

God's Knowledge & Man's Knowledge [continued from 282302]

by Bill Crews

... white-haired professor of chemistry. More than once the good doctor said to his class, "We don't know why these elements behave the way they do, except that the good Lord just made them to behave that way." And because they did, we were able to learn the laws by which they were governed, conduct experiments, and predict results.

In the physical realm man is able to acquire, utilize and pass on knowledge by observation, investigation, experience, experiment, application and taking notes. The past has shown that he will make many mistakes and pass on many errors, so he needs to be cautious and careful and constantly reassessing any body of human knowledge. But in the spiritual realm man cannot know the mind of God, the character of God, or the will of God for mankind, except as God reveals them. And God has revealed these very things -- sin the Bible, a book that has stood the test of time and resisted the assaults of the skeptics. Let us have the good sense to let Him teach us, and let us apply ourselves unto learning -- about Him and His will for us.

Important Question

by Arvey Glen Freed

"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?" (James 2:14). That is faith apart from works. Or, can faith alone save a man? From pulpits from every quarter will come the answer, yes, yes!

The divine writer answers the question by giving a beautiful parable: *"If a brother or sister be naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone"* (James 2:15-17).

Faith, by itself, is like feeding the hungry mouth with pretty words, or like clothing the freezing body with beautiful language. *"What doth it profit?"*

Works

"Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered Isaac his son upon the altar?" (James 2:21).

But the objector says, **"Not of works,"** and quotes *"for if Abraham were justified by works, he had whereof to glory; but not before God"* (Rom. 4:2). *"But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness"* (Rom. 4:5).

What kind of works do these scriptures exclude? *"For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through **the law**, but through the righteousness of **faith**"* (Rom. 4:13). But, *"We say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness"* (Rom. 4:9). When? *"In circumcision or uncircumcision? Nay, in uncircumcision"* (Rom. 4:10). Why? *"That he might be the father of all them that believe,"* both Jew and Gentile (Rom. 4:11). He is the *"father of all them that believe."* How? *"Who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham"* (Rom. 4:12). Abraham had a **walking faith**. He heard God. *"He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief"* (Rom. 4:20). *"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went"* (Heb. 11:8).

No Room For Boasting

"Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay; but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law" (Rom. 3:27-28).

It is a pity that teachers of the Bible know not the difference between the works of the law of Moses by which *"shall no flesh be justified,"* and *"the law of faith"* which requires obedience to God. *"By whom we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name"* (Rom. 1:5). *"A great company of the priests were obedient to the faith"* (Acts 6:7). *"Blessed are they that do his commandments"* (Rev. 22:14).

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