

“Come Let Us Reason Together”: The Logic of Scripture

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. One of my favorite classes at YSU was Logic and Reasoning with Dr. Bruce Waller, author of the book Critical Thinking. I especially enjoyed the section of developing logical arguments, like a syllogism, a fundamental tool in basic thought and reasoning
 - 1. “A syllogism is a formal argument in logic that is formed by two statements and a conclusion which must be true if the two statements are true; a deductive formal argument consisting of a major and a minor premise and a conclusion.” (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)
 - 2. A simple example of a syllogism: “Every virtue is commendable; kindness is a virtue; therefore, kindness is commendable.”
- B. God wants us to use our ability to reason when we study His word
 - 1. Isa. 1:18; Ecc. 7:27; Mark 8:14-21
 - 2. A properly formed Bible syllogism is unanswerable; when the major and minor premises are true, the conclusion is absolute.
 - 3. Consider seven Bible syllogisms:

I. BELIEVERS AND SALVATION

- A. Christ alone can promise salvation - Acts 4:12
- B. He promised salvation to believers who are baptized - Mark 16:16
- C. Therefore, Jesus said that only baptized believers can be saved.

II. BAPTISM AND SALVATION

- A. Those only are saved who put on Christ - Rom. 13:11-14
- B. Believers put on Christ in baptism - Gal. 3:27
- C. Therefore, only those who have been baptized into Christ are saved.

III. SALVATION IN THE CHURCH

- A. The saved have been purchased with Christ's blood - 1Peter 1:18-19
- B. Christ's blood purchased the church - Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25
- C. Therefore, only those in the church have been saved.

IV. BAPTISM INTO THE LORD'S CHURCH

- A. We are all baptized into one body - 1Cor. 12:13
- B. The one body is the church - Col. 1:18, 24
- C. Therefore, the baptized have been baptized into the one church.

V. SALVATION AND THE LORD'S CHURCH

- A. God chose a Head for the one church - Matt. 15:13; Eph. 1:22-23
- B. Salvation is only in the one church where God appointed Jesus as Head
 - 1. Eph. 5:23
- C. Therefore, one cannot be saved out of the one church.

VI. GOD'S CHILDREN AND THE LORD'S CHURCH

- A. All God's children are in His house - Eph. 2:19
- B. The church is God's house - 1Tim. 3:15
- C. Therefore, all of God's children are in the one church.

VII. BAPTISM AND BLESSINGS

- A. Every spiritual blessing is in Christ Jesus - Eph. 1:3
- B. We are baptized into Christ Jesus - Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27
- C. Therefore, we are baptized into every spiritual blessing - Rom. 6:5; Eph. 2:13

Conclusion:

A. "Wisdom is the power to see, and the inclination to choose, the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it. Wisdom is, in fact, the practical side of moral goodness. As such, it is found in its fulness only in God. He alone is naturally and entirely and invariable wise. God's wisdom is seen in his works of creation, preservation and redemption: it is his choice of his own glory as his goal (Psalm 46:10; Isa. 42:8; 48:11), and his decision to achieve it first by creating a marvelous variety of things and people (Psalm 104:24; Prov. 3:19-20), second by kindly providences of all sorts (Psalm 145:13-16; Acts 14:17), and third by the redemptive "wisdom" of "Christ crucified" (1Cor. 1:18-2:16) and the resultant world church (Eph. 3:10)." (J.I. Packer, Knowing God)

B. "In the Holy Scriptures wisdom, when used of God and good men, always carries a strong moral connotation. It is conceived as being pure, loving, and good...Wisdom, among other things, is the ability to devise perfect ends and to achieve those ends by the most perfect means. It sees the end from the beginning, so there can be no need to guess or conjecture. Wisdom sees everything in focus, each in proper relation to all, and is thus able to work toward predestined goals with flawless precision." (A. W. Tozer)

- C. No man will ever reason successfully against the wisdom and reasoning of God. He is a fool who tries; he is arrogant who believes he can improve on it.