

EDITORIAL

This JOURNAL, in conjunction with Atlanta Bible College, recently concluded a twelfth annual Theological Conference. This conference brings scholars from as far away as Australia and Europe. All have at least one thing in common. That commonality is not adherence to a creed or even agreement on a set of common doctrinal tenets. Rather it is a willingness to explore and examine the Bible with an openness seldom found in theological circles.

From atheists, who find their common interest in the history of the movement, to charismatics, who differ substantially from most gathered as to form of worship, all find the honesty compelling.

Topics at this most recent conference ranged across a spectrum of history and theology, representing the thrust of this JOURNAL. It is an attempt to examine the words found in the Bible, and how they have been treated down through history, with a commitment to the authenticity of the Bible itself.

Titled “from the Radical Reformation,” the JOURNAL seeks to keep its focus on a willingness to explore the Bible for what it patently says, not what commentators down through the centuries of orthodoxy have unhappily concluded. Unhappily, for with their own innate honesty many are uncomfortable with but cowed by the tyranny of orthodoxy. Yet a few are willing to search for answers to such questions as “Where has the Kingdom teaching of Jesus gone?” or “Can we accept sonship as sonship?”

Simplistic? Yes. Logical? Yes. Unpopular? Yes. Dishonest? No.

We continue to trumpet the need demanded by the Bible, that, if it is the Word of God, it needs to be accepted, and its teachings accepted and adhered to — and proclaimed. Far too few have taken the doctrines Jesus taught and proclaimed them as the faith.

Instead honest exploration is muted and avoided. Doctrines presented ex cathedra and then circuitously supported by scriptural explanations that defy logic and honesty have plagued Christianity since Nicea.

In this issue Jan Stilson explores the roots of the Church of God Abrahamic Faith, and Robert Hach develops his thesis that spirit and word are inseparably linked in Scripture. A former associate editor challenges the rationale of the JOURNAL. In the next issue, an article will discuss the emphasis of The Voice of Truth in the days leading up to and after the Great Disappointment of October 22, 1844.

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