor does it provide not all we want to know. For the unanswered questions we must lean on the peace that surpasses all understanding. And if you say ***that is not enough*** I would agree you have not tasted the sweetness of internal peace that the selfless God of creation purchased for you on the cross, and so richly desires all to have.

In Christ

Pastor Portier