***A HIGH VIEW OF SCRIPTURE***

**Isaiah 66:2 (NKJV)**

“But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, AND WHO TREMBLES AT MY WORD.” (emphasis mine)

What separates the faithful from the unfaithful starts with a differing view of Scripture! The faithful maintain a HIGH VIEW of Scripture while the unfaithful do not! This is consistently the issue!

A person’s view of Scripture, his view of God, and his resulting practice is all one package! One’s view of Scripture cannot be separated from their view of God.

There is nothing new under the sun (Eccl. 1:9). Satan continues to use the same old strategy that he has used from the beginning which has proven to be very effective over and over again. In Genesis 3 Satan subtly came to Eve sowing seeds of doubt by saying, “***Has God indeed said…?***” (Gen. 3:1). Thus, he sought to undermine a HIGH VIEW of God’s Word and thereby lead Eve astray. It worked!

My mentor was Dr. John C. Whitcomb. He often spoke of what he termed “the second law of ecclesiastical thermodynamics”. This emphasizes that in Church history the pattern has consistently been that what started out as strong Bible-teaching churches or organizations slowly gives way to theological compromise eventuating in apostasy. For example, look at the “great” founding universities in our country. Many of them started out with the goal of providing a quality education that would promote the true Christian faith. But those same universities today have become bastions of deep dark apostasy that at best are “Christian” in name only. The same is true of so many denominational churches and organizations.

In the nineteenth century Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892) became embroiled in what became known as “The Downgrade Controversy”. In this battle Spurgeon accused the Baptist Union of being involved in a doctrinal “downgrade” which amounted to compromise of a HIGH VIEW of Scripture. Spurgeon said, “*For my part, I am quite willing to be eaten of dogs for the next fifty years; but the more distant future shall vindicate me*.” And it did! Spurgeon warned: “*Avowed atheists are not a tenth as dangerous as those preachers who scatter doubt and stab at faith… Germany was made unbelieving by her preachers, and England is following in her tracks.”*

Spurgeon’s Downgrade Controversy was followed by the Fundamentalist/Modernist Controversy of the twentieth century. This battle first and foremost was over what constitutes a proper view of Scripture. The fundamentalists insisted on adhering to a HIGH VIEW of Scripture with their very first point being the Bible is to be interpreted literally (normally) and that the Bible in the original writings is inerrant. The battle raged on.

By the 21st century theological liberalism had infected all the mainline denominational colleges and seminaries and thus liberalism which decimated a HIGH VIEW of Scripture became mainstreamed in all the major Protestant denominations. All that remained were pockets of theological conservatism where a HIGH VIEW of Scripture was still maintained.

Today a new (yet old) movement is afoot that is called “Progressive Christianity”. In truth, it is the same old liberalism that seeks to undermine a HIGH VIEW of Scripture. Progressive Christianity thinks Christianity needs to be “updated” and calls for a rethink of all things sexual and all things social. It seeks a broader way than the negative narrow way (so-called) associated with orthodox Christianity.

It calls for a reexamination of Bible truth starting with Genesis and is willing to redefine core historic doctrines of the Christian faith. It is Genesis 3:1 all over again!

Yet praise God He always has a remnant (cf. Rom. 11:5). In the midst of growing apostasy Christ continues to build His Church (Mt. 16:18). A faithful minority continue to hold to a HIGH VIEW of Scripture (2 Tim. 4:1-5).

“We’re at a point in Christianity where people don’t care if you can back it up with Bible. Their feelings, desires, and emotions override what Scripture says. They don’t follow Christ, they follow self.” – *Source Unknown*

As Christians, we have much to be thankful for, and at the top of the list is the fact that God has revealed His truth to us in a book called the BIBLE. It is the inerrant, enduring, eternal Word of God.

**Job 23:12 (NKJV)**

**12** I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food.

**Isaiah 40:8 (NKJV)**

**8** The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”