

# Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

*Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ*

February 22, 2018

## It's Only a Theory

A few days ago as I awoke, I was hearing a message as though it was being preached in a church service. The message was about the theories people hold to be the truth of the gospel. I heard theory after theory concerning the reason Christ came and suffered the death of the cross. Finally the question was asked, "Why are we holding to theories when we have the word of God?"

When it concerns the word of God, a theory is not an undeniable truth. It is a hypothesis. You may believe it is correct, but you cannot prove it because the scripture does not actually say it. Here are two examples:

1. "Jesus died for our sins." (This is not a theory. It is plainly declared in the Bible.)
2. "Jesus burned in hell for us." (This is a theory because no scripture says this.)

In truth, a majority of church doctrine is based upon theories. The word of God does not actually say it, but our conclusions tell us it is true. To get around the obvious weakness of such a course of action, we spiritualize our theories by calling them "revelations."

There are doctrinal theories that may in fact be true, but the scriptures do not directly address them. In these cases people use portions of scripture to formulate a doctrine and fill in the

gaps with assumptions. The problem with this arises when these formulated doctrines become "more true" to us than what the scriptures actually say. When this happens we become guilty with those Jesus spoke of when he said, "*Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*" Mark 7:7.

I am reminded of an incident when a man told me the scripture which says, "*...the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God...*" I Corinthians 6:9 could not be true because it contradicted the "doctrine of grace." This man held his doctrine about grace above what the scripture actually says. His "theory" was "more true" to him than the word of God.

It would be disingenuous of me to give the impression that there are not doctrinal "theories" which I believe to be true. However, I believe it is critical for each of us to face and acknowledge the difference between our theories and what the Bible actually and directly says. God compared those who had a dream and those who had his word, saying, "*The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?*" Jeremiah 23:28. Compared to the word of God a dream (or a doctrine) is nothing more than chaff!

I would challenge each of us to take the doctrines we consider to be most sacred and see if the Bible actually says what our doctrine teaches. If we find it does not, take that doctrine and list it in your thinking as a theory. That does not mean you are necessarily discarding it, but you are putting it in its proper place in

comparison to the word of God. *“What is the chaff to the wheat?”*

We must see the difference between what is a “theory” and what is God’s word if want to see the truth of the gospel of Christ. Yet it is not always easy to admit something we believe is not what God’s word actually says.

Listed below are just a few of the doctrines I have discovered the scriptures do not actually say. With some of these I almost felt like a heretic the first time I publicly said, “The Bible never says this. It is not the word of God,” but as the apostle Paul wrote; *“...let God be true, but every man a liar...”* Romans 3:4.

### **Doctrinal theories the Bible never actually says:**

**Theory:** “The perfect life Jesus lived is imputed to us when we believe in Jesus,” or, “the righteousness of Jesus Christ is imputed to us.” (The Bible never speaks of Jesus’ righteousness being imputed to us, but it does tell us he died to make us righteous. Romans 5:19, II Corinthians 5:21. If you are *“made righteous”* you are no longer a sinner.)

**Theory:** “Jesus paid the penalty for sin upon the cross,” or, “Jesus suffered to take the punishment for our sins upon the cross.” (The Bible never speaks of redemption in terms of a penalty being paid or our punishment being taken. It does however say Jesus Christ purged our sins Hebrews 1:3, took away sin I John 3:5, put away sin Hebrews 9:26, destroyed the body of sin Romans 6:6, and made an end of sins Daniel 9:24.)

**Theory:** “When God looks at us he only sees Jesus’ righteousness,” or, “God cannot see the sin of a believer.” (The record of the scripture is

actually the opposite of this theory. It says nothing is hid from God's sight and all things are naked and open to his eyes. Hebrews 4:13.)

**Theory:** "The blood of Jesus covers our sins from God." (The Bible describes the work of the blood of Christ as that which washes Revelation 1:5, cleanses I John 1:7, purges Hebrews 9:14, and sanctifies Hebrews 13:12, but it never tells us the blood of Christ covers any sin.)

**Theory:** "The sins of a believer are forgiven past, present, and future." (The scripture is clear that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ declares God's righteousness for "*the remission of sins that are past.*" Romans 3:25. Those who continue to sin believing they are automatically forgiven should remember the words of the apostle Paul: "*Be not deceived; God is not mocked...*" Galatians 6:7.)

The apostle Paul said, "*...when I became a man, I put away childish things.*" I Corinthians 13:11. For a believer who wants to know the truth of God's word, a theory is just not good enough. It is a "*childish thing.*" Put away "*childish things*" and build your walk on that which the word of God actually says. Anything else is only a "theory!"