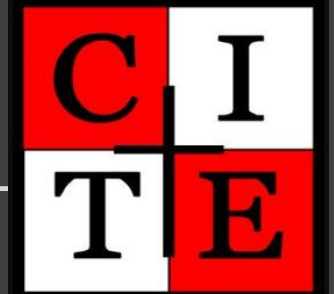


CITE Life Long Learning  
Seminar – February 8  
(1-5pm)

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Campbell Institute



Theological Education





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The Threat of  
Theological  
Progressivism

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My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and utter lying divinations. They will not belong to the council of my people or be listed in the records of Israel, nor will they enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Sovereign LORD. (Ezek. 13:9)

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This is what the LORD Almighty says:  
"Do not listen to what the prophets are  
prophesying to you; they fill you with  
false hopes. They speak visions from  
their own minds, not from the mouth of  
the LORD. (Jer. 23:16)

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For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. (Matt. 24:24)

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Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage-- with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine.

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Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. (2 Tim. 4:2-4)

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Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters.

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His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. (2 Pet. 3:15-17)

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But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them-- bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. (2 Pet. 2:1-2)

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Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. (Matt. 7:15)

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Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling.

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So I will cast her on a bed of suffering,  
and I will make those who commit  
adultery with her suffer intensely, unless  
they repent of her ways. (Rev. 2:20-22)

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See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. (Col. 2:8)

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# What is progressive Christianity?

Progressivism

Scriptures

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# What is progressive Christianity?

## Progressivism

- Jesus: social reformer

## Scriptures

- Jesus: Son of God

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# What is progressive Christianity?

## Progressivism

- Jesus: social reformer
- Authority: scientific, social, psychological theory

## Scriptures

- Jesus: Son of God
- Authority: prophets and apostles

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# What is progressive Christianity?

## Progressivism

- Jesus: social reformer
- Authority: scientific, social, psychological theory
- Bible: a faulty source for faith

## Scriptures

- Jesus: Son of God
- Authority: prophets and apostles
- Bible: infallible Word of God

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# What is progressive Christianity?

## Progressivism

- Jesus: social reformer
- Authority: scientific, social, psychological theory
- Bible: a faulty source for faith
- Christianity: social program based on race, class, gender

## Scriptures

- Jesus: Son of God
- Authority: prophets and apostles
- Bible: infallible Word of God
- Christianity: relationship with God

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# What is progressive Christianity?

## Progressivism

- Christian: anyone who leans left

## Scriptures

- Christian: anyone who follows Jesus

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# What is progressive Christianity?

## Progressivism

- Christian: anyone who leans left
- Cross: martyrdom for social activism

## Scriptures

- Christian: anyone who follows Jesus
- Cross: atonement for sin

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# What is progressive Christianity?

## Progressivism

- Christian: anyone who leans left
- Cross: martyrdom for social activism
- Sin: “inauthenticity,” wrong social theories

## Scriptures

- Christian: anyone who follows Jesus
- Cross: atonement for sin
- Sin: disobedience to biblical teachings

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# What is progressive Christianity?

## Progressivism

- Christian: anyone who leans left
- Cross: martyrdom for social activism
- Sin: “inauthenticity,” wrong social theories
- Resurrection: living “authentically”

## Scriptures

- Christian: anyone who follows Jesus
- Cross: atonement for sin
- Sin: disobedience to biblical teachings
- Resurrection: bodies raised to eternity

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# What is progressive Christianity?

## Progressivism

- Christian: anyone who leans left
- Cross: martyrdom for social activism
- Sin: “inauthenticity,” wrong social theories
- Resurrection: living “authentically”
- Hell: not being happy

## Scriptures

- Christian: anyone who follows Jesus
- Cross: atonement for sin
- Sin: disobedience to biblical teachings
- Resurrection: bodies raised to eternity
- Hell: trash heap for rebellious humans

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# What is progressive Christianity?

## Progressivism

- Salvation: finding yourself

## Scriptures

- Salvation: forgiveness unto life

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# What is progressive Christianity?

## Progressivism

- Salvation: finding yourself
- Heaven: a utopia we build here through “social justice”

## Scriptures

- Salvation: forgiveness unto life
- Heaven: the new creation Jesus will bring

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# What is progressive Christianity?

## Progressivism

- Salvation: finding yourself
- Heaven: a utopia we build here through “social justice”
- Politics: the most important tool for building our utopia

## Scriptures

- Salvation: forgiveness unto life
- Heaven: the new creation Jesus will bring
- Politics: a corrupt but necessary restraint on human sin

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# What is progressive Christianity?

## Progressivism

- Salvation: finding yourself
- Heaven: a utopia we build here through “social justice”
- Politics: the most important tool for building our utopia
- Gender: whatever you want it to be

## Scriptures

- Salvation: forgiveness unto life
- Heaven: the new creation Jesus will bring
- Politics: a corrupt but necessary restraint on human sin
- Gender: God-given natural order

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# What is progressive Christianity?

## Progressivism

- Mission: build a utopia here

## Scriptures

- Mission: make disciples of all nations

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# What is progressive Christianity?

## Progressivism

- Mission: build a utopia here
- Outlook: Adapt to pagan values

## Scriptures

- Mission: make disciples of all nations
- Outlook: Apart from world for sake of world

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# What is progressive Christianity?

## Progressivism

- Mission: build a utopia here
- Outlook: Adapt to pagan values
- Result: accommodation

## Scriptures

- Mission: make disciples of all nations
- Outlook: Apart from world for sake of world
- Result: faithfulness

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Alisa Childers

*“Five Signs your church might  
be headed towards  
progessivism”*

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# 1. A lower view of the Bible

- “The Bible is a human book.”
- “The apostle Paul was wrong about that.”
- “The biblical authors simply didn’t understand sexuality as we do.”
- “The Bible merely contains the Word of God (as opposed to the Bible is the Word of God).”

*\*Alisa Childers “Five Signs your church might be headed towards progressivism”*

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## 2. Feelings over facts

- “That Scripture verse just doesn’t resonate with me.”
- “I thought homosexuality was a sin until I met and befriended some gay people.”
- “Jesus just wouldn’t send people to hell.”

*\*Alisa Childers “Five Signs your church might be headed towards progressivism”*

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### 3. Essential Christian doctrines are open for reinterpretation

- “The resurrection of Jesus doesn't have to be factual to be true.”
- “The church's position on sexuality is culture-bound, but the trajectory of Scripture teaches us to accept all sexual expressions.”
- “Hell is the life we live here as inauthentic persons.”

*\*Alisa Childers “Five Signs your church might be headed towards progressivism”*

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## 4. Historic terms are inaccurately redefined

- “God would never punish sinners—he is love!”
- “Sure, the Bible is authoritative, but we’ve misunderstood it for the first two thousand years of church history.”
- “It’s not our job to talk to anyone about their sin; it’s our job just to love them.”

*\*Alisa Childers “Five Signs your church might be headed towards progressivism”*

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# 5. The heart of the gospel message shifts from sin and redemption to social justice

- “All people are basically good.”
- “God doesn’t require the death of Jesus for our sins—it would be unjust for God to have allowed Jesus to be killed for the sins we committed.”
- “We don't need to preach the gospel—we just need to show love by bringing justice to the oppressed and provision to the needy.”

*\*Alisa Childers “Five Signs your church might be headed towards progressivism”*

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