

God's Knowledge & Man's Knowledge

by Bill Crews

We sometimes describe God's knowledge as omniscient (all knowledge), or we say, "God knows everything." Certainly God can know anything He wants to know of all there is to know. There may be some things that God has chosen not to know, but could know anytime He wanted to know. Some things on man's part, very wicked and evil things, are said to have never entered the mind of God (Jeremiah 19:5 and 32:35, for example). But God's knowledge is infinite (without limits or bounds).

Can we not appreciate how much knowledge would be required to design (let alone to bring into existence) the universe (a cosmos, not a chaos) that surrounds us? How can we ponder the earth alone, truly an oasis in the universe, teeming with life and wonders, without being astounded at His knowledge and power?

The Bible says:

- *"And there is no creature that is not manifest in his sight, but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him with whom we have to do"* (Hebrews 4: 13).
- *"Because if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and knoweth all things"* (1 John 3:20).
- *"Will not God search this out? For he knoweth the secrets of the heart"* (Psalm 44:21).
- *"For there is not a word in my tongue, but lo, O Jehovah, thou knowest it altogether"* (Psalm 139:4).
- *"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past tracing out!"* (Romans 11 :33).
- *"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts"* (Isaiah 55:9). Please read also 2 Chronicles 16:9; Psalm 33:13-15 and Psalm 139:7-12.

And what shall we say of man's knowledge, even of the knowledge of the most knowledgeable? Every man's knowledge is finite (with limits or bounds). There are so many things that he cannot know (the thoughts of others, the future, the mind and will of God, and many other things). And he knows so little of all there is to know. And his ability to understand and his capacity for knowledge are limited. He can think he knows something he does not know, or he can think that what he knows is the truth or correct, when in fact it is false or incorrect. So it behooves every man to be humble, receptive and willing to accept correction, and ever striving to grow in knowledge while giving the most attention to the more important things that there are to know. If any man would be truly wise, he must acknowledge the existence of God and give Him His proper place (Job 28:28; Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7; 9:10).

What the Bible teaches:

- Paul warned Timothy against *"the knowledge which is falsely so-called"* (1 Timothy 6:19).
- He also cautioned, *"Knowledge puffeth up, but love edifieth (or builds up)"* (1 Corinthians 8:2).
- *"Let no man deceive himself. If any man thinketh that he is wise among you in this world, let him become a fool, that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God"* (1 Corinthians 3:18-19).
- Pagan Greeks and Romans *"refused to have God in their knowledge"* (Romans 2:28). And, *"professing themselves to be wise, they became fools"* (Romans 2:22). They also *"became vain in their reasonings, and their senseless heart was darkened"* (Romans 2:21).

I had just turned 17 when I became a freshman at "Rice Institute" (now Rice University), one of about 75 chemical engineering students that were kept in classes together. There I saw much arrogance and ignorance pompously parading as knowledge. I counted only one of my professors as truly wise, the

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