

Reflection Chapter 5

As I read through this chapter, I thought about how relatable we make the gospel as we present it and what is missed when we don't make the gospel relatable. Of course, this will take work on our part because knowing about the people or group we are talking to helps. I also thought about the depth of words and phrases. There was a few examples given in the reading. One thing presented is the difference between the Apostle creed and Nicene Creed. Tennet points out that the Apostle Creed invokes phrases from scripture, while the Nicene creed focuses on the person of Christ. How can one apply the knowledge of the work of Christ and the person of Christ? What does it mean to any given society or the persons in that society? When new groups encounter Christ what do they see him as, how they encounter Christ? Tennet reviewed how African theology looked at Christ, looking at the person of Christ. He chose a few words that had a great depth of meaning to Africans.

Christ is a healer and lifegiver. Christ is seen as not just a great physician, but He is also seen as one who heals the community. In western society you would not get this view of Christ in the word healer. What stood out to me even more is Christ as ancestor. I would have never thought about Christ in this manner. However, in African culture the mediator is consulted to make major decisions. The ancestor is also the one to guides and unites the community. This too is the position of Christ.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you."

Psalm 32:8 NIV

The word ancestor I found intriguing.