

Taking God at His Word

Class Notes: Week 5 08-02-15

Class Memory Verse: Eph. 4:29

GOD'S WORD IS CLEAR

INTRO.

- Let's revisit a point we made in our class "Something More Sure" 07-19-15: "The Word of God is Divine though given by human authors."
Consider...
 - The Bible IS the Word of God, though written by men.
 - God "breathed" out the Scriptures, though men wrote them down.
 - Scripture has the style & expression of the individual writers.
 - 1-But how much in terms of the actual wording?
 - 2-Were the actual words of the writers influenced by experiences?
 - 3-Did the writers use their own vocabulary?
- These verses provide some insight.
 - Isa. 6:1; Jer. 1:1,2; Psa. 37:25; 1 Cor.2:13; 2 Tim. 4:13 (most personal).
- Men of God recorded the Word of God accurately and experientially, to ensure that the Written Word was understandable, providing the "Clarity" God intended.
(My belief)

Clarity of Scripture - Definition

The universal message of the "new birth" by grace through faith in Jesus Christ is plainly taught and easily understood by the "whosoever will." (John 3:16)
Ordinary people can know from Scripture how to live the "new life."

(3) Objections to the Clarity of Scripture Doctrine

- 1 - The Mystical Objection. The Christian faith is utterly "mysterious," and Bible Truths cannot be explained in words. Human language is flawed, imperfect.
- 2 - The Catholic Objection. Parts of the Bible are incomplete and need to be "added to" by tradition, and interpreted by church hierarchy i.e., the pope.
- 3 - The Pluralism Objection. Many interpretations, available via Christian print

media, on a Biblical doctrine or issue questions anyone's understanding whether an interpretation is right or wrong.

Today's Text: Deut. 30:11-14

These verses teach what the Bible says about its own clarity:

- I. God's Word is nigh not far.
 - “They could never plead in excuse of their disobedience that God had enjoined them that which was either unintelligible or impracticable, impossible to be known or done.” - Matthew Henry: “Commentary On The Whole Bible”

- II. Confirming Basis of Clarity.
 - Psa. 119:105; 130; Psa. 19:7-8; Neh. 8:8
 - Jesus asks repeatedly in the gospels, “Have you not read.”
 - The apostles: Quoted & reasoned from Scripture;
They alluded to God's Word as having a correct meaning they possessed.

- III. The Clarity Imperative.
 - Continued undermining of this doctrine places much at risk:
 - (1) The gift of human language is at risk.
 - (2) The gift of human freedom is at risk.
Herman Bavinck: “Reformed Dogmatics”
 - (3) Whom God is “for” is at risk.
R.C. Sproul: “What kind of God would reveal His love and redemption in terms so technical and concepts so profound that only an elite corps of professional scholars could understand them?”

 - We enjoy the privilege of reading the Scriptures in a language we can understand.
 - Through Clarity of Scripture we see Bible Truths God has made plain to all of us.