

ACTS Theological Synoptic Movement

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“ACTS Theological Synoptic Movement” is a joint research project which has been carried out since 1998. Its purpose is to clarify and articulate the theological position and missional task of ACTS. With a primary emphasis on “the central truth of Christianity” in all areas of theory and practice of Christian theology, ACTS intends to propose a way to apply and embody this truth in all aspects of Christian faith and life.

1. “Central Truth of Christianity” Movement

“ACTS Theological Synoptic Movement” is committed to emphasizing and propagating “the central truth of Christianity.” “The central truth of Christianity” is the core truth proclaimed by Jesus Christ and his apostles, transmitted by the church fathers and teachers, and clearly stated in all historic confessions of faith. It can be summarized as the message of salvation which declares that one may receive forgiveness of sins and sanctification by faith in the one and only Savior Jesus Christ who died and was resurrected for our redemption, and finally enter the eternal kingdom of God. This central truth is a grand theme that runs throughout the entire Bible (Luke 24:25-27; 44-48; John 5:39; 20:31; II Timothy 3:15-17) and serves as the ultimate criterion by which biblical revelation can be correctly interpreted. ACTS intends to emphasize the preeminent importance of the central truth, the starting point and foundation of faith that leads to salvation.

2. Sound Theology Movement

“ACTS Theological Synoptic Movement” is committed to constructing a sound theology that promotes faith by presenting “the central truth of Christianity” in a simple and definite way. In the present, not to mention the liberal theology, even the conservative theology fails to present the central truth of Christianity explicitly. Since the Enlightenment, the liberal theology has interpreted the supernatural revelation of the Bible in light of experience and reason alone based on rationalistic line of thought and view of history. It has stereotyped Christianity as some fragmentary, abstract philosophical concepts, while it focuses on the peripheral rather than the essential themes of Christianity. Though some conservative theologies do defend and justify principal doctrines, there is a tendency to become engaged in futile academic discussions around the particulars that are irrelevant to the core of Christianity. They tend to borrow humanistic and empirical methodologies, such as critical hermeneutical methodology, that conflict with faith premises. In light of the modern theologies that either neglect or distort the central truth of Christianity, it is imperative that a movement such as “ACTS Theological Synoptic Movement” should emerge.

3. True Believer Nurturing Movement

“ACTS Theological Synoptic Movement” nurtures true believers through the communal “faith movement.” In light of the reality of the present day church, this movement

is greatly needed. In the 21st century, the so-called “age of pluralism,” the orthodox doctrines and theology are neglected in an unprecedented manner. The global church, confronted by the scientific worldviews and challenges of secularism, is on the verge of losing orthodox faith. The majority of the Korean church today, despite its heritage of evangelical faith based on theologically orthodox doctrines, has become secularized to such an extent that it is continually accused of moral corruption. The primary reason for such accusation is the failure of the Korean church to properly demonstrate a transformed holistic life which bears fruit of repentance through salvation by faith. She has reduced the central truth of Christianity to doctrinal assent which leads only to nominal confession. In response, by presenting both the content of salvation—the central truth of Christianity—and the communal “faith movement,” ACTS intends to nurture true Spirit-filled believers who can integrate theology and faith, doctrine and practice, and faith and action.

4. Church Unity Movement

“ACTS Theological Synoptic Movement” is committed to establishing a unified church in Jesus Christ in collaboration with all Protestants who confess the central truth of Christianity. The Bible teaches us to be of one accord and unity built upon the same confession of faith. However, the global ecumenical movement of the 20th century had deviated from biblical teaching by prioritizing institutional mergence rather than homogeneity of faith. On the other hand, the attempts to justify divisions based on secondary, not core, issues related to faith, also are contrary to biblical teaching. Since the Reformation, the Protestant denominations have been built on the same confession of faith in terms of the central truth and their doctrinal differences were not a matter of essence. The Korean church in the 21st century has the task of overcoming the history of wounds resulting from intense dissensions of the past century. The local church/denomination-oriented competition in terms of expansion needs to be subdued, and respect and collaboration between denominations should be encouraged. Therefore, ACTS intends to overcome the serious problem of denominational conflicts and schisms prevalent in the Korean church and to help contribute to building a unified church with the central truth both in Asia and around the world.

5. Church Renewal Movement

“ACTS Theological Synopsis” is committed to establishing theology that revives the church. It is dedicated to research in both theology and practice from the perspective of “the central truth of Christianity,” as rightly emphasized by the Protestant church teachers in each era. ACTS intends to contribute to church restoration as it applies and embodies “the central truth of Christianity” in all theoretical and practical areas of Christian theology. It is this theology movement that ACTS, a “theocentric-evangelical” theological seminary founded for the “evangelization of Asia,” is committed to achieve in the face of the contemporary reality of the turbid state of theology and the secularized condition of the church.