

Light Brings Salt

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Iron Range Bible Church

Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God



The Demise of Systematic Theology

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Evangelicals are in trouble!

The beginning of the twenty-first century saw the Evangelical church move rapidly toward what is called the postmodern era.

Postmodernism is an attitude that has been spawned by the intellectual elite who believes absolutes, especially in the moral and spiritual realm, cannot be known with certainty. The study of biblical doctrine then is no longer important or necessary.

Paul R. Shockley, writing in *The God of the Bible and Other Gods*, defines the essentials of postmodernism: (1) *absolute or objective truth does not exist*, (2) *reality is in the mind of the beholder*, (3) *humanity is molded or scripted by its own subcultures*, (4) *there is no objective, universal authority*.

Postmodernism is marked by (5) *cynicism* and (6) *decision making on the ethical basis of feelings, emotions, and impressions*.

Until recently it was understood by the evangelical world that God was the ultimate Author of the Bible, though He used as His instruments the prophets and the apostles. "God gave the Scriptures to communicate, not to confuse or bewilder." Despite the present doubt about the issue of knowing truth, the Bible remains the only vehicle for understanding God, ourselves, and the nature of eternal, spiritual fact and reality. Postmodernism is nothing but modern day literalism! To evangelicals, "Its ideas warrant illogical conclusions that do not correspond to reality."

The Bible remains, divinely preserved. If we interpret the biblical text in its normal sense we will see once more that it truthfully meets the intrinsic needs of every person, since it was given by the unique Triune God, who is infinite, personal, and divinely authoritative.

Since the Bible is the Word of God, where it speaks, God speaks!

Despite this assurance about scriptural revelation, a rapidly growing majority in the Western world holds different views.

It is hard to witness truth to people who believe that truth is relative ("Jesus works for you; crystals work for her"). It is hard to proclaim the forgiveness of sins to people who believe that, since morality is relative, they have no sins to forgive.

Near the turn of the twenty-first century, a survey was taken that found 66 percent of Americans believe that "there is no such thing as absolutes." But the surprise was that 53 percent of those who label themselves as evangelical Christians believe also that there are no absolutes. One expects such moral inversions to take place in the secular world, but not within Christendom.

What is the difference in today's postmodern thinking about God and spiritual issues, and the way humanity has always thought about Him in the past?

While people have always committed sins, they at least acknowledged these were sins. A century ago a person may have committed adultery flagrantly and in defiance of God and man, but he would have admitted that what he was doing was a sin. What we have today is not only immoral behavior, but a loss of

moral criteria. This is true even in the church. We face not only a moral collapse but a collapse of meaning. "There are no absolutes."

By saying "no absolutes," we are saying that people no longer look to the authority of the Bible for the knowledge of truth. To throw away biblical truth is to throw away any knowledge of the personal God! He cannot be known by personal intuition, or by nature! He has revealed the intimate nature of Himself in the Word of God. And even in these Scriptures, He has revealed to us only what He wishes us to know, no more!

The psalmist well writes:

May Thy compassion come to me that I may live, for Thy law is my delight. (Psa. 119:77)

Thy word is a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path. (v. 105)

The Weather Channel Mess [Excerpts]
January 18, 2007 | James Spann | Op/Ed

Well, well. Some "climate expert" on "The Weather Channel" wants to take away AMS certification from those of us who believe the recent "global warming" is a natural process. So much for "tolerance", huh?

I have been in operational meteorology since 1978, and I know dozens and dozens of broadcast meteorologists all over the country. Our big job: look at a large volume of raw data and come up with a public weather forecast for the next seven days. I do not know of a single TV meteorologist who buys into the man-made global warming hype. I know there must be a few out there, but I can't find them. Here are the basic facts you need to know:

*Billions of dollars of grant money is flowing into the pockets of those on the man-made global warming bandwagon. No man-made global warming, the money dries up. This is big money, make no mistake about it. Always follow the money trail and it tells a story.

Even the lady at "The Weather Channel" probably gets paid good money for a prime time show on climate change. No man-made global warming, no show, and no salary. Nothing wrong with making money at all, but when money becomes the motivation for a scientific conclusion, then we have a problem. For many, global warming is a big cash grab.

*The climate of this planet has been changing since God put the planet here. It will always change, and the warming in the last 10 years is not much different than the warming we saw in the 1930s and other decades.

Archeological Note

"Two Philistine temples have been uncovered by archaeologists Both temples share a unique design -- the roof was supported by two central pillars!

"The pillars were made of wood and rested on stone support bases. With the pillars being about six feet apart, a strong man could dislodge them from their stone bases and bring the entire roof crashing down. The archaeological findings match the Biblical story perfectly

"The Bible writer knew his facts. He knew that Philistine temples were supported by two pillars and that this was how Samson pulled the temple down. The report is that of an eyewitness, again demonstrating that indeed the Bible is the world's most accurate textbook" (Wood, "Samson and the Temple of Dagon," "Bible and Spade," 1974, pp. 53-54).

Wisdom from the Word

He whose ear listens to the life-giving reproof
Will dwell among the wise.
He who neglects discipline despises himself,
But he who listens to reproof acquires
understanding. Prov. 15:31-32