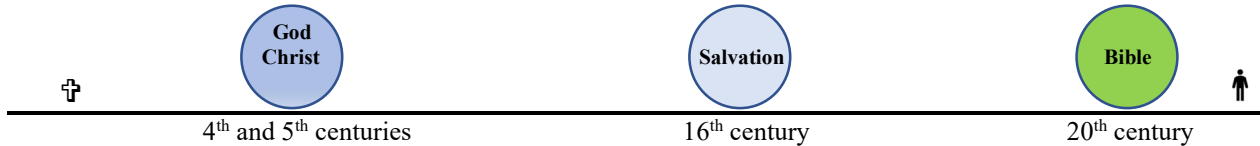


Lecture 37: Fundamentalism and Modernism

April 22, 2020

Review: Three Eras—Three Traditions—Three Protestant Families (plus a latecomer—the Methodists!)

Three Large Controversies



Common Feature: Divine-Human “Both/And”

Model: *Hypostatic Union of the Incarnation*

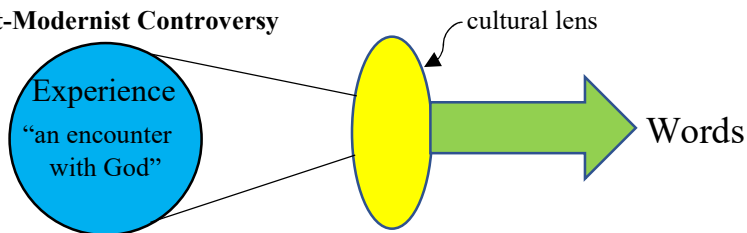
- Illus. The impeccability of Christ—real temptation, but without sin.
- The sovereignty of God in salvation—real conversion, but without free will.
- The inspiration of the Bible—real human language, but without error.

Personal Importance of the Bible Controversy

The Gospel of John – Saving faith involves not just *what* you believe, but also *why* you believe it.

- Faith based on personal experience – reasonable inferences from “signs” (John 2:23ff).
 - Faith based on human testimony – helpful guidance for a season (John 4:39-42).
 - Faith based on divine testimony – the ultimate confession of faith (John 6:66-71).
- } *At some point, souls must hear the word of God for themselves.*

Fundamentalist-Modernist Controversy



Lutheran Pietism → German Liberalism
(heart vs. form) (heart vs. words)

1920s American Context

Modernist – a fact-value split of meaning (the “kernel”) from words (the “husk”)

Fundamentalist – words reflect reality (literalism), and reality only changes with redemption

“...those who still cling to the great fundamentals, and who mean to do battle royal for the fundamentals, shall be called ‘fundamentalists’” (Curtis Lee Laws, *Watchman-Examiner*, 15 July 1920).

Fundamentalist-Modernist Controversies

- 1920s – Northern Presbyterians
Northern Baptists
- 1960s – Vatican II Catholicism-----Liberal Shift...
aggiornamento Roman Curia lost on inerrancy
ressourcement Influence of blacklisted theologians
doctrinal development First council with no anathemas
- John Henry Newman** End of *extra ecclesiam nulla salus*...
“...the inward idea of divine truth...” ...and a tendency toward universalism.
- 1980s – Southern Baptist Convention
Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod

Test Case: *The Loss of the Wrath of God*
The Kingdom of God → the Social Gospel (now called Social Justice)
C. S. Lewis – revelation as myth, the atonement as theory, hell as self-created habit

Modernism Fits the Mood of Modernity (and Postmodernity)

The fact-value split turns value into an individual’s right to choose; therefore, any authoritative claim is judging.
The fact-value union of Christianity stands on the verbal revelation of God and the bodily resurrection of Christ.