

RAMBLINGS ABOUT 'REASON'

Over the past few years, I have jotted down *some rants*, as some people might call them, over ideas, philosophies and statements that we encounter that seem to be void of reason, not passing the logic test by any means.

Having been at this paper now for over 43 years, permit me some ramblings---

What really is with the folks who claim to be Christian ministers and actually go through the motions of worship and study, yet will wholeheartedly agree with the doctrine of tolerance that there are many paths to God and one religion is just as valid in truth as the other? Did they never hear the words of Jesus...no man comes to God except through me. Do they not read the claims of Jesus, and hear the words of Scripture that there is no other name by which we are saved? It is unreasonable to claim Christianity and concede that all religious teaching is still valid. By the same token many of these well-heeled Christian thinkers try to liberalize Jesus' life and doctrine... he was a great moral leader, a good teacher, but his resurrection is merely figurative, the miracles didn't happen. Sorry, can't be..those folk definitely flunked logic class. As C. S. Lewis said, Jesus is either liar, lunatic or Lord of all..there is no logical middle ground or compromise. He is the only way or He is no way. You must make your choice.

Many Christian groups are in a similar way guilty of unreasonable faith when they want to base it purely on personal whims or feelings, not grounded in any authority or revelation from God. If we want to live moral lives there must be a moral compass. Is that up to each individual or is there a standard? Logically, of course, there must be a standard and as Christians we follow Scripture. Abandon that and you have ethical anarchy, everyone rules. If you believe in God, he is the one who has the right to make the rules.

That is no more evident than in the idea of accepting homosexual activity as an approved lifestyle. Did anyone ever dream that a sexual practice of maybe 5% of the population would become a "community" with political power. What next, a community and lobby for sexual sadists? To say anyone is free to "marry" whoever they want, is so against nature,(memo -male was made for female and visa versa) logic and reason. What then hinders us from allowing polygamy, or child marriage? The most ridiculous abuse of reason are those who try to say the Bible does not condemn homosexuality!

By far the most incredible public notions is that there is no "intelligent design" to the universe. These are the kings in the hierarchy of airheads. Isn't it amazing that we allow the science guys who find a bone or two and declare it without reservation to be exactly 10 million years old as if it had a date stamped on it and give it some name. Yet we in radio news must always say the "alleged" killer until he is proven guilty, even when that guilt appears obvious. To think non-living matter suddenly appeared and then became living, and by random chance over millions of years somehow, some way became all we see today is as many scientists have said... "a nice fairy tale for adults..never could it be "proven" true.

The lack of logic continues to even those who claim to preach a Biblical gospel, but are hung up on the idea of predicting Christ's return on the basis of "Israel." I'd like to ask who is "Israel" today? The bloodlines of Jacob are dissipated by 5000 years of history and intermarriage. The political government of the mid-east country today cannot be God's chosen people. Over a third of their population do not even believe in God! More orthodox Jews live in New York, why isn't that Israel? They want to make the most illogical statement ever when they say.. God gave Abraham that land forever, so we have to support Israel..It has not belonged to Abrahams descendents forever. It has been out of any Jewish hands for thousands of years...how can it be true it is theirs...forever! Either God did not keep His promise or the promise was conditional, which it was. Wake up, the New Testament says clearly, that the followers of Jesus Christ, God's son, are the seed of Abraham, the people of God.

The televangelist crowd wastes time and money harping on such worthless notions. Why would God desire to rebuild the temple and establish animal sacrifices again, as they claim, when He sent His son to fulfill all of that once for all? These charlatans are bilking people of money while proclaiming some of the most unreasonable doctrines ever devised.

I fail to understand how preachers can go on sermon after sermon, year after year and say they never preach about baptism because it is not necessary to be a Christian, which is a prominent and illogical doctrine of denominations. Consider- Jesus began his ministry by being baptized, he ended his earthly ministry by telling his disciples to Go and Baptize. All those in the book of Acts must have heard about baptism in their first encounter with the gospel because their baptisms are therein recorded. Remember Philip and the eunuch? For four hundred years after Christ, the church creedal

statements all declared, baptism for the remission of sins. There is no clearer doctrine state in Scripture than this.

Then there is the great proclamation that once you choose Christ, you are eternally secure, saved forever, regardless. Let's look at this logic. If God saves us without us exercising our own will then certainly we are saved forever, as in the Calvinist dogma. But, if God gives us free will to choose to believe and repent, how can we be denied the right to turn our back on him later, as many in the New Testament accounts did. God didn't spare Satan and his angels. They were in heaven, but not secure for they rebelled. Free will granted is free will forever, plain and simple. I want even mention the universalists who tell us not to worry, the Bible teaches everyone will be saved! All of these now popular teachings mentioned were unheard of in the early history of the church.

Another indictment of logic and reason finds, sadly, most of Christendom guilty. We should all see clearly that the pattern of the New Testament church was three-fold. They worshipped regularly with prayer, teaching, breaking of bread and fellowship. They helped those in need as evidenced by the statement that no one had needs that weren't cared for, even deacons appointed to make sure the distribution was fair. Then their third concern was world evangelism, to go everywhere preaching the good news to all nations. We, by and large, follow that trinity of purpose, but are not all equal in importance? Worship, Benevolence, Evangelism? Then why do churches spend the vast majority of their budgets, time and resources on Worship, giving scant concern to helping the needy or world missions? Logical? It is precisely why Christians have lost ground in winning the hearts of minds of the world. Worship without the other makes for a self-centered religion.

My ramblings must cease here before I stray into politicians, where we know there would be no end to the lack of logic and reason!