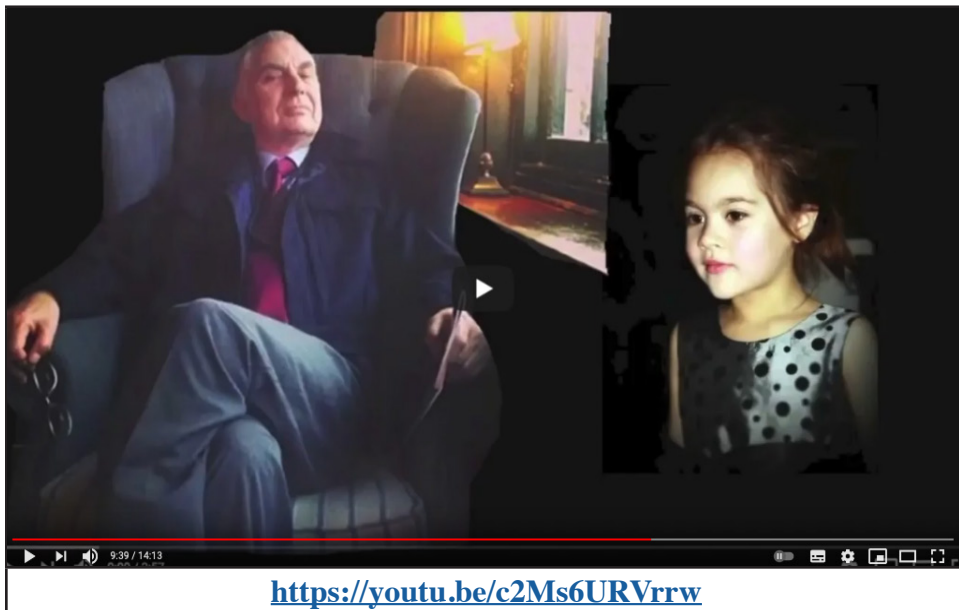


Hill Park Baptist Church Thoughts On Religious Beliefs

2nd June 2021



When I survey the many and various conflicting views about the Christian religion, and realizing there are as many personal opinions, it becomes apparent that some of these views must be in error. Also it would seem a presumption, on my part, to think that my views and understanding on such subjects are entirely correct. It would also seem arrogant to think that unless someone believes and accepts the same sets of beliefs, as I do, then such a person is in error. Therefore from such an observation might I suggest it is most reasonable for anyone to be able to put forward their beliefs, and give their reasons for holding any set of religious beliefs, and explain how they came by them. And to do so without being decried, or dismissed. This is not to say that we have to agree with opposing views, as at the same token we are entitled to express our beliefs in a similar way. So when it comes to me wishing to relate, to other people, those things i have come to believe and accept, I have to bear in mind that every person is entitled to believe anything they wish.

However in order to have a meaningful conversation, about any religious subject, it is necessary to clarify the language we use, since differences of opinion, on such subjects, can cause contention, and this is not the reason for expressing one's beliefs.

The concern I have is that since I have come to firm convictions and

beliefs, about certain things in the bible, and having good reason to see the truth of them, it becomes a matter of concern, due to anticipation of others who may object or disagree with one's beliefs, since differences of opinion can cause strife and contention.

Not wishing to cause contention I am aware that there are many things that come to my mind when speaking to professed Christians about gospel truth. This is because I have discovered such a variety, and range of different beliefs, that are in conflict, or at variance with each other, that cannot all be true. And to ignore them is to set aside their importance. So in order for me to start a conversation, and to relate to others let me relate to you what I understand the bible teaches on a range of subjects, and see how far we get, before disagreement takes place.

I maintain that the bible teaches God created the heaven and the earth in six days and man on the sixth day made in his own image that man fell from his high standing, into sin and we his children derive our sinful nature, and evil ways from him. That is we became sinners and are bound to give an answer to God for our sinful ways, by way of judgment before or after death. However God has a plan, determined from all eternity, to save sinners. Now those of us who believe these things are moved to seek to relay to our friends and families, what becomes good news to them that feel their concern, and their standing before God. The gospel is clear the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, from sin, death and hell. The next problem I face is that having read and studied the bible, and many Christian writings, I find an equal diverse set of religious beliefs, on a wide range of subjects, and many such beliefs are contradictory and are not the same. It seems therefore reasonable to me to identify the most important truths of the doctrines taught in the bible that relate to salvation, and spell them out. I do not wish to impose my beliefs upon another but rather to show that if anyone is serious about seeking God then such matters need to be considered, and for each person to be persuaded in his or her own mind, as to the truth about such matters. So to outline my understanding about such things I would like to point out the importance of understanding what the bible has to say about God, and the way of salvation, for the gospel message is all about forgiveness of sins and having a restored fellowship with God. That the death of the body is not the end, there is a heaven, and a hell.

1 The bible teaches that God created the heavens and the earth in six days. This rules out the world's teaching of evolution.

2 The bible teaches we have all sinned, in Adam, and by our own practice, and so come short of God's standard. That means we will not stand in the judgment.

3 That forgiveness of sins is taught in the bible.

4 The bible teaches the Lord Jesus Christ is the son of God, and who was born into the world by the virgin Mary and came to save sinners from their sins

5 that Jesus himself sent his 12 apostles, into the world, to preach the gospel to every person.

6 that Jesus and the apostles taught the bible or the old testament as the word of God and a reliable account of all that he contains and can and must be relied upon.

Now there are a range of different beliefs derived from reading the bible that people adopt and think the bible teaches all of which lead to differences opinion very different views and so division that means it is important to study and learn in order to be careful about holding and expressing views not according to the bible there are a range of beliefs that i have come to accept that are true and according to the scriptures some of which are objected to by some as in their opinion not accorded to the scriptures all of which serves to demonstrate my point i also believe any Christian church must be able to teach those things correctly if they are to continue to fulfill the great commission to preach the gospel to every creature since this is a reason for the purpose of a gospel church the matters I refer to are as follows:

1. The reliability of the bible consisting of the older new testament scriptures and the accuracy of our English translation for these teach of the sovereignty of God in creation providence and redemption

2 the fall of all men in Adam, Adam being the first man created in God's image.

3 The account of Noah's worldwide flood being brought upon the world due to man's sin and God saving Noah and his family thus showing the book of genesis is a reliable and historic account of history.

4 That the lord Jesus Christ was born of Mary the virgin which was a miraculous birth according to the scriptures and he was without sin demonstrating the miraculous intervention of God.

5 That the gospel taught by the apostles and recorded in the new testament scriptures are true and the word of God to us showing the authority of the message taught.

6 That the death resurrection and ascension of the lord Jesus Christ was the means appointed by God of making atonement for the sins of men by which means the debt of sins were paid for according to the justice and mercy of God without which sins cannot be forgiven.

7 That the apostles taught of the second coming of Christ known as the Parusia the resurrection of the dead and at the end of the age judgment as told in the book of revelation this demonstrating the prophetic ministry of the lord Jesus Christ that the fulfillment of all prophecy is a witness to the gospel truth to all the world.

8 The scriptures teach God the father is a distinct person to his son Jesus Christ that there are three divine persons in God the father son and holy ghost this teaching the unity of the divine essence of God in three persons.

9 That Jesus Christ was truly a man, without sin, whose human nature was derived from the human birth line of Abraham, through king David and is possessed of the divine nature, being one with the father. This teaching the divinity of Christ, his eternity, authority and ability to save, that salvation comes as the result of Jesus Christ, the eternal son of God, coming into the world and working out a righteousness that he gives to his people, and paying the price due to the justice of God for all their sins, a debt paid in blood for those chosen in Christ, who are called out from the world

11 That God the father chose before the world was created many to salvation from sin death and hell these are called the elect that this plan of redemption was according to divine predestination

12 That predestination is the outworking of the eternal purpose of God in Christ of all things that come to pass in time and the future a purpose

not and it shall be given him. James 1 5.

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by which man is held responsible for his actions and yet according to the eternal decree of God

13 That such is the sinfulness of our fallen nature unless God had done so man would never see the need to turn from sin and destruction through repentance or believe in the lord Jesus Christ and cry out for mercy from God to be saved

14 That the ability to believe in God, to have faith in Christ turn from sin and repent, and follow Jesus Christ is due to the gracious work of the spirit of God, who works through conviction of sin and brings those blessings which were purchased by the son of God, to those being saved such blessings are regeneration, adoption, faith, the new birth, justification, forgiveness of sins, sanctification and ultimate glory. Now in considering these matters one will discover two great divisions presenting two different belief systems or trains of thought and as such we are required to understand the differences between them.

These differences have been classified by some as Calvinism and Arminianism an understanding of which will lead us to understand the various differences of religious beliefs in other religious systems and why there is so much disagreement and confusion among those who profess to believe in God and the gospel of the lord Jesus Christ.

Now to those having an understanding of what I'm speaking about and are aware of some of these things i have mentioned will be aware of what i say and i have to remind myself when seeking to relate to others and due to being aware of the difficulties that I've mentioned i remind myself that the lord Jesus Christ knew all about the ins and outs of all religious matters when dealing with not only his disciples but others including his enemies he did not jump down the throats of his disciples when they were wrong but took time to speak to them at the right time at the right place the various points of doctrine and beliefs so that when the spirit of God came among them they were able to learn from the scriptures which are the means that God has provided to teach his people that the above outline of Christian teaching is essential to educate our young people that attend modern schooling going on to further and higher education and such education should be in bible classes and underpin the bible studies of the church in order for them to combat the errors of the unchristian world to do this we need the wisdom of God and we instruct it if any man lack wisdom let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth