

Confusion: God, Man or Message?

Most denominational groups trace their origins to the Reformation Movement. One of the great principles of that movement was that “true religion is founded upon the Scriptures” and “no doctrine was to be accepted unless it was taught in the Bible.” Yet, the primary leaders of that movement (Martin Luther, John Calvin and Ulrich Zwingli) disagreed on various doctrines. The number of religious groups and the diversity characterizing their doctrinal positions showed that something went wrong in their efforts.

The question that must be asked and answered today is, “If the Bible is the only source of authority in religion, why are there so many groups and why is there such diversity in belief?” As it relates to communication, there are three areas to consider: a source, a message and a receiver. The same is true theologically. There is a source (God), a message (His Word) and a receiver (man). **If there is a breakdown in communication the fault has to be in one of these three areas.** Clearly, the first two, the source and the message, cannot be at fault as they are infallible. Therefore, the resulting division must be laid at the feet of the receiver and/or the approach taken in interpreting and applying the message. As members of His church, may we always seek to remain true to our source and His message!

Outline: Confusion: God, Message or Man?

1. Whose fault is it?

- A. Is it God’s fault?
- B. Is it the fault of the Bible?
- C. No, the fault is with man.

2. Why do men misinterpret the Bible?

- A. Some do not study.
- B. Some do not accept the Bible as truth.
- C. Some look at the Bible with prejudicial thinking.
- D. Some use faulty methods of Bible study.

Sunday P.M. Sermon: Esther (I know this is out of order biblically, but it is in order chronologically. I purposely wanted to study this one before Nehemiah).