

The Mathematics of Divinity

simple discourses on profound topics

Gene Marshall 2010

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These ten discourses comprise a ten-session course on topics like: What do we point to with the word “God” when we live on this side of the demise of both literal and metaphorical talk about gods and goddesses, One God and angels, Satan and demons – who live in an upper deck (or lower deck) beyond the natural cosmos? Also how do we honor the writers of the Bible who quite naturally used this double-deck metaphor and other images of transcendence to talk about the most profound matters of their lives? Indeed, how do we translate the messages they wrote into language that we can use to speak about the most important matters of our lives today? Such a recovery of the Bible is important not only for Christians and Jews and Muslims who use these scriptures devotionally, but for all interested investigators of Western religions, whatever be their religious practice or philosophical leanings.

By “mathematics” I do not mean something complicated. The “mathematics” in these discourses is a sort of gimmick algebra used for solving Scripture passages for their most likely human meanings, as well as some triangular geometry for noting the relationships between aspects of “Divine” experience held with words like “Almighty,” “Christ,” and “Holy Spirit,” – and subtopics of these basic aspects held by words like: “sin” “grace,” “trust,” “love,” “freedom,” “peace,” “rest,” “joy” and more. I am intrigued with Christianity’s emphasis on the number three and how the three aspects or faces of Divinity are related to each other and protect each other from perversion.

In a word, these ten discourses are attempts to point to the profound matters of Christian heritage in an elementary way. Nevertheless, this will entail a paradigm shift for most people. I consider this a core piece of curriculum for the Next Christianity.