

Things We Can Know

No. 275

Introduction

- I. There are many characteristics of our age. We live in an age of **skepticism**, an age of **questioning**, an age of **pleasure**, an age of **materialism**.
- II. **Our age is also an age uncertainty.** Some people are very uncertain about the truth. Some people boldly exclaim it is not possible to know anything. They contend that nothing is absolute. They contend that truth is relative and it is impossible to know anything. Some are so certain that nothing is certain that it makes one wonder how they can be so certain!
- III. In this lesson we will set forth, in a positive way, the fact that we can know certain things.
 - I. **God Is** - We can know that God is.
 - A. For centuries philosophers and theologians have debated the existence of God.
 1. **Atheists** deny the existence of God and argue it is foolishness to believe in God.
 2. **Theists affirm there is a God. I should caution Theist** is a broad term referring to those who believe in God, but not all theist believe in the God of the Bible. Some believe there is a higher power of some kind, but he is not necessarily anything like the God described in the Bible.
 - B. **At this time I will not attempt to present the abundant evidence for the existence of God**, but would like to stress that it is possible to have knowledge of God's existence.
 1. The Bible teaches us that the heavens declare God's glory. (Psa. 19:1).
 2. The Bible teaches us that the evidence for God is so strong that only a fool would deny His existence. (Psa. 14:1).
 3. The Bible teaches us that the evidence for God is so strong that those who deny His existence are without excuse. (Rom. 1:18-21).

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

- a. Paul emphatically declares that we can know God exists.
 - b. We can know He exists by the things that are made. The things that are made shout the existence of God.
4. The Bible teaches that it is by faith that we understand **the worlds were framed by the word of God.** (Heb.

11:3).

- a. The words “by faith” are most often misunderstood.
- b. Some believe our faith in God is a subjective leap in the dark. Some believe it is merely a hope or wish.
- c. They interpret “faith” to be void of evidence for God’s existence, but this is far from the truth.
- d. When we see **a watch**, we know there had to be a watch maker. The parts of the watch did not just suddenly appear and then arrange themselves into a time piece.
- e. When we see **a home or school or church** building, we know there had to be intelligence behind them. They did not just suddenly appear.
- f. And when we see **a complex world** and **a complex universe**, we know these things did not something appear out of nothing. There had to be an Intelligent Maker.

5. The **Hebrew writer** made this great statement. (Heb. 3:4).

6. Based on this statement **Allen Cornell** wrote an article entitled, “Every House Is Built By Someone.” Here is a portion of that article.

“...Every house is built by someone. An effect demands a sufficient cause. We now should be able, more clearly than ever before, to realize that design demands a designer. But we are being told a lie. We have heard it so many times that some of us will start to believe it unless we are reminded frequently that it is a lie. We are supposed to understand that certain rather crudely chipped rocks are proof of a designer, yet not even suspect that the intricate patten of a flower similarly demands a designer. While we are expected to believe that a simple sketch on a cave wall was made by someone, we are scorned as superstitious if we believe in a Maker for the fabulous human mind. We are taught to know that a certain design in a rock is the track of an animal that walked there when the rock was soft material. We are supposed to be just as certain that the foot stepping there (and even the whole animal) happens to be the result of the chance interaction of molecules over a long period of time accompanied by natural selection....The predominant philosophy of our age has led millions of people to goose-step that a little design demands a designer while a very complex design resulted from mere chance. No hundred-story building is as complex as the simplest, one celled, free-living organism, but I do not have to tell you which one we are supposed to believe originated by chance...” Firm Foundation - Oct. 7, 1975- Taken from Apologetic Press Web Page

7. Here are some amazing facts that **Dr. Bert Thompson** discusses in his article “The Case For The Existence Of God.”

- a. The Sun’s interior temperature is estimated to be over 20 million degrees Celsius (Lawson, 1981,89

[1]:102). The Earth, however, is located at exactly the correct distance from the Sun to receive the proper amount of heat and radiation to sustain life as we know it. If the Earth were moved just 10% closer to the Sun (about 10 million miles), far too much heat and radiation would be absorbed. If the Earth were moved just 10 % further from the Sun, too little heat would be absorbed. Either scenario would spell doom for life on the Earth.”

- b. “The Earth is rotating on its axis at 1,000 miles per hour at the equator, and moving around the Sun at 70,000 miles per hour (approximately 19 miles per second), while the Sun and its solar system are moving through space at 600,000 miles per hour in an orbit so large it would take over 220 million years just to complete a single orbit. Interestingly, however, as the Earth moves in its orbit around the Sun, it departs from a straight line by only one-ninth of an inch every eighteen miles. If it departed by one-eighth of an inch, we would come so close to the Sun that we would be incinerated; if it departed by one-tenth of an inch, we would find ourselves so far from the Sun that we would all freeze to death. (Science Digest, 1981, 89 [1]:124). The Earth is poised some 240,000 miles from the Moon, whose gravitational pull produces ocean tides. If the Moon were moved closer to the Earth by just a fifth, the tides would be so enormous that twice a day they would reach 35-50 feet high over most of the Earth’s surface.”
- c. **These are just samples of the ten of thousands of designs that show there is a God.** You cannot have a **newspaper** without a writer or writers. You cannot have a **painting** without a painter. You cannot have a **poem** without a poet. You cannot have a **house** without a builder, and you cannot have a universe that manifests such awesome design without a Great Designer.

II. **The Bible Is God’s Word** - We can know the Bible is God’s word.

A. We can know this because of its backed claim. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2 Pet. 1:21).

1. Paul and Peter affirmed the scriptures are inspired of God.
2. The word “inspired” means “God-breathed.” Paul is informing us that the Bible is not the words of men, but it is the message of God.

B. **This is not a mere unsubstantiated claim**, but it is backed with abundant evidence.

1. The **100% accuracy** of the Bible is testimony of its inspiration. Human books always make mistakes and get quickly out of date, but not the Bible.
2. The **scores of prophecies**, made long before their fulfillment, are a powerful testimony the Bible is from God.
3. The **miracles** of the prophets, Christ and the apostles are powerful evidence the Bible is from God.
 - a. They made bold claims and their claims could have been dismissed as non-sense or wishful thinking if they had not been backed with miracles from God.

- b. **Jesus claimed** to be the resurrection and the life (Jn. 11:25), and then backed this incredible statement by raising Lazarus from the dead.
- c. The apostles claimed to be speaking words by the revelation of God, and they backed their bold assertions by the many miracles they performed. (Acts 2:4, 43; Heb. 2:4)

III. **The Bible Is Understandable** - We can know the Bible is understandable.

- A. Some do not believe it can be understood and seldom, if ever, read the Bible.
- B. Some contend we cannot understand the Bible, and yet they study the Bible.
- C. **I submit to you that if the Bible cannot be understood that it has no value.** A book that cannot be understood should be discarded because it only creates confusion and uncertainty.
- D. **Liberal students of the Bible** claim it is arrogant to claim to know the truth, but they are in direct contradiction of Jesus. (Jn. 8:31, 32).
- D. Other scriptures reveal that it is possible to understand God's word. (Jn. 12:48; Rom. 10:17; 15:4; Eph. 5:17; 2 Tim. 2:15; Jude 3).

IV. **We Are Saved** - We can know we are saved.

- A. Some believe a **Christian cannot know he is saved.** He must always be uncertain and live in constant doubt.
- B. Others believe confidence of salvation is a manifestation of arrogance.
- C. The scriptures teach we can have confidence of salvation. (1 Jn. 2:3, 29 ; 1 Jn. 5:4, 13).

Conclusion

- I. Beloved, as Christians, we do not know everything, but we can know many things.
 - A. We can know God is. We can know the Bible is God's word. We can know the Bible is understandable. We can know we are saved.
 - B. **We certainly do not have to live with doubt and uncertainty.** We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (Rom. 8:35-39).

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written, "For Thy sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- II. If you are a non-Christian you may be asking how you can be sure you are saved and be sure you are free from the condemnation of sin.
 - A. On the **divine side**, you can be sure because of what God has done for you. (Jn. 3:16).

B. On the **human side**, you can be sure if you do what God requires to have salvation and its great blessings. (Jn. 8:24; Acts 17:30; Rom. 10:10; Acts 2:38; Rev. 2:10).

C. God's word assures you if you obey these scriptures from the heart that your sins will be washed away by the blood of Jesus and heaven will be your home.

III. Come today and obey Christ that you may have the assurance of salvation. Come as we stand and sing.

"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,
© Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation

Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)