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The Living Constitution
by Bill Lockwood

The Constitution of Christianity is the Bible. It is the eternal standard given by God for the guidance of mankind. Each word being inspired of God in the original autographs (1 Corinthians 2:13), it does not change (1 Peter 1:22-23)—it is incorruptible. Never do men need to amend it by addition or subtraction (Revelation 22:18-19). God claims that it is “perfect” (Psalm 19:7). The Word of God is living and active (Hebrew 4:12ff) and able to save souls (James 1:18, 21-22). It stands eternal and unalterable (1 Peter 1:25).

One reason God warns against “adding to” His text is that He realizes that the proclivity of men is to be dissatisfied with the law as given—even the “perfect law of liberty”—the New Testament (James 1:25). There is a philosophy that has permeated the collegiate scene which is referred to as “postmodernism.” It is actually an attack upon the very nature of truth. It tells us that “truth” is not absolute and eternal but relative and subjective. Truth is no more than a “social construction of reality” which means that “there is no objective truth for humanity to discover.” Truth is relative and changes with individuals, social groups and religions. In this worldview, the “Constitution” of the Bible becomes a “Living” Constitution—which means it actually changes meaning over time. It makes it like the founding documents of our nation; they are “living”—in the sense that it does not mean today what it meant 225 years ago.

A spokesman from biblical studies describes what is intended with the Bible drawing a comparison with the Constitution of the United States. “...after two hundred years we cannot possibly know what the original framers of the Constitution intended to say. All present-day judges can do is read the constitutional text as 20th century Americans, asking what its words mean in our time” (William Larkin, *Culture and Biblical Hermeneutics*, p. 20). This is one reason so few seem to stand firmly for biblical truth any longer. They have been feeding at the troughs of postmodernism.

Just like most notions of hardball liberalism, these concepts are mislabeled to fool the populace. The “living” Constitution means really a “dead” Constitution, since the very reason for its existence is to put restraints on power which are now flagrantly ignored. The same principle applies to the Bible. The Word of God is already “living and active” (Hebrews 4:12), but this philosophy of postmodernism that would alter its meaning a thousand times over actually means a “dead” Word with no coherent meaning or substance that can be depended upon. It amounts to the desires of men making the Word of God after its own sinful will.