

New Testament Exposition (Ephesians) - Class Notes by Chris Price

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

BEFORE BREAK

“Synoptic”—to see together

3 Synoptic Gospels, John, 8 General Letters, History Book, Apocalypse, and 13 Pauline letters (4 of them are the prison letters: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon)

Eph 1:3-14 - one long sentence.

1. God the father plans salvation (3-6)
2. Jesus purchases salvation in time (7-12)
3. The Holy Spirit preserves and seals salvation for all time (13-14)

It is a Trinitarian song. It is called Paul's doxological hymn

We herald and proclaim God's grace.

Views of Scripture

1. Liberal View- Bible is inspired literature
2. Radical View - God dictated His Word and dropped it out of Heaven
3. Biblical View - Biblical Authority, Inherent, God has spoken things into being and is has preserved His Word. II Tim 3:16-17 and II Pet 1:21.

External Evidence that Scripture is from God: Lives changed

Prison Epistles (4) - 1st Roman imprisonment

1. Ephesians * - Church – Body of Christ
2. Philippians
3. Colossians* - Christ – Head of the Body
4. Philemon

* - were possibly sent to out together as circular letters to the Churches with a fill in the blank for the Church name.

Karl Barth

Wanted to recover the Bible for the people in the pew.

Neo-Orthodoxy

“The Bible *contains* the Word of God.” He did not espouse that *is* the Word of God. A lesser view was being held. Barth was trying to correct the German higher form criticism, but did not go far enough.

Three Standards that the Church used in forming the Canon

1. Agreement - Does this agree with oral tradition?
2. Apostolicity - Was it written by an apostle or a close associate?
3. Christocentricity - Is it Christ Centered. Does it communicate doctrine about Christ that agrees with other Scripture and His teachings?

Three Things That Will Last Forever.

1. God
2. God' word
3. People

Everyone is biased, if you reject Scripture, then something else must be your authority and it is usually a finite being.

The exclusivity of Jesus will be challenged like never before in this lifetime. We have seen on overwhelming preponderance of evidence to testify to this currently taking place in our society.

AFTER THE BREAK

Eph. was not written as a response to a problem, it is a theological treatise. It is not a very personal letter; it appears somewhat removed or detached.

IV. Ephesians Introduction

1. Theme: the Church as the Body and the Bride of Christ
2. Addresses to the Churches in Asia Minor
3. Chapter 1-3 - Doctrinal
4. Chapter 4-6 - Duty
5. Intercession, affirmation, evangelism

We will not put a system of theology before the Bible. We will not make better settled Calvinist and we will not make better settled Arminians in this class.

V. Intro 1-2

1. Apostle - Sent One
2. Saints – Holy Ones (almost always referred to in the plural in Scripture), Separated by God

3. Spiritual Address – in Christ
4. Grace and Peace, the order is significant.

Grace is God giving not what I deserve, but what I need. It is unearned favor, unmerited favor. Grace is the pleasure of God to magnify the worth of God, by giving sinners the right and power to in delight in God with the obscuring God.

Peace is not isolation from trouble and difficulty, but insulation from trouble. We are enmity; we are at war with God. By nature human beings are alienated from God.