

## Knowledge of the World compared to the Bible (Intro. & Pt1)

Today we begin a new teaching on the word *knowledge* in the Scriptures. There are 172 occurrences of the word *knowledge*, 763 of the word *know*, 89 of *knowest*, 104 of *knoweth* and 51 of *knowing*. For this series of studies we will only cover the word *knowledge*.

The word *knowledge* in the English Oxford dictionary means; "Knowing, familiarity gained by experience, (of person, thing, fact); person's range of information...(became known to me)...theoretical or practical understanding (of subject, language, etc), the sum of what is known...certain understanding, dist. from opinion. Hence...well-informed, intelligent." The Scriptures also attest to a similar meaning of the word *knowledge*, as it refers to knowing and understanding. Examples include;

(a) Prov 9:10 *The fear of the Lord [is] the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy [is] understanding.*

b) Prov 19:25 *Smite a scorner, and the simple will beware: and reprove one that hath understanding, [and] he will understand knowledge.*

When we turn to the Greek for greater depth of meaning, we find confirmation that the word *knowledge* is closely related to; *know* and have *understanding*. The Greek however, adds the word *perceive*, as a word that is similar to *knowledge*, where we find the Greek word for *knowledge* is also translated, *perceive*.

Examples include;-

*Gnosko* - is translated; know (see Matt.13: 11), had *knowledge* (see Acts 17: 13), understand (see Jn.8: 43) and perceive (1Jn.3: 16).

*Eideo* - is translated; know (see Matt.4: 13), having *knowledge* (see Acts 24: 22), understand (see 1Cor.13: 2) and perceiving (Mk.12: 28).

Hence when people understand or perceive something they have *knowledge*.

When we consider the use of the word *knowledge* in the 172 occurrences in Scripture we find a difference between how the word is used in the Bible compared to how it is used in the world. That difference is not in meaning, but in content of the *knowledge* of a particular topic. Therefore this study will take a slightly different approach to other words studies, where our first two teachings will consider eight different topics and compare the content of the *knowledge* or understanding between the Scriptures and the world. In this first study we will look at the content in four different topics that include; God, creation of the heavens and the earth, creation of man and good & evil.

Let us add a little more detail to each of these points:-

### 1. Knowledge about God

i) The world's knowledge about God

Approximately half the world's population believe, or at least profess to believe in a god, whilst the other half deny the existence of God.

Where do the world get their knowledge of God from?

Science provides our world with the knowledge of God. Scientific theories generally conclude, there is no God. And such theories are today taught as fact to our children at secular schools and universities. And for those who believe in god, but not the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, they refer to an alternate revelation to the Holy Scriptures.

Ask anyone that does not believe in God (an Atheist) to outline where they get their understanding from? Evidence from science, is generally your answer. But there are others who have no knowledge of God, those who reject the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and include; (a) those who have a *knowledge* of a false god, (b) those who believe there is a god, but they desire their sin, more than the *knowledge* of God, His truth and all that He offers in His Son. Hence their *knowledge* of God is distorted by their sin.

Whilst witnessing on Queen street last Friday I was privileged to preach the gospel to a young man who was bold enough to admit that he does not want to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and therefore come into the *knowledge* of the truth of God, because he is not prepared to give up his lusts of the flesh. It was his own sin that kept him from the *knowledge* of God, just as it was for the nation of Israel when they rejected the Lord Jesus Christ, and God's prophets, as recorded in the Old Testament (see (Is.45: 20)).

ii) The Bible's *knowledge* about God

The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to man. It indicates that the invisible things of God are clearly seen in creation (see Rom.1: 20). According to the Bible God Almighty, Jehovah God, revealed Himself in His Son, the

Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus said, *If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him* (see Jn 14: 7). So the Scriptures attest to the fact, that a person can come to a *knowledge* of God through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

When you talk with a lost man you find the explanation of the Scriptures to be correct, man does not want to retain God in his *knowledge* (see Rom1: 28). Because once you believe there is a God, you have to deal with the problem of sin, as was the confession of our young man on Queen street.

Let us all be encouraged to discuss with the heathen about the existence of God, and when we do, remember two things; (a) ask questions (b) we can never prove, beyond doubt the existence of God. At the end of the day, a person either believes God and His written revelation or they do not, for it is impossible to please God without faith (see Heb.11: 6).

One example I find myself using, is of the Lord Jesus Christ when He was on earth performing miracles. The Scriptures say, that some believed He was the Son of God and some did not (see Jn.6: 64). The point being, those who do not believe in God, do so because they choose to reject Him, regardless of the evidence.

Let us pray for the lost, whether they be scientists, doctors, engineers, lawyers or from any other background and ask the Lord to show them the truth of His divine revelation, in the form of the Holy Scriptures.

## 2. Knowledge about creation of the heavens and the earth

i) The world's *knowledge* about the creation of the heavens and the earth

Science has established the Big Bang theory. "The Big Bang theory is an effort to explain what happened at the very beginning of our universe. Discoveries in astronomy and physics have shown beyond a reasonable doubt that our universe did in fact have a beginning. Prior to that moment there was nothing; during and after that moment there was something: our universe. The big bang theory is an effort to explain what happened during and after that moment.

According to the standard theory, our universe sprang into existence as "singularity" around 13.7 billion years ago. What is a "singularity" and where does it come from? Well, to be honest, we don't know for sure. Singularities are zones which defy our current understanding of physics...Our universe is thought to have begun as an infinitesimally small, infinitely hot, infinitely dense, something - a singularity. Where did it come from? We don't know. Why did it appear? We don't know. After its initial appearance, it apparently inflated (the "Big Bang"), expanded and cooled, going from very, very small and very, very hot, to the size and temperature of our current universe. It continues to expand and cool to this day and we are inside of it: incredible creatures living on a unique planet, circling a beautiful star clustered together with several hundred billion other stars in a galaxy soaring through the cosmos, all of which is inside of an expanding universe that began as an infinitesimal singularity which appeared out of nowhere for reasons unknown. This is the Big Bang theory." see <http://www.big-bang-theory.com/>

As a matter of interest, what does the Scriptures say about science?

Dan.1: 4 indicates that understanding science was good for the children of God (see verse 7). But when science opposes God and His divine revelation, it is called "science falsely so called" (see 1Tim.6: 20).

ii) The Bible's *knowledge* about the creation of the heavens and the earth

God created the heavens and the earth (see Gen.1: 1, 2: 4, Is.42: 5, 45: 7, 8, 12, Col.1: 16 & Rev.10: 6).

Earlier this year was a big scientific discovery made by Higgs, that was known as the Higgs Boson that helped to define more fully the big bang theory of how the world began. However, Peter Higgs wrote an article in the NZ Herald about the Boson particle that included the discovery of a universal field. Well Pete, we who believe the Book, call this universal field, God. Now we know that no amount of man's wisdom, or man's *knowledge* or understanding will ever enable him to discover how God created the heavens and the earth, but it is interesting that what they have discovered, has not refuted the existence of God, but of course you would not get such a conclusion of the evidence from Peter Higgs.

Let us ask the Lord for opportunities to challenge those who believe the religion of science as their source of *knowledge*. Let us ask the Holy Spirit of God to convict them of their sin, in righteousness and in judgement (see Jn. 16: 7-11). For it is only the Holy Spirit of God that can help us break down the barriers of the religion of science.

## 3. Knowledge of the creation of man

i) The content of the world's *knowledge* about the creation of man

Students are taught at our universities that man has evolved from other species and such knowledge is fact: "Is evolution a theory, a system, or a hypothesis? It is much more...Evolution is a light which illuminates all

facts, a trajectory, which all lines of thought must follow - this is evolution." Theodosius Dobzhansky, *"Nothing in Biology Makes Sense Except in the Light of Evolution"* (1973).

We have already covered what God thinks about science that contradicts His revelation, it is science so falsely called.

ii) The content of the Bible's *knowledge* about the creation man

God created man in his own image (see Gen.1: 27, 5: 1, Deut.4: 32 & Is.45: 12).

When you think about the evolution position of the scientist you have to wonder at the monkeys that are here today. I remember my son pointing this out to me some years ago, "But Dad, if we evolved from monkeys how come they are still here?"

And then Mr scientist, where did the monkeys come from, and the animals before them? Are you saying that we all evolved from a little blob which encompassed all the *knowledge* necessary for every species of animal and man? That's a big ask?

I challenge each one of us to have at least one discussion in our life time with an anthropologist, who has in the course of their studies researched human zoology, evolution and ecology. There are Christian organizations like "Creation Science" who have scientists that stand up to the scientists who teach evolution as fact and this is certainly an area outside of my expertise. But be encouraged to get hold of reading material from both sides of the debate and compare their evidence with the Scriptures. And pray for those who are specifically involved in this ministry like Ken Ham.

#### 4. Knowledge of the difference between good and evil

i) The world's *knowledge* about good and evil

Our societies knowledge of what is good and what is evil continues to change as the world looks to be more and more tolerant. Examples in our own country include:

a) 2009 Anti-smacking legislation.

"The law places New Zealand among a growing number of countries around the world who have a legal ban on the use of physical punishment with children."

b) 2004 Civil Union Legislation of 2004

c) "The Civil Union Act 2004 provides the criteria, rules and processes for two people to have their relationship solemnised as a civil union (by way of a formal ceremony) and officially registered in New Zealand. A Civil Union may be entered into by couples of the same sex or by couples of different sexes."

d) In 2012 Labour MP Louisa Wall's Marriage Amendment Act bill had its first reading. If passed the bill would allow same gendered people to marry. Thus re-defining marriage.

There are other examples that do not include governments setting up laws that violate the Scriptures (that proclaim evil to be good - see Is.5: 20), they include; (a) societies acceptance of tattoos and (b) societies acceptance of taking the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in vain (Blasphemy).

ii) The Bible's *knowledge* about good and evil

The Bible says we can know the difference between good and evil (see Gen.3: 22, Deut.30: 15). God gave the ten commandments that we would all come to the knowledge of sin (Rom.3: 20). So there is a line drawn in the sand, where good is on one side and evil is on the other.

So far we have seen that the world's knowledge of God, the creation of the heavens and the earth, the creation of man and the understanding of good and evil are all contrary to the content of the Holy Scriptures.

Is it any wonder therefore that the *knowledge* of the unsaved is vain (see Job 15:2 )?

Is it any wonder that the Scriptures teach that man's *knowledge* is actually not *knowledge* (see Ps.14: 4 & Is.45: 20)?

Is it any wonder that in the eyes of God, the most knowledgeable heathen scientist has no *knowledge* (see Is.45: 20).

Is it any wonder that the Scriptures teach that a lost man hates *knowledge* (see Prov.1: 22 & 1: 29)?

Is it any wonder that the Scriptures teach that God will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent (see 1Cor.1: 19)?

According to the Scriptures of truth a man has no *knowledge* until he knows the fear of the Lord, which is the beginning of wisdom and *knowledge* (see Prov.1: 7, & 9: 10).

Having said what we have said, let us say it again in this our first study on the word *knowledge* in the Holy Scriptures. We have looked at the different content of *knowledge* in four different topics that have included; God, creation of the heavens and the earth, creation of man and good & evil. And in each topic the content of the world is opposite, is incompatiable with the content of Holy Scripture.