

*Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.*

**1Corinthians 2:12**

## Store In My Heart

### Nahum 1:1

An oracle concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum of Elkosh.

About a century after Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah, they had returned to oppressing other nations. Nineveh had destroyed The Northern Kingdom of Israel and had begun to once again think they were more important than they really were.

Nahum pronounces God's vengeance against Nineveh and His Sovereign Rule in the kingdoms of men in this writing. Much of what is written points to the rejoicing of Judah when Nineveh was punished by God.

Though Nahum shows Jonah was correct in his assessment of the Ninevites, it is never the place of man to question God. We cannot know God's plan beyond what He has revealed. His Word should be our guide.



# “It is Written”

Doy Moyer

## Reflections on Authority, CENI, and Grace

Those claiming to be Christians will make the claim on the basis of what they believe the Scriptures teach. This is so, regardless of how far right or left on the spectrum of thought they find themselves. This is not to say that all interpretations are correct or that as long as they make the claim, they are fine. It's just a starting point.

Today, we might say, “the Scriptures teach” or something similar. This is essentially on par with the idiom, “It is written,” recognized as the way Jesus answered His temptations (Matt 4; Luke 4). The “writings” (i.e., Scriptures) were considered authoritative by Jesus and the Jews of His time. To appeal to what was written was to appeal to authority. Scriptures were considered God's word to man, and “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God” (Matt 4:4; Deut 8:3). Though the word of God was more than only what was written down (e.g., Jesus is the Word, the prophets, etc.), what was written down was nevertheless seen as God's word, and if God's word, then it carries the authority of God.

To say, then, that the Scriptures teach something implies that there is something authoritative about them and we should listen. We aren't Christians because we think some self-help book or blog said something important. Christians recognize that there is authority in the Scriptures because of that deeper-held belief that God is behind what is revealed (1 Cor 2; 2Tim 3:16-17; 2Pet 1:20-21). All of this seems simple enough, but clearly there is more to the issue because we all know it is not good enough just to point to a passage and say, “See, this is what the Bible says.” Anyone can do that, but if the passage is being taken out of context or misapplied, then we

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## For Our Information

Joyce Venable has been dealing with a virus this past week.

Each day there are those who struggle with issues of which we may not be aware. Illness, injury and sorrow from loss are constants among us. Let us each take time to seek help from God for our difficulties and let us remember to include our brethren in our requests to the Father.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

know there is a problem. Even the devil quoted Scripture to Jesus (Matt 4:6).

Regardless of who it is interpreting Scripture, there is a basic process, often unspoken, employed by anyone who thinks Scripture is authoritative that cannot be denied without denying fundamental logic or sounding outright silly. This process involves looking directly at what is said, considering examples given, and then inferring from what is said and shown how important and applicable these matters are. Even those who fuss and pejoratively poke at CENI (Command, Example, Necessary Inference) do the same. At the end of the day, if they are going to say, "this is what Christians ought to believe or do," they will only get there through the same means. They will appeal to what Scripture says, to the examples provided, and through a reasoning process (inferring) come to conclusions that they think are important. So it is with everyone. Everyone! People will differ on outcomes, but there is no denying the process of how communication works. It astounds me when some try to deny it.

I've been told that when I speak of all of this in terms of "telling, showing, and implying," that I'm just repackaging the old CENI in new terms. First, I don't deny that this is basically true, though I do deny some of the baggage they attach to it (e.g., that it is a "Church of Christ hermeneutic"). I have long said that "Command, example, necessary inference" is a more formal way of saying that God tells us, shows us, and implies what He expects us to get — something every interpreter will necessarily have to agree with (try denying it). I prefer the latter terminology because I think the former was a little too narrow ("command" is narrower than "tell," and not everything told is a command). I have argued that, perhaps, had these matters been explained more in terms of basic logic and communication, maybe there wouldn't have been such a kickback against it all later. Now we find ourselves having to defend the simple and undeniable. Second, saying it is just repackaging doesn't deal with the issue. If that bothers someone, maybe that person can suggest a better way to communicate than through telling, showing, and implying. Maybe that one thinks that God has communicated in ways other than this. I don't know. When it's all over, though, I guarantee that the person disagreeing with all of this will go to the Bible and point to something that is said, or to some example, or infer something from what is said and shown that he thinks makes his point. Fussing about CENI is a red herring. It isn't the real problem. (To Be Continued)

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(If you want to read the remainder of this article now, you can visit Brother Moyer's website, SearchingDaily.com. Just type this link in your browser address bar: "<https://searchingdaily.com/2019/02/18/it-is-written-reflections-on-authority-ceni-and-grace>". Study, Pray, Apply, Repeat! DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!