

Metamorphosis from Seminary to Cemetery

by James P. Dawson

Portions of the religious community have changed dramatically during the last generation, and some of the changes are fulfilling prophecy. Scriptures tell us that in the end time there will be a falling away from the church:

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; II Thessalonians 2:3

and that men will not seek sound doctrine.

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. II Timothy 4:1-4

Many of the changes have come from the Seminaries. The new pastors are being taught the “New Orthodox” theology. The change has been from a conservative view of the Scriptures to a very liberal view. Many do not take the Scripture as being literally true. One Seminary professor from Trinity Theological Seminary, Dr. Roger W. Dalman, recently indicated in a letter that the Scripture must be interpreted in view of the fundamental truths that we have derived from History, Nature, Science and the “Common Experience”. He went on to say that when our interpretation of Scripture conflicted with what we have learned from history, nature and science, then our interpretation is wrong and should be corrected. If he means what he says, then he would not accept the virgin birth, the resurrection or essentially any of the miracles of Christ. The virgin birth and the resurrection both contradict what is recorded in history, is against nature and certainly against current scientific principles. But without the virgin birth and the resurrection, Christianity is meaningless. If the Word is not all true, then what portion is? Who decides what is true? If the virgin birth is not true because of the conflict with “known truths” then what about Eternal Life? Once this idea that the Bible is not the literal Word of God is accepted, then man is free to interpret the Word to suit his own purposes. The modern translations have diluted the Word (see **Versions**) by supplying new definitions for Greek and Hebrew words in the modern dictionaries. The Seminary students are deceived by these new dictionaries and accept them as totally true, because they are not informed as to the changes that have been made. The new Seminary students are taught that the King James Version (**KJV**) is not an accurate translation (they base this on the new word definitions). For example, the Greek word translated as “**perfect**” in the King James Version, and defined as such in Greek dictionaries before 1955, is defined as “**mature**” in the newer dictionaries. When I inquired as to why the change was made to the Lochman Foundation, who has the copyright on the New American Standard Version, I was informed that to require someone to reach an unattainable goal of perfection diminishes that person’s self esteem. However, one can obtain maturity because this is an adjustable goal for each individual. **Balderdash!** The pastors are quick to point out this definition as a correction to be applied to the King James Version (**KJV**) and I have witnessed two pastors saying from the pulpit, that the King James Version is incorrect and should not be used. They recommended the New International Version (**NIV**) or the New American Standard Version (**NASB**). But this further dilutes our understanding of God’s Word. For example, the word “**fornication**” has been completely removed from the **NIV** and “**amoral**” substituted. Fornication is certainly amoral but the word fornication implies a completely specific immoral act, not a generalization. No wonder we have so many sexual problems, since a whole generation has not seen this word in the Bible. This dilution of the Word is said to make the Bible more acceptable to a greater number, but we should conform to the Word not conform the Word to our way of thinking or to justify our life style. Jesus said the road was narrow; however, the Seminaries are trying to broaden the path.

Trinity Theological Seminary is 25 years old and in the past has been considered a conservative, Bible teaching, training ground for preachers. They spearheaded the movement of off campus training, but now they are moving toward the liberal considerations and interpretations of the Bible. The Dean for Theology and Old Testament Studies at Trinity, Dr. Ralph J. Gore, told me that one **could not** take the Bible literally and “the meaning at face value.” Any interpretation needed confirmation in the religious community, but he was quick to reject any interpretation that did not agree with his rejection of the “face value” concept. He indicated that Apologetics should not be considered appropriate for “theological studies” and that Trinity was going to replace their course on Hermeneutics, Biblical Interpretation. It was to be replaced by a course on Old Testament History and Exodus, being prepared by the “staff”. These “Bible scholars” are leading Trinity into an acceptance of the “New Orthodoxy” Theology and diluting the Word of God to fit their own ideas and interpretations. They have established themselves above God’s Word since they do not believe that God said what He meant. If this is true then man can “**do what is right in his own sight**”.

The changes that are occurring are most obvious when one compares the Statement of Faith from past years with the newer versions. A good example is the change in the “Statement of Faith” of Trinity. The published doctrinal statements of Trinity for 1994 and 1998 are given below:

Doctrinal Statement of Trinity Theological Seminary, 1994, Catalog page 94. NOTE: A detailed copy of the Trinity College and Seminary Doctrinal Statement may be obtained from the Newburgh Administrative Offices.

1. The unique, divine inspiration of all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as originally given, so that they are infallibly and uniquely authoritative and free from error in all matters with which they deal: scientific, historical, moral, and theological.
2. The triune Godhead existing in one eternal, transcendent, omnipotent, personal God, manifested in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

3. Special creation of the existing space-time universe, including all its basic systems and kinds of organisms in the six literal days of the creation week.
4. The full historicity of the Biblical record of primeval history, including the **literal existence** of Adam and Eve as the progenitors of all people, the literal sin and the fall of Adam as the federal head of the human race, the resultant divine curse on the Creation, the worldwide cataclysmic deluge, and the origin of nations and languages at the Tower of Babel.
5. The perfect, sinless humanity and absolute full deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, indissolubly united in one divine/human Person since His unique incarnation by miraculous virgin conception and birth.
6. The substitutionary and redemptive sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ for the sin of the world, through His literal physical death, burial, and bodily resurrection, followed by His ascension into heaven.
7. Personal salvation from the eternal penalty of sin, provided exclusively by the grace of God, on the basis of the atoning death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, received only through personal faith in His Person and redemptive work.
8. The future personal, bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth to judge and establish His eternal Kingdom and to consummate and fulfill all His purposes in the works of creation and redemption, with eternal rewards for believers and eternal Punishments for the unsaved

Articles of Faith of Trinity Theological Seminary as given on the Trinity web site, March 6, 1998. [Http://www.trinity-tech.net/catalog/articles.html](http://www.trinity-tech.net/catalog/articles.html)

Trinity is an evangelical institution which accepts the three ancient documents of the early church: The Apostles' creed; Nicene creed; and the Athanasian creed. In Particular we affirm:

- " The Inspiration and Authority of the Scriptures; Atoning Death, and Resurrection;
- " The Existence of one God in three Persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Faith by the Power of the Holy Spirit;
- " The Creation of the Human Race in the Image of God.
- " The Fall and Resultant Human Depravity;
- " The Deity of Christ; His Incarnation, Atoning Death, and Resurrection;
- " Salvation by the Grace of God through Faith by the Power of the Holy Spirit;
- " One Holy Christian Church, the Body of Christ;
- " The Second Coming of Jesus Christ and the Consummation of all things.

Since 1994 the Trinity Statement of Faith no longer affirms that **the Old and New Testaments are infallibly and uniquely authoritative and free from error in all matters with which they deal: scientific, historical, moral, and theological.** They do not accept the **unique authority** of the Scriptures, and according to Dalman's letter science, nature and history take precedent over the Bible. Trinity affirms the Triune Godhead, but omits that He is **one eternal, transcendent, omnipotent, personal God.** Trinity affirms that God created the human race, but no longer affirms that He created **the existing space-time universe, including all its basic systems and kinds of organisms in the six literal days of the creation week.** Trinity now totally omits **"The full historicity of the Biblical record of primeval history, including the literal existence of Adam and Eve as the progenitors of all people, the literal sin and the fall of Adam as the federal head of the human race, the resultant divine curse on the Creation, the worldwide cataclysmic deluge, and the origin of nations and languages at the Tower of Babel."** from their statement of Faith.

Trinity accepts the Deity of Christ, but the statement makes no mention of **"The perfect, sinless humanity and absolute full deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, indissolubly united in one divine/human Person since His unique incarnation by miraculous virgin conception and birth."** as it affirmed in 1994. The 1998 statement indicates that Christ will return, but their theological teachings and suggested reading lists indicate that Bible prophecy and eschatology should not be taken as literal events of the future. Trinity has diluted their statement of faith not to conform to the Scriptures but to affirm the "New Orthodoxy" Theological viewpoints of some members of their faculty. I can abide by various interpretations of Scripture but **to deny the validity of God's Word and indicate that you know what God really meant to say and rewrite the Scriptures to suit your own bias is totally unacceptable.**

I think Jesus said it best in Matthew

But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves. MAT 23:15 KJV

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. MAT 23:25-28 KJV

However, we can rejoice in these events. When Jesus was here at the first coming, He indicated, as shown above, that many of the **"religious leaders"** of the time were hypocrites, and the world will probably be the same when He returns. Maybe these are the ones Jesus was talking to when He said: **But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. Luke 13:27 [KJV]**