

## **THE MORAL GOVERNMENT THEOLOGY OF PARIS REIDHEAD**

Paris Reidhead primarily held to Finney's Moral Government Theology. Even his classic "Ten Shekel's & A Shirt" sermon was a MGT message which was preached at Bethany Fellowship. (Bethany Fellowship promoted MGT).

Paris was going to be the speaker at Gordon Olson's funeral, (A Finneyite Theologian) but ended up becoming sick with cancer so Dean Harvey spoke. Harry Conn was a man who was mentored by Gordon Olson and wrote a book called, "The Four Trojan Horses of Humanism" which Paris wrote the forward to.

Anyways, I found these very precious quotes from Paris's book called "Finding the Reality of God" which I wanted to share here. This is very solid Moral Government Theology:

### **THE DOCTRINE OF REPENTANCE:**

"Repentance is defined by the Scripture as a change of mind, turning away from the intention and purpose of pleasing self and choosing to please God. The seed of all righteousness and holiness is in repentance. Perhaps a man's purpose - his aim and direction - is to please himself. But when he repents he must make an about-face This is a complete turnabout.

From that moment on, the intention of this man is to please and glorify God - to satisfy only Him. The salvation of which Jesus speaks is not our being satisfied with Him, rather it is His being satisfied with us." Paris Reidhead (Finding the Reality of God, pg 32-33)

"Repentance means making a 180-degree turn. It means changing your mindset from 'I'm going to do what I want to do,' to, 'Lord, I'm going to please You as long as I live.' It is a change of mind, a change of intention, a change of purpose, a change of practice." Paris Reidhead (Finding the Reality of God, pg 87)

"So we see that repentance has to be complete and not partial. Repentance is a committal of the will to the principle and practice of pleasing God in everything. That means, from today on, the Lord is going to be king and boss and sovereign. You do as He tells you. Because, out of love, He deserves to be obeyed and served. We need to understand this ourselves in order to proclaim it to others." Paris Reidhead (Finding the Reality of God, pg 88)

"This is the nature of repentance. It is a change of mind - a change of intention - a change of purpose. It is not merely 'accepting Christ.'" Paris Reidhead (Finding the Reality of God, pg. 89)

## **THE DOCTRINE OF SIN**

"If someone is to be brought under conviction, those of us who are Christians need to understand something about sin.

Are people in trouble spiritually because they inherit some spiritual defect from their parents or grandparents? No. They are in trouble because when they reach the age of accountability they deliberately turn their own way - they commit their will to the principle and practice of pleasing themselves as the end of their being. That is sin.

Here is the essence of sin: Mere man has determined he's going to defy the only One in the universe who is wise enough, big enough, and good enough to govern and rule men's lives. Man has climbed onto the throne of his own heart - a place only God can be. And there he sits as a sinner, determined to do only what he wants to do. But all the while, he is utterly dependent upon God for his very life and breath." Paris Reidhead (Finding the Reality of God, pg 64-65)

"When God made us He gave us many different appetites... But God looked at the being He made and to whom He had given all these appetites and urges and said, 'It is good!'...

Now temptation is not sin. Temptation is the proposition presented to the mind that you can satisfy a good appetite in a forbidden way. Temptation leads to sin.

Now, not this: Sin is the decision of the will. It is not the gratifying of an appetite. Sin is the decision to do it. He that hates his brother is already a murderer, says Jesus (see Matthew 5:22). Hatred is the intention to hurt and harm. The one who hates has decided to hurt.

In the same way, the one who has the mind to commit adultery is already guilty. The decision to do it - even before the act is complete, and before the opportunity has been presented - constitutes the essence of sin. Again, sin is the decision to gratify a good appetite in a bad way." Paris Reidhead (Finding the Reality of God, pg 141-142)

"Now remember, sin is a crime. It is the committal of the will to the principle and practice of governing one's life to please one's self. In other words, when the Scripture says, 'all have sinned,' it is saying that upon reaching the age of accountability, every individual has chosen to govern and control his life to please himself... We know that upon reaching the age of accountability, each of us chose as the principle by which we would live: 'I am going to govern and control my own life.'" Paris Reidhead (Finding the Reality of God, pg 85).

## **THE DOCTRINE OF FREE WILL**

"Therefore, we need to be aware that as long as we live we are going to be capable of yielding to temptation. Is there ever victory over temptation, then? Yes!... He saves - not just from hell, which is the penalty of sin - He saves His people from the power of sin."  
Paris Reidhead (Finding the Reality of God, pg 160)

## **THE DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION**

"In response to heart faith a marvelous thing happens. In heaven, we are justified: The record against us has changed; that is to say, our standing before God has changed.

Justified means it is as though I had never sinned." Paris Reidhead (Finding the Reality of God, pg 111)