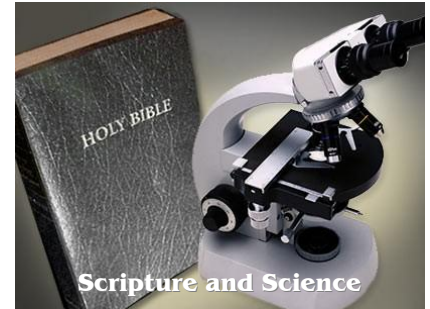


#1 Where do we find truth?

4/11/2010 - Jim Johnson

Mankind is on a quest for truth. Where do we find this truth?



I. There is truth that comes through _____

God has revealed truth to us in the Scripture.

A. The Scripture _____ to be true. Ps 119:160, John 17:17

The Scripture is completely truthful and without error in the original manuscripts.

B. The _____ of God guarantees the Scripture to be true.

Heb 6:18 tells us that God cannot lie. God's character requires that the Scripture be truthful and error free.

C. The _____ Scripture is perfect and true.

Jesus treated the whole of Scripture as being so perfect and true, that it could not be broken, or altered by man in any way at any time. (John 10:35)

D. Every _____ of Scripture is precise and true.

In Matt. 22 Jesus used the tense of that verb to prove that the dead are resurrected. A simple verb tense made the difference between a lie and the truth. In Galatians 3:16 Paul used the number of that noun to distinguish between the truth and a lie.

E. The very _____ in the words of Scripture are precise and true.

According to Matt 5:17-18 the smallest letter or even the flag of a letter of Scripture will never be lost or altered

F. The Bible is a fully _____ source of truth.

II. There is also truth that is discovered through _____

A. The Scripture is true, but not everything that is true is _____ in the Scripture.

We believe that Christ was raised because it was written in the Scripture and yet we also believe that 2 plus 2 equal 4 which is not written in the Scripture. Why? Because it has been tested and has been consistently proven over time that 2 plus 2 equals 4.

B. The _____ Method helps us to ascertain truth.

The dictionary says, "A scientific method consists of the collection of data through observation and experimentation, and the formulation and testing of hypotheses." Webster. It involves 1) Asking a question 2) Doing background research related to that question 3) Constructing a working hypothesis. 4) Testing the hypothesis repeatedly 5) Analyzing the data and finally 6) formulating a conclusion as to whether the hypothesis was true or not.

The scientific method is based upon key assumptions. It limits itself to things that can be known and measured by experience and observation. It is based on the assumption that nature is orderly and predictable, and it is also based on the assumption that natural processes have taken place at the same rate over time. The scientific method enables us to understand lots of things with a fair measure of certainty.

III. All truth is God's _____

The truth of the Scripture is God's Truth – but the truth imprinted in this world which is understood through the scientific method, is also God's truth. Even Scripture testifies that truth can be gathered from this world. (Ps. 19:1-3, Romans 1:20)

A. The Scripture provides an excellent base for scientific _____

There are three critical scientific assumptions that are also grounded in the Bible. (From How Now Shall We Live by Chuck Colson, pg. 422)

1. The physical world is _____

Most eastern cultures are based on pantheism which teaches that the physical world is only an illusion. The Bible teaches that the world is real and can be known. 3 times in the Genesis one does it say "*God made.*" He made a tangible real world.

2. Nature is good but not _____

Many pagan cultures, on every continent were and are steeped in animism which is to say that they believe that nature is alive. But Gen 1:31 teaches that nature is the handiwork of God. There are fixed elements in the universe that can be studied.

3. Nature is orderly and _____

The ancients regarded nature as being mysterious, dangerous, unpredictable and chaotic. Tough to study chaos. But Scripture teaches that God is a God of order (Gen 1:14) There is regularity, and predictably to this world and therefore it can be studied

B. The best science should come from people of _____

Sir Isaac Newton is often considered the greatest of the early scientists and the father of modern science. He was a devout Christian whose pursuit of science was strongly motivated by his desire to defend the faith. He firmly believed that the scientific study of the world would lead straight to the God that created that world. An article on the web site Science World says, "Newton singlehandedly contributed more to the development of science than any other individual in history." Yet Newton was first of all a man who believed in the Scripture. Newton was and is one among many credentialed scientists who also hold to the authority of Scripture.

CONCLUSION

Both Scripture and Science offer us a good deal of truth. This being the case, there is one inexcusable sin today – that sin is to be naïve – to be deficient in wisdom or informed judgment. The naïve person accepts what they are told without really studying it, and questioning it and testing it. The book of Proverbs tells us that it's a foolish way to live life (Prov 14:15, 14:18) The prudent person / the wise person digs into the data, weighs it, and objectively comes to an informed understanding of what is really true. (Proverbs 25:2) God is anxiously waiting for us to probe His Word and His world because He knows at the end of our search we will find truth and all truth is God's truth.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Use this section in your personal or family devotions to better apply the truth.

1. What is it about our physical world that speaks most loudly to you about God?
2. Which source of truth do you most prefer? Most distrust? Why?
3. Why do some perceive there to be a conflict between Scripture and Science today?