

Tradition, Context and Choices

OUTLINE FOR MARCH 23, 2014

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- 1 Two Themes: Summing up and Moving Forward
 - A. Enculturation: For Jesus, for us, for interpretation
 - B. Sin as a theological truth

 - 2 **Theme 1. A** Working definition of enculturation
 - A. Supported by Freud's taxonomy of Id, Ego and Superego
 - B. Internal environment = "Born Again" (Nicodemus story)

 - 3 Enculturation of Jesus : The observant Jew that he was
 - A. Immersion in that God-saturated culture (tribe)
 - Genesis 1-11 and 12-50: Revelation and Calling
 - Exodus: Formation with laws and customs
 - B** God saves "the tribe" by choosing it. Early models of "church" follow in this vein
 - Significant change from group awareness to emphasis on the individual comes to the fore only as late as the 16th century.
 - In the Episcopal ethos we seek a balanced position

 - 4 Metaphors to aid understanding
 - A. Form Criticism of Rudolf Bultman (*sitz im leben*)
 - B. Enhancement: a sitz bath and baptism (immersion)

 5. Context is determinative with words; we need never be victims of circumstances (Read: Viktor Frankl on *Man's Search for Meaning*)
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6. **Theme 1 B** Towards a Working Definition of Sin
 - A. What is truth? I wonder if Pilate understood the extent of his question
 - B. Truth is much more than facticity**
 - C. Truth = data + meaning and sometimes there's no data.

PLEASE TURN TO REVERSE SIDE

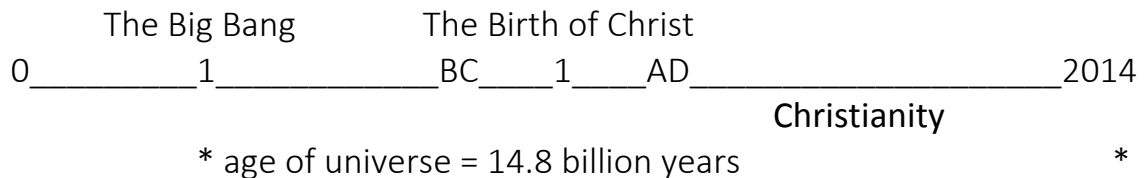
7. Two approaches to truth dependent on how it is ascertained:
 - A. Empirical approach: by observation and analysis
 - B. Theological truth: by revelation and faith: E.G. – existence of God, the Creation, sin, grace, redemption and not by empirical examination
 - C. An autopsy can find no "evidence" of grace or sin or love
 - D. Metaphors are critical to the understanding of theological truths
 - E. Warning; do not confuse the metaphor with the reality

- 8 A Few of the metaphors for sin (there are 22 used in the bible)
 - A. Hattat (Heb): transgression; trespassing; to sin
 - B. Pesa (Heb): breach of a relationship
 - C. Hammartia (Grk-Lk): to miss the mark; to be wrong; to sin
 - D. Ophelemeimata (Grk-Mt): to owe a debt; to sin

- 9 The metaphor I will emphasize is based on alienation and separation
 - A. First found in Genesis 3: 20-24 Adam is expelled from the garden
 - B. Christ as the new Adam: 1 Cor: 15-22 (effecting reconciliation)

ADDENDEUM

- 10 A theological fact timeline (not to scale)



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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God Alone 2. Eternal 3. God is "no-thing"
Self-revelation req'd 4. Accessible only through
Analogies and metaphors 5. <u>Theological facts</u> - Truths
Not subject to empirical | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The creation 2. Time begins as measurement of change 3. The creation manifests God and is measureable 4. Humans have a profound need to seek God - 5. God is in the creation but not limited to it.
God is essentially "more" and "other." |
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