



Science Versus Faith

Lesson Subject: Revelation from the Creator supercedes discovery for His creation.

L17. Date: March 1984. **Text:** Proverbs 3:19, 20; I Corinthians 2:6-16.

Topic: Science: Vs. Faith; Bible: Revelation of.

Science versus faith? It does not have to be that way. Indeed, it is not that way in very truth. Science stands opposed to faith only in the minds of those who reject faith in God as a valid way to truth.

To be scientific does not mean one is faithless. To have faith does not mean one is unscientific.

Every man operates on the basis of faith, even those who reject the knowledge of God. Faith is "certainty concerning unseen realities." All of us, even the worst of us, accept as true things that we cannot see.

It is not unscientific to be a Christian. There is no conflict between the Christian faith and true scientific fact. On the contrary, truths discovered by scientists confirm the reality and truthfulness of Christian doctrine.

Some scientists deny the Christian faith. But so do some plumbers, farmers, merchants, and every other class of society. Do not let another's doubts become a problem to you. "*Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus*" (II Timothy 1:13).

I. THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE

The Bible is not a book of science; it is a book of religion. It is a mistake to go to the Bible searching for discussions on scientific subjects.

But the Bible is not unscientific or antiscientific. Its emphasis is not on "how" (the emphasis of scientists) but on "Who" (the Person behind all creation). Genesis 1 does not describe how order came in our created

universe. But it says thirty times, “God said, God saw, God called, God made, etc.” The creation account is God-centered revelation.

The Bible is correct when it refers to subjects of science. Consider Genesis 1. (1) The order of events on each of the six days is the same as that suggested by secular scientists. (2) There is agreement that there was cosmic light (Genesis 1:3-5) before there were light-giving bodies (Genesis 1:14-19). (3) The fish, birds, and animals were on the earth before man appeared (Genesis 1:20-28). (4) Many other matters are referred to but not discussed which were confirmed by human study; the earth hangs on nothing in space; the blood circulates in the body; the earth rotates on its axis, etc. The Bible does not teach us about science, but it is true when it speaks in the areas in which scientist deal. Trust your Bible.

II. FAITH AND SCIENCE

Faith has no conflict with scientific fact. Truth is truth wherever it is found — and truth is the foundation of faith. Science deals with facts in an attempt to discover and understand truth. So there is no conflict between true religious faith and true scientific fact.

Faith rejects the suppositions, opinions, and conclusions of “*science falsely so called*” (I Timothy 6:20). Some scientists misunderstand and make wrong conclusions concerning their discoveries. But true science agrees with revealed truth.

Faith goes beyond science. It fills in the “gaps” in scientific thought. Three gaps that scientists cannot explain are filled in by divine revelation: (1) the origin of the matter of the universe (Genesis 1:1); (2) the origin of animal life (Genesis 1:21); and (3) the origin of human life (Genesis 1:27). These are explained by “God created” in the Bible. Faith sees the unseen by its certainty concerning God (Hebrews 11:1). “*Through faith we understand that the worlds are framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear*” (Hebrews 11:3).

III. TRUTH AND SCIENCE

Science has not yet discovered all truth. It is still an infant discipline, still developing and learning more and more. What was considered “scientific fact” of a generation gone is laughed at now. Who would be willing to be treated according to information in medical textbooks of a century ago, much less those of a millennium back? No one. Why? Because

those methods are known now to have harmed the patient in some instances rather than helping him. Scientists are learning.

When the automobile was first invented, it claimed attention by the scientific community. A group of men made a study and concluded, so it is reported, that an automobile must never travel faster than thirty miles per hour because the human body could not stand the pressure. They missed their guess somewhat!

Secular scientists do not know all truth (I Corinthians 2:6-8). One can be a genius in one branch of learning and ignorant in another of the disciplines. Any one of us has a tiny percent of the total possible knowledge one could have. The scientist who rejects God or the Bible is suggesting he has all knowledge and knows there is no God to be revered. Such a rash and self-deified spirit is laughable to a thinking person. Anyone who denies the truth of God is only showing his ignorance, that he does not know the truth of God.

IV. GOD AND TRUTH

A. God is the ultimate source of all truth. “*God is true*” (John 3:33). When the Lord Jesus will be revealed at the end of the age, He will wear a title which reads, “*Faithful and True*” (Revelation 19:11). The Christian testifies, “*We know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life*” (I John 5:20). Everything that is said or done by “*the true God*” is truth. Since He is the source of all things. He is the source of all truth.

B. Full truth is beyond the reach of mortal beings. “*Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him*” (I Corinthians 2:9). There is much truth which “*the natural man*” is unable to receive without divine enlightenment (I Corinthians 2:14). “*No man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end*” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). “*As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb in her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all*” (Ecclesiastes 11:5).

C. Divine truth is revealed to mankind by the Holy Spirit of God (I Corinthians 2:10-12). The Spirit searches out and knows the deep things of God and then reveals them to us (John 14:26; 16:13-15). The Christian who attends a class taught by a non-Christian professor has more knowledge than his teacher (Psalm 119:99) because he knows God.

D. Divine truth can be passed from person to person. *“We speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual”* (I Corinthians 2:13). We can follow the injunction of Paul that the things we have learned will be passed on to faithful persons who will be able to teach others also (II Timothy 2:2).

E. Divine truth is reserved for spiritually minded people (I Corinthians 2:14, 15). It is only the “pure in heart” who can “see God” in time or in eternity (Matthew 5:8). The unsaved person thinks spiritual things are foolish because he does not understand them. He rejects them as non-intellectual. The saved person thinks spiritual things are wise and valuable because he does understand them. He knows the treasure of what God has made available to us in the Bible and through Jesus Christ. *“We have the mind of Christ”* (I Corinthians 6:17). *“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God”* (I Corinthians 2:12).

“Through faith we understand” (Hebrews 11:3). Faith is built on fact, not fancies. Some go to extremes under the guise of faith, just as some go to extremes under the guise of science. Shun the extremists on both sides. Be certain concerning God and His work and all other areas of human knowledge will fall into their proper perspective.

Have no fear of true science. God established the universe and hid in it the secrets that scientists are now searching out.

QUESTIONS

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1. Why do some think science contradicts faith
 2. How does 2 Timothy 1:13 apply to this study?
 3. How is the Bible related to scientific knowledge?
 4. Why is there no conflict between faith and true science?
 5. How does faith go beyond the scope of science?
 6. Why have scientist never discovered one fact which disproves the Bible?