

Yesterday the topic at CLF was “The Unique Christian Experience”. The study notes were 87% Scripture quoted verbatim. The remaining 13% included topical headings, comments, and prayers. This suggests that we are quite dependent upon Scripture, and we are. It supplies the foundation from which we reach into the heavenlies to hear the voice of God and come to know God Himself.

When Jesus walked the earth, He knew and quoted the Scriptures, but He was primarily dependant upon His relationship with the Father for instruction concerning what to say and what to do. He was the One who pointed out the foolishness of the religious leaders of His day when he said, ***“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.”*** [John 5:39-40] These early Jewish scholars often could not agree on what the Scriptures taught and when their Messiah came and stood in the flesh right in front of them, most of them rejected both Him and the Spirit Who bore Him witness. They were stubbornly embracing their Holy Scriptures while they agreed together to deceitfully and maliciously accuse and murder Him, the very One for whom they were looking.

The problem was NOT their Scriptures, and any problem we have today is NOT our Scriptures. While it is good to study the Scriptures, the Scriptures themselves declare that we must ***“...know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,***” [2 Peter 1:20] The Scriptures are not designed for the unaided human mind to interpret. It is the pride of man that decides his very incredible mind can understand God and decipher what He is saying without any additional outside help. That was the error of the religious leaders of Jesus' day and it remains a tragic reality in religious Christianity of our day. Both then and now, man's pride responding to his deceiver, persuades them and us that the study of Scripture, religious books, and creeds is all that is needed to know God.

The Spirit Who initially inspired the Scriptures was necessary at the moment of their original revelation. Holy Spirit instruction always was and is still today as an absolute necessity even to begin to understand, embrace, and apply His written word, and, even more so, to know God Himself! Little has changed in the last two thousand years because men still ***search the Scriptures because [they] think that in them [they] have eternal life; it is these that testify about [HIM]; and [they] are unwilling to come to [HIM] so that [they] may have life.”*** This is not only true of religious leaders and teachers but far too often it is true of us as well!

Although this truth has been taught repeatedly, if you are **even a little honest with yourself**, you will be acknowledged that you are far more apt to think about things and work out your own solutions rather than to humble yourself and seek the LORD and His specific personal directions for the issues of life. Because of this God continually reminds us to take the time to humbly seek His face and hear His voice. In humility we, again today, acknowledge our need, humble ourselves in repentance, and seek Him.

Seeking Him is hard work because it requires faith to seek and hear and agree with an invisible and seemingly distant God. The whole world drives us to the answers that appeal to the natural mind. Even the testimonies of saints both ancient and recent, tend to call us to do what they did, rather than seek God for His NOW REVELATION. The writings of the church fathers and the creeds of the church tempt us to dispense with God and our relationship with Him in favor of embracing the 'tried and true formulas' of the past. A more contemporary approach is to add up the 'pros' and 'cons' and decide accordingly. These 'natural man' responses seem to be easier and less risky than seeking God for His word and His singular purpose for our lives. After all - God DID give us very good brains, so why not use them?!!! Thus both the ancient fathers and the more recent modern sons live in deception and darkness rather than in the light of His presence and current revelation.

So, we go to the Scriptures and then to the ONE to Whom they point. We will not crucify Him anew; instead we will embrace Him, love Him, heed His counsel, and walk with Him. He died to make us one with Him; we embrace that oneness! Thankfully, throughout the years, there have always been a few who have stepped out of dead religion and into that living relationship. It may have been costly, but WHAT A FABULOUS, GLORIOUS PROVISION for them and now for us! Let us not grow weary in pursuing the Lord, for it is those who seek Him who FIND HIM!

Knowing the Lord is the essential purpose of the New Covenant; it is life – eternal life!! Jesus said, ***"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."*** [Joh 17:3] It is certainly possible to know more ABOUT Him through the study of Scripture, church creeds, and the testimonies of the saints, but the sum of all that knowledge never was and never will be eternal life. According to Scripture eternal life is a personal relationship with the living God through Jesus Christ, and it is that to which He continually calls us.

Let us continually be heeding His call. [Heb 8:8-13; 3:7-15]

George

Now lets look back about 360 years to Blaise Pascal

Pascal's Wager:

“God is, or He is not.” But to which side shall we incline? Reason can decide nothing here. There is an infinite chaos which separated us. A game is being played at the extremity of this infinite distance where heads or tails will turn up. What will you wager? According to reason, you can do neither the one thing nor the other; according to reason, you can defend neither of the propositions.

Do not, then, reprove for error those who have made a choice; for you know nothing about it. “No, but I blame them for having made, not this choice, but a choice; for again both he who chooses heads and he who chooses tails are equally at fault, they are both in the wrong. The true course is not to wager at all.”

Yes; but you must wager. It is not optional. You are embarked. Which will you choose then? Let us see. Since you must choose, let us see which interests you least. You have two things to lose, the true and the good; and two things to stake, your reason and your will, your knowledge and your happiness; and your nature has two things to shun, error and misery. Your reason is no more shocked in choosing one rather than the other, since you must of necessity choose. This is one point settled. But your happiness? Let us weigh the gain and the loss in wagering that God is. Let us estimate these two chances. If you gain, you gain all; if you lose, you lose nothing. Wager, then, without hesitation that He is. 😊

“....and that He is the rewarder of them that diligently seek HIM.” [Heb.11:6]