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THEOLOGY

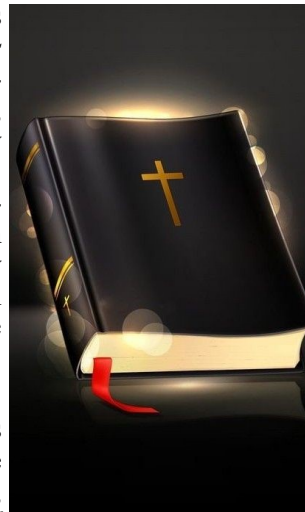
When people think about theology their eyes glaze over. They are not unlike the preacher who was heard to having said, "I love flowers, but I hate botany. I love religion but I hate theology." However, theology is vital and it must always be good theology. The word theology comes to us from two Greek words; *theos* which means God and *logos* meaning word or as some have set forth, rational thought. Hence, theology is rational thought about God. Consider the fact that God has given to us a mind to think and with which to reason, and He surely expects us to put it to use when thinking about His word and the truth found therein.

When asked by a lawyer what is the greatest commandment in the law, Jesus responded by saying, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and will all your soul, and with all your mind.*" (Matthew 22:37) Upon closer inspection it appears that Jesus gave a fairly clear explanation of what is involved in good theology. Love to God must of natural course include one's emotion, intellect and will.

Have you ever heard of somebody who relishes the notion being in love? That individual is primed for the emotional rewards, but not much else. There needs to be an active integration of the intellect with emotion in order to build commitment. Should there only be a desire for the intellect, it strips away the emotion and can lead the individual into a vapid relationship with God and others. In fact it may well bring about what Charles Williams, the noted English author set forth, "man was intended to argue with God."

Clearly, even the most casual reader of the

Scriptures can see where it WAS NOT intended for man to argue with God (see Job 23:1-25, 38:1-39). "*Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let him who reproves God answer it.*" (Job 40:2). To this statement made by God to Job, the response given by Job is quite telling. "*Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to Thee? I lay my hand on my mouth.*" (Job 40:3)



Good theology is a coming together of the intellect, emotion and the will. Rational thought about God and His word of necessity demands that one appreciate He is omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent. God has inherent authority. A fact of which mankind should appreciate and accept, but sadly most seek to challenge His authority. As Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus, he openly discussed the plan that God conceived even before time began (Ephesians 1:3-14. But also take note what is seen in verses eighteen and nineteen.

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His great might."

Since man IS NOT intended to argue with God, it stands to reason that good theology would be considered as that which is orthodox. Don't let that word throw you, for it means adhering to the established faith. Tie that together with Romans 10:17 which states, "*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*" Therefore, "speak where the Bible speaks, remain silent where it is silent." Doesn't that seem to make sense? (wbe)

THE BULWARK