

Streams of Living Water - The Evangelical Tradition

Q - What is the evangelical tradition?

A- It's a life founded upon

- the living Word of God (Jesus)
- the written Word of God (The Bible)
- and the proclaimed Word of God

Our Reading - John 21: 15-17 — "Who do you love?"

Who do you love? Don't you enthusiastically tell others about your spouse, your children (if you are or have been married), your nieces and nephews or godchildren or a special friend (if you haven't), your dog, or cat?

Peter is asked the question, 'who do you love' in our reading this morning and then commissioned to do something. Review this in the light of Matthew 28: 16-20

Read Acts 2: 14-41.

What happens after Pentecost to Peter, the man who has fallen short woefully in 'getting it right' and who denied Jesus three times?

In the light of his preach, many were convicted of their lifestyles and accepted his message. Are we up-front enough with people about the dangers of living a life absent of and offensive to God?

How does Peter use the Old Testament Scripture to make his point?

[Further background reading on Peter's preaching — Acts 3:11-26; Acts 4:1-20]

What was the effect of persecution on those proclaiming God's Word? (Acts 5: 41-42)

"Three thousand were added to their number that day" (Acts 2:41)

Which parts of the world are currently experiencing rapid church growth?

Do we really believe that sort of church growth is possible today? What are the difficulties and barriers we encounter today in the comparatively rich West?

Major strengths of the Evangelical Tradition

1. Evangelical call to conversion and salvation;
2. Stress upon Christ's challenge to disciple the nations;
3. Evangelical commitment to biblical authority and fidelity;
4. Evangelical witness to sound beliefs and doctrine.

Potential perils

1. Danger of concentrating on secondary doctrines;
2. Fundamentalism — ignoring biblical interpretation (hermeneutics);
3. Individualistic view of salvation — Jesus Christ impacts all levels of human existence;
4. Tendency toward worship of the Bible over Christ. "Christ is King and Lord of Scripture"

Chris Tebbutt