

Doctrinal Statement

Revelation

Scotty Williams

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General Revelation

God makes himself known to humanity through His creation and their conscience so that all humanity will come into a relationship to Him (Rom. 1:20; Acts 17:27). Through general revelation, God reveals His wisdom and majesty (Rom. 1:20; Ps. 19:1-3), power and divine nature (Ps. 8:1-2; Ps. 19:1-6), kindness and love (Acts 14:17), and nearness to humanity (Acts 17:27). God generally reveals Himself to all people, yet their ability to perceive Him is distorted because of the rebellion of their own hearts (Gen. 3:1-13; Rom. 1:18, 25, 28). While God's general revelation is insufficient to reveal the atoning work of Jesus, each person who does not place their faith and allegiance in God is still held accountability of their rejection of the Creator (Rom. 10:14-18; Rom. 1:18, 25, 28, 32; 3:10-14).

Special Revelation

God reveals himself to humanity as the redeemer and covenant faithful partner in order to restore an alienated people to abiding union and relationship with Him (Ex. 17, 34; John 17:3). While God specially reveals Himself through mighty acts (Deut. 7:18-19), miracles (Heb. 2:3-4), direct speech (Ex. 19:9-10), dreams (Matt. 1:20ff), visions (2 Cor. 12:1ff), and angelic visits (Luke 1:11-20), He has wholly and incarnationally revealed himself through Jesus the Messiah, who is the full revelation of God to mankind (Col. 1:15, 2:9; John 1:1-18). Additionally, God has specially revealed Himself through the inspirationally written Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:15-17). Special revelation conveys true knowledge of God through the illumination of Holy Spirit to His people (1 Cor. 2:6-16). Today, special revelation from God will always point people to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah (Col. 1:16-17; Eph. 1:10).

The Bible

The Bible, is an integral part of God's special revelation to humanity because it foretold, pointed to, and found its fulfillment in Jesus the Messiah (Luke 24:27; John 5:46; Matt. 5:17-20). The Bible is a dual authored, human-Divine work of God where Holy Spirit worked in such a way that God expressed His reliable Truths and Words, written and collected by humans in their own language and culture without compromising or destroying the authors' personalities (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21). Because the Bible is a unified story that leads to Jesus, it contains all that is necessary for God's glory, man's salvation, faith, and life in Him (2 Tim. 3:15, Luke 4:44). The Bible, comprised of the sixty-six books Protestant Old and New Testaments, are both wholly trustworthy and fully authoritative (1 Cor. 14:37). The Bible is infallible and is able to give one wisdom for salvation through faith in Jesus (2 Tim. 3:15; 2 Pet. 3:15-16). Consequently, any question of belief, morality, practice, and relationship with God and others must begin with the authority of Scripture (Ps 119): What does Scripture teach (Acts 2)? How do we respond to the biblical teaching in our time and place (Ps. 1)?

The fact that the Bible was not written to us but for us means we must undergo a cross-cultural, hermeneutical experience as we try to understand the context, culture, literary style, vocabulary, and encyclopedia of the biblical authors (Heb. 1:1-2; 1 John 2:7). Studying and knowing human tradition and practices are important but must be submitted to the authority of the Bible so that that every doctrine, belief, or spiritual experience must agree with the revelation of Way and Life of Jesus (Matt. 5:17-20; 15:3). The Bible is understandable to all persons (Acts 17:11), but only when illuminated by Holy Spirit does one's heart and mind receive revelation and conviction concerning His purpose and authority for salvation and reunion between God and humanity (John 14:25-26; 1 John 2:27; 1 Cor. 2:7-16).