

Am I Serious?

A Short Response by Tim Hegg

Recently someone posted a blog entry questioning whether or not I'm serious. To be honest, at first that question caused me to chuckle, because in the past I've been labelled as being too serious, too often. It was kind of pleasant to hear someone suggest I might not be so serious after all.

The issue at hand, however, was the Atlanta Seminar we held last November, and the fact that we spent two of our sessions critiquing the Divine Invitation theology. The perspective of the blog was that we ought to have been done with this by now and moved on to other, more important issues.

But the Divine Invitation teaching is not an isolated piece of theological innovation. To put forth this teaching required significant shifts in the wider scope of theology. For instance, the belief in the all-sufficiency of Scripture had to be abandoned in favor of a mixture of Scripture and the Oral traditions of rabbinic Judaism. This in turn required a hybrid hermeneutic that gave significant authority to the rabbinic interpretation of biblical texts. Likewise, since the Torah was to be presented as an invitation to the Gentiles, the words of Yeshua in Matthew 16:18 ("I will build My *ekklesia*...") had to be redefined to include a kind of dual-*ekklesia*, or a bi-lateral ecclesiology. Yeshua is seen as building His *ekklesia* on two fronts: one that espouses Torah and one that does not. Both, according to this teaching, are *bona fide* expressions of what He desires.

Of course, proponents of the Divine Invitation would deny that they have adopted these theological shifts, but the upshot of their teaching clearly requires that they have.

So am I serious about these issues? Yes, entirely serious, because they sit as the bedrock of our faith and *halachah*. At TorahResource, we will continue to affirm the all-sufficiency of Scripture, interpreted and applied within its historical, grammatical context. And we remain firmly convinced that Yeshua's *ekklesia* is one *ekklesia*, being made up of Jew and non-Jew together as one new man in Messiah Yeshua, striving to walk in His footsteps, sanctifying God's Name upon the earth.

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is valuable for
teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness,
with the result that anyone who belongs to God
may be fully equipped for every good work.” (2Tim 3:16–17)