

I. Introduction

A. Bibliography

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B. Kansas City to Santa Fé: Illustration of Laying Wheel-tracks of Righteousness

Without knowledge of doctrine, there is not much of an inner conflict in the believer's soul. Without knowledge of doctrine there is no inventory of divine viewpoint available to challenge the temptations of the sinful nature.

God's principles in the soul eventuate in the believer fulfilling God's plan for his life as well as acquiring the capacity for blessings in time and eternity.

The odyssey undertaken by the believer between the moment of salvation and his physical death involves a journey through the minefield of human experience. You cannot make the advance from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity without the capability to make good decisions from a position of strength and the capacity to solve your problems from an inventory of divine truth.

We are going to illustrate the challenge of heading off into the unknown armed only with an inventory of ideas and a stated objective. We will first highlight the adventures of George Champlin Sibley, a Missouri frontiersman who headed the government's team of surveyors that blazed the Santa Fé Trail. They knew where they were going: Santa Fé. They knew the mechanics of how to get there. But when they left Fort Osage, Missouri, they had no idea of precisely what route they would travel.

If we use their journey as an illustration of the Christian walk and designate their arrival in Santa Fé as the attainment of spiritual maturity, then a question emerges if we are to attempt a successful mission: Do you know the way to your Santa Fé?

Whenever you enter into an adventure which takes you into the unknown, you are ill advised to begin your journey without knowing what you are doing. In order to get where you are going you must understand principles of survival, the potentiality of attack, the source of logistics, and be willing to orient and adjust to constantly changing circumstances. You cannot start out ignorant, run into problems, and hope to endure without any means of survival, self-defense, or mental flexibility.

Tragically, most believers go nowhere after salvation. Although they spend their lives trying to get to Santa Fé, they never get much past Kansas City. Arrival at one's spiritual Santa Fé demands knowledge of Bible doctrine in order to combat the attacks of the sinful nature. The battleground is the soul and the battle is won by means of the two power options.

If while on your quest you have to constantly ask what to do next, i.e., "*When thus and so happens should I do this or should I do that?*" then your spiritual life will become an anfractuious journey of confusion, frustration, and failure. The advance to spiritual maturity can only be accomplished under the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit utilizing metabolized doctrine in the soul.

If you delight in the principles of God, then you will be able to apply doctrine under pressure, innovate in the face of changing circumstances, and combat the inner temptations of your first husband to become a defector. Doctrine defines sin and exposes human good and evil into the clear light of day.

To get to Santa Fé you must adjust to God's agenda. This means the ability to work toward simultaneous objectives:

1. The ultimate objective: arrival at spiritual maturity (or Santa Fé), and
2. The immediate objective: getting from one day to the next (or, from point A to point B).

The biggest obstacle on the trip is the enemy within, the sinful nature which offers unrelenting opposition every step of the way. All opposition has one purpose in mind, to keep you from reaching your stated objective. The objective of the sinful nature is to prevent you from either learning about your logistics and problem-solving devises, or neutralizing your ability to utilize what you know.

A. Definition of Terms

Oxford English Dictionary, s.v. "icon":

A representation of some sacred personage which is honored with worship and adoration.

Oxford English Dictionary, s.v. "iconoclast":

The breaking or destroying of images especially those set up as objects of veneration.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, s.v. "role model":

A person whose behavior in a particular role is imitated by others.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, s.v. "unrealistic expectations":

Assigning to another attributes and behavior patterns which he is incapable of maintaining but assuming in self- righteous arrogance that he will.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, s.v. "self-absorption":

Preoccupation with oneself; absorption with one's own thoughts, activities, or interests.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, s.v. "self-deception":

The process of deceiving and misleading oneself into believing that others are perfect and without fault.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, s.v. "self-justification":

The process of making excuses for oneself.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, s.v. “projection”:

To attribute or assign guilt, responsibility, or blame from oneself to another.