

What think Ye of the Bible?
Part 10

Prior to my two week vacation to Virginia I focused on the Liberal Theology of Friedrich Schleiermacher.

In short review, much about the doctrinal truths about the Bible just did not make sense to him. He plainly rejected all the supernatural aspects of the Bible and, most poignantly, he rejected the Deity of Jesus Christ.

That meant Schleiermacher also rejected the LOVE OF GOD in sending His Son to shed His blood and become the sacrifice to pay the penalty for our sins.

Having jettisoned the central aspect of biblical Christianity, Schleiermacher designed a form of humanistic religion with "a person" he calls Jesus Christ at its center, coupled with his philosophy of existentialism. In essence this Christ, was not, and IS NOT the Christ of the Bible, but rather an idol of his own making.

Thus, Satan has managed to once again counterfeit true Christianity with something that sort of looks like it, but is as far from the truth as light is from darkness. Yet millions of spiritually undiscerning FAUX BELIEVERS have fallen into this trap.

As was stated before, this erroneous belief system has found great and wide acceptance not only on the European Continent but also in America. We find this false teaching in many major seminaries in the USA and also in the Theology Department of Riga University in Latvia.

But, we should not be surprised. Here is what the TRUE JESUS said.

Matthew 7:13-14 KJV

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: [14] Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Jesus told us that most people follow the broad road, the one generally accepted by the masses - the WRONG ROAD, which leads to destruction.

Jesus also said Luke 13:3 KJV

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Perish in a place where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth)

In and around 1920 there were many pastors of various Denomination, who were aghast at the spread of this poisonous liberal theology. Money was donated by some wealthy men to publish books that affirmed the foundational doctrines of the Bible. These Bible Believers sensed that they needed to fight back against the spread of this liberalism. These books came to be known as the Fundamentals, and they were sent to every Christian leader

across America in order to strengthen and solidify peoples belief in the doctrines of the Bible.

Those who held to these foundational doctrines of the Bible considered themselves as Fundamentalists.

Please keep in mind, again, that the most basic of these were 1. Inerrancy of Scripture, 2. Virgin Birth of Christ, 3, Substitutionary Atonement of Christ, 4. Resurrection of Christ, and 5. The miracles of Christ.

Let it be known , I am a Fundamentalist, and I go to a church that holds strongly to the fundamental doctrines of the Bible.

One more quick historical note before I focus on the Theology Department of the University of Riga.

Following Friedich Schleiermacher were numerous Theologians who were known as Neo Orthodox. These were Karl Barth, Rudolph Bultman, Emil Brunner and Reihold Niehbur. Dietrich Bohnhoeffer was closely linked to these. These men had several things in common. They tried to blend faith with reason. In order to do that they ALL rejected the supernatural spiritual aspects of God's Word, the Bible, because their REASON could not allow for God's supernatural intervention in His creation. They DEMYTHOLOGIZED the Scripture, and decided by human logic which part of Scripture to believe and which part to reject.

Now I want to focus on an article written by a theologian at the University of Riga in Latvia.

Valdis Teraudkalns wrote an article titled "Latvian Baptist Traditions in Transition."

The article can be viewed at this URL.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/096374999106629>

Valdis is currently a Professor of Theology at this University.

I will copy and paste a few remarks he made in this article, and then I will make some comments how he seems to fit into the liberal theology discussion.

Valdis said:

1. Southern Baptist who once said to me 'Only a person who answers the question "Where is Jesus?"

with "In my heart" is truly converted.' The Latvian Baptist Credo does not stress the emotional aspects of 'new birth' and does not state that it is an instant event; but the problem raised openly by Rev. Peteris Egle (1903-93)²² remains: In many cases it seems

as if a person has been persuaded but that the main thing - change of heart - has been forgotten. We organise large meetings with more ministers involved and when warmth has been created and souls have been touched we make sudden offensives. People who easily get excited surrender.

Horst's comment. I agree with the tenor of Valdis' paragraph. This mode of revivalism was started with Charles Finney and relies heavily on emotional manipulation. Billy Graham followed that same model. I do not agree with this method.

However Valdis stressed that the Baptist Credo does not state that "the new birth" is an instant event. Valdis fails to understand that the NEW BIRTH is an instantaneous work of the Holy Spirit of God. See John 3:3 - 8. Titus 3:5.

2. Valdis mentioned Klaupiks, who seemed to become liberal after he attended a seminary of the Northern Baptists Convention in America.

Horst's comments. I knew Klaupiks, but not anything about his theological position. I went to High School with his son, Andris.

3. It should be noted, however, that most Latvian Baptists are not fundamentalists. The Baptist Credo does not speak of the 'entire truth' of Scripture but states only that 'Holy Scripture is the living word of God'.

Horst's comments. This remark by Valdis seems to be a watershed point. He said MOST LATVIAN BAPTIST ARE NOT FUNDAMENTALISTS.

I must assume that they do not hold to the fundamental doctrines described above? I must be careful not to use a broad brush and apply his comments to all of the Latvian Baptist.

However, 7 years ago (roughly) I emailed Reverend Uldis Ukstins, the pastor of the Latvian Baptist Church in Applebachsville, PA asking him for their doctrinal statement. Since my mother had been a member at this church from 1956 to 1959, I thought it was a reasonable request. In my email I shared my testimony with him. He never responded to me at all. I thought that was strange since my heritage was partly Latvian and partly German, having also escaped from the Russian front as many of the others residents in Applebachsville. His silence was suspect, not commendable from a servant of the Lord. Did he not have any convictions about his belief system. Surely, from knowing several other members of this church, he considered himself a Christian? Why the silence?

However, after doing research about the theological orientation of the Latvian Baptists at this PA church I am beginning to suspect that they also have succumbed to the dangerous strain of liberalism. Although, I am not certain of this. I would love to be convinced otherwise, but no one who attends that church has given me any indication that their faith is a genuine biblical faith.

My heart is truly burdened for them. I know a few members of that church.

Why am I sitting here at midnight typing this article? Because i want people to know and experience the true LOVE of God through the Redemption of The God-Man Jesus Christ. Without knowing and believing in the Biblical Jesus Christ there is no forgiveness of sin, no new birth, no indwelling Holy Spirit, no certainty of heaven, no peace with God because you are still an enemy of God.

Romans 5:10 KJV

"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."

My prayer! Oh Dear Glorious Heavenly Father! Please open people' ears and eyes, and hearts to receive your free gift of eternal life. I have done what I can do. You must do the rest.

In Jesus Name...

With Warm Regards,

Horst Adler

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ." (Ro.1:16)