

Name: Monu Shinchoury

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Chapter 3 Reflection

Summary

In chapter 3, Tennent tackles the Bibliology, a Hindu sacred text from the pre-Christian past. He examines Hindu, Buddhist, and Islam texts such as the Vedas, the Upanishads, the Bhagavad Gita, and Quran. Then, he discusses if Christians should use the sacred text of another religion if it helps them communicate the Christian gospel (55). Tennant is very clear that when it comes to the other religions sacred texts, they do not have same authority of the Bible even though sometimes that are true, insightful, and edifying (73). I really love how Tennent's explains the uniqueness of Christian revelation in the light of non-Christian religious texts, and he suggests guidelines for how Christians can interact with the texts of other religions in evangelism.

Key learning

This chapter made me appreciate the Bible more because it is unlike other sacred texts. Bible is inspired by God. Paul writes, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (2 Tim 3:16). The scared text in Hinduism is not regarded as the result of any acts of divine personal self-disclosure, as in Christianity. Growing up, I heard that a man from the cave wrote Hindu texts. I am unsure if it is true, but Tennent confirmed that It is a form of revelation (61). Islamic view of the Arabic Quran was a little odd to me. They believe that all the words contained in the revelation were fixed on a heavenly tablet before the world was created (62). It makes sense why they have a really high view of their text even to not translated from Arabic into any other language. It is interesting that

Buddhist do not have a single sacred text that all the faithful accept as authoritative in a final sense (64). But then it makes sense because it almost sounds like atheism because Buddhism began when the founder rejected Hinduism.

Implication

I wanted to learn more about Hinduism and its sacred book but wasn't motivated. Tennant inspired me not to settle with what I know. In Acts 17, Paul uses Greek texts (non-biblical sacred texts) for evangelism purposes, which means learning about other religions and their texts helps us better communicate the gospel message. I look forward to read at least one book during summer break. Do you have recommendation?