

What have we done?

By

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For a long time I have been entrenched in the Christian world as it was handed to me by my parents who in turn got it from their parents and on and on. Have you ever wondered where it all began and how far we have come from the 1st century believers?

Phrases as simple as: “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,...” 2 Timothy 3:16, is so ingrained in me that I take the word “scripture” to mean the 66 books of the Bible that we have today. Was that what Timothy meant? Was that what the first readers of the text took it to mean?

These are not easy questions to ask nor are they easy to answer. Are Paul’s words divinely inspired just like the words given directly to Moses by God at Mt Sinai? Or are they “Ketuvim”, Hebrew for “writings” much like the Rabbis have written for centuries. Why are Paul, Timothy, John and others enshrined as divine writers in today’s Bible? Why aren’t some of their contemporaries or others that followed given that same classification? The questions need to be asked and we need to grapple with the answers. Is the Church of today the same as the Church of the 1st century? So I ask again; what have we done?

I have to admit, I struggle with many of things simply because I try to make an eastern Semitic thought process like a Greek thought process. After all, in my 66 years of life on this earth that is how I have been taught to think. Take for example the difference between Greek thought and Eastern Semitic thought on the notion of history. Greek thought process has us believe there is a circle of life or that the same things continue to happen over and over. It is in our celebrations, birthdays, anniversaries, the ringing in of a new year. Whereas Semitic thought is that time is going somewhere, it is not that repeatable circle it has meaning in the destination. What is that destination? All time in Hebrew thought points to the coming of the Messianic age.

So again I ask, what have we done? As much as I would love to go back to that simpler model of the 1st century, I know it is not possible. But I can be a better student, one who is informed, and one who actually studies the Book for the truth it contains and not as support to my specific doctrine. God grant me the ability to see how you want your Body to be presented to the world. Forgive me for my narrow sightedness in how You are working today, just as you worked for those first believers and even in those that had Faith before they ever had a written word.

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