

THE MIND OF GOD

(Lesson at Fairview Memorial Winter Bible Study by J. A. Reynolds 1-10-2019)

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who has known the mind of the Lord? or who has been his counsellor? Or who has first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen. (Romans 11:33-36)

For **who has known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.** (1st Corinthians 2:16)

(Above from Isaiah 40:12-15: ?) ***"Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor has taught him? With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and showed to him the way of understanding? Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he takes up the isles as a very little thing." (Isaiah 40:12-15)***

"Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man (forsake) his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts (higher) than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:6-9) ("Mind" generally includes all of the thinking faculties of an intelligent being.)"

"Through faith (evidence of the invisible) we understand that the worlds were framed by the (spoken) word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." (Hebrews 11:3) "Let there be ... and there was."

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross...." (Philippians 2:5-11) Jesus taught us by his demonstration what attitude a sinless flawless man ought to have toward God while living his life here on earth, always bowing to God's will. ("Lo, I come to do thy will, O God." - Hebrews 10:7&9 / "Father ... not my will, but thine, be done." - Luke 22:42) / "I do always those things that please Him" - John 8:29)

"Philip says unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it suffices us. Jesus says unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet have you not known me, Philip? he that has seen me has seen the Father; and how say you then, Shew us the Father? (John 14:8-9) (What we now need to see of the Father is embodied in Jesus!"

"And He that searches the hearts (Jesus?) knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because he makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God." (Romans 8:27)

"Behold, I go forward, but He (God) is not there: and backward, but I cannot perceive Him: On the left hand, where He does work, but I cannot behold Him: He hides himself on the right hand, that I cannot see Him: But He knows the way that I take: when He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold. My foot has held his steps, His way have I kept, and not declined. Neither have I gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food. But He is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desires, even that He does. For he performs that thing that is appointed for me: and many such things are with Him. Therefore am I troubled at His presence: when I consider, I am afraid of Him. (Job 23:8-15)

If the best man in that ancient time by God's admission humbly trusted the mind of God, seeking only some explanation thus far refused even when a deserved answer was earnestly sought, in his misery remained fully resigned to trust God's mind, how foolish are carnal minded men to think they can know His mind today in any other matter than what he chooses to reveal to each of them at his chosen time and place!

"He stretches out the north over the empty place, and hangs the earth upon nothing. (Job 26:7) (Interpret this!!)

How much did the most knowledgeable among natural mankind generally know about the Creator's earthly creation for the first 5500 years? Only that which was visible to the naked eye and little beyond that! While God revealed much of the Spiritual creation which we humans needed to know from the earliest years, much of the natural creation and its incredible complexity was for millenniums left unrevealed and only discovered in very recent times. Do you think that those discoveries which men think are so important were considered relatively unimportant by the mind of God?

"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. (Daniel 12:4) In this final chapter of Daniel's prophecy soul-winning, righteousness, and final victorious resurrection and glorification are predicted but little is said about mankind's activities beyond *"many running to and fro,"* and *"knowledge increasing."* **If we understand the magnitude of mankind's technological advancement, especially in transportation and communications, we may here have God's summation of it all, AND its total relative unimportance in His view.** Surely that prophecy describes the last century or two we have experienced as God views its importance. Our hundredfold or more increase in capability of both transportation (going to and fro) and communications (increase of knowledge) was so briefly mentioned that its **relative unimportance in God's mind** simply jumps out at the reader!!

Why has the Creator chosen within the last few years to allow perhaps ten times (or much more!) the knowledge of the Earth and its physical universe which He had originally created to be belatedly discovered by scientific study? Since He has not told us why, we can only speculate, wisely and humbly, I hope! What we can do is understand the scope of that discovery well enough that we can marvel.

The human mind which has the *"mind of Christ,"* knowing intuitively by Spiritual revelation that God's word is true, has his beliefs in the true and living God unshaken by all of mankind's recent discoveries. He also has his mind amazed by all this God created 6000 years ago, yet until recently undiscovered by men. To him, these many discoveries only amplify God's greatness.

It is most unfortunate that such incredible marvels of design and complexity do not seem to have a similar effect on many unbelievers, but rather seem to too often have the opposite effect of encouraging skepticism, agnosticism, and atheism, especially in the academic realm. Doubtless God knew this would happen!

Since we cannot know the mind of God beyond His revelation to us, **let us examine a few of the marvels of His creation long hidden from mankind which God has allowed to be very recently discovered, whether for good or ill. Let us look at it as best we can understand it with the Spiritual mind He has given us so that it will, as He must have intended, awe us into greater worship of His Almighty Eternal Being. All the while, we must never forget that this marvelous physical universe has been corrupted from its original goodness by the sins of our race, so that necessity demands that ultimately it must be annihilated, so that the Spiritual things which have always been more important may forever occupy our minds in everlasting joy and praise.**

Let us take a glance at some of these discoveries to see how they affect each of you.

Until the last century mankind had discovered comparatively little about the creation which we are a part of. Until recent times we knew almost nothing about the existence of a vast realm of microbes. Before the middle of the 19th century the role of infectious germs in most deadly diseases was not clearly understood so that many sick and injured people died for lack of diligence towards cleanliness, and antibiotics were yet to be discovered.

We did not understand the astonishing complexity of biological life until the middle of the 20th century, when DNA coding was discovered to be the blueprint for instructing the incredibly complex mechanisms which rebuild and replenish worn out cells in biological lifeforms to sustain life, and also for transmitting information about parents which nature uses to procreate offspring in their image. (National Geographic recently printed a report on how modern farming technology including genetic modification is saving multitudes of people from starvation.)

Mankind did not unravel most of the mysteries of the nonliving matter of our creation - atomic and molecular - until the 20th and 21st centuries. Rutherford proved (about 1909) experimentally that solid matter is mostly empty space despite its appearance otherwise. Atoms of all elements, which combine further with each other in an uncountable variety of molecules of which all solid matter exists, have their volume determined by electron clouds which alone determine their physical size. However, the entire mass of every atom is determined by the mass of its comparably very small nucleus which consists of a set number of protons and neutrons for each element. These atomic particles when first discovered were thought to be the fundamental building blocks of all physical matter. Even more recently scientists discovered that these nucleic particles consist of even tinier quarks and gluons, neither of which have any mass. Much expensive research is ongoing to determine how this could happen, but the final answer seems obvious in view of an infinite, intelligent, eternal **Being with genuine creative powers to create something ultimately visible out of nothing**, other than (perhaps) **an invisible energy ordered to behave according to His command as is all of the inanimate universe. Therefore, all solid matter really consists of atoms of ordered energy posing as atomic mass surrounded by a very much more voluminous electron cloud posing as its volume.** (my simplistic conclusion!)

*"Through faith (= evidence of the invisible) we understand that the worlds were framed by the (spoken) word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." (Hebrews 11:3) **"Let there be ... and there was!"***

Our awareness of the vastness of the heavenly space of the universe, what we today call "outer space," studded with countless galaxies, stars, and other heavenly bodies? has also been greatly expanded in very recent years. Similar to the atomic realm, this realm has also been proven to be mostly empty space, **thereby suggesting the same designer of both these microscopic and telescopic realms, both of which were only recently undiscovered by mankind.** The nearest star to our solar system, of which Earth is but one of the eight acknowledged revolving "planets," is more than four lightyears distant from us, a distance which equals about six trillion miles. Measured by the approximate rate of travel of our recently made man-made probes, an estimate based on the years it took for them to travel to the edge of our own solar system, it would take us perhaps 30,000 to 50,000 years to travel to that nearest star! (estimate based on the seven years it took for a probe to reach the 3 billion mile edge of our solar system.) Astronomers now claim that they have found a star 12.9 billion light years distant.

Complex DNA molecules serving as chemical blueprints and also incredible remanufacturing mechanisms inside all living cells for maintaining animate life and transmitting it to posterity are discovered to basically consist of complex molecules of the four basic elements of biological life. Carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen variously combined make up almost all of the various molecules of living plant and animal bodies. This chemical blueprint in **its function** very much resembles the complex computer programs mankind has recently invented to instruct machines on how to manufacture many useful products without the labor of human hands. **God had all of His created programmed life-sustaining intelligence already working at least since mankind's fall into sin brought the decree of death and decay upon the whole earthly creation.**

For what reason God has finally allowed scientific endeavor to begin to discover the incredible complexity of God's creation, knowing from the beginning that such knowledge was to be made ultimately worthless by the utter destruction of His sin-corrupted earthly creation with its natural universe, we can only guess.

All of this combined, and perhaps much more of similar discoveries, seems to have had the opposite effect on mankind's reaction to what it should have been. **Amidst the normal downward evolution of human culture and society which Paul outlined in Romans 1:11-32, he declared that men "worshipped and served the creature (created things or creation) more than the Creator ..."** On the contrary, this recently discovered incredible complexity, with the majestic Intelligence of God it demands for its very existence and the gracious preservation it demands for its continuance, ought to amplify Paul's declaration that the "**creation**" itself so declares the "**His eternal power and Godhead so that they are without excuse**" for not seeking God until they find and know Him. (Romans 1:18) All this "**revealed from Heaven**" by means of God's natural Creation, which was observable by all human beings from the beginning of the world by simply the view of nature's countless marvels without benefit of recent technological discoveries, was declared by Paul to leave every soul without excuse for not acknowledging their Creator and seeking Him until they find Him. "**Even His eternal power and Godhead**" is declared to be that evident. It was designed to induce them to turn and consider God's gospel message, which is enabling "**power of God unto salvation.**"

Thank God we are not required to fully understand the mind of God to be eternally saved, seeing it is declared that no man does or is able. What we can learn by trusting and submitting to God's will, instead of our own mind, is the "**mind of Christ**" which was graciously given for our study by the life of Jesus revealed in the Holy Scriptures as interpreted by his present Holy Spirit. **Jesus alone demonstrated what God wanted us all to be and do.** Because our bodies and natural carnal minds cannot live up to His standard, Jesus made a way of repentance and faith aided by God's grace that our spirits can be regenerated to become sinless, while our bodies and carnal minds remain sinful. With regeneration (this Divinely provided new birth) we also get the "**earnest of our (eternal) inheritance**" (Ephesians 1:14 & 2nd Corinthians 1:22 & 5:5) which is the indwelling Holy Spirit of God. This enables us to have **two divine intercessors (One in our presence here and One beside the Father in Heaven) to help our sincere prayers become effectual enough to reach God.** If we have Jesus and His salvation, and strive to please Him, **God will give us all that we need to walk every step of our way through this world.**

Mere creatures, though possessing rational and immortal minds like angels and mankind, when trying too hard or desiring too much to understand God's mind always err in their excessive ambition. Men get into trouble when they proudly desire and seek to know more than God knows they need to know. God has either already told us all we need to know, or will reveal to us all that we need which is lacking in us. We must trust Him for that lest we go beyond His will into some danger zone of the spiritual realm. Even in study of the Holy Scriptures, men who have striven to know more of the mind of God than **He desired them to know** opened themselves to demonic intrusion and deception. Some of the greatest deceptions and "**cunningly devised fables**" have been produced by such desires and pursuits. This warning ought to have been conveyed solely by the true reports of the erring desire and act of that angel who became Satan, whose ambition became a failed effort to rise up higher and "**be like the Most High**" (Isaiah 14:14) and also by the desire of the mother of all mankind when she disobeyed God's only forbidding command and dared to eat of that tree when she saw that "**it was a tree to be desired to make one wise.**" (Genesis 3:6) God knew that Eve did not need to "**know good and evil**" (Genesis 3:22) and would have much better without ever knowing it. **Men need to remember that a third part of the holy angels were banished from God's Heaven and have acquired the nature of Devils (= "false accusers") destined for eternal punishment for pursuing such ambitions!** We also must always remember that **our first mother, Eve, was lured into finally committing the only forbidden act God demanded of her and her husband, Adam, by a desire to "become as gods, knowing good and evil?"** (Genesis 3:5) Satan tempted her with the allure of being made wiser than God knew that she needed to be! **These terrible penalties were written for us that we might know to never indulge self, which is manifested by these two falls into sin of two races of**

immortal beings who were previously sinless, to be the root cause of evil. THERE IS DANGER IN TRYING TOO HARD TO COMPREHEND THE MIND OF GOD!

Try to **comprehend the concept of no end**. The human mind, especially one which is Spiritual, can do so hazily. That is because we are immortal creatures. Our conscious mind was created to live on infinitely in the future somewhere in eternity. **Now try to comprehend no beginning! Our minds fail us here** because we have no such capacity. God is without beginning. He always existed. We may accept that as truth, but we cannot comprehend it. Moses declared, *"Even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God."* (Psalm 90:2) There are other aspects of God's mind declared to us in His revealed written word which we cannot comprehend. God can foreknow an event without tampering with it. *"Nothing is too hard for the LORD"* (Genesis 18:14, Jeremiah 32:17&27), but there are things which are contrary to His Divine nature which His Holiness cannot do. *"God cannot lie."* (Titus 1:2). God cannot break his word or promise. Etc.

Through God's coming down to us from Heaven in the form of a sinless man named Jesus we are given the ability to come to know God, be reconciled to him and have real fellowship with Him, learning only what we need to know from Him according to His judgment (not ours), but **we are never to go beyond His will for us in knowledge**.

Even religious men, desiring to satisfy their pride, or to show other men their imagined superior understanding of God have invented erring "theology" with philosophies which they have constructed and imposed upon the world to its detriment.

I do not pretend to know all of the reasons why God has allowed scientific discovery to lately uncover so many astonishing Divine inventions long operating in nature which for most years of this creation have been hidden from mankind. While to me and others who truly know God the facts of these discoveries provide further irrefutable testimony of an awesome infinite Creator, adding to what is apparent to the naked eye of men, these discoveries too often seem to have the opposite effect on proud carnal minds. That which to the true believer (who truly trusts God and knows Him) only further *"shows His handiwork"* (Psalm 19:1) seems rather to increase the fallen mind's impulse to *"worship and serve the creation (creature = created things) more than the Creator"* (Romans 1:25), even to the radical extreme of more boldly denying His obvious existence.

SOME SCRIPTURES REPEATED IN GREATER CONTEXT:

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; **Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them.** For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:" (Romans 1-16-20)*

*"For what man knows the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so **the things of God knows no man, but the Spirit of God.** 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. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Ghost teaches; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judges (discerns?) all things, yet he himself is judged (discerned?) of no man. For **who has known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct** (in the sense of counsel to achieve agreement) **him? But we have the mind of Christ.**" (1st Corinthians 2:11-16)*

*"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect (spiritually mature): yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nothing: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, **Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit:** for the Spirit searches all things, yea the deep things of God." (1st Corinthians 2:4-10)*