

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: Jesus or Theology****Jesus or Theology, on: 2016/7/11 8:13**

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You may have all of this theology but give me Jesus.  
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From the shadow of His cross.

**Re: Jesus orTheology - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2016/7/11 9:01**

Amen brother Blaine,

There is really a major difference between knowing all the doctrines of God and Jesus Christ and knowing Him and pursuing a personal relationship with Him!

"This IS Eternal Life...that the may know Him the true God and Jesus Christ Whom He has sent"

Thank you for the timely reminder that we need to constantly check whether we are still pursuing our first love!

**Re: Jesus orTheology - posted by docs (), on: 2016/7/11 9:25**

But does having proper and sound theology automatically mean one doesn't have Jesus?

How can pursuing God more closely and running hard after Him be done without a growing and maturing knowledge of how He has revealed Himself in the Word?

Why either/or meaning one must make a choice between Jesus or theology? Why can it be both/and? Can't one have Jesus and both sound theology?

**Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2016/7/11 9:38**

Hi brother David,

Of course both are important, but all I am saying is theology as learning and knowing facts about God are not sufficient. An experiential heart to heart relationship is comparatively more important. Did not Jesus say to the Pharisees(paraphrase) You search Moses diligently but it is Moses who speaks of Me?

You can know all the facts about a chair and even the one who made the chair but until you actually sit on the chair your knowledge means little :)

If we see "theology" as the study of knowing God Himself, it is a wonderful thing, but if it is only to accumulate facts and knowledge maybe not so good.

"Knowledge puffs up but LOVE builds up"

In His Love,

**Re: brother David - posted by JFW (), on: 2016/7/11 9:53**

Yeah was kinda thinkin the same thing but perhaps I wasn't understanding how brother Blaine was using the term theology and my mind just read it as doctrine instead...

Having said this I do know people who (unfortunately) know about Jesus but have never met Him or even seen Him tho they are fluent in christianese...

Ironically these have the strongest opinions of those I know personally and aren't very open to learning save a personal crisis when their idea of Jesus turns out to be a 2 dimensional cardboard cut out with a gentle/gentile Jesus sticker on it, ..then some open their hearts to to receive the truth of His spirit as revealed in scripture. But generally, at least here in the Bible Belt, most people think they already "have it" and it's def hard to minister to someone who is gospel hardened so to speak-

**Re: , on: 2016/7/11 9:53**

Excerpt from a statement of faith:

"We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God. .... We believe that the work of the Holy Spirit glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ, convicts the world of its guilt, regenerates sinners,Â ...

He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service"

**Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2016/7/11 10:20**

Doctrines rooted in man-made terms, ideas and explanations can even lead a believer away from the Lord Himself. Good doctrines are helpful, but growing in discipleship with the Lord Jesus Christ is more important. 632 Though there is Scriptural warrant and benefit to study the character of God and His ways. God does not call us to be theologians merely but disciples who practice what Jesus taught. "Christians now choose churches based upon particular doctrines, and having the right theology has become the most important thing rather than having the right lifestyle, all because a Biblical model has been abandoned."633

from: Principle 26 "Having a Right Doctrine but Wrong Spirit.pdf  
<https://gfel.org/principlesbook-3/>

**Re: brother Greg - posted by JFW (), on: 2016/7/11 10:27**

Amen!!!!

It seems you have touched on the "lost art" of our faith.... Discipleship 101

**Re: Yet again - posted by docs (), on: 2016/7/11 10:28**

The Necessity of Theology

"Therefore, knowing biblical doctrine is required for maturing in the faith " it is necessary for true spiritual adulthood. At the same time, we must always remember that mere knowledge is insufficient for spiritual maturity. Satan, after all, has an intellectual knowledge of God and His Word (Matt. 4:1"11; James 2:19), but he is anything but spiritually mature. More than just a mental grasp of the content of biblical theology is needed, for spiritual maturity only comes as we receive the Word in our hearts and allow it to transform us through the power of the Holy Spirit."

<http://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/why-theology-necessary/>

**Re: Not Theology But Jesus , on: 2016/7/11 10:33**

Brethren it is not relationship to a theology textbook we need. But it is relationship to a Living Savior. Theology will not sustain us in a prison cell or at the guillotine. But it will be the relationship to Jesus in the person of the Holy Spirit.

This is what our brothers and sisters have learned in the persecuted church.

..... Brother Blaine

**Re: - posted by docs (), on: 2016/7/11 10:42**

Is a person's relationship to Jesus in the person of the Holy Spirit separate and distinct from what is written in the Word?

**Re: , on: 2016/7/11 10:43**

Blaine,

I think I understand what you're trying to get across, But it's not an "either/or" thing, but both. The whole of scripture is crystal clear about this. And truly knowing Jesus & walking with Him is foundational, but bad doctrine/theology can leave you hung up or struggling unnecessarily in error for longer than need be. We must never drift from the living Christ, but we need not leave right doctrine/theology behind to do so. The Lord doesn't require or ask that of us. Quite the opposite. Even though there are the churches in Revelation Christ rebukes for leaving their first love, he also commends some for holding sound doctrine & rebukes one for tolerating that wicked woman Jezebel, which solid immovable doctrine would be the start of preventing/stopping (followed by spiritual backbone & obedience in coming against "her").

God Bless,

Jeff

**Re: , on: 2016/7/11 10:48**

A thousand scriptures could be quoted to support what I'm saying: "make sure your doctrine", "Study to show thyself approved, a workman who needeth not be ashamed, but rightly dividing the Word of truth", etc., etc. And even the persecuted church under pressure faces the pressure of false doctrine, false teaching, bad theology, etc. I know this for a fact. So a living relationship with Jesus is first and foremost, but should be followed by a love for truth & a discernment shaped and exercised to discern true from false, good from bad doctrine/theology/etc. The two are not mutually exclusive polarity points, but a concert of two supporting themes in the life of a believer and the ministry of the church. Teachers & shepherds are actually in the 5-fold ministry gifts and callings (offices) God ordained. If we are not to despise prophecies, how much more are we not to despise sound doctrine? I think I know what you're getting at, but your statements are coming across as absolute and need further clarity from the scriptures brother.

God Bless,

Jeff

**Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2016/7/11 11:25**

Quote:

-----I think I understand what you're trying to get across, But it's not an "either/or" thing, but both  
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Jesus Himself is truth and the Holy Spirit leads into all truth. But I think man-made theology and theology terms is what Blaine is maybe suggesting. Such things can become idols in our hearts that we even start to love or seek more after than God Himself and the life of God.

John 14:6 New International Version (NIV)

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 16:13 New International Version (NIV)

13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the 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.

**Re: The charismatic debacle - posted by docs (), on: 2016/7/11 11:25**

In spite of the untold millions of souls saved and many believers being re-energized and renewed through the biblical infilling of the Spirit what started out as a God sent fresh wave and renewal many times this eventually ended up being a embarrassment as believers and churches began to rise up to play and about anything that came down the line in meetings was accepted. No wonder mainline denominations ended up shying away from the "Spirit-filled" emphasis. They should have. The increasingly questionable manifestations in many charismatic settings combined with many questionable teachings that emerged likely can be traced to a experiential emphasis replacing sound doctrine. Both can be had and the better off we are if both are present in the contemporary church. Experiencing Jesus in a personal encounter does not mean doctrine will somehow curtail this. Nor does embracing sound doctrine and pursuing the study of it have to mean we are to become suspect of all personal encounters and experiences one has with Jesus along the way.

**Re: , on: 2016/7/11 11:30**

Good post David. Amen.

**Re: , on: 2016/7/11 11:30**

Theology = study of God from his revealed word about who he is.  
Jesus = word that became flesh  
relationship with Jesus Christ = getting to know him

Therefore:  
theology = relationship with Jesus Christ

Condition: theology has to be done in the light of the Holy Spirit, and with the intention to obey God.

**Re: , on: 2016/7/11 12:05**

... Now as they observe the confidence of Peter and John and understood they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and begin to recognize them as having been with Jesus...Acts 4:13

Brothers and sisters it is those who are in relationship to Jesus who will advance His kingdom purposes. It is those who are in relationship to Jesus who will do the signs and wonders.

The kingdom of Christ will not advance through the hands of the professional theologian. Indeed it is a professional theologians who despises those who walk in the simplicity and purity of devotion to Jesus.

Those who risk their lives to minister in what we call the persecuted church are not the hotshot theologians coming out of seminary environments. But it is the simple saint of God who is crucified with the Lord Jesus Christ and walks in power in the Holy Spirit who is doing the work of Christ.

My prayer would be that we would be uneducated, untrained men and Women of God who are in relationship to Jesus. Fortunately these will be the ones who will advance the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2016/7/11 12:34**

Brothers and sisters,  
From the start let me assure you how much I appreciate all your posts and input on this thread. I agree that sound doctrine is imperative, and let us remember that sound doctrine is that which is centered in our Lord Jesus.

To quote brother Greg: "God does not call us to be theologians merely but disciples who practice what Jesus taught"

Remember that Jesus was manifest in the most "theological" society in the world. They had Moses and the prophets, yet did not recognize Jesus. Instead, they had burdened the people of God with additional laws and regulations.

In the midst appeared Jesus Christ, saying: "Come unto Me, all who are weary and heavy laden (with so called theology?) and I will give you rest!

Hallelujah! Thank You Jesus! You are our burden bearer!

God bless you, my brethren!

**Re: , on: 2016/7/11 12:42**

Greg,

Like I said, I agree also with what I "think" Blaine is trying to express. Dead men from cemeteries, I mean seminaries, with no vibrant life in Jesus are not the answer. However, using that one text of "unlearned men" being called as a broad brushstroke to diminish the entire NT's admonition, warnings & clear instruction concerning study, sound doctrine, etc. is taking an isotext without context for a pretext. It's dangerous, unbiblical, & unbalanced. I say that with no arrogance or harshness either, but a love for the truth & as Jesus said in John, "father, Sanctify them by the truth. Thy Word is truth". I was called as unlearned, foolish, unwise, un noble & simple man too. And I am never to esteem myself more highly than I ought. But this is not an excuse to not study to show myself approved, a workman "WHO NEED NOT BE ASHAMED", but rightly dividing the Word of truth. And the admonition to "correct, rebuke, reprove....etc." and countless other New Testament scriptures to hold fast to Paul's way of life AND HIS DOCTRINE/TEACHING. I think Docs words were wise and rightly placed also. There are two extremes that are ditches are both sides of the highway to holiness. "Reactionary theology" is always problematic & overtime out of balance flips a table over. And I am in contact with underground churches in Iran & elsewhere & false doctrine is an issue at times. biblical Study & right doctrine puts it right side up & keeps the devil out. After all, the enemies greatest attempt to derail God is to question and pervert His Word. Same way since the Garden: "Did God really say?..." SPIRIT AND TRUTH.

**Re: , on: 2016/7/11 12:48**

Yep,

We are called to practice what he taught as disciples & a man in the Body is to be "apt to teach". How can we practice or teach if we don't study or understand, or truly know and rightly divide His Word? Simple answer is we can't. Not to the degree God calls us to. He gave us His Word for good reason. Many of Those underground churches in pressured lands with no Bibles give all they have and cherish a few pages of scripture, knowing its God's Word. Would they then say, "it doesn't matter what it says or means, as long as I walk with Jesus"? Of course not. We have the full Word. Tools. The Holy Spirit. Freedom. Time. To whom much is given, much will be required. Never tell the Body or even imply that Biblical doctrine & theology doesn't matter. That's in direct opposition to the Words of The apostles, The Word of God & Jesus Himself. Need to clarify your statements better or people get the wrong idea (& an unbiblical one).

God Bless,

Jeff

**Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2016/7/11 12:54**

Brother David,

I quote from your post: "No wonder mainline denominations ended up shying away from the "Spirit-filled" emphasis. They should have. "

Although I was born again in and heavily influenced by the Charismatic Movement, the Lord has protected me from the excesses that we sometimes see.

I do not agree with the statement above though.

The Spirit-filled emphasis is not Charismatic but biblical.

Would you rather have a cup overflowing and clean up the excess or one dry as a bone?

I was taught in bible class and "confirmed" in the Methodist church and still had no idea Who the living Jesus was until I was in the midst of a Spirit filled group in the defense force one evening and powerfully converted by the Holy Spirit Himself as brothers prayed for me. Now I know this is not everyone's experience but it is still a pretty serious indictment against churches that focus on "correct" theology but deny the power of the Spirit.

Just something to think about...

In His Love,

**Re: , on: 2016/7/11 13:07**

It depends on which 'spirit' they are filled with. Not the right one going on many observations.

**Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2016/7/11 13:21**

Sister Brenda,

By their fruit they shall be known.

The Spirit which produces Power, Love and Self- Control

...and which confesses and exalts the risen Lord Jesus Christ!

Amen?

**Re: , on: 2016/7/11 13:22**

I am a continuist. I believe in all the gifts. Like really, not just in theory. I believe in and need the ministry of the Holy Spirit. I would rather clean up a little messiness & handle it then outlaw it of course ("do not despise prophecies"). But telling people doctrine/theology don't matter is a whole other issue. It's unbiblical & almost invites error & biblical illiteracy/apathy, & is against NT teaching & is advised (unbalanced regardless of the intent).

**Re: , on: 2016/7/11 13:32**

Brothers and sisters do you think your systematic theologies or your expositional commentaries or your Greek Hebrew leicons are going to conform you to Jesus?

Will your seminary degrees bring you into the throne room. Will Calvin's Institutes or John Owen's works sustain you in the hell that will break out on this country.

The only Person who will sustain you will be Jesus Himself. For He alone is the living Word.

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**Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2016/7/11 13:33**

Agreed brother Jeff,

The church was built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone.

...they continued in the apostles doctrine and in prayer and breaking of bread...

I am pretty sure our brother who started this thread meant dead " theology", not sound doctrine which centers on Jesus Christ, however thanks for reminding us to always have a balanced and healthy approach to the scriptures.

Blessings,

**Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2016/7/11 13:44**

Brother Blaine,

I see your passion and hear your heart.

I know you are not minimizing the written Word of God but simply emphasizing our relationship with the Living Word Himself.

For us who have believed and have received the Spirit of our Risen Lord we feed on Him when we feed on His words and we study to know Him better and live lives pleasing to Him.

Amen?

**Re: , on: 2016/7/11 13:45**

Amen William.

**Re: , on: 2016/7/11 13:59**

Amen, amen. The knowledge of the Son of God is revealed in the Scriptures by the Holy Spirit. Without this knowledge through the revelation and illumination of the Word by the Spirit and practical experience (walked out) we will be tossed to and fro by "every wind of doctrine".

Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Eph 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with EVERY WIND OF DOCTRINE, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

**Re: - posted by JFW (), on: 2016/7/11 14:07**

Amen brother William Amen:)

**Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2016/7/11 15:02**

Love you all, brothers and sisters!

For those on my time line, sleep well. Those to the west, enjoy the rest of your Saturday!

God bless!

**Re: Jeff, on: 2016/7/11 15:03**

Brother wear in the New Testament does it say we are called to study systematic commentaries or Greek Hebrew lexicons. Where in the New Testament does it say that we are called to go to seminary or to Bible School.

We are called into a relationship with the Living Word Himself through His Spirit living on us. That relationship is sustained by prayer and the Word and fellowship with other believers.

In the end it is not theology or doctrine but Jesus.

**Re: , on: 2016/7/11 15:20**

No one said anything (before now) about necessity of commentaries or Seminary. I never said that (nor did you before now). That's why being clear is important. As far as in the NT the importance of Bible Study, Doctrine, Theology, right teaching, etc. it is CHOCK FULL of it. I already loosely quoted a dozen or so in recent posts, but can list MANY MANY more as soon as I have a chance. Probably later this afternoon.

**Re: , on: 2016/7/11 15:22**

And having a working knowledge and/or lexicons of the original language can be helpful because the original audiences knew these languages & words already. We don't. So it can be important. No offense brother, but that seems like common sense? But you seem to be trying so hard to "make a point" that you're "overshooting" it (reactionary theology), honestly.

**Re: , on: 2016/7/11 15:44**

It is only when you have studied another language, that you begin to see the problems there are regarding translation. There are often words in another language that have no equivalent when you attempt to translate. Having lived in a foreign language country in Europe, and having studied four languages to various degrees, I understand this problem and very much appreciate the help that Greek and Hebrew exegetes can give me when I wrestle with scripture.

**Re: , on: 2016/7/11 15:59**

Brothers and sisters I hear from some of your posts that are called to be theologians. Nowhere in the New Testament are we called to be theologians. We are called to be disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are to be his vessels carrying the Risen Christ within our crucified lives. Theology will not accomplish this. But only a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Calvin, Luther, or Owen are not going to sustain you in the trials and tribulations that lie ahead. But only a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ through His Holy Spirit.

**Re: , on: 2016/7/11 16:28**

Not having Lexicons or knowing Greek, did not seem to affect Sadhu Sundar Singh, Prem Pradhan or Corrie Ten Boom in a negative way as far as knowing Christ. I have read all of Richard Wurmbrand's writings and can't remember once where he referred to a lexicon or greek interlinear.

**Re: , on: 2016/7/11 16:29**

It is possible to learn all about the mysteries of the Bible and never be affected by it in one's soul. Great knowledge is not enough.

...John Bunyan...

I thought the quote by John Bunyan would be appropriate to this thread. One can have great theological knowledge. One can have great knowledge about the Bible. But if one's soul is not impacted by what they read or hear about God. All they have is mental knowledge that puffs up the mind. But does not expand the heart to love the Lord Jesus Christ more.

**Re: - posted by docs (), on: 2016/7/11 16:36**

/Calvin, Luther, or Owen are not going to sustain you in the trials and tribulations that lie ahead. But only a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ through His Holy Spirit./

Again, where is it said in Scripture that a relationship with Jesus through His Holy Spirit will be accomplished minus the Word? What is the Holy Spirit going to impart to a believer that is not in the Word?

31 Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you CONTINUE IN MY WORD, then you ARE TRULY DISCIPLES of Mine; 32 and you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. (John 8:31-32)

Continuing and abiding in the word and becoming true disciples go hand in hand according to Jesus.

Have you ever done a word study? I remember doing a word study on the word righteousness. Taking all the listings of the word you look up what it meant in Hebrew or Greek and go through the listings and then categorize them according to what the emphasis is each time the word is used. It was a very useful exercise and in understanding righteousness better I drew closer to God. I've done word studies on the word "guide" and the word "faith" and other words. It's been very beneficial each time and well worth the effort. It takes time and patience and was burdensome to a degree at times but the results can bring one closer to God. I'm not trying to toot my own horn but can recommend this type of exercise to every believer. Being a theologian who are not all hot shots or someone who has moved beyond the basic milk of the word through determined and or systematic study does not nullify one being a disciple of Christ. My gosh!

**Re: - posted by docs (), on: 2016/7/11 16:41**

/It is possible to learn all about the mysteries of the Bible and never be affected by it in one's soul. Great knowledge is not enough.

...John Bunyan...

I thought the quote by John Bunyan would be appropriate to this thread. One can have great theological knowledge. One can have great knowledge about the Bible. But if one's soul is not impacted by what they read or hear about God. All they have is mental knowledge that puffs up the mind. But does not expand the heart to love the Lord Jesus Christ more.

But you seem to almost be saying that's it's counter productive to being a disciple to even try and increase in Bible knowledge. The Bereans searched the Scriptures daily.

**Re: , on: 2016/7/11 16:46**

That's a bit ironic Blaine you would use that one isolated Bunyan quote. It's true that it's "not enough", but it's not exclusive or totally devoid of it either. I have several Bunyan books & have read them. Of Bunyan, Spurgeon said if you cut Bunyan he bleeds Bible! Bunyan was an amazing student of the study of God's Word. One of Bunyan's books Grace Abounding is about his struggles of faith early on & God teaching him through solid theology to demolish strongholds & walk in freedom & victory! Bunyan was a theologian of theologians! Lol. Seriously. But because it's "not enough" (alone) doesn't mean it does not matter at all. That type heavy swing reactionary extremism/absolutism is why right thinking, doctrine, theology & teaching are so needed.

**Re:Jeff, on: 2016/7/11 17:38**

Pray and read, read and pray; for a little from God is better than a great deal from men. — John Bunyan

Brother the above quote by Bunyan reflects my own thinking. But I emphasize again it is a relationship with the living Christ. It is a relationship with the living Christ by his Holy Spirit living in us who writes His Word into our heart.

If we want to truly learn about Jesus. Then we will quietly be in His presence listening to Him. We will be as Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus listening to His Word. He will breathe His Word, His truth into our life. Theology will not do this. But only a living relationship with the Living Word Himself.

You will not get from any commentary or exegetical work or theology that which Jesus himself can breathe into her soul.

As I said opening up this thread,

You can have all of this theology but give me Jesus.  
You can have all of this theology but give me Jesus.  
You can have all of this theology but give me Jesus.

Got a train to catch to Little Rock bro. Must stand down.

Re: , on: 2016/7/11 19:28

"If we want to truly learn about Jesus. Then we will quietly be in His presence listening to Him. We will be as Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus listening to His Word."

We can not be like Mary or Peter. They saw Jesus Christ physically in the flesh. When they listened to him there was no doubt that it was Jesus who was speaking. Many other eye witnesses testified also that it was him, and they saw his prophecies fulfilled etc.

When we sit down and listen to a spirit talking to us we do not know who it is. But luckily we have a bible to compare it to that describes who Jesus is. The bible says that we should not believe every spirit, but test the spirits. God the Holy Spirit doesn't mind at all if he is tested by his own words, he will always pass.

In a certain dark hour when we are heavily tempted we can not easily just sit at Jesus Christ's feet (if we could there would be no such thing as temptation), but we can always cry out: "It is written..." we can always use the sword of the Spirit when Satan attacks us, which is not the smiling Jesus who gives us a hug but the written word of God.

When we testify of Jesus to someone we can not talk about our personal experience with him only, but we should tell the person how He walked on the earth and was the fulfillment of all the prophecies. (All of these are objectively recorded) There are 4 combinations we can choose from in terms of what to believe:

1. No scripture no Holy Spirit
2. Holy Spirit but no scripture
3. Scripture but no Holy Spirit
4. Scripture AND Holy Spirit

OP gives us a false impression that we have only 2 choices either 2 or 3.

OP initially states that he believes in 2, later acknowledges 4 but essentially stands beside 2.

OP brands everyone that believes in 4 as if they would believe 3.

OP creates a false debate between the so called believers of 3 and himself who believes 2. The debate is false of course because no one believes in 3.

The purpose is to advertise 2, which is his belief and make it look more acceptable.

I think this tactic is deceptive and manipulative, not matching Christian behavior.

Re: Tozsu, on: 2016/7/11 21:37

Ephesians 4:29-30 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification **according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.** 30 **Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.**

Dear sister respectfully your post toward me did not reflect the above verses.

Respectfully submitted.

**Re: , on: 2016/7/11 22:18**

Very good opening post and comments Blaine This nasty opposition to the truths you expressed are not valid whatsoever. (and should be expected) Much religion without Jesus is a dangerous and nasty business as attested to this ridiculous and baseless reply you received

**Re: , on: 2016/7/12 0:28**

Blaine,

Please know I don't agree with the tone & comments that could be taken as slander or accusatory. I don't disagree with what I think are your motives bro. I don't. I get what I think you're trying to say. I am just lovingly saying it needs to be better explained and counter balanced otherwise people get the wrong idea. Doctrine does matter. Theology does matter. Studying to show yourself approved does matter. Rightly dividing The Word of God & teaching it properly does matter (why "not many should presume to be teachers knowing stricter judgement awaits those who teach"), etc. But I am in no way attempting to slander you or accuse your motives bro. Please do not doubt that for a minute. I love your passion for the persecuted church (& share that burden as you are well aware - it is the Lord's burden and call as outlined in scriptures like Hebrews 13:3 & countless others directly and in principle). I just felt led to caution against the blanket statements & absolutism against right teaching, sound doctrine, & the Word. That's all. I will post those verses later. I had a long and really trying day on little sleep today, but I will get to it.

God Bless,  
Jeff

**Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2016/7/12 7:09**

I think this discussion would be better suited in an actual situation, rather than strictly theoretical. All we are doing is arguing about words that are already clearly defined in scripture.

There are Churches/Families/Individuals who are entirely legalistic--everything is about works and wages and they know nothing of Jesus Christ.

On the polar opposite end of the spectrum, you have Churches/Families/Individuals that completely neglect doctrine and say it is about a "Relationship with Jesus" but when you try to nail down what exactly that means, they hardly could tell you.

True believers exist somewhere between, on the narrow road. The goal according to Ephesians 4:11-16 is as follows:

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

There must be good doctrine. It is an absolute must. There must also be a working relationship with Jesus Christ. It must be so. One without the other is equal to having neither. Look at the purpose of each member of the body of Christ! Are we not each designed individually to spur one another on toward godliness??? Do we not each bring something to the table, spiritually, that others may not have; and do we not receive from other brothers and sisters those things which we lack? That's how the church is supposed to work.

It frustrates me to see that we pit these things against one another when they are supposed to work together. Man made doctrines are not equivalent in any form to theology. Not at all. So when we say "theology" or "doctrine" we should strictly be talking about what is good and true and not the falsehoods that try to creep in under those words.

Also, I know many men who have come from Seminary more learned and still lovers of Jesus. Why on earth are we bashing other believers who may have been instructed and led by the Spirit to go to those places!? Who are you to judge another's servant? Were you not dead in your own trespasses and sins and then brought under the covenant, not by your own strength of will, but by the awesome grace of Jesus Christ? Who are you to say that someone who was treated equally with grace is ruining their lives by attending a place where they can learn about Jesus? You don't know what is being taught to them. Maybe they are being instructed well, but your assumption is that they are nothing more than corpse.

I get it. Not everyone is really a Christian who says they are. But we have got to stop bashing the entire Church and everyone in it because of them.

**Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2016/7/12 8:15**

You make some good points Nathaniel,

I think brother Blaine was making a statement regarding "dead" theology (if there is really such a thing:) ) in opposition to a living relationship with Jesus Christ.

Right and good and sound doctrine revolves around Jesus Christ, Who He is and what He accomplished in God's plan of redemption, as revealed to His apostles and carried over to us, the church.

**Re: - posted by docs (), on: 2016/7/12 8:48**

/Also, I know many men who have come from Seminary more learned and still lovers of Jesus. Why on earth are we bashing other believers who may have been instructed and led by the Spirit to go to those places!?! Who are you to judge another's servant? Were you not dead in your own trespasses and sins and then brought under the covenant, not by your own strength of will, but by the awesome grace of Jesus Christ? Who are you to say that someone who was treated equally with grace is ruining their lives by attending a place where they can learn about Jesus? You don't know what is being taught to them. Maybe they are being instructed well, but your assumption is that they are nothing more than corpse./

I can agree with that.

14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them;

15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching (doctrine), for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (II Timothy 3:14-17)

If a person has been taught, reprovved, corrected and trained in righteousness by the Word so as to become a man or woman of God who is adequately prepared for every good work that then is the definition of a true disciple. If you continue and abide in My Word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.

Meanwhile, are pastors and teachers to never study any type of theology at all?

**Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2016/7/12 9:17**

Hi brother David,

I think we all have to agree with the importance of scripture and the revelation of God and of Jesus Christ found in scripture, when the Holy Spirit opens it up to us.

From your post:"Meanwhile, are pastors and teachers to never study any type of theology at all?"

This could start a whole new conversation :)

The church is a spiritual body, first of all, members of the spiritual body of Christ. The head, Jesus Christ, gives gifts to men, gifts to pastor, gifts to teach, etc etc

So important that we first recognize and discern the gift and then hone and polish that gift in the power of the Holy Spirit and with wise use of the Word of God.

If one sees what the fruit is of so many "theological" colleges, it is quite scary.

Probably the best such training should take place within body context where the training is not theoretical but intensely practical and where the mature in Christ disciple the young ones as they live in relationship with one another?

**Re: - posted by JFW (), on: 2016/7/12 9:35**

Brother William,

That is very close to my understanding of what the scriptures prescribe...

The purpose of the ministry is to equip to go into the world and share the good news,... The purpose of most seminaries is to go into the church and teach doctrine...

It's no wonder how each month we read of another denominations capitulation to the world when they're spending millions not to convert, but to be like the world...

**Re: , on: 2016/7/12 9:37**

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing:

THE WORDS THAT I SPEAK UNTO YOU, THEY ARE SPIRIT, AND THEY ARE LIFE." (John 6:63)

Selah!!

That's good enough for me.

**Re: - posted by docs (), on: 2016/7/12 9:59**

/Probably the best such training should take place within body context where the training is not theoretical but intensely practical and where the mature in Christ disciple the young ones as they live in relationship with one another?/

I can certainly agree with that and wish it were so.

From my experience, not all formal training in the scriptures is entirely theoretical. Really, many Bible college and seminaries require students to get involved somewhere in the local area preferably in whatever field or ministry they may feel called to. Music ministers are given a chance to be involved. Teachers in training are given opportunities to teach. Children's ministers are asked to work with children. Etc. etc. Real life involvement that matures and gives one experience beyond the theoretical. Future pastors are watched for character qualifications to go along with their formal training in the scriptures. Evangelists are recognized and encouraged. Many seminaries and colleges have outreaches in their own city and have sent missionaries to foreign lands. I know several people who graduated from seminary and became missionaries in foreign lands. Wise seminary training seeks to round out its students by practical training in the scriptures combined with real life involvement and contact that goes beyond the theoretical. Having said that, I have no sympathy or prayers for the false seminaries that are teaching outside Bible perimeters and embracing sin. But there are solid orthodox seminaries across the world that are not doing such a bad job. They usually send their students into local church settings for the purpose of teaching or pastoring and instruction and edifying of the body of Christ. Many arrive still needing to grow but how else can one develop spiritual gifts but to get involved? I would to the good Lord though that complete training in the scriptures for all believers could take place within a local church but the ideal is not the reality now. Yet most orthodox local churches are trying pretty hard and amen to that.

Blessings.

**Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2016/7/12 10:02**

Agreed David.

Probably a lot of our problems go back to the organisational structures of our churches and its government?

**Re: - posted by docs (), on: 2016/7/12 10:05**

/Agreed David.

Probably a lot of our problems go back to the organisational structures of our churches and its government?/

Yep, I was sitting here thinking of wineskins most local churches find themselves in and perhaps there needs to come a change in organizational wineskins. Meaning church organization and government may need to be tweaked a bit. I agree good bro.

**Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2016/7/12 10:08**

Thanks for the posts so far brothers.

On my way home from work now...will pop in later again, God willing :)

**Re: - posted by docs (), on: 2016/7/12 10:08**

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing:

THE WORDS THAT I SPEAK UNTO YOU, THEY ARE SPIRIT, AND THEY ARE LIFE." (John 6:63)

Selah!!

That's good enough for me./

If that means no study is really necessary or useful just give me the Spirit then I see it as an unbalanced statement.

**Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2016/7/12 13:07**

Just some good verses that give a proper perspective on things. No commentary really needed on my part as they are self explanatory:

1 Timothy 4:12-16:

"Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you."

Titus 2:1-15:

"But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you. Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things. For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you."

Re: , on: 2016/7/12 13:44

Quote:

-----by docs on 2016/7/12 10:08:52

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing:

THE WORDS THAT I SPEAK UNTO YOU, THEY ARE SPIRIT, AND THEY ARE LIFE." (John 6:63)

Selah!!

That's good enough for me./

If that means no study is really necessary or useful just give me the Spirit then I see it as a unbalanced statement.

Ahhh, but you know I study.

Let me balance that statement which just proves we cannot isolate single scriptures to build our theologies, which many do, all the time.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."  
" (2 Tim 2:15)

Re: To Be Clear , on: 2016/7/12 14:02

Brethren I want to be clear on one thing. I do not despise the scriptures as I recognize that they are needed to maintain a living and vital relationship to Jesus Christ. Despite the thinking of some in this forum the scriptures are an important part of my life along with prayer. I believe my posts in both my devotional thread on the persecuted church as well as other threads I have opened up should demonstrate this.

During the early days of the Jesus movement that I was part of I was trained by both campus Crusade and The Navigators to have a love for scriptures and the power that they bring to the Holy Spirit to change one's life.

So please let me be specific I do not despise the scriptures. Let me say again I do not despise the scriptures. Again let me say I do not despise the scriptures.

For those who think otherwise and this for him I cannot be any clearer above than what I have been saying dot..... I do not despise the scriptures.

I have read through the New Testament hundreds of times being legally blind I spend several hundred hours listening to the audio Bible even in my sleep. So again. Please let me be specific. I do not despise the scriptures.

Where I am at odds with many in this forum is that I believe that the Holy Spirit can speak audibly His Word into our heart and mind. I believe the Holy Spirit can breathe his word into our soul. I believe the scriptures are living as Jesus said that His Words are Spirit and truth.

I used to be in a movement known as Calvinism. I was probably more Calvinistic than many in this forum. I was taught to defend TULIP with my dying breath. I was taught that it was more important to have a right theological Library than to have the fruit of the Spirit.

The funny thing about Calvinists that they claim to be word centered. They claim to be about the scriptures. Yet in my experience with Calvin is the scriptures were secondary to theology. Far better to read John Owen or Calvin than to read the New Testament. In my experience is with Calvinism I never read once through the New Testament.

It was only after leaving Calvinism. And it was only after I was baptized in the Holy Spirit that I've developed a love for the Word of God.

The Calvinists accuse us of being weak in the scripture. There are those in the Forum, perhaps of Calvinist suasion, who accused us of emphasizing Spirit experiences and not the Word. Yet I know many tongue-talking baptized in the Holy Spirit Pentecostal believers who are very strong in the word. And I dare say it read it more than my Calvinistic brethren.

This post is getting rather lengthy so I will start another post to flesh out my thoughts here.

**Re: - posted by docs (), on: 2016/7/12 14:24**

You study you say. Well ha, I thought you were a heretic two times over! My mistake, I must have been hearing rumors.

**Re: , on: 2016/7/12 14:34**

... Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth...2 Timothy 2:15

I think the New American Standard gives a more accurate thought in the above verse. I do not think 2nd Timothy 2:15 is saying we need to get our Bibles and critical commentaries out to extrapolate theological doctrine.

I believe the emphasis is more on having our New Testaments or Bibles out, being before the Holy Spirit asking how He would reveal Jesus Christ to us. And then how we would follow Him.

Consider 2 Timothy 3:14-17,

... You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Jesus Christ. All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reprove, for correction, or training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

In the above verses Paul is telling Timothy that the word of God is sufficient to instruct Him in faith in Jesus Christ and living out that faith. He is also telling him that the scriptures are sufficient for every good work in Christ. That would be ministry.

Noticed Paul is not telling Timothy to get critical commentary for exegetical work to understand the word of God. But simply to let the word of God speak into His heart and mind. How to do this through the power of the Holy Spirit instructing him and teaching him.

Brothers and sisters if we believe Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Then the same Jesus that spoken to the heart and mind of Timothy through the scriptures can speak into our heart and mind through the scriptures. We do not need commentaries or exegetical works to open up the word of God. All we need is the Spirit of God himself since He is the author of scripture.

I close with this quotation by John Bunyan. Some have said he was a theologian. Alright I will not debate that. But it was set up Bunyan that the only library he ever had was his Bible.

... Read and read again, and do not despair of help to understand the will and mind of God though you think they are locked up from you. Neither trouble your heads you have not commentaries are expositions. Pray and read and read and pray for a little from God is better than a whole lot from men...

Spurgeon supposedly said that if you cut Bunyan he would not believe blood but bleed scripture. I believe the quote acc

urateky articulates Bunyon's experience with the Word of God. Notice he would not bleed blood. And he certainly would not bleed theology. But he would bleed the Living Word of God himself.

Indeed a little from God is better than a whole lot from them. Or I would say a little from God is better than a whole lot from theologians.

Simply my thoughts.

**Re: , on: 2016/7/12 16:10**

Ephesians 4:11-16 King James Version (KJV)

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

**Re: , on: 2016/7/12 16:32**

Quote:

----- docs on 2016/7/12 14:24:05

You study you say. Well ha, I thought you were a heretic two times over! My mistake, I must have been hearing rumors.

I enjoy the wonderful company of Jesus, who was also accused of being a heretic.

**Re: , on: 2016/7/12 17:17**

Blain, what is your definition of theology?

**Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2016/7/13 1:03**

Quote:

-----The Calvinists accuse us of being weak in the scripture. There are those in the Forum, perhaps of Calvinist suasion, who accused us of emphasizing Spirit experiences and not the Word. Yet I know many tongue-talking baptized in the Holy Spirit Pentecostal believers who are very strong in the word. And I dare say it read it more than my Calvinistic brethren.

To make it clear SermonIndex does not make this distinction, we are glad to call brothers those would call themselves Calvinists or pentecostals. It is not even what theology we have but are we in right relation to the Saviour? Does He know us and is His spirit in us?

2 Corinthians 13:5 New International Version (NIV)

5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you unless, of course, you fail the test?

**Re: Pertinent quote from Richard Wurmbrand, on: 2016/7/16 19:28**

The Bible is a wonderful book. It is the truth about the Truth. It is not the Truth. A sermon taken from the Bible can be a wonderful thing to hear. It is the truth about the truth about the truth. But it is not the truth. There have been many books written about the things contained in the Bible. I have written some myself. They can be quite wonderful to read. They are the truth about the truth about truth about the Truth. But they are NOT the Truth. Only Jesus Christ is the Truth. Sometimes the Truth can be drowned in a multitude of words.

**Definition of Theology, on: 2016/7/16 21:30**

Everyone engages in theology. Everyone has a theology. The word "theology" is derived from two Greek words, theos meaning "God," and logos meaning "word" with extended meanings of "reasoning" or "logic." Theology refers to "reasoning about God." Everyone has some "reasoning about God," including the atheist who rejects the "god" he has reasoned about.

Christians should not be afraid of theology or have an aversion towards theology. Theology is not necessarily overly intellectual or "unspiritual." Granted, there has been much theology that has been nothing more than academic exercises in "God-talk," but this does not negate the legitimacy of genuine theological consideration which seeks Biblical documentation and spiritual understanding.

In analyzing the theological systems that predominate today, it is important that we remain as objective as possible. We do not want to misrepresent what others believe. We do not want to set up "straw men," which any wind-bag could blow down. We do not want to engage in ballistic brick-throwing and unloving polemics against Christian peoples who hold differing theological opinions.

Genuine and sincere Bible-believing Christians subscribe to varying theological systems. Never do we want to "write someone off" and deny that they are our Christian brother or sister because they organize their "belief-system" differently than we do, provided they profess that Jesus is the Christ and have received Him by faith. Christian unity is not uniformity of thought or ideology. We seek a unity of love despite diversity of opinion, understanding, interpretation or theological explanation. Our unity is in Christ, not in theological constructions.

In this study we will be considering the two predominant theological systems in conservative Christian theology today (Covenant theology and Dispensational theology), and then proposing another theological interpretation (Christocentric theology), that avoids some of the problems presented by the other two. This will necessarily involve some critique of the predominant theological systems and their presuppositions. Questions will be asked about their premises, some of which beg for an answer. We seek not to destroy these theological systems, but to honestly inquire, question and confront. In that these theological systems have innumerable variations among their proponents with subtle nuances of differing interpretation, we must attempt to analyze the over-all system and simplify the issues involved without being so simplistic as to misrepresent. Not an easy task!

This is one of those really good papers about Christocentric theology that you want to file somewhere, handy.  
<http://www.christinyou.net/pages/dthctchth.html>

**Re: Definition of Theology - posted by brothagary, on: 2016/7/16 23:18**

Christology (from Greek  $\text{Χριστολογία}$ ,  $\text{Christos}$  and  $\text{-λογία}$ ,  $\text{-logia}$ ) is the field of study within Christian theology which is primarily concerned with the nature and person of Jesus as recorded in the canonical Gospels and the epistles of the New Testament. Primary considerations include the relationship of Jesus' nature and person with the nature and person of God the Father. As such, Christology is concerned with the details of Jesus' ministry, his acts and teachings, to arrive at a clearer understanding of who he is in his person, and his role in salvation. The views of Paul the Apostle provided a major component of the Christology of the Apostolic Age. Paul's central themes included the notion of the pre-existence of Christ and the worship of Christ as Kyrios (Greek: Lord).