

Acts 29

Theological Liberalism (AD 1800s-Present)

Introduction

All Christians should set their faces against carnal living on the part of other professing Christians. But it does no good to oppose carnal living and retain carnal reasoning. It is not enough to submit what we do externally to God; we must also submit the way we think.

Discussion Questions

- People's assumptions about truth provide the basis for their values and therefore the basis of their decisions. Paul says that his view is based on Jesus and him crucified (2 Cor. 2:1-2). How does belief in a biblical Jesus affect how you live practically? What are some ideas or beliefs that commonly seem to conflict with our biblical assumptions?
- Paul doesn't appeal to his logic or rhetoric as convincing or foundational. The fact of the resurrection is the reality that defines all others (2:3-5). Why is the resurrection the foundation of our faith? What evidence or arguments would lead you to believe otherwise? What are reasons others doubt this truth?
- Worldly philosophy and scientific inquiry still provide no answers for the origin, purpose, or even dignity of man. These are questions which only a creator can give an answer (2:14). What is the purpose of scientific and academic education? Do these purposes change depending on your view of God? Is rationalism contrary to faith? What role does reason play in our lives?

Think About It

Humanist thinking eventually concludes that there is no value or meaning because we are simply a cosmic accident. The concept of an unbroken line from molecule to man, on the basis of time plus chance, leaves the questions of *how* and *why* unanswered. A divine death for an autonomous humanity gives us true meaning. It also reveals the method God is using to recreate the creation again.

What Will You Do?

Read your Bible. Study God's word and also examine his works. As you seek to make sense of the world in which we live, remember your Creator who made it. The call of a Christian is to love the Lord with your mind. Don't stop with your morals. Seek wisdom and submit to Jesus.

Renewing Your Mind

When I applied my heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done on earth, how neither day nor night do one's eyes see sleep, then I saw all the work of God, that man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out. (Ecc. 8:16-17)

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. (Col. 2:8)

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom. (1 Cor. 1:20-21)

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. (1 Cor. 2:2)

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Cor. 2:14)

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil. (Ecc. 12:13-14)

Prayer Requests

