

Further Study on "Neo-Orthodox Interpretation of the Bible"  
(A supplement to the last bulletin)

This movement of a new approach to the Bible since World War I. has been fractured into a series of sub-movements rendering a simple description difficult, but here we would like to set forth those principles of their Bible interpretation which would more or less characterize the center of this movement:

1. The Revelation Principle

- \* This movement does no longer maintain the historic, orthodox position, (with reference to inspiration, revelation, and Biblical criticism.)
- \* The infallibility of the Bible is denied. The Bible is not one harmonious whole, but a series of conflicting theological systems and ethical maxims.
- \* The inerrancy of the Bible is denied. In matters of science, anthropology, history, and geology, the Bible is flatly contradicted by modern science.
- \* The traditional notion of revelation is denied. Revelation as a communication of that truth not ascertainable by human powers is strongly repudiated.

2. The Christological Principle

God's Word to man is Jesus Christ. Only that part of the Bible which is a witness to the Word of God is binding. This introduces the second principle of the Bible interpretation. Only that which witnesses to Christ is binding, and doctrines are understood only as they are related to Jesus Christ, the Word of God. As we read the Old Testament, we encounter a variety of incidents. Whatever is not in harmony with Jesus Christ, the Word of God, is not a valid witness.

3. The Totality Principle

Barth, Brunner, Lewis, and Niebuhr argue that one can not prove a doctrine by the citation of a text of Scripture or a few texts of Scripture. The teaching of the Bible is determined by a consideration of the totality of its teaching. Lewis insists that crass literalism does not yield the true meaning of Scripture. The Scriptures are properly interpreted only when we apply the totality principle. Brunner argues that "We are not bound by any Biblical passages taken in isolation, and certainly not by isolated sections of the Old Testament."

#### 4. The Mythological Principle

The Bible contains discussions about such topics as: The Creation of the Universe, The Creation of Man, The Fall of Man, and The Second Coming of Christ. The liberal either rejected these teachings forthright, or altered them so as to change their Biblical character. Neo-orthodoxy seeks to interpret these doctrines seriously, (as liberals failed to do), but not literally, (as the orthodox do). The middle way is to interpret them Mythologically. Creation, The Second Coming of Christ, Fall of Man, Incarnation and the Cross are all myths which represent a truth about man's religious existence in historical dress. The myth is regarded as a form of theological communication.

#### 5. The Existential Principle

This interpretation has its roots in Pascal's method of Bible study, and received its initial formulation in Kierkegaard's meditation on "how to derive true benediction from beholding oneself in the mirror of the Word". According to Kierkegaard, the grammatical, lexical, and historical study of the Bible was necessary but preliminary to the true reading of the Bible.

To read the Bible as God's Word one must read it with his heart in his mouth, on tip-toe, with eager expectancy, in conversation with God. To read the Bible thoughtlessly or carelessly or academically or professionally is not to read the Bible as God's Word. As one reads it as a love letter is read, then one reads it as the Word of God. The Bible is not God's Word to the Soul until one reads it as one OUGHT to read the Word of God. "He who is not alone with God's Word is not reading God's Word," pens Kierkegaard.

This existential approach to the reading of Scripture has been taken up by Neo-Orthodoxy. The Bible is not primarily history, although it contains history. It is a book of existence, about life at its most comprehensive expression, about God. To understand it at this level one must read it existentially. By this existential reading the Bible may become the Word of God to the reader.

#### 6. The Paradoxical Principle

It was Kierkegaard who not only developed the existential principle, but also the paradoxical. He challenged Hegel's categories of Divine Immanence and Logical Rationality with the counter-categories of Divine Transcendence and Logical Paradox.

Examples of these paradoxes are:

Man is a creature of nature, yet possessing spirit he transcends nature;  
 Man is responsible for his sin, yet he inevitably sins;

Man's historical existence is at the same time  
destructive and constructive;  
Man must lose his life to save it;  
God is One yet Three;  
The Cross is foolishness yet wisdom;  
God is absolute holiness yet unmeasured love.

### News From Boise, Idaho

Vernon Pearson from Portland, Oregon, utilizing several days off from work, travelled again to Boise, Idaho to follow up on several contacts. He also is planning to move to Boise to establish a chapel in that area. He prays that soon he will be transferred to that city.

Following is a report from Vernon about this trip:

"God is working to open up a way to get work in the Boise Post Office. I have been given maps and a list of streets to study, and a promise of help when I have learned the map of Boise and memorized the streets.

Very soon I may be moving to that city and into the same type work as the Portland Post Office. As soon as possible I hope to have a chapel established.

Mr. Kim has made two good contacts; Mr. and Mrs. Waller, and Mr. Rich Hansen. I also met two others who have shown interest. One is a young college student, Allen Dowd. The other is a man, 30 years of age, who is studying the manuscript."

### News From Tacoma, Washington

Vernon Pearson recently spent three days in Tacoma to follow up on some recent contacts. Following is his report:

"God really worked in a wonderful way on this trip. I contacted Roy Wick at his home. I presented the Divine Principles very plain to him. I explained the Second Coming. We prayed and Roy spoke in tongues and the Spirit witnessed to him plainly. The Spirit revealed the Truth of the Divine Principles in a wonderful way. The room was filled with the presence of God. Roy then came back with me to St. Helens. We stayed in St. Helens until the next morning.

Satan worked through his family and caused much opposition. Roy decided it would be better to return to Tacoma. Before leaving, God again witnessed to Roy that he must seek God and not prejudice the Divine Principles and God would deliver him.

We must pray that he will make his stand against much opposition and over Satan and his forces. He will need strength to overcome and not to be overcome."

"I also recontacted Bill Carter, the young G.I. in Fort Lewis. He had distributed some manuscripts to his buddies, and two of them are interested in the Divine Principles and want to talk to me. One is a Catholic and the other is Presbyterian.

Bill's record with the army has always been excellent, but recently he issued some army supplies to some of his buddies. He was caught and has to stand trial. He is praying to be given another chance. He promises to serve God in the Divine Principles if he is released. Let us remember him in prayer.

### News From Great Falls, Montana

David Bridges has been witnessing and distributing material for study. He feels the need to quickly establish a chapel in that area, or a home in which he can bring people together for study.

David has been using various methods of contacting people. One method he has used is going door to door telling people he was trying to organize a Bible study and discussion group.

He is working part time to maintain financially. He is working as an elevator operator. He said he wished he had the authority to get an elevator full of people and not let them out until they bought the Divine Principles book. He is finding many hindrances, but he is not discouraged. God has been good to him in supplying his needs. With his part time job he gets one good hot meal a day free.

One method he is planning on using to help sell the Divine Principle book is make a sign and stand on a street corner.

He is planning to talk with a Pentacostal minister about the Pentacostal religion. He said it would be interesting to see what happens.

Although, he has met obstacles he said he is happy and has been able to maintain spiritually, physically and in every way. He found the Divine Principles the answer to his deepest prayer and greatest need, and he has a burning desire to present it to God's children wherever they may be found.

### News From Los Angeles, California

The Los Angeles family has been working and witnessing with zeal. They have been witnessing at Pershing Square and Westlake Park. David Irick spoke at Pershing Square to a group of about fifty people. The crowd yelled and laughed and just made fun of him. Also, before Doris Walder, David Irick and Leonard Edwards began to witness at Westlake Park, Satan moved on the crowd and some outright remarks were made against the Divine Principles.

Instead of being discouraged by this opposition, they rejoiced because it was definite evidence that the work they are doing for our Master is under direct fire of the enemy. Satan is certainly **furious** at the zeal and dedication of these young people in that area.

David Irick made a large "Christ Has Returned" sign. They are also going to make a banner and walk the streets with them and pass out pamphlets. What will be the reaction?

Doris has been going to various New Age group meetings, as well as teaching three nights a week, two day classes a week, speaking in the park on Sunday and also taking care of all the center's responsibilities.

Let us remember our brothers and sisters in Los Angeles. We admire their courage and devotion to this work.

### News From Washington, D.C.

What a wonderful blessing was received by all in Washington, D.C. with the visit of Anthony Brooke.

Immediately after Anthony Brooke's plane left Washington,

three members of the United Faith were involved in an automobile crash. The car was completely demolished, but miraculously all three were protected by God and are recuperating after a period of hospitalization.

How Satan is constantly on the battle front to take his toll. When God's blessing goes forth abundantly, the enemy is also at work to take a price.

### Bible Study of the Week

Our Bible study this week is taken from Mark 13:14-23. Jesus is warning His followers to be cautious concerning the last tribulation.

Verse 14: Jesus used the 7th chapter of Daniel for the background for these verses. The abomination Jesus spoke of came in 168 B.C. The gentile king's image went to the Jews temple.

There are two theories regarding this verse:

1. In 40 A.D. the Roman Empire made an image and put inside the Jewish temple.
2. The temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. Some say this was the time of His Second Coming.

Verse 15-20: Women in the latter days must be loyal to the Lord. Their first thought should be of God. They will be blessed but better not to have child. The tribulation will be very severe.

Verse 21-23: There will be many false Christs and false prophets appearing in these Last Days. We need to sort out with wisdom lest we be deceived.

### Change The Date of "Day of All Things"

Recently, the permanent date on The Day of All Things was announced in Seoul, Korea. Our past news bulletins, (May 1st and May 15th, 1964), referred to May 11th as The Day of All Things, which is March 1st according to the Lunar calendar. This was the day the actual ceremony took place in previous years, but it is officially changed to May 1st according to the Lunar calendar. (June 10th this year.)

On this day in Korea, of special significance was the opening of a 21 Day Revival meeting, (three weeks) in Taigu city, Korea. This was an official attack on the established churches in that city. The revival ended June 29th.

Master, Himself, was staying with all the family in Taigu.

Immediately following the Taigu revival, the summer Forty Day Campaign shall take place throughout Korea.

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