

Insider Theology:
The Game within the Game- The Game Outside the Game

Introduction

In baseball there is what is called insider baseball. There is the game and then the game behind the game or the game inside the game

In the study of Salvation there is the outsider game John 3:16. But there's also an insider game- it's called theology. Theology is man's attempt to answer question about God based on the natural and special revelation provided to us by God. (Rom 1,2, Psalm 19)

How do people come to God? How does God draw people? what does it mean that he draws? We need to live with tension because the church has never solved this in 2000 years. Hence we should be somewhat humble and realize there's a difference between being dogmatic and being bull dogmatic.

Who is God?

Who is man?

What has God done for Man and what does man do in response? NB God is the initiator!

I. A Picture of God. **Theology Proper**

A. The person of God

Attributes of God are His essence. They include: perfection, aseity or self-existence, purity, goodness, righteousness, holiness and love. These are manifested in a monotheistic / triune being.

(Monotheism Deut. 6:4, 4:35, Isa 44:6,8, 43:10-11, 45:18, 46:9; I Tim 2:5, I Cor 8:6, John 17:3, I Cor 8:4, and Trinitarian theology Mat 3:16-17, 2 Cor 13:14)

B. The power of God

God's power is total and includes his providential ability and his sovereign activity. These are also attributes of God.

C. The problem with God

If God is good and pure where did evil come from? If God is pure where did sin come from? If God is good & all loving- then.... If He is all powerful- then.....

Theodicy God-Justice. The problem with evil; its existence and origin

If God is sovereign and providential why do people go to hell?

If God determines and decides all things, then he determined before all time to create the majority of human beings to go to hell for all time.

Where does human free will enter in? Is there such a thing as actual or real free choice?

Why does God only "draw" (Jo 6:44) some to Himself if he loves all men and died for all men? Or did he and does he?

II. A picture of man. **Anthropology**

A. The condition of man

1. Total depravity- Man is spiritually dead, will die a physical death and deserves eternal death. Rom 5:12,16

2. Total inability- Man is dead and a total wretch unable to do anything good. Man is a corpse with no sensitivity to spiritual life.

However: Even though man is fallen & finite.....

1. Man is made in image of God (Gen 1-2)

2. He retains this image. IOG is effaced but not erased. (Hence dignity)

3. Man is "dead" but that is not a corpse- Separation not Annihilation
Gen 41:8. Pharaoh spirit was alive and disturbed from a dream and not dead. He had a spirit that was active and alive not dead. But he was separated or estranged from God.

Dan. 2:1 Nebuchadnezzar's spirit was troubled. Not dead & not in operational

Eph 2:1, Dead, 2:12 without God in this world - Separation

Eph 4:18 Alienated from the life of God

Your spirit is alive but spiritually dead, insensitive, alienated, estranged from God. One day it becomes eternal separation- eternal death.

(You can have a sense of the experience of eternal life now even though it will be fuller in the future.)

The unsaved person can receive revelation from God.

Through Creation Rom 1; Psalm 19 and Through Conscious. We are without excuse since God had declared it to us and we can see it. See Him! We are guilty since we can and do disobey God.

In fact, Acts 17:27. Men are able to "seek" after God!

B. The position of man

Is man free to choose? Does man have "ability to respond" meaning he is responsible, accountable, culpable and held guilty if he does not?

III. A picture of how the God and Man interface and interact - **Soteriology**

Salvation:

Past: I was saved. Justification

Present: I am being saved. Sanctification

Future: I shall be forever saved. Glorification

A. The plan

1. OT

Garden- Adam and Eve, Substitutionary atonement

National (Abraham Gen 15) Mosaic Passover- covering sin

2. NT

International and universal. Acts 2-28. Rom 3-4, Gal 3:28

The Body of Christ: The Church, The Bride of Christ

Millennial Kingdom: Israel with Church ruling Rev 20:1-11. 2:26

Eternal state. Rev 21-22

- B. The provision.
 - 1. Limited Atonement Only for the elect. "God so loved the elect..." ???
 - 2. Unlimited Atonement. John 3:16, 2 Peter 2:1, I John 2:2

- C. The procedure

- 1. The Order of Salvation. Ordo Salutis
 - a. Preliminary issues
 - Issue of Time and Dimension (Simultaneity)
 - Issue of Priority Logical or Temporal
 - Issue of Order
 - b. Plausible Possibilities
- 2. The Operation of Salvation
- 3. The Outcome of Salvation

Born again, Regenerated, Justified, eternally saved and eternally secure

This is insider baseball. With those who do not know Jesus, just keep to the outside game. John 3:16, 5:24!