

Paradoxes in the Bible

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Teague Bible Church

A PARADOX is something that sounds contradictory but is absolutely true.

Before we look at paradoxes in the bible let's lay some groundwork.

First some straight logic *****

John 17:1-3 This is the whole reason we are down here. Sin has blinded the eyes of the worldly.

Luke 9:25 What good is it to gain the whole world but lose your soul?

READ Phillips- Your God is too Small- p. 65-66

God's Plans *****

Isaiah 55:6-11

In Christ we now know what the plan is:

I Cor. 2:6-16 (v. 13 includes understanding paradoxes)

What is God like? *****

I Tim 6:13-16

He can't be simply a **force**, that would mean we have something that He lacked.

What scares unbelievers is that He has personhood. And that means a judgement one day.

How does God reveal Himself then? *****

A. (GENERAL REVELATION) and " providential care " for all his created beings

Romans 1: 18-20

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident **within them**; for God made it evident **to them**. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His divine

nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse." (Also Psalms 19)

It is illogical to think that God cannot communicate with man. External, outside track to the heart as witnessed through nature. He also has an inside track to every man's heart.

Law of conscience - Romans 2: 11-16 Jeremiah 29: 13 Matthew 7:7-11

Romans 2:4 (Providential care and communication) "Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of the Lord leads you to repentance?"

Matthew 5: 45-48 (Providential care and communication again; and includes our witness)

B. He reveals Himself in (SPECIAL REVELATION) through Jesus

John 1: 1-18 3: 16-18 14:6 Acts 4:12

PARADOX 1: BETHLEHEM

Question: Why not come with convincing power and majesty?

Answer: You would only draw those who seek power, by associating with power, and leave the heart behind.

Ex. Pharisees- (Matthew Chapter 6, and 23) Hypocrites, murderers, lovers of money, received glory from each other and only lived for appearances, hated the people; jealous of Jesus.

Ex. The foolish crowds John 6:26-29

God the Son; vulnerable and left in the care of a young mom. An ugly birth story about a God who reaches the heart of those wanting the truth, in contrast to the worldly who were so beastly and cruel that they would not offer a room to a woman in labor so that she had to have her baby in a nasty stable and use a cattle- trough for a crib. The picture is one of callousness and degradation.

The tender love of God for man - vs. - The world system.

The real paradox is to understand the Incarnation. All other miracles are subsequent to it, and understood by it. Philippians 2

PARADOX 2: HE HAD TO SUFFER, AS A MAN, TO GIVE US ETERNAL LIFE

Hebrews 2: 9-18

PARADOX 3: FRIGHTFUL VERSES NEXT TO COMFORTING VERSES

Hebrews 4: 12-16

Philippians 2:12-13

PARADOX 4: SO HARD TO LIVE OUT IT LOOKS IMPOSSIBLE ; YET IT IS EASY?

Matthew 10:38-39 compare **11:28-30** The surrender to do it, is the rub, not a lack of power to do it.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON OTHER PARADOXES: *****

Exaltation through humility- James 4:10, Luke 22:24

Strength through weakness- II Cor. 12:10

Receiving through giving- Acts 20:35, Luke 6:38

Freedom through serving- Romans 6:14-23

Gaining through losing- Philippians 3:7

Living through dying to the old self, the old identity- John 12:24, Romans 6:1-11, 8:13, II Corinthians 5:14-17

A kingdom, not of this world, yet will overtake this temporal world system. John 18:36, Daniel 7: 9-14

Let us admit for the moment that we are making progress, that the human race for all its devastating wars is becoming slowly and surely more and more healthy, wealthy and wise. Suppose that this process, notwithstanding set-backs, continues for thousands, even millions of years. Presumably, then, at some time in the very remote future the human beings then living on this planet will have conquered Nature by scientific knowledge, will have resolved all tensions and maladjustments of personal relationships by vastly improved psychological methods, and will be living lives of almost unbelievable health and happiness and satisfaction. That, we may fairly say, is the aim of those who freely give their energies to the progress of the human race, and who exhort us to "live for posterity." But what then? This planet eventually, as far as our knowledge goes, either will become too cold to support life (even by artificial means), or will be destroyed by collision with some other heavenly body. That means that the total result of human progress, of every effort

and aspiration and ideal will be annihilation in the deathly cold of inter-stellar space. And there is nothing more to come.

Yet this—human progress—is to many the greatest value for which to live. Of course if they stop short of the final scene they may persuade themselves that the eventual happiness of our descendants a million years hence is a worthy ideal for which to live and die. But if the end is *nothing, sheer non-existence*, surely no reasonable person can regard it as an ideal to command the whole loyalty of an adult mind and heart.
