

What think Ye of the Bible?  
Part 6.

In the next few segments we will briefly examine the fundamental truth claims of the Bible and list the major doctrines that then define "Orthodox Christianity." We must remember that in our culture the term Christianity is used in a very fluid manner, and to the person who is looking for solid truth this search can be quite exhausting.

The term doctrine is often omitted in teaching and preaching, yet it is the first item mentioned in the Scripture, which states that the Bible is "inspired" (God- Breathed).

2 Timothy 3:16 KJV

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

The word doctrine, then, means a specific "teaching" of the Bible that describes or defines a particular aspect of fundamental, Orthodox (Straight) Christianity.

Let's begin with Holy Scripture - The Bible. The Bible is referred to as "Special Revelation," because it gives man or women specific information about God and how man can be reconciled to God after the fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden. I don't mean to get ahead of myself, but I introduced the concept of Special Revelation only to contrast that with "General Revelation."

All of Creation is referred to as General Revelation. The Bible, Special Revelation, tells man that by viewing and contemplating on Creation, nature, the cyclical order of the seasons, the predictability of stars and constellation, etc, man intuitively "KNOWS" that there is a God, who created it all. Two primary Bible passages address this General Revelation and man's comprehension of the truth that it was all created by a GOD.

Psalms 19:1-3 KJV

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. [2] Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. [3] There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

The "Voice" of the truth of this creation is seen in all lands, among all people of all nations, tribes, and languages. Viewing a sunrise or sunset reveals the truth that there is a CREATOR BEHIND THIS CREATION.

Romans 1:19 KJV

Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

Romans 1:20 KJV

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being

understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

This passage very clearly and categorically states that God has given the light of knowledge of HIM through creation to every person who has ever been born.

Let me say this once more, the Bible (Special Revelation) tells man that creation itself is a General Revelation, through which God, the Creator, has given EVERY MAN the knowledge that God, the Creator really exists.

The question then is what does man do with that revealed knowledge of God?

It must be said before we continue, this revealed knowledge of God does not save man from his fallen and lost state.

Again, General Revelation does not save. This Knowledge of God should cause the person to seek God, and then God will providentially lead this person to a BIBLE, most likely a church where the Bible is preached and Christ is exalted. Then the Bible, which is Special Revelation, will show the person how to get saved - by repenting and believing in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ's Redemption on the cross. More on that later.

The sad truth is that man suppresses or holds down that knowledge of God he/she receives from General Revelation. Man has a sense that if he acknowledges this God of creation, he will be accountable to Him as well.

Man will instinctively reject any knowledge of God, and thinks he will thus escape God's judgment.

Charles Darwin's "Origin of the Species" (1859) played wonderfully in this desired escape from the God Hypothesis. In the midst of the almost general acceptance of Darwin's Theory of Evolution, man became "free" of any theological encumbrance. There is no God, man evolved. Life originated from non living matter, and it all began with a mightiest explosion of all times, as Carl Sagan postulated in his 5 minute segment on YouTube titled "The Beginning."

Thus, man has basically two kinds of dispositions or inclinations after being confronted with General Revelation. There are the MANY who suppress the truth of God's existence, and there are the FEW who acknowledge the truth of the Creator God.

The former group unconsciously join the masses of people who follow a humanistic or existential path for their life, not giving any serious consideration of the destiny of their eternal soul. Perhaps, during the course of their life someone will intrude into their psyche of their mind and present God's love via the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Such was the case in my life, when at age 41 I was convicted of my sin, and considered the options of

Heaven and Hell, repented and trusted in Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord.

The second group of the FEW will acknowledge that there is "God" who is responsible for this Creation, and they will begin to research, do analysis of various world religions, sects, spiritual claims made by various people groups.

Having said all this we are now coming to the fork in the road of our journey. Which religious book, literature, truth claim is THE REAL TRUTH?

This will be the topic of the next article.  
Stay tuned.

With Warm Regards,  
Horst Adler  
"For I am not ashamed of the  
Gospel of Christ." (Ro.1:16)