

## “Real Wisdom is Christ empty words that deceive”

Lord Jesus, grant me your Spirit that I would proclaim your word in Truth and Power and that all who listen would hear what you have to say to them. To the glory of the heavenly Father. Amen.

“Try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord”  
“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!” To him who lacks sense Wisdom says, “Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight.” “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

Over the years I have know many people. Some of them were very intelligent. Some were slow. It took time and experience to really appreciate them. Some highly intelligent folks do not do so well in the long run, or even in the short run. Some slow have done vey well with what they have. One of them said to me, “I might be slow but I am not stupid’.

Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

Jesus had just said some things that just did not make sense. Words that were deeply offensive in that culture. “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.” Life was in the blood. It was taboo, sacred, feared. And cannibalism! I was hoping to sing a song I loved. Looking for it on the Web in one place it was listed as one of the 10 worst songs. Why it directly quotes the words of Jesus? “Eat His body drink His blood and we’ll sing a song of love.”

We are Lutherans. Many consider that a variety of Protestant and in many ways that is true. But here, at this point, the difference is revealed. The usual explanation is that Lutherans believe in the “real presence of the physical body of Christ in the Sacrament and the rest of the Protestants believe in the symbolic presence, the remembrance, memorial, of Christ.

True as far as that goes. Luther and Zwingli, the rest of the Protestants broke at this point. The reason they parted is usually explained as a difference in interpreting the words of Scripture. Luther holding to the word as it is and Zwingli hold to a symbolic meaning.

There is a deeper issue, one that affects all our lives here and now. The issue is, What do you think? What do you believe? How do you determine truth? What is correct?

The history of the protestants has been one of individuals, groups, disagreeing, arguing, splitting over and over again. Every kind of heresy, goofball position, has surfaced and spun into new arguments. Lutherans and Roman Catholics have been touched by some of that, but for most of the years have been much more stable. Why? What is the difference?

Zwingli, Calvin, Arminius and all the protestants since find the center, the determining power of their faith in logic. What they hold as true makes sense to their human minds. Sounds logical!

It just doesn't work. Being logical creates great problems. Listen to people talk religion and politics.

They are all claiming to be logical when they are on the absolute opposite sides. You are wrong. I am right. I am just being logical. Do you realize why scientists do experiments.? They started out just being logical how things should be, didn't work. Reality is not logical the way we think it should be.

Beside the fact that saying what is logical in English is sort of possible in a close language like German. It is far harder often impossible to say the same thing in Hebrew or Japanese. Logic does not translate well. The reality God created is not like what we think is logical. The wildest example of this was in the movie "Alien". At the beginning the leading lady says good bye to her little daughter. At the end they meet again. The star has not aged. Her daughter is now a very old lady. The rest of the movie is science fiction. The little girl lived a long life while her mother lived a few months. That part is absolute fact. The theory of relativity is absolute fact of relativity, time itself is relative.

Relativity is simple and easy compared to Quantum Mechanics. Feynman, who developed the formulas for quantum mechanics said. "I can safely say that nobody understands quantum mechanics." Pure logic has limitations. There are things it can not describe.

So what is the deal with Luther, Catholics, Zwingli, Calvin, Arminius and the protestants? Why does any of this matter? What is in it for you?

Remember the Protestants found the center of faith in human logic. That sounds good to me and I am sure it sounds correct to you. But our brains are not right. It is not a matter that our brains are sinful - they are flawed - our thinking is clouded by the effects of sin. The problem is logic is not correct. Reality is beyond logic. There are even logical and mathematical proofs of that, proving internal contradiction is unavoidable.

Logically we can not prove, ground our lives on what we think, our logical minds.

There is another way. Wisdom, Jesus, Paul “Try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord” “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!” To him who lacks sense Wisdom says, “Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight.” “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

How do we do live by wisdom? The answer is - Spiritually discerned. “Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight.” Jesus, Son of God, deliberately said some absolutely outrageous things, deliberately horrified his listeners, “eat my body drink my blood”. God recorded that in the scriptures for us to read. There are other things in the Bible that horrify people. God did that on purpose. Why?

There are things in the Bible I cannot explain. I do not understand why they are there. I know no human being would put them there. Non believers claim that people made us the Bible. But there are things there I can not imagine anyone making up. No one who respected Jesus would put these words in His mouth “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

“After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of

God.” “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.”

Actually today the Body and blood item is not anywhere close to being offensive as something else. The folks who selected the lesson portions began the Epistle in the middle of the thought. They left off the beginning. “But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.” Did they think that offensive? They began with “Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.” They left out the empty words that bring the wrath of God.

“Real Wisdom is Christ - empty words deceive”. So what is right? What is the straight message? God is always right - perfect. We do not understand. Reality does not make sense. Be cautious, slow to follow smooth talkers that tell you what you want to hear.

Seek. pray for wisdom, think about, meditate on the will of God.

Jesus, God, is practical when He deals with us. Everyone, genius - slow, “come eat this bread, it is my body given for you. Come drink this wine, it is my blood shed for you.” If you believe, trust, it will be so for you. “If you love me keep my commandments.” If we do what He tells us to do, including loving, forgiving others, He knows we love Him.

He invites us to go beyond our minds, eating and drinking. Act in obedience. Do. There are many things we only come to understand by doing, living them. Some are school things like algebra and Spanish. Being family, being sister, father. We really learn by doing. Jesus invites you to be His own, believing only goes so far. It is the living in Christ that makes it real, powerful.

May the peace of God that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus now and forever. Amen.

**12 S after Pentecost**

Proverbs 9:1-10

Ephesians 5:6-21

Aug 16, 2015

Aug 23, 2015

Ps 34:12-22

John 6:51-69

Living Water Rosedale

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