

Thank You...Again!
Walter York
Speaker today

New Christians...and Others Interested
“Foundation Lessons” Class
Wednesdays 3:30 p.m. at the church building

Making the Right Choices



“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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Theology

By Bruce Evans

When people think about theology their eyes glaze over. They are not unlike the preacher who was heard to have said, “I love flowers, but I hate botany. I love religion but I hate theology.” However, theology is vital and it must always be good theology. The word theology comes to us from two Greek words; *theos* which means God and *logos* meaning word or as some have set forth, rational thought. Hence, theology is rational thought about God. Consider the fact that God has given to us a mind to think and with which to reason, and He surely expects us to put it to use when thinking about His word and the truth found therein.

When asked by a lawyer what is the greatest commandment in the law, Jesus responded by saying, “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and will all your soul, and with all your mind*” (Matthew 22:37). Upon closer inspection it appears that Jesus gave a fairly clear explanation of what is involved in good theology. Love to God must of natural course include one’s emotion, intellect and will.

Have you ever heard of somebody who relishes the notion being in love? That individual is primed for the emotional rewards, but not much else. There needs to be an active integration of the intellect with emotion in order to build commitment. Should there only be a desire for the intellect, it strips away the emotion and can lead the individual into a vapid relationship with God and others. In fact, it may well bring about what Charles Williams, the noted English author set forth, “man was intended to argue with God.”

Clearly, even the most casual reader of the Scriptures can see where it WAS NOT intended for man to argue with God (see Job 23:1-25, 38:1-39). *“Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let him who reproves God answer it.”* (Job 40:2). To this statement made by God to Job, the response given by Job is quite telling. *“Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to Thee? I lay my hand on my mouth”* (Job 40:3).

Good theology is a coming together of the intellect, emotion, and the will. Rational thought about God and His word of necessity demands that one appreciate He is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent. God has inherent authority. A fact of which mankind should appreciate and accept, but sadly most seek to challenge His authority. As Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus, he openly discussed the plan that God conceived even before time began (Ephesians 1:3-14). But also take note what is seen in verses eighteen and nineteen. *“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His great might.”*

Since man IS NOT intended to argue with God, it stands to reason that good theology would be considered as that which is orthodox. Don't let that word throw you, for it means adhering to the established faith. Tie that together with Romans 10:17 which states, *“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”* Therefore, *“speak where the Bible speaks, remain silent where it is silent.”* Doesn't that seem to make sense?

Established Doctrine

“What many men despise today as ‘doctrine’ the New Testament calls the gospel; and the New Testament treats it as the message upon which salvation depends.” J. Gresham Machen

Choose Wisely

By Ron Thomas

“They that forsake the law praise the wicked; But such as keep the law contend with them.” (Proverbs 28:4, ASV).

How can this be? Consider the “law” in view is the law of God. As James wrote, but he that looketh into the perfect law, the [law] of liberty, and [so] continueth, being not a hearer that forgetteth but a doer that worketh, this man shall be blessed in his doing. (James 1:25). Since the “law” is of God, those who obey Him will, necessarily, praise His name by the life they choose to live. Those who choose some other way to live, necessarily, praise the wicked. How can this be?

Those who choose to live without God give praise to the wicked by living life that does not have its foundation in the Almighty, in God's teachings. With this choice in life made, they have considered God and have chosen to turn away from Him. What this amounts to, perhaps unbeknownst to those who have done so, is that they have chosen to believe God is a liar concerning that which is best in life. *“Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son”* (1 John 5:10, ESV).

They also begin to support those who have also turned away from the Lord. When one wanders away from the Lord, to whom shall they go? They go to the “god of this world” (2 Corinthians 4:4). In truth, there are only two paths in life for people to take. As each comes to the proverbial “fork in the road,” they must choose which path to take. If they have not rejected Jesus outright, but have chosen something else, intending on coming back to Jesus (many actually think like this), they have made their choice. It will do no good to say “I am only putting it off for a while, in order for me to get my life straight” because by putting Jesus off for another day means one has made a choice today – and it is not Jesus.

Making a choice for what is wise is easy to do (at least in theory), but it is hard to do because many things may have to be given up. What do we value more? Choose wisely.