

Unwrapping Our Christmas Paradox

Paradox: noun, a statement seemingly absurd or self-contradictory, but really founded on truth

Characteristics of the Religious

John 5:39-40

- Prizes diligent, intellectual and analytical treatment of scripture
- Leans toward defining love for God in meeting various requirements
- In the quest for "truth" often misses big picture
- Often exhibits anger toward those whose viewpoints differ from their own

TENDS TOWARD SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

Characteristics of the Conservative

Matthew 13:15

- Careful, steady, keeps to proven paths, preserves tradition, slow to change
- Prizes obedience to the Word because of what the Lord has done for them
- Pragmatic in interpreting Biblical promises
- Shows a tendency toward self-depreciation and unworthiness
- Passion for God often defined in "good works" or in "doing the right things"
- Look more toward empirical truth (evidence, proof) than faith toward God
- Head often trumps heart

Notice: God chooses to bless one of these and include him in this awesome event! (However, he has to put a cork in his mouth to keep him from talking himself out of it!)

TENDS TOWARD DOUBT

Doubt from those who should know better is different than questions from those who are ignorant! Ignorance asks for understanding, unbelief asks for proof! – Bill Johnson

Characteristics of the Courageous

Luke 1:26-38

- May be uninitiated but not gullible
- Questions facilitate progress
- Displays readiness of heart
- Willingness to risk begin misunderstood
- Discernment often precedes proof
- Act in uncommon boldness

TENDS TOWARD THE MIRACULOUS

Mary unwrapped the paradox that was Christmas...Let's do the same!