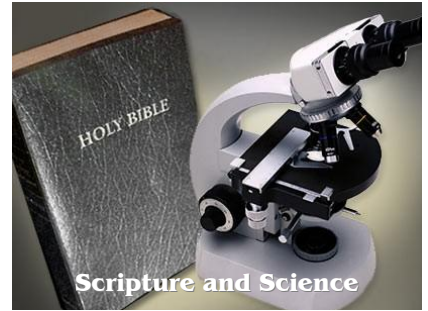


2 - What if they disagree?

4/18/2010 – Jim Johnson



A. Sometimes the theologian & the scientist don't _____ on what is true.

B. Why do theologians and scientists sometimes disagree?

1. The data may be _____.

This can be true both of the theologian (flat earth) and the scientist. (vestigial organs)

2. The researcher may be affected by _____.

This can be true both of the theologian (the sin of alcohol) and the scientist. (Dr. Simon LeVay)

3. The researcher might be affected by _____ pressure.

This can be true both of the theologian and the scientist. (Climategate)

4. There are other reasons why theologians and scientists may not agree.

Maybe the researcher did not have all the evidence to examine. Maybe the researcher had none of the evidence to examine.

C. So what _____ when the Theologians and Scientists disagree?

The Christian Scientist will leave the laboratory and cross over into the theologian's study. He analyzes the biblical data hoping to conform it to fit the findings of science. (Theistic Evolution) He forces his interpretation of Scripture through sieve of science. But the theologian may do the same type of thing. He leaves his study and goes over in the laboratory and analyzes the scientific data and tries to force it through the sieve of biblical teaching. Perhaps a better response would be for each one to humbly reexamine their own data – and lay bias aside.

D. What should a _____ do when the theologians and the scientists disagree?

We must defer to one or the other. **When in doubt, go with the _____.**

1. Scripture is truth, whereas science is a _____ for truth.

Scripture is truth (John 17:17) Science is a quest for truth. Websters says it is a "Systematized knowledge **derived from** observation, study and experimentation carried on **in order to determine** the nature or principles of what is being studied."

2. Scripture is consistently _____ over time.

a. The Scripture has not been _____ over time.

The Bible has been amazingly, even supernaturally preserved. In 1450 BC Moses wrote, "*In the beginning God created.*" and those words have been faithfully transmitted through the ages so that today, in 2010, we read "*In the beginning God created.*" Unlike complicated scientific data, the Scripture is available to anyone and everyone who can read. A scientist could pull the wool over our eyes. He can hide the data from us if he wishes. But he can't deceive us, in this way, by using the Scripture - for we can check it out for ourselves.

b. The Scripture has been proven accurate in matters of _____.

The historicity of Scripture is validated through time over and over. (Pontius Pilate)

c. The Bible has been proven accurate in matters of _____.

Many prophecies of the Bible have been fulfilled over time with uncanny accuracy such as Isaiah's prophecy of the virgin birth, and Micah's prophecy of Messiah being born in Bethlehem..

d. The Scripture has been proven accurate in matters of _____.

Countless folks have discovered that when the practical counsel of the Scripture is put into practice, it works just as promised. The Scripture is accurate in matters of practice. This is not always true of Science. (Dr. Benjamin Spock)

e. The Bible has been proven to be accurate in matters of _____.

Though the Bible is not a science book it has been proven accurate in matters of science. (William Harvey and the circulation system - Leviticus 17:11)

When in doubt, go with the Scripture because Scripture is consistently validated.

3. Whereas Science is frequently _____ through time.

As continued research is done, what was once thought true in scientific circles is often updated or discarded. (Vestigial organs, Dr. Spock, the age of Carlsbad Caverns)

Conclusion

It is wonderful when the theologians and the scientists perfectly agree on what is true. On those occasions when they do not, then we must make a choice as to which source of truth we will trust. When in doubt, we need to go with the Scripture.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

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

1. What are some of the issues where the theologians and the scientists tend to disagree today?
2. How informed are you on these issues? Do you really know what the Scripture teaches? Are you bold enough to trust the Word when it conflicts with modern thinking?