

When DARKNESS Falls

INVESTIGATING RELIGION'S HISTORY OF EVIL

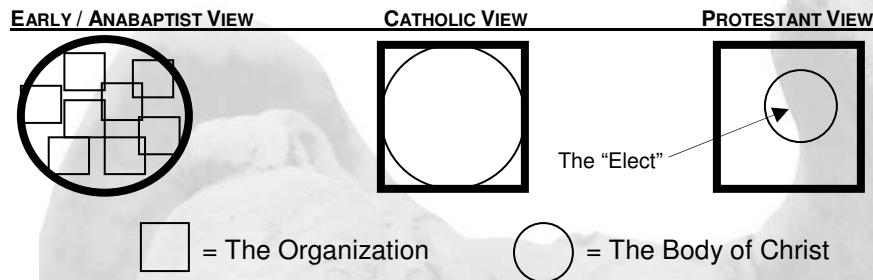


Part 5: The Protestants

INTRODUCTION – When The Hero Is The Villain

Deuteronomy 13:6-9
John 5:39-40; Hebrews 12:2

HORROR OF HISTORY: The Fight For Orthodoxy



LESSONS FROM HISTORY:

- Christian ethics can not and should not be _____.
- The State functions under God, but not under the Church (**Romans 12-13**).
- _____ is not the right way to advance the Gospel.

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS: The Fruit Of Orthopraxy

- THE JESUS HERMENEUTIC (reading the Bible “Jesusly”)...
- THE COMMUNITY HERMENEUTIC (learning and living as a family)...
- THE EMPHASIS ON APPLICATION (rather than on. theologizing about divine metaphysics)...

Matthew 7:15-27

CONCLUSION – Fighting Against Heretics

1 Peter 3:14-17; 1 John 4:1-6; 2 John 1:7-11

FOR FURTHER RESEARCH...

ON CHRISTIAN FAILURE

- *The Faith: A History of Christianity*, by Brian Moynahan
- *The Dark Side Of Christian History*, by Helen Ellerbe
- *Christian Jihad*, by Ergun Mehmet Caner & Emir Fethi Caner
- *When Religion Becomes Evil*, by Charles Kimball

ON CHRISTIAN SUCCESS

- *Christianity On Trial: Arguments Against Anti-Religious Bigotry*, by Vincent Carroll & David Shiflett

ON THE PEACE POSITION OF THE EARLY CHURCH & ANABAPTISTS

- *Biblical Pacifism*, by Dale W. Brown
- *Jesus and Nonviolence: A Third Way*, by Walter Wink
- *What Would You Do?*, by John H. Yoder
- *Loving Your Enemies: Discipleship, Pacifism, and Just War Theory*, by Lisa Sowle Cahill
- *A Peace Reader*, edited by E. Morris Sider & Luke Keefer Jr.
- *Peace & Justice Series*, published by Herald Press

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. Explore and discuss the significance of this quote by Helen Ellerbe: *The Christian church has left a legacy, a world view that fosters sexism, racism, the intolerance of difference, and the desecration of the natural environment. The Church, throughout much of its history, has demonstrated a disregard for human freedom and dignity. It has attempted to control, contain, and confine spirituality, the relationship between an individual and God. As a result, Christianity has helped to create a society in which people are alienated not only from each other but also from the divine.*
2. After briefly reviewing this week’s message, share one thing that most challenged, encouraged, or perplexed you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. What do you think is the significance of **Matthew 5:17** regarding how a Christ-follower interprets and applies Old Testament Scripture? How does Jesus illustrate this through the rest of **Matthew 5**?
4. Theology is certainly not unimportant to the writers of the New Testament (e.g., **Romans & Galatians, etc.**). Read how the Apostle John counsels early Christians to fight against heresy in **1 John 4:1-6 & 2 John 1:7-11**. a) What verse stands out to you the most from these passages? Why? b) What is a main doctrinal test to help us discern true Christ-followers? c) How is this test different than the approach used by i) early Protestants, ii) Catholics, iii) many present day Evangelicals? d) How is John’s use of the term “antichrist” different to how may Evangelicals use it today? (Also see **1 John 2:18, 22.**) e) What point could John be making by saying that the false Christians are still “from the world” (**1 John 4:5**)? (Compare this thought with what Jesus says in **John 18:36**.)

SO WHAT?...

5. Take a few moments (5-6 minutes) to quietly meditate on **1 John 3:10**. (If you like, after meditating share any new insights or old reminders that have come to mind.) Pray for each other to live out the main point of this passage in our lives.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, October 24 / 31, 2004