

# LWMSTL

## Living Waters Ministries

From Brother... Rod Lambur

Foundation Scripture Jer.2:13

### “IS CHRIST AT THE CENTER OF OUR THEOLOGY?”

#### I Theological Baloney Detector \*

1. Lack of Scriptural Testability
2. Selective Use Of Scripture Out Of Context
3. Appeals To Authority
4. Argumentum Ad Hominem (The Argument Against The Man)
5. Straw Man Arguments
6. Begging The Question (We Don't Prove Scripture By Negatives)
7. Vague Terms And Shifting Definitions
8. Belief In Belief (Attempting To Prove What We Believe Rather Than Believing What We Prove)
9. Kainaknosis syndrome (New Knowledge)
10. Black Box Texts (Labeling Text Which Will Not Fit A Theological System As Being “Not Understandable,” Or “A Mystery” Or “Unknowable” Until We Get To Heaven)
11. Holding Experiential Over The Written Scripture And Biblical Doctrines

Truth is always subjective truth when measured outside of oneself. Experiential truth only correct when it has a subjective basis which is the written word of God.

#### II Christ At The Center Of Our Theology And Doctrine (look up foundation scripture Jer.2:13)

The heart of man can misinterpretate scripture when it is not right with God ( Jer.17:9; Rom.1:21; Eph. 4:18; Tit.1:15). *Fallen man has had his intellect corrupted by sin* and therefore he often is distorted in his views of God and the scripture. Even theology and doctrines can be corrupt through the distortion that comes through sin in the heart of man after he has come to Christ. (there are two different origins of wisdom Jas.3:15-17) (the promotion, controversy, and meaningless talk detours from the establishment of a sure foundation which is the work intended of God I Tim.1:4b,6; 3:16)(renewal of the mind is required to understand - receiving the mind of Christ Rom.12:2; I Cor.2:16) Coming into center means Christ is that center and *therefore all scripture must be read and understood by the Holy Spirit*. How can one say that he is coming up with the right interpretation of the scriptures if his heart is not right with God, nor has been in intimate fellowship with the Almighty? They can't and they don't. Some of the most gifted, seemingly greatest known minds, speculate on the scriptures with the arts of interpretation and conclude something *outrageously off* because they have *forsaken* the intimate fellowship of God which brings clear interpretations and understanding. There are those who can read Greek and misinterpretate it because they read it not by the Spirit of God who wrote the original scripture itself. There are those who read commentaries and books picking up every conceivable thought and idea. Yet, because they sought not God, their words are but chaff in the wind. Then there are those who wait on God hour after hour to quiet the soul and tune into what the Spirit is saying to the church (Rev.2:7,17,29;3:6,13,22). This revelation knowledge given of God's Spirit can only begin to be understood by a heart that has been cleansed and made pure. Exegesis (to extract from God's Word) from Bible texts and arrive at the right exposition (what caused this passage to be written 'intent') is centered upon what God's Spirit is trying to convey (warnings, exhortations, etc.) to the Christian. There is a difference when your theology is Christ centered. Christ centered theology and doctrine is understood inside the perimeters of the (union) relationship, not religion. *Faith becomes relational not formula*. Theology and doctrine becomes *the very person of God* not man centered speculation. The Word becomes God (Jn.1:1; I Jn. 1:1). The Word and the Spirit take on a new dimension – one of relationship, not man centered form or formula. The operations of God's Spirit in a Christian become the incarnate working of Christ in us (His Word in Us, His Grace in operation); all the dynamics of the Christian life and success of the church, and the right interpretation of the scriptures is *by this one solitary stream of intimacy - fellowship receiving from the Holy Spirit as the illuminating teacher of the scriptures*.

#### III Thirsting For The Living Waters (Thirst To Intimately Know The Christ)

*The Word of God* – The Written Holy Bible is what *connects all of us* to The Christ, it is the very “Means of Grace” *that Christ ordained to connect us with the Godhead* – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Christ calls men back to the living waters, the intimate fellowship of His person. We see in Jeremiah 2:13

that man-made man-centered religion *fleeting* because it has no way of containing the presence of God's Spirit. There is only one source that satisfies and that is the person and presence of God that is given to us (known) by or through God's Word and Spirit. Quoting Jesus' own words, "This is Eternal Life...that they might *know you* (have intimate fellowship and union with you ...Father)." Jesus never advocated a religion, but a relationship with the living God. Without this connection to Jesus, and relationship - connection, the center becomes man-centered (man-made [humanistic originate] religion)...which leads to nothing more than a dead religious form. What makes all the difference in our lives is the fellowship and communion we receive, the very life of God, His presence and person found in fellowship and waiting upon the Lord. This is a vast difference from "the life of God" and "dead religion."

II Tim 3:5 Having a "form of godliness", but denying the power (which comes from a connection) thereof: from such (men) turn away.

Jesus described dead religion in Matthew 23:27 as...."whited sepulchres, which indeed *appear beautiful outward*, but are *within full of dead men's bones*, and of all uncleanness (full of death)."

Religion is a dead horse that cannot be ridden anywhere. Religion has never helped one person.... gave one adequate answer to solve anyone's problem. Religion is bankrupted because man is bankrupted in his ability to deliver or help himself.

Dead religion is nothing more than *a form or shell*. Luther said upon the eve of all saint day when people came to gawk at all the religious exhibits, "Shells for shells...*empty things for empty men*." Here Luther was making comment upon those religious masses who were content to continue in man-centered religion without knowing Jesus Christ Himself and having Him as the center. Religion is nothing but emptiness. He points out the relationship was with religious things and works, not on Jesus Christ at the center and hungering to intimately know God from the heart. His superior asked Luther if he intended to sweep away all relics by his preaching? Luther answered, "One only needs Jesus Christ." I will point out that Luther's religious life as a monk failed to connect him to Christ, and the religious works which he did and practiced in his attempted to find God did not bring him into the vital connection - relationship which he longed for with the living God. Luther said, "*If any man could have found God through monkery, it would have been I*." Roman-Catholic Religion is defined in history as *adding Roman Traditions and beliefs into the Christianity* of third century. Religious trappings always cause people to seek to fill themselves with something other than Jesus Christ. Religious trappings are *a detour* from discovering the "Bible Christianity and The Bible Christ."

Jesus continued to proclaim to the masses, "If any man thirst let him come unto me, and I will give him living waters."

There is only one true source:

Ps 123:2 Behold, as the eyes of servants *look unto* the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden *unto* the hand of her mistress; *so our eyes wait upon the LORD our God*.....

The Psalmist cries out from a thirsty heart:

Ps. 42:1 As the hart panteth *after* the water brooks, so panteth my soul *after thee*, O God.

What motivation have those who are hungering and thirsting for the living God?

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## **V Finding The "Bible Christ" through God's Word (God's Self-Disclosure to us)**

What Jesus Christ Said and Did Became The Embodiment Of The Christian Doctrine

All people who are professing to be Christians are called to believe and act upon *The (Universal) Christian Doctrines of The Faith* which have their origin in what the Christ said and did.... These *sayings* translate into *beliefs* as well as *examples* Christ demonstrated for them and us. Christ handpicked men His disciples to become His *personal messengers* (the Apostles of the Lamb) spreading *His teachings* and *example* everywhere in the world.

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should *go and bring forth fruit*, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Matt. 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach (make disciples of) all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost

The Apostles Paul continues to *expound* and *write, record* as do the other Apostles, all having to do with *the sayings, teachings, and examples* of Christ Himself. This teaching is the *embodiment* of Christianity itself (the embodiment of orthodox Christianity) which **represents the person of Christ**. Later... would come the Apostles Creed and early Creeds *which define the sum of early Christian beliefs* which were to be

carried into future generations. Everywhere you find “the faith” in the New Testament it is not only representing *the individual’s personal faith* in Jesus, but *also includes the sum of all Jesus taught and practiced.*

Christians everywhere are to all *follow, teach and example* the very “**Bible Christ,**” and *not another Christ, another Gospel, or another spirit* which all are *counterfeits.* It is breaking the second commandment to create another Jesus or God after our own image or likeness (imagery – making our own god).

Romans. 1:22,23 says the fallen intellect and fallen nature of men will try to create such an image to relieve themselves from accountability to the “**Bible Christ,**” they don’t want to retain a true knowledge of God from the Bible lest they lay down their own ways of sin. The nature of fallen men also like to invent a religion that becomes *their own idolatry!.... They may call it their faith when it is their own false views of a god in their own image and likeness.*

**Coming to the ‘Light of God’s Word – The Bible!’**

John 3:19-21 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and *men loved darkness rather than light,* because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil *hateth the light,* neither cometh to the light, **lest his deeds should be reprovèd.** But *he that doeth truth cometh to the light,* that his deeds may be *made manifest,* that they are wrought in God.

Paul writes and warns us about corruption:

2Corin 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, *so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

4 For if he that cometh preacheth *another Jesus,* whom we have not preached, or if ye receive *another spirit,* which ye have not received, or *another gospel,* which ye have not accepted.....

John writes about those who are false prophets who won’t say Jesus was God in the flesh:

1John 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit of antichrist,* whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

1Tim. 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: *God was manifest in the flesh,* justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

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Jude writes and warns us to *maintain the original faith delivered:*

Jude 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that *ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*

2 Tim. 3:7 Ever learning, and never able to come to *the knowledge of the truth.*

This is saying that *the truth of God* is a place that people can come to or arrive at!

**Christ And His Apostles Define - What Is Christianity And The Faith**

Eph 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, *Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone Doctrine is the clear cut meaning of “Scriptural truth”* derived from the Bible’s view.

The main Pauline revelation of the N.T. was faith in the object of the Cross of Christ and the means of God’s grace merited by Christ alone for all men’s salvation. What Jesus did at the Cross alone!

Discussion Time;

End

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

The following outline has been giving here in this open PDF format for your study and discipleship online. The PDF study is offered to our students in a CD Outline bundle for printing out. Contact LWMSTL for details and cost of this CD bundle. May you be blessed in your studies of God’s Word.

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