

Paul's Theology

Bible Study Monday 1st. June

The answer to last times final question is:-

After speaking about Jesus Peter arrived at this conclusion;

Acts 10.43 "All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

After speaking about Israel and then Jesus Paul arrived at this conclusion;

Acts 13.38-39 "Let it be known to you therefore, my brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you; by this Jesus everyone who believes is set free from all those sins from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses."

So, to tonight's study. Many of our social beliefs (and arguments!) on such subjects as overseas aid, sexual practices, civil rights, charity, loyalty to earthly rulers, gender issues, interfaith meetings, family life, public worship, green issues etc come from Paul's letters. Tonight we look at Paul's perception of God, and his perception of himself, in order that we may get a glimpse of what enabled him to write such letters.

Paul's theology has ten aspects:-

(N.B. This is my opinion only – other people will have other ideas, as I keep telling you "You pays your money and you takes your choice")

One. God is not a "religion", God is a person. Read Paul's speech to Agrippa in Acts 26.12-18. What does a personal relationship mean to you?

Two. God has absolute power over the universe – Read Col.2.13-15 and absolute power over us - Read Rom.9.19-21. What do you know of Calvin?

Three. What did Paul call Jesus? Look back at the study "The Names of Jesus." In it we saw that one of the names in Greek can translate into English as Lord/Sir/ Master and can easily denote ownership. Now open any of Paul's letters at any page and see how many times there is the word "Lord" and then in your mind substitute "Master". That is how Paul saw himself, the servant or

slave of Jesus. Owned entirely, lock, stock, and barrel by Jesus. Who “owns” you?

Four. God is the source of Paul’s authority? Read Gal.1.1 and Gal.1.11-12 and Paul has interpreted the gospel correctly. Read Gal.1.6-9.

Five. God will judge his world. Read 2Cor.5.6-10 and 2Tim.4.1.

Six. God’s love for all humanity gives us all a common unity in that love. Read Rom.3.21-26 and Eph.2.4-10. What do you know about Luther?

Seven. God hasn’t changed his mind or broken his promise. The ancient people of God, the Jews, are still vital, Read Rom.11.13-32. What are your views on the modern “State of Israel”?

Eight. God gives his people freedom. No one should impose the old Jewish laws on someone else! Read Gal.5.1-6 & Gal.2.11-14, but Paul is insistent that we shouldn’t misuse this freedom. Read 1Cor.8.1-13. Why are so many Christian denominations and sects so prescriptive?

Nine. God sees us in union with Christ so baptism is important, not only in understanding the message of the cross but also in showing our unity. Read Rom.6.1-14.

Ten. God does not want his people to be afraid. Christ will hold on to us, come what may! Read Rom.8.31-39.

Homework.

Theology is the systematic study of the nature of the Divine and, more broadly, of religious belief. It is taught as an academic discipline, typically in universities ...

Theology is the systematic study of the nature of the Divine and, more broadly, of religious belief. It is caught as a joy, typically in churches ...

Theology is the systematic study of the nature of the Divine and, more broadly, of religious belief. It comes naturally to humans, typically in the study of nature and “green issues”.....

Please spend a few moments to consider where your knowledge of God has come from.