

Unit 2

Rebekah Tesfaye

Chapter 2 & 3

Essay questions

Chapter 2

1. The Roman Catholic Church was not to mess around with and Galileo was a brave person to have published writings and spread teachings regarding the heliocentric view. One of the most difficult things to do is to hold on to the truth that has liberated you from the wrong way of thinking. However, in Galileo's case, he most likely recanted because a colleague of Galileo's by the name Giordano Bruno had been condemned and tortured in 1600 as he had played a role in spreading teachings of the helocentric theory. Therefore this might have sparked fear in Galileo, or he might have thought of different methods of going about this view. He may have also thought of doing further research to keep so that others could have the opportunity to see for themselves.

Although I would stand to my truth, I do not know if I can accept huge consequences over an issue that doesn't cost other people's well being. The only truth that I will stand to even if it costs me death is my belief in Jesus Christ. Moreover, the church was threatened by Galileo's teaching because they didn't have the capacity to understand what Galileo was saying. This relates to what Albert Einstein said "religion without science is blind." Science does not defy or lessen the greatness of God nor does it cause destruction in our faith but highlights God's greatness and brings about revelations.

2.

Divine revelation has been and is greatly being misused to this very day. Although the holy spirit does reveal knowledge to us, he has also made general revelation available. When we discuss general revelation we are talking about nature or what has been made accessible for us outside of faith. Therefore faith is not the only method of learning. We grow in deeper intimacy with God as continue to discover what has not been discovered through science or through knowledge that other people have perceived from their surrounding.

Many fear that science or anything outside of their faith causes destruction and brings about a dilemma. Therefore they choose to hold on to what has been labeled as a divine revelation on not question it because it is the work of God. This is why integration is significant. For example, many go for healing to churches believing in the divine power of God and not get a check-up or check whether they are healed or not because it puts their belief in God in question. Due to this many have fallen severely ill or have even died. Faith is our belief in Jesus, not our belief in what he can do.

9.

This verse was such an eye-opener. I am an evangelical Christian and I would say that I see the evangelical Christians developing an obsession with having to tell the gospel to others and exclude the significance of loving your neighbor. In verse 29 it tells us that the man asks Jesus who his neighbor is to make himself sound righteous. It is easy to love on those you care about but not those you do not know, or even people who are opposite your lifestyle or belief. In all honesty, I would say that it was much easier to love people when I was a child. I find myself investing in those I love and not caring so much about those I do not know.

The church that I was brought up in also placed a lot of emphasis on religious disciplines such as fasting and prayer or preaching the gospel to others but barely placed an emphasis on what it means to help those that don't share our faith. I recall street beggars surrounding our church and church members passing as though they didn't see, or giving pennies and then dining at expensive restaurants for brunch. Although I questioned this sense of character I was told I was adorable for thinking otherwise.

Moreover, social action is the manifestation of one's orthodox belief. A person that does not stand for justice, that does not love his neighbor as he/she loves themselves or that does not stand for what is moral and right is not a Christian. It is vital that these two are integrated well into a believer's life.

|

|

Chapter 3

10.

It is not common for a young African woman to pursue psychology. People that study psychology back home in Ethiopia are not considered smart. A person is said to choose psychology if he/she wants to do something simple. In all honesty though that is not the case. Psychology is not as easy as people say it is and its significance is as equal to other major fields such as medicine or even engineering.

I have been told countless of times to study medicine or a major that I know that I can benefit from financially, because many assume that there isn't a demand or a need for psychology. Most church members joke around asking if I was planning to be a pastor so that I can teach and counsel married people that want to get a divorce. Although there could be some truth to that, I have always tried my best to highlight the significance of psychology.

I always respond to the "why psychology" this way. For example a patient goes to the doctor because he/she has liver problems. The most the doctor can do is diagnose them with a disease and give them medication to ease their problem. Whereas if this patient went to a psychologist and the psychologist asked "why are you facing liver problems" the patient might answer "I have a drinking problem" and from there the psychologist can help this patient overcome his/her addiction and the patient wouldn't have to take another pill or ever visit the doctor again. Therefore, psychology is a pretty big deal.

11.

I have been around different denominations but one common thing I find is people's perspective about mental health. Many do lack a psychological understanding and view mental health as an attack from demons. Many Christians who have not had formal education in psychology assume that depression, anxiety, panic attacks are of the devil. I recall someone telling me that all these names of different mental illnesses are names of demons.

For example the Roman Catholic Church has been around for centuries, therefore we see most Catholics or certain denominations that were around many centuries having a strong stance when it comes to old doctrines. Whereas when we take a look into the Pentecostal denomination which came about in 1962 with reformed doctrines. Hence, you see a liberal viewpoint towards psychology in denominations that just came about in the recent years. Also, psychology was considered a science in the 19th century or in 1879 which is somewhat recent. Therefore, it is more likely for denominations that came about recently in comparison to the recent.

14.

I don't know if I could call them foreign. However, I do know that most Christians don't really accept psychology to the fullest. Although they might accept a certain part of it, such as the therapy, other forms are not as accepted. Moreover, I have come across many people that think or assume I can read their minds because I am a psychology major and ignore the fact that psychology is not really about reading minds but understanding how human beings wired. I have also found that most men get intimidated by me when I tell them I study psychology because they fear that I can see their inner being.

On the other hand we see mental health not being a priority for many people. Many assume that it is not as important. One hospital that caters for the mentally ill is being used a COVID-19 center in Ethiopia and is no longer giving service to those who need the service. Psychology is still seen as the arts in Nyack College and isn't even recognized as a science when in all honesty it is. These matters should be taken seriously. If we have human beings that are psychologically stable there is no reason to why we shouldn't be having a safer and a better world to live in.

