

Contents

Modern Christian Heritage

This chapter looks at the historical heritage of Christian movements from the Reformation till our present day. In this book we use the term *Evangelical/Pentecostal* to represent all movements that are linked in some way to a common heritage in the Reformation. This chapter also introduces modern developments that are challenging and redefining this heritage.

Learning of Christ

This chapter looks at some introductory matters in biblical studies, the sources of theological truth, principles of interpreting scripture, categories of theological thought, the doctrine of scripture and textual transmission to our current time. It addresses a vital area for all believers, asking what each of us places at the centre of our faith.

Theology

Here we start to look at the issues that have been most important to Christian faith: the sovereignty of God, the trinity, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, angels, Satan and demons, man and the *Fall* of Adam and Eve.

Christ's Salvation

In this section we look at what the scripture says about the new birth, the gift of faith and the gospel of Jesus Christ. We look at the work of the Holy Spirit in convicting the heart of man and the importance of preaching in evangelism. The chapter concludes by listing some evidences of the new birth and a discussion on faith.

Christ the Baptizer

The term *baptism in the Holy Spirit* is viewed differently by Pentecostals and other Evangelicals. This chapter looks at the meaning of this term from the Old and New Testament contexts, as well as the Intertestamental period. It also reviews the transformation of the term's meaning in recent church history.

Jesus Christ Our Sanctification

This chapter discusses each verse in the New Testament that speaks of sanctification to find out what the Bible says about this topic. We also look at Christian perfection and Christian maturity and show the main differences between Old and New Testament faith.

Christ's Election

Election is probably one of the main areas of dispute and misunderstanding. The subject deals with passages in the Bible that are among some of the most neglected in Bible studies. Here we look at what election does not mean and what it does mean. We also look at the meaning of *foreknowledge* and the *preservation* of believers.

The Cross of Christ

This chapter surveys the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, the uniting of Jew and Gentile, the reconciliation of all things, who Christ died for, whether He died spiritually

and whether healing is in the atonement. It also has a brief look at the teaching of *universalism*.

Christ is Israel

Here we consider the words of Jesus and Paul in relation to differing views on Israel, including the belief all the nation of Israel shall be saved, *replacement theology*, *inclusion theology*. We examine the view that Christ fulfilled the promises to Israel, including in that all Gentile believers in Christ. We also look at the meaning of the Promised Land, an exegesis of Romans chapter 11 and how we may respond to national Israel today.

The Victory of Christ

This chapter looks at the victory of Jesus Christ over all powers. It goes over passages in the Bible that describe true spiritual warfare in the life of the believer. It shows how the enemy gains an opportunity in our lives and how to stand against him in the evil day.

Christ and the Gifts

The *continuation/cessation* debate is discussed. Miracles as part of gospel proclamation are considered. We look at the place of healing in relation to a success gospel and define *charisma* in the life of a believer. We also discuss fasting from the Old and New Testament, showing Intertestamental thought as well. We look at casting out of spirits and prayer.

Christ and the Law

Here we look at the place of the law in the life of a believer. We show why God gave the law to Moses, how God's character is revealed in the law, how the law can be applied today and how the law relates to the New Covenant.

Christ and the Prophets

This chapter looks at the prophet's role under the Old Covenant. We review their teaching about true religion, worship and sacrifice. We then look at the Holy Spirit's revelation of the *church* in the Old Testament, passages about the return of Israel to the land and the coming New Covenant restoration in Christ.

The Kingdom of Christ

We review Intertestamental Jewish thought on the coming kingdom and look at early Christian thought. We show the origin of the *pre-tribulation rapture* teaching and highlight some principles in interpreting the book of Revelation. We look at the two resurrections, the current reign of Jesus Christ, the pitfall of fatalism, the defeat of Satan and interpretations of the book of Daniel.

The Last-days

What does *last-days* mean in the Bible? How does biblical context impact on the way we read the scripture? This chapter looks at an exegesis of Matthew chapter 24 in relation to end-times and the destruction of Jerusalem. It also examines the biblical use of terms such as *sun*, *moon* and *stars*, as well as the *New Heaven* and *New Earth*.

The End

This chapter looks at the teaching of Jesus, Paul and the Revelation on the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The judgement, the resurrection, the removal of the curse and the end of this world are discussed. We also look at the parables of Jesus on the *end*, including the parable of the virgins.

Christ's Mission

In the first millennium of Church history the Eastern Church was twice the size of the Western church. Missionaries from Iran reached most of the world. This chapter reviews this period to find the implications for missions. We then explain the terms *syncretism* and *contextualization* in relation to the *Great Commission*. We have a look at traditional biblical factors in mission and what is sometimes called *the social gospel*. We review interviews with 25 missionaries and factors related to mission in Islamic regions.

Christ in Education

This chapter looks at philosophical ideas related to educational thought which impact the world view of all people today. The views of Plato and Aristotle are summarized and how these have impacted our history. The place of *natural theology* and its integration with church practice is also assessed. Thomas Aquinas, Nominalism and Karl Barth are considered. The impact of the Reformation on educational practice is highlighted. The secular theories of *behaviourism* and *developmentalism* are explained. *Informal* versus *formal* education is discussed, as well as African traditional values. The chapter concludes by examining theological education and ministry training.

Christian Life

The final chapter looks at how Christian love through the new birth impacts our daily life, especially in relation to church and family values. Biblical admonitions on *godliness* and *good works* are discussed. Christian motivations for *giving* are considered. The final point of the book is on Christian involvement in all levels of life, to steer our nations toward godly values and world mission, to leave a gospel heritage and blessing for future generations, should the Lord tarry.