

My view of the Scriptures

Dearest friends, Christian Universalists come in many varieties. Some have what I call a "progressive" view of the Scriptures, while others hold to a more "conservative" view. Universalism is strongly supported by Scripture, regardless of which view you take. I personally would not equate the Scriptures with the actual "word" or "words" of God. They were written by fallible men under the inspiration of God. I don't believe in the infallibility or inerrancy of the Scriptures. I believe that the true "Word" of God is the "Logos" of John 1:1, or Jesus' "higher nature." I believe the Scriptures should be regarded as true or authoritative only to the extent that they reflect the beliefs and original teachings of Jesus.

Jesus, as do I, had great respect for the Scriptures, and believed that everything in them should remain, and not even one jot or tittle removed. At the same time, He did seem to "cherry pick" the Scriptures, and He highlighted those passages which supported his teachings. He spoke and taught on "his own authority," which shocked and amazed the rulers and elders. On some occasions, especially in the Sermon on the Mount, he contradicted and/or changed and amplified many Scriptures.

Many years after He left us, people began to write down, to the best of their recollection, His sayings and what they were told about His life and ministry. These writings, which we call the Gospels, are not deadly accurate with respect to everything that Jesus taught and did, but I do believe they capture the spirit and intent of those teachings.

I do believe that many truths and refinements to Jesus theology were communicated to His followers after the Resurrection, especially to the Apostle Paul.

I would describe my personal theology as an amalgam of the teachings of Jesus and the Apostle Paul. I believe they are complimentary and not contradictory to one another.

As a Christian Progressive, I believe the Scriptures should be regarded as the "perfect," but not "inerrant," vehicle by which God "progressively" reveals to us His true nature and how we should be relating to Him.