

11 Aug 76

NEWSWEEK: KEN WOODWARD

Dear Ken--

Here are some definitions of "Evangelical," to serve as locaters and discussion nodes in interviews....And here is the basic paper of mine in the 1966 debate with BG--in which I use the term "scribal" for the i/herrant-book mentality....Also, I hope you don't find the thinksheet "Evangelical"? entirely unreadable!

1. An "Evangelical" is a Lutheran. This is the main adjective Lutherans throughout the world use for self-designation. Thus the term has the connotation of "German Protestant." The two contrasts the term thus used suggests are "Catholic" and [Calvinist, Presbyterian] "Reformed."
2. "Evangelical" means "of the gospel[s]," i.e. is a synonym for "Christian." All Christians are evangelical, thus evangelicals.
3. In British Christianity, "Evangelical" since the late 18th century has meant that Church of England wing laying special stress on personal conversion and salvation by faith in Jesus' atoning death. A synonym for "an evangelical" in this sense is "a born-again Christian" or "a born-again believer." This is the "low-church" position, in contrast to both the "high-church" position [including pro-Catholicism] and the "broad-church" position [Enlightenment humanism, modernism]. English-speaking Christianity all over the Empire/Commonwealth and N. America uses the term this way, in contrast not only to other forms of British religion but also to non-Britism pietisms. [See 1st paragraph of #610.]
4. Members of the National Association of Evangelicals for United Action [founded 1942] and like-minded believers.
5. "Old Evangelical" means the social-action, social-transformation wing of British-American evangelicalism. [See #610.1.]
6. "New Evangelical" means the 1970s American recrudescence of "Old Evangelical."
7. "Evangelical" means fundamentalist, and is a new term for people who feel a special mission to defend the Faith against errors within the churches and attacks from without.
8. "Evangelical" means charismatic, the warm form of evangelicalism as fundamentalism is the cool-intellectualistic form. [#610.2 and .3.]
9. "Evangelical" means the general ethos, ethic, mentality of Carter, Ford, and Reagan.