

What think Ye about the Bible?
Part 3

Having eliminated the cultural MSM, and "most" of the MEGA churches as a potential source of truth about the Bible, I would like to introduce a term that defines the "Body of Truth" called "THE FAITH" passed down through the ages. This term is "Orthodox" Christianity. This term is not to be associated with either Greek Orthodox or Russian Orthodox Churches.

The term "orthodox" simply refers to something "straight," something true or correct. In relation to Christianity it implies the authentic truth as revealed from God to man in the Bible - the 66 books of Holy Scripture (39 books of the Old Testament and 27 Books of the New Testament).

Orthodox Christianity then subscribes to the Bible's main Truth claim. It IS God's Word to man. It is inspired in the original "autographs" verbally and planery (every word, and all the books in their entirety are equally inspired).

To say it very simply and planely : the Bible IS the highest authority. What the Bible says, the stated judgments, precepts, testimonies of God Almighty stands in all times as the fullest and final Authority. There is no human establishment, no individual man or women, council, synod, convention, association that can or should ever think it can supplant the Bible's ultimate and final word.

This concept of Ultimate Authority of the Bible is what sets Orthodox Christianity apart from Roman Catholicism, Greek Orthodox Church, Russian Orthodox Church, and to a certain extent Lutheranism.

To cite five examples from Roman Catholicism, which are rejected by Orthodox Christianity because they have no basis in the Bible.

1. The Immaculate Conception of Mary was adopted as a result of a Papal Bull in A.D. 1854.
2. The Perpetual Virginity of Mary was declared by the Lateran Council in A.D. 649.
3. The Assumption of Mary was adopted by Pope Pius XII in A.D. 1950
4. Praying to Mary began in the 3rd Century.
5. The concept of a Purgatory was adopted at the 2nd Council of Lyon in A.D. 1274.

Roman Catholicism claims that church tradition, Papal Decrees (EX Cathedra - speaking from the chair/throne is speaking infallibly), Church Council Decrees, etc have equal to or higher authority than the Bible.

May I add a short testimony. In 1984 I was on a plane flying from Pittsburg to Cleveland. I happened to sit next to a Franciscan Monk, as he identified himself to me later. I knew he was a monk by the habit he wore. This Order claims to be the most authentic segment of Catholicism. I initiated the conversation by asking him how I could go to heaven. He responded by telling me that unless I was a member of the Catholic Church I would NOT GO TO HEAVEN. Then I quoted several Bible verses which stated that belief in Jesus Christ would secure Eternal Life to the believer such as John 3:16; John 6:47; John 5:24; Romans 10:13, not membership of any church.

He replied that those are not enough, and a person must follow the Catholic Sacraments as dictated by Catholic Church. And this monk emphasized that it is the Catholic Church that brought the Bible into existence and one MUST follow her TRADITIONS.

At this point our conversation came to a stand off because we had two opposite view points of authority.

The final Authority in Orthodox Christianity is the Bible, while his final Authority is the BIBLE PLUS CHURCH TRADITION.

This difference of authority was one of the causes of the Reformation.

Was SOLA SCRIPTURA the final Authority. (Bible Alone)?

Or

The Bible PLUS tradition?

We all know how that ended up.

Stay tuned, please.

In our next edition on The Bible

We will explore some of the major truth claims of the Scripture.

Psalm 19:7-9 KJV

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. [8] The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. [9] The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

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The Bible 03

Horst Adler

With Warm Regards

Horst Adler

I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ

Romans 1:16

My heart is stirred!

There are a multiplicity of voices out there.