

Chad A. Rhodes

“Autobiographical Statement”

My name is Chad Anthony Rhodes. I was born to Rev. Wayne and Lillian Rhodes in Lima, Ohio (1972). We moved often (Ohio, Nebraska, and Michigan) and at the age of five or six we moved to Texas. I received my education in small East Texas towns (Trinity, Willspoint, and Palestine), graduating high school in 1991. I then went to community colleges (McLennon and Trinity Valley) for a year and a half before leaving school and entering the work force. I had two primary occupations for the next ten years. For three years I performed vehicle maintenance (oil changes) and for seven years I was a telephone lineman. At the age of twenty-nine I came to believe that Jesus Christ was the Truth, confessed my belief, and was baptized.

In spite of the fact that I was raised in the community of believers, I was unable to stay within the pale of orthopraxy (right practice) and eventually began to question orthodoxy (right belief). Consequentially, I pursued hopes of fulfillment in other ways such as New Age “philosophies”, Zen Buddhism, and general narcissistic hedonism. Eventually I found myself in state of existence which entailed fear, emptiness, hopelessness, anger and despair. At this point I began to reconsider the value of Christian belief and practice. During the year in which I came to believe, I spent much time in prayer and studies.

I have recently finished my undergraduate work with a BA in Philosophy (minor in Theology). In the Fall I will begin work on a M.Div. at Union Theological Seminary. I intend to pursue my education through a Ph.D. in historical theology. My final intention and call is to promote orthodoxy and orthopraxy within the preaching/teaching vocation for the glorification of God and his kingdom.