M05A1 Revelation: Word of God, Part 4

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Increasingly, we find non-Christian religious books available. They primarily come from Christian leaders who doubt the Bible’s inerrancy and from universalist Hindus. “Hinduism emphasizes that everyone actually worships the same God, whether one knows it or not.” <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universalism>

When church and state are joined then religious teaching is influenced by the government. Such is the case in Germany, Scandinavia, and England. Few people in Western Europe attend church with possibly Christmas and Easter an exception. In the USA a majority attend church regularly if at least once a month is regular. Of course the Covid pandemic has caused a spike in online streaming of services and a dip in in-person attendance.

Government supported theological colleges permit deviance from strict allegiance to church teachings and this waters down biblical truths held by the churches. Professors in these government funded seminaries can freely publish human reasoning disguised as biblical theology.

Professors coalesce around the idea that all religions borrowed from and influenced each other. Thus there’s nothing special or unique about the Bible. Preachers study these books resulting from state funded research and their sermons are influenced by these universalist apostasies. Christianity mixes with popular, even secular, ideologies. In the extreme we see “a theological college in Bangalore to install a statue of Lord Jesus sitting in lotus position upon a coiled snake, reminiscent of the Hindu gods.” -lecture/article

Hindu universalist reformers, seeking truth among all religions, quote freely from the Bible. This impresses Christians who then go on to entirely miss the sources for a quote from a Hindu prayer which says, “Lead me from falsehood to truth, from darkness to light, and from mortality to immortality.” It sounds good but results in mixing religions and losing sight of the Bible as God’s unique communication with mankind.

The Hindu scriptures talk about God, salvation, condemnation, heaven, earth, sin, justification, afterlife, and incarnation in thousands of books, all considered Hindu scriptures. The words except incarnation match Christian words but the concepts differ. For instance, salvation to the Christian means developing a personal friendship with Jesus Christ as God who enables the possibility to resume this personal relationship into eternity. The Hindu understands salvation to lead to an impersonal merging into the Ultimate Reality (Para-Brahma), losing all individuality.

The lecturer then shares the atheist’s claim that the Bible itself says there is no god, opening the Bible, pointing to the text, and reading those words. He ignores the three fingers pointing to himself in the unread words “The fool hath said in his heart.” (Psalm 14:1, Psalm 53:1) We should remember to ask such a person to read the full context of the text. But so quoting, he doesn’t want us to know the textual reference, doesn’t want to share the context and assumes we aren’t familiar and won’t challenge him.

The Hindu apologist compares passages displaying apparently similar phrases between his and our scriptures. Context here will usually make the differences obvious, or so the lecture at says. I have no experience with these challenges.

Christians unfamiliar with the Bible scriptures may fall prey to claims of equivalence when reading these unorthodox claims. “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15) We not only need to know God’s word to be able to share his truth with others. We must also know God’s word to guard against sophisticated attempts from the devil and his cohorts to deceive us in regard to God’s truth.

In 1 Timothy 6:17-19 we are advised to not be high-minded, [CEB egotistical], carelessly confident I would say. We’re to trust only “in the living God…ready to distribute, willing to communicate.” The only way to effectively counter error is to know truth.

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