

Cipher This!

by Wayne Goff

ABOUT SAM STORMS

I am an Amillennial, Calvinistic, charismatic, credo-baptistic, complementarian, Christian Hedonist who loves his wife of 45 years, his two daughters, his four grandchildren, books, baseball, movies, and all things Oklahoma University. In 2008 Sam became Lead Pastor for Preaching and Vision at Bridgeway Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Sam is on the Board of Directors of Desiring God, and also serves as a member of the Council of The Gospel Coalition. Sam is a past President of the Evangelical Theological Society, and currently serves on its Executive Committee.

If you ever wondered what the difference was between a Bible scholar and a theologian, then the description given above would illustrate it. You can study the Bible all your life and not be able to “decipher” this description. Mr. Storms is a genius, hard-working, well-versed in theology, studious, and well-disciplined! He spent a good part of his life going to seminaries and then teaching in them. He has a Ph.D. in Intellectual History (who would have guessed?). But he fits the biblical description of one who is “*ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth*” (2 Tim. 3:7). You see, he is a student and teacher of Reformation Theology. He is a Calvinist, though a rather free-spirited one. One who is a Calvinist who does not believe in premillennialism is unusual. I do not think he is a bad person, morally speaking. I think I would like him.

He has published thirty-six books, papers, or articles. I may read his book on “*The Case for Divine Election*” so that I might see how he argues for arbitrary predestination. And he has written on how one can be “free” though “predestined” (Calvinistically) by God.

In some ways I envy the life of education he followed. When I left college, I made a different choice. While I loved higher education, and the classroom environment, I realized the **danger** of learning more than is true. I also realized the **danger** of the need to compromise in theological realms. So I never became a theologian. I remain to this day a simple-preaching man, always trying to reduce the complexities of God’s Word into terms and ideas that everyone can understand, believe and obey. And I’m still trying to “cipher” his description, so don’t ask me what it all means!

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