

The problem with pragmatism

The problem with Christian evangelicalism is that while it works very well for some, it doesn't work at all for others. This has to do with the foundation on which one's faith in God is built. Many evangelical Christians are very passionate about their faith and derive huge benefit from it. They are able to passionately love God and devote their lives to Him. God's work in their lives, and in the lives of people they know, provides validation for their belief system. Pragmatically speaking, many of them believe it primarily because it works.

Christian evangelicalism did not work for me, on the other hand, because I could not convince myself that it was objectively true. For me, the fact that Christianity worked well for many of its adherents did not validate the truth of their belief system. It has been said that ignorance is bliss. It is easy for me to understand how genuine bliss can result from a faulty belief system. If a con artist convinces you that he is going to make you very rich, you will indeed become very happy about that. On the other hand, if you know the Con artist is lying to you, the result will be doubt and skepticism, not happiness.

I personally could not benefit from a faith in God until after I was able to verify the validity of my belief system as objectively true. In order for that to happen, my beliefs had to square with objective reality, including the external realities of science, history and universal human experience. It also had to be internally consistent with itself and free from logical contradictions.

As a result of my investigations, I discarded the doctrine of Scriptural inerrancy and embraced the doctrine of Christian universalism. In addition, some of the biblical terminology needed to be more carefully and accurately defined, or should I say redefined. Pragmatically speaking, my faith works very well for me, mainly because it based on reason and logic. I still call it faith because nothing can be absolutely proved. The objective facts, however, have made it easier for me to take that "leap" of faith.