

“... pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart”
2 Timothy 2:22

March 21st, 2021 - “Progressive Christianity” vs. Progressive Revelation

Last week, I preached about the threat of “Progressive Christianity.” One book I read to shed light on the subject was called “Another Gospel? A Lifelong Christian Seeks Truth in Response to Progressive Christianity” by Alisa Childers. I recommend this book, and I want to share an excerpt with you about the distinction between “progressive Christianity” and progressive revelation. A progressive Christian might claim God is progressive because He’s always revealed more about Himself to people over time. Here’s Alisa’s response:



“A consistent theme in our class with the progressive pastor was that the earliest Christians represented Christianity in its infancy. The thinking went something like this: we wouldn’t expect a brand-new baby to know everything he will know when he’s full grown, or to come out of the womb running. First, he must learn to crawl and then to walk. So why would we expect people of a newborn religion to have the same understanding they would have two thousand years later? The pastor explained, ‘We are more evolved now. The Bible says the Holy Spirit will lead and guide into all truth...and that’s what he’s doing.’ The implication seemed to be that Paul, Peter, and the other writers of the New Testament represent Christianity in its most primitive form. The Holy Spirit is leading us to do the same work they did...to correct wrong doctrines and perceptions. To hear from God in our time.

This made absolutely no sense to me. On the one hand we do see God revealing more about himself throughout the history of the world. Certainly, Moses had more revelation about God than Abraham did. On the other side of the cross, Paul had a deeper understanding of atonement than the Israelites in the Old Testament did. I would later learn this is what theologians refer to as progressive revelation. It’s ‘progressive’ in the sense that God continued to reveal more information to human beings as time went on. But it doesn’t mean that the revelation progressed from error to truth. In this way, there is a huge difference between what theologians have historically meant by progressive revelation and what progressive Christians mean.

The main difference is that the progressive revelation we find in Scripture never contradicts itself, and the revelation of God culminates in Jesus Christ. As Hebrews 1:1-2 gloriously declares, ‘Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He created the world.’

In other words, Jesus is God’s final word. Progressive revelation is like bricks stacked on top of one another forming a wall of a building. Progressive theology, by contrast, says that we started with the wrong bricks, so we need to remove them and put other ones in — or tear the whole wall down and start over.” (p. 136-138)

Sunday Worship Services

9 a.m. Lord’s Supper Service
9:45 a.m. Bible Class
10:45 a.m. Praise & Preaching

Wednesday Bible Classes 7:30 p.m.

Elders

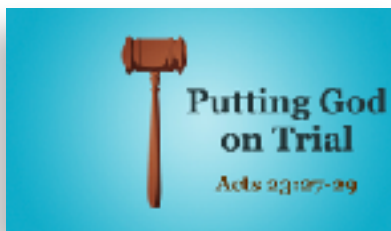
Herb Hinely 407-339-4805
Jeff Hunt 407-739-5266
Joe Rimmer 407-414-7393
Dave Weaver 407-782-1112
Tim Welsh 407-670-8279

Deacons

Matt Hinely, Terry Petty
Erik Quist, Rory Salimbene
Jack Thomas, Terry Tokash
Emory VanCleaf

Evangelists

Brian Messerli 407-300-2517
Dwayne Gandy 214-724-5375



Job 40:1-4; Isaiah 45:9

When we put God on trial, He is exonerated and we are found _____

1. Slavery

A. God saved Israel from cruel slave owners (Exodus 3:7-9)

- o Why would God tell His people to become cruel slave owners themselves? (Ex. 23:9; Leviticus 19:34)

B. Slavery in the Law was NOT like slavery in _____

- o Voluntary, not based on skin color, time limit, abused slaves go free (Exodus 21:2, 16, 26-27, 20-21)

C. God allowed slavery, but didn't _____ it

- o "If" = in case it happens (Exodus 20:18-19; Matthew 19:7-8)
Philippians 2:7-8

2. Holy Violence

A. This was God's judgment for disobedience (Deuteronomy 9:5)

- o Not about gaining power for Israel, but punishment from God for sin

B. God applied the same _____ to the Israelites (Deuteronomy 7:2-4)

C. God gave them _____ years to repent! (Genesis 15:13-16; Psalm 103:8)

D. Those who repented were spared (Joshua 2:12-14)

E. Killing their children blotted out their names (Deuteronomy 2:34; 29:20; 1 Sam. 24:21)

F. This wasn't the _____

God showed us the cost of sin and foreshadowed the fact that one day He too would lose an innocent child for our sins.

3. Hell

A. He sent Jesus to save us from Hell (Matthew 10:28; 25:41, 46; John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:4)

B. We don't have to go there

C. Without Hell, there's no ultimate _____ (Psalm 37:27-28; Zephaniah 3:4-5)

D. God will ensure the punishment fits the crime (Luke 12:45-48)

- o It's okay to have questions and concerns, but be very careful not to accuse God of evil.

An immoral monster would never sacrifice His own Son to save us. WE are the immoral monsters, yet God loves us, is slow to anger, and extends mercy to us anyway.

Questions for Self Reflection

1. Is there anything God said or did in the Bible that doesn't sit well with you?
2. What's a healthy way to process those emotions?
3. What are some practical reasons to keep serving God even when we don't always understand His ways?

Announcements

Sunday, March 21st, 2021

Please email all new announcements to announcements@psd.church.

MEMBER HEALTH ISSUES:

- **Dave Weaver** tested positive for COVID on Thursday. By the time the test results came most of his symptoms had subsided. He is at home this morning as a precautionary measure. Brenda has avoided getting COVID and is doing fine.
- **Scott Saario** is still having sinus issues and struggling with a cough. Debbie is feeling better.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF PSD:

- **Dwayne's Father Richard Gandy** was just diagnosed with advanced stage T-Cell lymphoma. It's in his spinal fluid in addition to his lymph nodes. The family is discussing treatment options, including no treatment at all. Without treatment doctors estimate 6 months to live. With treatment only a 20% probability of surviving 5 years.
- **Vicki Simmons** is still in FL Hospital Altamonte. There are more complications even after her second surgery and she's waiting to find out the next step from the doctors.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Carol Van Cleef and Mary Ann Rubright** are feeling better about coming in person and both have been able to attend worship regularly. We are glad to have them back at worship and grateful for their improving health.

SHUT-IN:

- **Anne Dickson**
- **Thurman and Lynna Davis**
- **Geny Harrison**
- **Patsy Holt**
- **Peggy Hunt**
- **Pat Steele**
- **Bea DeBoe**

SPECIAL CONCERNS ABOUT GETTING COVID-19:

- **Diane Thyben**
- **Anna Marcotte**





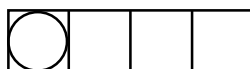
Elijah and the Great Rain Word Scramble

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circle boxes and unscramble them to find the answer to the last phrase.

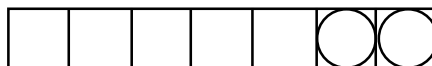
RIFE



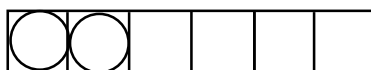
BAHA



THOPPER



RASIEL



NTAMOUIN



Elijah prayed and God

