

Watershed of the Evangelical World

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I. Reasons for holding a strong uncompromising view of Scripture.

- A. The only way to be faithful to what the Bible says about itself and what Christ says about it.
- B. Without a strong view of Scripture we will not be prepared for the hard days ahead of us.

II. Changing times.

- A. Humanism is coming to its natural conclusion.
- B. Our society only has relative values based upon statistical averages.
- C. There were freedoms in the Reformation countries as had never been known before, yet there was order because values rested on what the Bible taught.
- D. Ever since the 1930s the Christian consensus has become a minority view; Bible believing Christians no longer represent the status quo.

III. The issue: blessings secondary to the relationship shared with Jesus Christ have been taken out of context.

A. Titanic Freedoms.

- 1. The very freedoms of the secondary blessings removed from the Christian basis became destructive in the 1960s.
- 2. Our society came to the natural conclusion of giving up the Reformation consensus.

B. Personal peace and affluences became the chief values of the 1970s.

- 1. People wanted to live undisturbed by the troubles of the world and other people regardless of the cost to others.
- 2. Affluence is enveloped by the want of more things

IV. If evangelicals are to be evangelicals we must not become soft on Scriptures in these days.

A. Only a strong view of Scripture will stand in a relativistic culture, just as in the early church.

B. Although evangelicalism is growing in number, it is not united on a clear view of Scriptures.

- 1. Many in seminaries no longer hold to a high view of Scriptures.
- 2. The issue is whether the Bible is true truth, not merely a quarry for religious experience.

- a. The Bible is propositional truth regarding all things.
- b. The Bible is more than meaningful for things beyond what is merely religious.

3. T. H. Huxley wrote that he visualized the day that faith would be separated from fact and that faith would go on to triumph forever.

- a. He foresaw that if faith was separated from fact that it was only another form of a 'trip.'
- b. Some who call themselves as evangelicals (not merely neo-orthodox people) embrace this.

C. Holding to a high view of Scripture is the watershed of the evangelical world.

1. There must be a line drawn between those who have a high view of Scripture and those who do not.

2. The existential methodology has infiltrated evangelicalism and it dominates philosophy, art, music, poetry, and is now the current form of liberal theology.

a. The existential methodology: the Bible has many areas with errors considering science and history, but one can still gain some truth from it concerning values.

b. The Bible has been divided into two halves.

1) There are mistakes in the Bible in certain areas.

2) There are no mistakes in the Bible concerning others.

c. The existential methodology has led to the end of logic and despair.

3. The Lausanne covenant: the Scripture is without error in all that it confirms.

a. A perfectly good statement that has been abused.

b. "in all that it affirms" has been made a loophole by many to follow the existential methodology—existentialists continue to claim that the Bible does not affirm anything without error concerning history and the cosmos.

c. Because of the wide acceptance of existentialism in evangelicalism, the old meanings of inerrancy and infallibility have taken a turn for the worse; to inerrancy must be added: in history and all things concerning the cosmos.

4. Where the Bible touches history and the cosmos existentialists claim that it is only culturally related.

a. When Genesis and Paul affirmed that Eve came from Adam, it is only seen as a cultural expression instead of a propositional truth.

b. The New Testament is only taken relatively.

5. Now, as a result of the relativistic view of teachings toward the cosmos and history, values are treated as relative.

a. Teachings on divorce.

b. Teachings on the order of the home and order of the church.

D. Because of modern times, the Bible has become devaluated.

1. Resulted in the formation of National Association of Evangelicals, which regarded the truth of the Bible as being propositional.

2. We face a problem if evangelicalism is losing this identity.

a. If we accept this position our children will not be prepared.

b. If we accept this than we will no longer be redeeming salt to the broken generation in which we live.

E. A line must be drawn; we are responsible for the next generation.

1. Love must reign in this response.

2. Courage must reign in this response with tears.

3. The hymn of William Calper: “a glory guilds the sacred page....”