

General Topics :: i am grieved beyond words at what we have become.**i am grieved beyond words at what we have become., on: 2010/4/27 8:32**

This has been brewing in my soul for many years, terrible grief, and i will explain.

(before i start, please allow me to expose my heart, and please do not think, that what i write i write out of my flesh, or my mind, or out of vain imaginations..please i beg you all to see that truth in what I say)

Yesterday, the moderators had to close a thread, "IHOP to be questioned". i dont bring that up to re-stir the pot, i just register that reality. We have another thread a-brewing, "Should women teach" (something like that) We have other threads, marking men as apostates via their ministries, it goes on and on.

i don't say that to insult, but to point to a symptom of something more egregious.

and it is this, partially this:

of all the posts on this forum, and all of the Scripture quoted, what percentage is quoted either "red Letter", from the Mouth of Jesus, from the Four Gospel accounts, and what percentage is quoted from the Epistles of Paul?

My spirit as led by the Spirit tells me, the percentage is overwhelmingly in "favor" of the Epistles.

Don't mistake me, i am not speaking in favor of what is called "Jesus Only"...or "Oneness". Not at all, i beg your indulgence as this has been welling in me for a few years and REALLY struck me this morning as i was in the Gospel of Mark.

This "seed" planted in my spirit does NOT have me denying Messiah Jesus, God forbid. Jesus is all i have, where else can i go to, but what it does do is beg this question, are we neglecting the Word of Jesus, "Red Letters"?

When man, who sees thru the glass darkly, wishes to buttress an ecclesiastical or doctrinal point, i notice that they run right to the Epistles of Paul, and then my soul wonders about those men who argued and fought over what was "canon"..... millenia ago.

Because in the past, my heart and spirit felt led to ask Jesus,"please Lord Jesus, Messiah, Son of God, let me know more deeply WHO YOU ARE, and it seemed wise and of profit, to me, to read and re-read in circular form, the Four Gospels, along with Acts, over and over again, slowly.

Mind you saints, I did not neglect the Whole of the Bible, not the Tanakh, with the Law, the Writings and the Prophets, nor the Epistles of the New Covenant. For me, to eat of the Word, is sweet, its joy...but something has been bothering me

I feel that a lot of faith-based arguments are "settled" using New Covenant Epistles.

Some might counter with the oft used 2 Timothy 3:16-17

to which i say yes and amen, the question it poses to me, what "Scriptures" is Paul referring to, as at this point, 2nd Timothy was Paul's last letter to his son in the Faith?

It had not been "locked" into canon, and this is no casting off of the words of Paul, God forbid.

My grief is that i feel we may have deified human vessels used of God such as Paul, over the Messiah Jesus, my grief is that when we preach the Gospel, the Good News, is that many expounders, preachers, witness's use the Mercy of Messiah, as a "get out hell free" card, my grief is that we MIGHT know the points of Romans, or 1 Cor 13, better than we do John 17, the Mountaintop of Jesus Our High Priest, Who gave His longest recorded prayer in that Chapter, ..."that they may be one".

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and are we one?

How many ekklesial divisions, how many denominations, how many "churches" formed in the name of an imperial city, i speak of rome, how many arguments over this "doctrine" and that "doctrine"? 400 denominations?...and that is the Body of Christ? To think that the Body of Christ is cut up, sliced and diced is the plain outright spirit of ANTI-Christ. That very thought is rebellion, and woe to the other denominations who lift up the mother of Jesus as worthy of worship, or pray to idols of long-dead "saints", who's very bodies molder in the grave this very day.

Brethern, i have so much more to say, and my words are weak, yet they are strong in Him, that is Jesus Christ, His Word i cling to....."reveal Your Word in me Messiah"

Some may say, Jesus did testify He came to bring division on earth, but i see this as He testified, the DIVISION is between the Children of Light and the children of darkness, not division among the Children of Light.

please, answer if you can or are led, are we one, as He is One?

I beg of you all, read John 17, pray over that, and search the answer.

humbled, broken grieved, and yet i rejoice IN Messiah Jesus, neil

Re: i am grieved beyond words at what we have become. - posted by enid, on: 2010/4/27 8:45

What can one say?

After reading this, I thought it looked like it has the potential to become one of 'those threads'.

But, God forbid.

God bless.

Re: i am grieved beyond words at what we have become. - posted by mguldner (), on: 2010/4/27 8:56

"are we one?"

I believe that those that are apart of the Bride of Christ are one. The Bridegroom is searching for earnest hearts after Him and this Transcends divisions, doctrines, theory, theology, and denomination. Those that chose to bicker must examine themselves and test themselves did Jesus promote senseless quarrels? I believe it was the Pharisees that wanted to debate with Jesus while Jesus came to defeat another foe. I understand your grief and I look at the churches of today and ask Is this really what Jesus meant? If we started just with the scriptures would we get our modern Christianity? I sadly have to say no we wouldn't. I think you are right though and we have to ask yet another question Did Jesus really mean what He said? and Do we know what He is saying? Let us pray and intercede rather than accuse(such as the accuser of the brethen)

God Bless,
Matthew

Re: - posted by dougr777 (), on: 2010/4/27 9:06

I have been on SI form since it began. There have been so many "discussions". The principle to keep is love towards our brothers and sisters in Christ on this forum. While I may not agree, I want to have a love for my family. We will be spending a long time with each other in eternity.

God's word said that the world will know Him by our love for one another. Trying to win an argument and forgetting how to love one another is dangerous. So many sinners that watch the body of Christ will end up in hell because of our "discussion" and arguments over doctrine.

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Re: i am grieved beyond words at what we have become. - posted by elanham (), on: 2010/4/27 9:07

Is there to be a distinction between any part of the bible and another. Are we to value the words in red as holding a higher value than those in black. We have to consider the Unity of the Word.

The same mouth that spoke the Words in red is the same mouth that spoke through those who wrote the words in black. To give a higher value to the words spoken by Jesus during His earthly tenure than those spoken by Him in His ascended position is to do serious harm to the Faith itself.

Dear Enid, on: 2010/4/27 9:36

you asked:

"What can one say?"

much, i asked many questions, not to bait anyone, but in pure of heart, to ask.

primary question: are we one?

you stated:

"After reading this, I thought it looked like it has the potential to become one of 'those threads'"

why? All i did was to post what i felt led to post, with a clean spirit, a broken spirit and a contrite heart. Isn't that what the LORD desires?

and you prayed

"But, God forbid."

amen.

Re: - posted by fieldlaborer, on: 2010/4/27 9:36

2 Peter 3:15-18 (KJV)

15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever . Amen.

I think this sums it up with these debates, people arguing over things they don't even understand. I desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus.

Doug Renz , on: 2010/4/27 9:47

you testified:

"Trying to win an argument and forgetting how to love one another is dangerous. So many sinners that watch the body of Christ will end up in hell because of our "discussion" and arguments over doctrine."

in my way, that's what grieves me no end, just as a "for instance" ..today...seeing with open eyes, and reading and eating of John 17, are we one?

and it seems to me, some followers say, in effect, 'i follow Paul', 'i follow Paul Washer', 'i follow Calvin', 'i follow todd bentley'..or 'i follow (fill in the blank)

why can't the Fruit of our lips, 'i follow Jesus'

BECAUSE "i believe God".

It IS that simple.

the Gift of deep abiding simple Faith.

and then man gets in the way, that's why i grieve.

elanham, on: 2010/4/27 9:59

you wrote:

"To give a higher value to the words spoken by Jesus during His earthly tenure than those spoken by Him in His ascended position is to do serious harm to the Faith itself."

fair point, yes, but was it not The Father, Who spoke from Heaven and said, "This is my Son with Whom I am well pleased"?

Fully man, Fully God. Jesus, Immanuel-God with us, doesn't that place Jesus' Words as THE Standard.

Please somebody, try and answer this question, in our postings, do we quote more from the Words of Jesus, what Jesus is saying to this very day, or do we quote more from the epistles, to buttress "doctrinal" arguments?

and one last note, elanham, never would i tell you to do anything, higher value/lower value, it just seems to me that we "run" into the epistles to make "doctrinal" or ecclesiastical points or prejudices. that's all my brother.

Re: elanham - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2010/4/27 11:13

You know the saddest thing is, not many here will "ever" change their views on anything they personally believe their interpretation of the Word is. I have always heard only God can change people, including their interpretation of his Word, so my question is, why all the fuss to the point where threads have to be closed down period? We as Christians should know better, should we not at some point on these threads just let go and let God? Just my two cents.

Re: - posted by BeYeDoers (), on: 2010/4/27 12:43

Neil, I too have seen a very cold spirit of posting here recently, but over the years these things come in waves, and I'm sure will warm up once again. I think there are many that need to check and recheck before posting. And I also agree that many lately use the scriptures as "ammunition" instead of for edifying the body.

I will caution you, however, regarding "red letters". Every word of Christ in my bible is black. He said ALL of it. The red letters in your version are a hindrance. It draws attention to "Jesus' words" as opposed to the rest of Jesus' words, and the red letters are not quotes. They are translators' addition/edition. They have altered the text for who knows why. We only have one definitive quotation of Jesus. "eloi eloi lama sabbachtani?" The rest are recounts of what he said, but not quotes. Matthew, Luke, John, etc. did not use a red pen, nor did they have a way of "quoting". What do you do when the red letters in Matthew are different than the ones in Luke? Is one of them "misremembering?" Surely not. God had purposes for giving slightly different angles to each account. This would not be possible with quotations, but completely logical and acceptable with "narrative accounts". It would be wooden, or errant with quotations.

And, Paul did have a "canon"...the Old Testament.

Re: i am grieved beyond words at what we have become. - posted by twayneb (), on: 2010/4/27 13:17

Neil: I love your heart brother. I am not so sure it is what we have become, rather what we have not yet become that is the problem. Every one of us live in a fleshly body and are in the process of renewing our soulish realm by the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. Romans 12:1-2. Every one of us battles the flesh in one way or another. All of us who are born again are like Christ in our spirit, but none of us are like Christ in the sense that our soul and body have been glorified. God has to work out of each one of us the parts of us that do not please Him and that interfere with His desire to use us for His glory. This caused problems in the early church just as it does in the modern church. Remember the contention over John Mark that caused Paul not to take him along. Later Luke records that Paul sent for him and said that he had become useful (useable). The point is that it is tempting to allow our flesh to get in the way.

It is this same flesh that causes the problems in doctrinal discussions or disputes. We all have such a tendency to hold onto and defend what we see as the truth or the correct interpretation. In reality, these doctrinal stands are often more the result of past teaching that we have particularly liked or past experiences that have shaped the way we see things more than they are the result of lengthy, careful, and prayerful study of scripture and time in prayer over the issue.

We absolutely must come to a place where we hold man's interpretation of scripture loosely (including our own) while realizing that scripture is the written word of God and that God did not intend His word to mean different things to different men. To put it another way, if you and I disagree on scripture, you or I or both must be wrong in our interpretation. Assuming the latter is the most likely is probably the safest bet. State your opinion in love, and be willing to have your mind changed as you submit to the Lord and to His word. I believe in doing this in an attitude of prayer and humility we will come to a place where we begin to see the truth of scripture as it is, outside of denominational or personal bias, and we can submit to that word and it will be fruitful in our lives.

I have prayed, "Lord, am I wrong on this interpretation?" and had the Lord show me from the word that I was not. I have prayed the same thing and had the Lord show me that I was wrong and had to change my mind. I have many many are as where I simply do not know yet, and I must recognize and admit that as well.

May we all be in pursuit of Him and of knowing Him and His word, not academically, but through the perspective of the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Blessings

Travis

Re: elanham - posted by elanham (), on: 2010/4/27 13:40

The standard that we are to live by is the Lord's own speaking. Whether that be His booming voice speaking from Heaven declaring 'this is my Beloved Son' or His voice speaking to the people of His day or if it be His voice being expressed by His body.

We as His body are not to make a distinction from those instances because they are all God's own speaking. One may be more sensational than another, yet sensationalism is not the basis upon which we establish a level of authority. The Word spoken through the physical lips of Jesus was no less the Word of God as The Father's voice from Heaven. The thundering voice from Heaven would certainly command more respect from those standing around. Also the Word of God spoken through the Apostles of old are no less the Word of God as the Words spoken through the lips of Jesus.

We dare not hold to the words in red with some sort of special devotion while ascribing to His voice when expressed through a broken human vessel as not as powerful or authoritative. The opening of that kind of door will swing wide the door or misinterpretation and the devaluing of the Word of God.

The Gospels are there to record the story of the earthy tenure of Christ in the light of the prophetic scriptures. Jesus mentioned to the Apostles he had things to share with them that they could not bear at the time. All of the books after the Gospels are to be considered the Word of Christ and their function is more along the lines of doctrine. That is the Lord's intention for them.

We make doctrinal or ecclesiastical points more from the epistles than the Gospels because the Gospels' purpose is not to give detailed information on the Church and its being. That is the purpose of the other books.

There is a reason why Jesus never spoke on how the Church should function or how Faith relates to Salvation. This would be reserved for Him to express through His Body which is the same as it being expressed through His physical mouth. No distinction whatsoever. Hope that helps you.

Denver....here's where i get to the intersection of the road , on: 2010/4/27 13:54

God bless you for answering my post.

I used the term "red letter" as form of short hand.

and i am particularly blessed by the Four Gospel Accounts, because of this; what must it have been like to apprehend that Jesus is Messiah....in those days. The first to actually attestify to this Fact were demoniacs, then Peter finally confessed that Jesus is the Son of God. Correction, God, at Jesus' baptism at the river with John spoke this Fact, then the demoniacs, then Peter, and Jesus told Peter, that Jesus' Church (congregation) would be built on this Rock, Rock being that first confession, Jesus is Messiah, Son of God....then we know what happened next...the apostles and disciples were witnesses to a humiliating, tortured death of our Messiah on the Cross. This was their King, their Saviour, their Messiah, and the romans were actually able to "KILL HIM"?!?

what must have been going thru their souls, "was i wrong? was i deluded? No, Jesus was resurrected in three days, appeared among them, recommissioned Peter, ate with them, allowed Thomas to see the nail marks, opened hearts anew, laid on them the Great Commission and then was taken up into the Heavens...then go back to their houses, pondering, seeking the Voice of God, and then, as promised, the day of Pentecost, when the Helper, the Holy Spirit was poured upon them in the Upper Room, and filled them with boldness, Peter goes out and in Power preaches the first sermon, 3,000 are saved.

so, what intrigues me, at this point, the apostles and disciples, WANT to remember everything Jesus did while in His earthly ministry. obviously, Praise God, they don't video recorder's, tape recorders, they have their memories, and like Precious Gems, they want to remember them all. I can almost them, "do you remember when the Lord fed 5,000?did not He speak to the assembled crowd on that Mount....he said "blessed are the poor".....didn't he also say "poor in spirit, etc etc etc...or another apostle, disciple, said, remember the Lord spoke in many parables, and prayed, dear God, help me remember those Precious Words, all Your parables, and they began to write, to remember, to never forget. What days those must have been.

I have to go, i will pick this up, because the apostles, disciples were no different from us..really! one of their moms even badgered Jesus about seating arrangements in the Kingdom of Heaven>....to be cont

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2010/4/27 14:24

Travis or twayneb said:

God did not intend His word to mean different things to different men. To put it another way, if you and I disagree on scripture, you or I or both must be wrong in our interpretation.

Mr. Bill say's:

Travis,I do personally believe that the Word can Minister to two different people, differently. Jesus said it is the Spirit of truth that teaches us all things.

Re: Denver....here's where i get to the intersection of the road , on: 2010/4/27 15:52

tzadiqim, (saints) i RELISH this dialogue, and have much to prayerfully say, but the "world" just intruded, and may i beg off for either a couple of hours, or a day or two. I do so love you all for your Godly measured responses, you bless me more than i deserve, but my mind is smoking right now, and unfit for Godly discourse, in Jesus' love, neil

Re: i am grieved beyond words at what we have become. - posted by hoohouu (), on: 2010/4/27 22:42

I may be taking this off course and forgive me if I do. I've wanted to post a new thread with the following thoughts, but decided to post here instead.

Jesus simply said, "Follow me". While I may disagree with Neil on some details I think he is spot on in spirit. We (the Church) have made this thing so difficult. Jesus just said "Follow Me". He didn't say learn Greek, or Hebrew. I think we are being led to make the Church simple again. We get so caught up in who is right and who is wrong. Beloved, just follow Jesus.

My dad and I had a "nice" talk about Christians in the military and politics. I told him of my non-resistance stance and he asked about my pistols. For me to follow Jesus I have to sell at least one, and the other will be put up and unloaded only to be used for recreation. I have to follow Jesus as He leads me. We sometimes need to realize that we didn't get where we are by being so good at holiness. We got here by following Jesus, by locking eyes with Him so that the journey seemed effortless. Not everyone is at the same place spiritually. Sometimes we need to be kicked, but most times God will handle that. Our job is to proclaim the Good News, not force people to believe it. We don't always know how God is dealing with a person.

I've listened to Ten Shekels and a Shirt a few times now. It has stuck in my spirit and at times I've regretted listening to it. God really opened my eyes to a lot that shouldn't be going on in the church. But I think that a lot of times we take the idea of humanism and a self-centered Christianity a little too far. We take the sheer joy that Jesus has provided us and make it a stumbling block. 1 Corinthians 9:22 says "To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some."

Sorry Neil, but it supports your point. Paul put on Christ. That is he became as much like Him as he could. That means that Jesus is all things to all people. If you're of a fiery disposition, He cleansed the temple. If you are by nature a little distrustful of the establishment, He challenged the Pharisees. If you're compassionate, He healed the sick simply because He had compassion on them. If you're merciful, He used Peter who was both violent and weak willed. If you're physically strong, He carried His cross up the hill. If you're sensitive, Jesus wept. If you're forceful, He preached, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites". If you're easy going, He slept in the bottom of a boat during a storm. If you're giving, He gave His very life. Even if you're selfish, He did it all for you.

It's when we stop here and when we forget about these things that we get in trouble. It was all done for us. We just can't stop there or it's empty word of faith/prosperity destruction. Nor can we go too far past it or else it's Pharisaical law and therefore death. In the beginning was the Word. It is all profitable, but not when we use it to back up our pride and self assurance. Follow Jesus, follow Jesus, follow Jesus.

I don't know beloved, God is doing something. The tone of so many threads just gets ugly so quickly lately, and yet so many are pleading the same things. Just like this one and a few others and the one I started to post. We must be still and wait on God before we speak. We must let go and cling to Jesus. The world is watching. John 17:17-21 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. 18"As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19"For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. 20"I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I

in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

Acts 1:14 These all with ONE mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

This is the only way we can do what Jesus has asked us. We must be one in order to follow Him and we must be one in order to make disciples. Yes, you've heard it before. But please, just follow Jesus and see where He takes you. Turn off the world and see what Jesus says to you.

Because of Christ, Matt

Re: Seasons - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2010/4/27 23:40

Dear brethren,

If I may, I'd like to share a few thoughts.

Those of us who have been around these forums long enough should be noticing a pattern of seasons. Seasons of heated debate; seasons of rest and cordial affections. Seasons where a preponderance of threads are decidedly worldly and shallow; and seasons of great profundity and blessing within the majority of the threads.

We need to understand that these seasons are inexorable and assured and put here for our spiritual training, for our perseverance in righteousness, and for our exercising of self-denial. We can no more prevent these seasons from coming as we can prevent a hurricane from forming at sea, but the wise and mature Christian takes necessary precautions to comprehend how he ought to act when he finds himself "in the midst" of a particular season.

When you log onto SermonIndex and see a plethora of shallow-topic threads and current event fear-mongering and divisive discussions, we need to immediately recognize what is happening and decide for ourselves if the Lord would have us, as individuals, contribute. For those of us who enjoy deeper discussions of real spiritual meat, a season such as this is often the method God uses to wean some of us from public freethought to get us alone with Him in the quiet, secret place of reality. He will purposefully dry up the forum and allow immature activity to ultimately "work together for good" in those He has called to meet on higher ground.

Approach these forums with care therefore during respective seasons. Be sensitive to the voice of God; if you see a divisive topic or one that you know will bring your thoughts down to carnal, disputatious level, consider forgoing participation and instead preserve your strength and joy in Christ for a more edifying cause and occasion.

If we can learn these principles of self-restraint and divine prudence, the Lord will give us the grace to act upon them and abide in the light. But if we stoop to peer pressure and instead gormandize the spoiled milk, we will miss the true meat and consequently not grow as we ought. We will repeat the same season over, and over and over again until we master the lesson.

Brother Paul

Re: , on: 2010/4/28 0:45

Good word brother Paul.....Frank

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2010/4/28 6:51

Good word brother Paul...

"are we one"

My experience is it is an easy thing to be one with those we agree with, its harder to be one with those we disagree with. Some may say how can we be one if we disagree? well i think it is a process, brother Art Katz shares in some recordings of their community life together, how through very hard trials and problems as of living together, how their own self and own wills where brought down to become one. But before that they where ready to throw in the towel, give up.

Not saying a forum on the net is the same thing, but there is some thing with being one that will not come easy, i am not just saying let us "agree to disagree" , that also is not one. But even tho we disagree we stick with it, in love and patience and forbearance and always remember from under what rock God pulled me out from, and to speak with brothers, try let God forge us to one in Him.

I just know it is a painful process, but if we allow it we will become one.

Want to share a short word that blessed me, I hope it will you all, to remember what is the most important thing.

Our minds are so often occupied with service and work; we think that doing things for the Lord is the chief object of life. We are concerned about our lifework, our ministry. We think of equipment for it in terms of study and knowledge of things. Soul-winning, or teaching believers, or setting people to work, are so much in the foreground. Bible study and knowledge of the Scriptures, with efficiency in the matter of leading in Christian service as the end in view, are matters of pressing importance with all. All well and good, for these are important matters; but, back of everything the Lord is more concerned about our knowing Him than about anything else. It is very possible to have a wonderful grasp of the Scriptures, a comprehensive and intimate familiarity with doctrine; to stand for cardinal verities of the faith; to be an unceasing worker in Christian service; to have a great devotion to the salvation of men, and yet, alas, to have a very inadequate and limited personal knowledge of God within. So often the Lord has to take away our work that we may discover Him. The ultimate value of everything is not the information which we give, not the soundness of our doctrine, not the amount of work that we do, not the measure of truth that we possess, but just the fact that we know the Lord in a deep and mighty way.

full article

<http://www.austin-sparks.net/english/000415.html>

Matt, Paul Christian, on: 2010/4/28 9:08

what wonderful words, and i dont say that in an ear tickling way...no.....truly balm.

Though i've never met any of you brothers in the flesh, via the Holy Spirit, i feel i do know you, i KNOW i know you and that in itself is a miraculous Provision of the Spirit. i know Paul plays the piano, i know Christian lives in Sweden, Matt is "new" brother, to me, but your spirit is sweet.

i couldnt finish my thoughts yesterday, as i said the world intruded, and as you all well know, sometimes when that happens, we get "thrown", meaning i was not fit to post.

humbly, may i continue my thoughts? what i'm about to testify is not boast, and if it seems like boast, i boast in the Lord, for it is His Leading. Every morning He DRAWS me to His Word, and i read. His leading for this exercise is like a magnet to metal, i cant but help to be pulled by this "Magnet".

i've been pondering how the apostles, and disciples REMEMBERED the Jesus, Whom they knew in the flesh, His earthly Ministry, right after Peter's first sermon, and the 3,000 who came to Messiah.. Also they NEEDED to write of His Resurrected Ministry, the days after the Crucifixion, and before the Day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon the 120, huddled in that Upper Room.

The day after Peter's sermon, muust have been the day, that all who apprehended Messiah, and all that LITERALLY walked with Jesus in his earthly incarnation, were led by the Spirit to remember HIM, to scribe, to write down everything that Jesus did while in among them.

John leaned against his mortal body. Peter confessed to Him that Jesus is Messiah, Thomas touched the wounds, i could go on and on, i pray you get my drift.

You might be tempted to ask, "why neil?"

Well, it's important to me, not to strengthen my faith. faith is a gift, divinely imparted, and i thank and bless God, He has mercy on me, and gave me this Gift, and in child-like utter dependence, i receive it. When i say child-like, what i mean is this.

i am utterly dependent on Him, for everything, the next breath, tonights meal, everything. God has even shut my mind to the....tunnels of theo-intellectualism. i dont mean to insult anyone, but i dont engage in the various verbiage and doctrine s, words that man has crafted to make "boxes" to hem in those who belong to Messiah, save this doctrine, which is "I believe God" and i thank Him, that i have His Word in my possession, which is the Bible, Scripture, and i am filled with awe and wonder, at how those early New Covenant followers, apostles, disciples, the first 3,000, Greek "God-fearers", started the process of REMEMBERING Jesus AND preserving that Testimony, that RECOUNTING on papyrus(?) then leather scrolls, how they gathered, specifically the 11 plus 1, and began to write as guided by the Holy Spirit.

What must that have been like!

and of course, either thru memorization, or actually having in possession, the many leather scrolls of the Tanakh, the OT , to go back, and read the Prophecy of God testifying to His Son, right off the top of my heart, i think of Jacob at the Jabbok river wrestling with Jesus, hip wrenched, "I won't let you go till you bless me", and Jesus gave him a new name, Israeland then we go into the TeHillim, the Psalms, Messiah Jesus all thru It, into Isaiah!

The prophecy of Isaiah! talk about a "forerunner"!

Its no accident the only complete Scroll found in the caves at Qumran is Isaiah.

I think that the dispute that arose over the distribution of resource in Acts, which led the apostles to prayerfully appoint the Seven, was because these apostles were in the act of remembering, on papyrus, leather the Gospel Account, that this administrative task was so onerous that it impeded their Work:

"3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. 4But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

Acts 6:3-4 (ESV)

these apostles were not fools, they didnt dare take pen to parchment, without praying HARD, before beginning to write the Account, the Gospel Account, this "Ministry of the Word"...its a True Miracle of God,that we have, in front of us, This Word....TODAY!

thats why in my prayer life, i'll tell you a secret, sometimes i pray that the "rulers", earthly authorities, make it ILLEGAL to possess a Bible, because as the Spirit leads me, when that happens, those who are His, will REALLY treasure this Treasure, and not even the threat of death, imprisonment will wrest this Treasure from our hands and our hearts. When that day happens, just watch the Church grow, become muscular, shed the limpness, shed the impotency of our current situation, where we find more "fun" in arguing this doctrine or that doctrine, or pronouncing with self righteous glee at the fall of this or that preacher, or throwing the barb of "heretick" at just another cracked clay vessel.

THEN, we really become "mustard seeds", the smallest seed.

so beware, be wary of any political party that tries to lay hold of the elect, through seduction, and relish those that hate Him, because they'll hate you who follow Him,and in their darkened minds, they will actually believe that they can "kill off", What can't be killed, or as Jesus said:

"Don't be afraid, It is I"

in Jesus' love, neil

ps...i aint done yet with this thread, i want to explore how canon was locked.

General Topics :: i am grieved beyond words at what we have become.

Re: i am grieved beyond words at what we have become., on: 2010/4/28 9:26

We are on the exact same page brother.

Though your thread until now, and the perspective is narrowed to the individual problem, much of what you wrote is nearly identical to your words.

It came about after meditating on the passage mgulder was talking about on the thread 'PASTOR KING'.

I have been led by God in intercession over these same issues you state, time and time again.

We shall join together in prayer regarding this,
and i'll still keep hollering from the rooftops,
as well as everywhere else this can be heard,
whether i will be listened to or not.

God Bless you
richly and abundantly
henceforth,
Gregg

Re: - posted by Solomon101, on: 2010/4/28 13:13

I also want to throw my support toward the tone this thread has maintained.

In the aforementioned IHOP thread I was one of the ones posting with passion. However, my passion was directly related to one thing....I was defending a brother that I felt, and actually know, was being wrongly accused.

Perhaps the thing to do was simply ignore it and let God do the dealing on all fronts as He sees fit. In retrospect that is probably the better choice.

The thing that really rattles my cage though is seeing this constant piling on and attacking other ministries as well as attacking brothers and sisters in the Lord. Sometimes these "bashing threads" are relegating solid Christian people down to accusations of them having demonic motives or possession.

If I post passionately it will almost always be to DEFEND a brother or sister. I do not believe I have ever posted on SI in a way that attacks any ministry. In the IHOP thread it seemed to me that if there are 10 pages dedicated to cutting them to shreds then it wasn't such a big deal to take a couple of posts and defend them. In response I was then attacked for defending a brother. Guilt by association in that person's mind I suppose.

I also think I would defend the interests of ANY brother or sister being maliciously attacked....whether I agree with their particular doctrinal slant on a few topics or not. They are Christ's Bride and I want to be seen by the Lord as one that defends them... not throws mud at them.

Thanks for reading my thoughts.... I would much rather post regarding the goodness of any ministry as opposed to knitting them to death. But if any brother or sister is attacked I also want the Lord to see me as one who defends those in His body..not assaults.

Blessings

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2010/4/28 16:01

The problem lies in I think that scripture lays much weight upon truth, in our actions, our speaking, our motives, but also on doctrine, and more important the church. So as Paul Washer says truth is like balancing on the edge of a razor....

So it is easy when we have light on something, God has shown us a truth to get zealous and defend, correct others etc. We speak the truth in love, and also "...the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. (1Ti 3:15 KJV)"

if the pillar is not a solid one, without cracks and not thoroughly made and maintained, the building will eventually collapse...

But in our zeal for a specific truth, we often forget another truth. God must always balance us out. This we need to remember. The Lord Jesus defended some people, others he spoke very condemning of and exposed for what they were.

This is a reason we need foremost to be connected to the spirit, an intimate relationship that is constantly guided by him, so we can know when to do and what to speak.

Sometimes by being silent, we may add cracks to the pillar... by not facing what we know to be the truth, other times the Lord may try press upon us to be silent, but we may fail due to we know so MUCH and want so badly to share it with others, but the Lord may not want that specific time to be the time of that kind of dealing, or something else.

beware of extremes, i am cautious of those that every time you meet them, all they can speak of is error, and heresy etc. Nothing else... but the other extreme is those who say i never say anything against untruth...

We are now in times where scripture, and Jesus warns us many times, beware.... so let us be on guard, warn others, correct those who are deceived. But my experience so far on my sojourn has been, there is different types of spirit in doing this, one is true and honestly caring, another of fleshly "i am right" attitude, i think we all struggle against such attitudes and spirits, but let us first see to it we are in the place where God wants us before we correct others.

Its always so easy to speak out against others faults, but when mine is pointed out, how it stings....

May Gods grace be upon all to speak the truth in true LOVE.

Re: elanham, on: 2010/4/28 23:51

"Fully man, Fully God. Jesus, Immanuel-God with us, doesnt that place Jesus' Words as THE Standard."

Once one figures out that the words that Moses, Paul, and Isaiah wrote are just as much the words of Christ as words that Matthew, Mark, Luke or John wrote, it clears up a bit.

These are ALL the words of Christ, it just happens that through inspiration, different men wrote them down.

Gen 17:1-2 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

Isa 48:17 Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Rom 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Rev 19:13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

Re: i am grieved beyond words at what we have become. - posted by DesiJr, on: 2010/4/29 1:19

Hi Brother,

Not exactly sure of what your getting at with your post. You sound troubled, grieved as though your tearing your garments and putting ashes on your head. I hope that everything is really ok and we'll be praying for you.

I've been on SI for a while now and yeah there's lot's wrong with it, because there's lots wrong with us. However, for the most part, I have found people to be kind, genuine and honestly seeking to be obedient to the doctrines of the Christian faith and honestly seeking to reform a much troubled self-centered church culture. I thank SI for that and it's many posters. I know I have grown and have been encouraged and most of all I've been taught humility through my participation with these brothers and sisters on SI.

That being said as just an intro...no need really to comment on the above stuff.

I do have just a couple of sample questions for you though: Scripturally, where would you personally guide a fellow brother or sister who has questions like:

- 1.) Is it right to eat food offered to idols? (a young missionary may ask this question)
- 2.) What are the proper ways to select leaders of the Christian Church?
- 3.) How should (does) the Holy Spirit manifest itself biblically in a Christian and how are His gifts to be properly used in corporate meetings?
- 4.) What should we do if we need to correct an elder of the church?
- 5.) Can you describe to me what the Judgment Day is like and how will it unfold, specifically in the heavenlies?
- 6.) What's the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?
- 7.) Are the Jews and the Gentiles the same in God's eyes?
- 8.) How should I behave if I am born again?
- 9.) How should I treat my wife and family?
- 10.) How should we live and congregate together as a local assembly?
- 11.) Is it biblical to pay tithes?
- 12.) What's grace?
- 13.) What's faith?
- 14.) What does it mean that we were foreordained to "good works"?

These are just a few questions that have been asked on SI and Christian churches all over the world for many, many centuries. Where would you take young Christians, and where would you go to seek the answers for these questions? Is one book or verse or chapter "more right" than another?

Here's to hoping you perk-up! The Lord loves a cheerful giver! Ha ha ha.

Here are some words to chew on:

John 16:33 - These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Hebrews 12:12 - Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees,

1 Peter 1:13 - Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Like my dad used to tell me. "If you want I can give you something to really cry about":

- Look at all the unreached people groups of our world.
- Look at the complacency of the "churched" community
- Look at the lack of giving to indigent Christian pastors
- Look at the wickedness of your own heart and the undeserved beauty of grace extended to such a hell-bound sinner

Just because the members of SI enjoy some healthy sparring as they sharpen their faith in hopes that God will use them more for His Glory in reaching lost souls and strengthening found ones is really no reason to be "grieved beyond words".

Think of all the souls found in the description of our past brothers and sisters in Hebrews 11. Men and women are still suffering this type of persecution today. That's some real "grief" for the gospel.

Blessings,
Desi

Re: - posted by RainMan, on: 2010/5/4 6:04

Personally i think the "red letters" are quite powerful i was personally led by the spirit from error into truth by these "red letters".

John 8:31-32

" 31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

it is abundantly clear that Jesus has the words of eternal life. But it is also clear from scripture that the disciples would be limited in their understanding of God's words until receiving the baptisms of the Holy Ghost.

John 16:12-14

12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.

If Paul was led indeed by the Holy Spirit then essentially the words come from Christ himself as the Holy Spirit speaks not of himself. So even though Paul's words are not in red letters if they are inspired of the Holy Spirit they should be viewed as "Red Letters" in our hearts.

The scriptures also refer to the word of God as being "milk" and "strong meat" what we are able to digest is determined by us being yielded to the Spirit of God and growing in spiritual maturity and understanding. If we take out the Holy Spirit from our studying of the scriptures we may be in danger of acquiring vast information and little truth and as a result we may become puffed up.

Remember also

1 Corinthians 4:19-20

19 But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only how these arrogant people are talking, but what power they have. 20 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

Romans 1:16

16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

General Topics :: i am grieved beyond words at what we have become.

May the Holy Spirit teach us all truth