



May 20, 2007 (Vol. 7)

The Spirit Of Liberalism (3)

Edited

Let us look at another example of how some approach the word of God:

"WHY ARE YOU HERE? IS THIS THE FIRST PLACE YOU'VE COME LOOKING FOR IN THIS SITE? HAVE YOU SOUGHT OUT THIS KEYHOLE ENTRY-WAY TO FIND THIS MATERIAL? WILL PURSUING A STUDY CONCERNING THE AGE OF CREATION ENHANCE YOUR FAITH, OR WILL IT LIKELY DETRACT FROM YOUR SERVICE TO GOD? WILL YOU DEVOTE UNTOLD TIME AND ENERGY TO A TOPIC WHICH HAS ESSENTIALLY NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR OR ANYONE ELSE'S SALVATION?"

DEFENDING THE FAITH OF JESUS CHRIST IS NOT ABOUT HOW OLD THE UNIVERSE, THE EARTH, OR EVEN MANKIND IS. LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS OF AGE FREQUENTLY BECOME JUST A TIME AND SPIRIT CONSUMING STUMBLINGBLOCK, REGARDLESS OF ONE'S BELIEFS ON THE TOPIC. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU PURSUE SOME OF THE MORE PRACTICAL APOLOGETIC MATERIALS <[HTTP://LORDIBELIEVE.ORG/PAGE13.HTML](http://LORDIBELIEVE.ORG/PAGE13.HTML)> AVAILABLE AT THIS SITE, OR ON SOME OF THE OTHER RECOMMENDED SITES <[HTTP://LORDIBELIEVE.ORG/PAGE5.HTML](http://LORDIBELIEVE.ORG/PAGE5.HTML)> SUCH AS HIGHLIGHTED IN OUR WEEKLY "FEATURED ARTICLES." IF AT SOME POINT YOU FIND IT IMPERATIVE TO UNDERSTAND THIS TOPIC, THEN ENTER THIS ROOM OF OUR VIRTUAL LIBRARY THROUGH THE WORMHOLE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE. BUT PLEASE DO NOT BE SEDUCED BY THESE STUDIES AWAY FROM YOUR DAILY CALLING TO TAKE THE GOSPEL INTO ALL THE WORLD. THERE IS VERY LITTLE HERE THAT WILL HELP YOU TO THAT END."

(Hill Roberts, <http://www.lordibelieve.org>, Introduction to his material on the age of the earth)

Comments: Note the following characteristics of the spirit of liberalism:

(1) The approach is biased from the start. Brother Roberts knows that his views are controversial, and that many faithful preachers believe him to be a false teacher, and so he immediately takes the offensive and charges the reader with being unreasonable.

It is written, "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 reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God." (John 3:19-21) If what brother Roberts teaches is truth, why would he assume the worst in those who examine what he teaches?

Can you imagine Aquila and Priscilla responding this way toward Apollos (Acts 18:24-28)? Would they have been justified in treating him this way (2 Tim. 2:24-26)? No. While there will be times when we must "contend for the faith" (Jude 3), resist someone "to the face... before them all" (Gal. 2:11, 14), and issue "sharp reproof" (Titus 1:13); is it right to assume things of people you do not know (1 Tim. 6:4; 1 Cor. 13:7)? Of course not.

Since Liberalism does not stand squarely on revealed truth, it tends toward reactions rather than reasons. Liberalism just cannot stand to be questioned, but Truth does not fear examination.

(2) Again, note the insistence on controversial and biased positions **without** any scriptural support whatsoever. Brother Roberts asserts that the age of the creation has absolutely nothing to do with faith in Christ or with salvation. Now if he wanted to argue that based on the scriptures or logic, that would be a different matter. But simply **to assert that any part of the word of God is meaningless**, and then to refuse to back it up with any evidence is liberalism to a tee.

(3) The assertions made violate several clear scriptures. For example, Colossians 1:15-20 clearly relates Christ to creation, and His role as Creator to His headship to the church. And Jesus refers to Adam & Eve as being "in the beginning" of creation (Matt. 19:4-6). If these are not true, then both Jesus and Paul were either mistaken or liars. Thus, instead of making a valid, scriptural argument - liberalism makes several loose statements which actually contradict and undermine plain scriptures.

Thus, the essence of liberalism is a loose handling of the scriptures. Vague, general, and yet exclusive type statements are made with little to no attempt to justify them with the scriptures, or to explain them. Instead their points are asserted as fact, and any opposition is dismissed as a topic which has essentially nothing to do with your or anyone else's salvation. It is this type of careless, emotional, sweeping generalization that is a true characteristic of liberalism.

Now, some who are currently in the liberal camp may not realize they are liberals. I know some who express discontent with some of the practices that

go beyond the scriptures - but they have not yet grown to the point of taking a stand for truth on these points. May the Lord bless them with time and opportunity to mature in their faith and convictions. May they, before life's race is run, make the decision to stand in the pathway of righteousness, not just in things convenient - but in all things. May these resist the temptation to "willfully forget" inconvenient truth (cp. 2 Pet. 3:5, 16b).

Friends, Liberalism is wrong, whether intentional or not. Thus, the only solution is to "come out from among them" so that God will receive us (2 Cor. 6:17). We must imitate Paul's courage and conviction. He separated himself from all that was his former life in the sect of the Pharisees (Phil. 3). His love of the truth was such that he devoted himself to the Lord in all diligence and faithfulness. Opposing Liberalism does not mean we hate people, rather it means we love truth. Just as Paul did, we look across the chasm between truth and error - fervently wishing that our erring brethren would make the needed corrections and be saved (Rom. 10:1-4).

Lord willing, more next week...

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER & PRAY FOR

Johanna Fletcher, Othena Kinnard, Jo Miller, Wesley Geer (Life Care 316), **Mag Bumbalough** (Back in room 519, slightly improved), **Thelma Cunningham, Mary Cox, Monie Petty** (breathing difficulties), **Dave Poteet** (NHC 225), **Dorris Williams, Robert & Betty England, Ed Williams** (heart blockages), **Joe Smith, Mike Tenpenny, Thelma Klein, DeLeesa Price** (expecting) and **Alisa Fletcher** (expecting), **Kenley Streeval, Larry Bumbalough, Jake Hale, Joshua & Misty Poteet.**

Also, **Reba Jones** (Dorris Williams' niece),

Jackie Tindle (cancer, relative of the Sims), **Marci Miller** (Alisa Fletcher's mother), **Ocia Bell Jones** (Doris William's mother), **Ruth Williams** (Betty England's niece), **Pauline Hickey, Kitty Mahan** (Kathy Tenpenny's mother), **Dwayne Williams** (Dorris William's son), **Paul Grissom, Carl Williams** (Ed's brother), **Teddy Sims.**

We will be updating our list next week. Please let us know if you wish anyone to continue being on the prayer list.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Home Bible Study** - Sat. May 26, June 9, 23
- **Door To Door** - Every Tuesday @ 6pm.
- **Business Meeting** - Sun. May 27
- **Ladies Class** - 2nd & Last Sunday Each Month.
- **GM** - Raymond Castillo, Oct.14-19, 2007.
- **GM** - Brian Yeager, April 13-18, 2008.
- **GM** - Lanny Smith, Oct.12-17, 2008.

We Invite You To All Our Services!

Sunday Bible Study	9 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10 am
Sunday Evening Worship	6 pm
Wednesday Bible Study	7 pm

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God's Simple Plan Of Salvation

- Faith in Christ (John 8:24; Mk 16:16)
- Repentance of sin (Acts 2:38, Acts 17:30-33)
- Confession of Christ (Rom. 10:13; Acts 8:37)
- Baptism into Christ (Mk 16:16; Rom. 6:3)
- Be Faithful Unto Death (Rev. 2:10; Acts 8:22)

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