



SURVEY OF THEOLOGY

Bibliology

Grace Institute - Pastor Jim C. Davis

Lecture Two: Authority

- 1A. The BIBLE – “The whole truth and nothing but the truth” (See Handout)
 - 1B. Special Revelation – A record of God’s message to the world.
 - 2B. Inspiration – God’s method used to record accurately the content of the Scripture.
 - 3B. Inerrancy – God’s sovereignty superimposes human error in the recording of the message.
 - 4B. Illumination – The Spirit of God illumines the meaning of the message in Scripture.
- 2A. ERRANT VIEWS OF BIBLICAL AUTHORITY – Bible is instrumental authority but not the absolute authority for truth. Pg. 20 in all forms of liberalism...
 - Human nature becomes the source of truth.
 - Man is deified knowing good and evil.
 - Bible is diminished to man’s thoughts about God.
- 1B. REASON ALONE – Immanuel Kant – Liberalism: Authority = Man
Religion = Practical reason – it is a matter of moral judgments
- 2B. EXPERIENCE ALONE – Karl Barth/Friedrich Schleiermacher
Religion = Feelings/existentialism (dynamic inspiration)

“The Bible is there for us to find our own meaning.”
(Louis Dupre, Catholic Yale prof. Dallas Morning News, Feb 28, 1998)

“What your ancient Jewish rabbis understood about the Bible, and Christians have not understood as well, is that there are endless meanings, and if you look again you get another meaning. Christians have wanted it to have one meaning.” (Walter Brueggemann)
- 3B. SCRIPTURE PLUS TRADITION – Roman Catholic Church/Eastern Orthodox Churches (pg. 21)
- 4B. SCRIPTURE PLUS SECRET KNOWLEDGE –
Gnosticism/Word of Faith/Prosperity Theology

“Additional source of knowledge or insight that was superior to, in addition to, or at least beyond the knowledge of Scripture”
(R.C. Sproul, *Agony of Deceit*, p38)

“We cannot communicate with God mentally, for He is a Spirit. But we can reach Him with our Spirit, and it is through our Spirit that we come to know God...This is one reason God put teachers (those who are really called to teach) in the church – to renew our minds. Many times those who teach do so with only a natural knowledge that they have gained from the Bible and other sources. But I am referring here to one of the ministry gifts. Those who are called and anointed by the Spirit to teach.”

“God has given us His Word, and we can feed upon that Word. This will renew our minds. But He also puts teachers in the church to renew our minds and to bring us the revelation of the knowledge of God’s Word.”
(Kenneth Hagin, Man on Three Dimensions (Tulsa, OK. Faith Lib, 1985)

- 3A. INERRANT VIEW OF THE BIBLE – The objective authority on truth Pg. 20
SCRIPTURE ALONE with illumination (above views exalt man, but this view exalts God)
- 1B. Our Epistemology (Christian Truth) is based on faith and reason.
 - 2B. We have intimate relationship/experience with personal Almighty God.
 - 3B. Objective truth of Word is the standard/authority for determining our experiences.
 - 4B. Illumination is not the same as new revelation.
 - 5B. Exegesis analyzes the Bible; theology correlates God’s revelation.
 - 6B. Exegesis relates the meaning of the Bible; theology interrelates it.
 - 7B. Exegesis presents the meaning of truth; theology the system of truth.
 - 8B. How do we understand God’s revelation?
 - Commit to faith things not revealed and things we do not understand.
 - Depend on the guidance and teaching of the Holy Spirit.
 - Engage the rational processes of a redeemed mind.
 - Cleansed conscience before God.
 - Insight into the providential work of God’s hand in human history.