

Contextualization: My Method

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The methodology of contextualization for the gospel message described in authors Hesslegrave and Rommen book called "*Contextualization: Meanings, Methods and Models*" that appealed to me the most, is the Orthodox Didactic Method-Teaching Truth (p. 155). I think discovering truth can be a grueling process but teaching truth is fun. From my experience, once truth is discovered, it must go through the proving process by way of founding evidence, the facts have to be analyzed, and examined before they can be printed in books. On the other hand, the fact about truth is that during the discovering process, truth is squeezed out through the process, and therefore, there's no more work to be done but to teach it.

What appeals to me most about the Orthodox Didactic Method-Teaching Truth method is its purpose as mentioned on (p. 155). The purpose of the orthodox didactic—teaching truth method is pulled from Christ's command to disciple the nations and teach them to obey all that he has commanded (Matt. 28:16-20). One example of the orthodox didactic method-teaching truth is given by Geisler who helps us to realize that we cannot ignore the necessity to understand and adjust to the worldviews of respondents. But, that the "Christ of "historical-biblical Christianity" must be communicated as opposed to the "mythical 'Christ' of liberal or existential theology (p.155). In my continual Christian journey, I want the people group that is given to me to speak to, to believe in the living Christ, so that they too can experience His eternal love for them in real time and not just when they die and go to heaven. I want the people group to experience the truth of the Word in action in their lives as I too have experienced this truth. They too will have evident that he is the true savior of the world and they will want to disciple others. They will have evident that He is the one and only true living God. Our Creator.

Another reason for liking this method is the key terms that derived their meaning from the Scriptures. The key terms in the orthodox method—dialogue, gospel, faith,

doctrine, and so on—derive their meaning from the Scriptures. The context of contextualization is the arena of non-Christians belief systems. The method is to establish a common ground or a communicational bridge so that unbelievers can be convinced of the truth of the biblical gospel and to teach the Scriptures to those who are so convinced. The anticipated results are the spiritual transformation of those who place their faith in Christ and the discipling of the nations (p. 156).

How my theological thinking, personal beliefs and values align with this particular methods and models? My theological thinking, personal beliefs, and values align with the orthodox didactic method—teaching truth through apostolic contextualization (p149). The contextualization of the biblical message concerning the birth, death and resurrection of Christ held true during the first church age and today, pierced my heart at the age of fourteen and I began to obey the commission to “go” into all the world.... (Matt. 28:16-20). When I received the Holy Spirit at the age of fourteen as the apostles did on the Day of Pentecost Acts 2:1-3 the Scriptures became evident that the truth of God’s Word was a living Word in action (Acts 2:38). My values aligned with the Scriptures in becoming transformed by the renewing of my mind through the Holy Spirit and listening to the Word of God. I began to apply the Word of Faith heard and the evidence of the existence of God’s Word began to manifest in my daily walk with Him. As we know the Scriptures were written by holy men who were inspired by God passed down to messengers and written on stones, papyrus, and now written on the hearts of believers.

In conclusion, my understanding of contextualization as defined in the dictionary is the act or process of putting information into context; making sense of information from the situation or location in which the information was found. Contextualization is a Latin word meaning con-“together” and textual-“of a written document. I think the contextualized Orthodox Didactic Method-Teaching Truth can be used today to continue

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to bring about a greater understanding about the true meaning of the historical-biblical Christ and the preservation of the apostolic faith.