

294 “all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”

Last time our attention was fully on the Person, the Name and the Blood of Jesus, by whom, and by which, God the Father has broken the grip of human sin and death, granting forgiveness and salvation to all who put their belief in the Lord Jesus Christ (eg., Romans 3.21-26 and 5.8-11).

But the Christ-bestowed blessings do not end there. In Paul’s epistle to the Colossians, in particular he warns them against a brand of false teaching that was gaining ground, that Christ is just one “superior being” among many other such beings and hence is not really “that special”.

“Not a bit of it!” writes Paul by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit: Christ is God’s Son, “the image of the invisible God” (1.15). By Christ all things were created; He is “before all things, and by him all things consist” (from 1.16-17); and He is the means by which fallen sinners can now be reconciled to God – as has happened for the Colossian saints (1.19-22).

He then writes of “the mystery” of God now proclaimed in Christ (1.26-29), summarised in the wonderful words, “Christ in you, the hope of glory”, and of his longing that the Colossians would grow “unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom (that is in Christ, from the Father) are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (2.2-3). Abundant blessings indeed.

In the light of these central truths within God’s Word we can now turn to the situation in our own day, where those words from Ecclesiastes come to mind, “There is no new thing under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1.9).

In western thought a confident secularism has become the norm, based on the notion that decision-making among “thinking people”, in politics, education, business and the media and so on, quite naturally excludes reference to any particular Faith. Adherence to such a Faith is seen as a purely personal matter which thus has no part to play in public debate: (as an example of this, ask yourself how often we hear mention of God’s Word in the House of Commons or in television discussion programmes, and consider the general reaction if and when such mention is made). The proponents of this secularist approach do not seem to realise that Secularism itself is only another Faith! – in this case a Faith that boastfully omits any reference to God and ends up by elevating Man into the place of God.

How very, very silly, for it is in Christ alone that “are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2.3, and eg., I Corinthians 1.17-2.5) – words which rest on incontrovertible credentials which no other Faith comes anywhere near to matching.

We must remember that these rival Faiths are greater or lesser perversions of the original divinely-revealed Truth, which was known by Noah and his sons after the Flood of 2470 BC. From that time and place, sin crept in once more via men such as Ham, Cush, Canaan and Nimrod (Genesis 10.6-8), leading to the open rebellion at the tower of Babel. When the people were “scattered abroad upon the face of all the

earth" by the Lord (Genesis 11.9) they thus took with them snippets of the original Truth remembered from times past, (the Greek and Roman myths for example clearly spring from garbled memories of the sinfulness of Genesis 6.1-4 and the resulting mutant giants), but these snippets were now mingled within a mass of sinful falsehood, which over time has given rise to the many Faiths of today.

Each one of these non-Christ Faiths either ignores Christ altogether – for example, Atheism, Secularism, Humanism and much of Philosophy (the literal Greek meaning "love of wisdom"), as well as eastern Faiths such as Buddhism and Hinduism and their offshoots; or downgrades Christ, just as in Paul's day, to a mere "good man" or "superior being" among many other such beings, such as with Judaism and Islam.

But the true course is clear, indeed far clearer than people care to admit, and is summed up by Jesus' simple, precious words: "I am the way, the truth and the life – no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14.6). Unlike all other Faiths today apart from Judaism, the Christian Faith, focussed on the Lord Jesus Christ, is backed up by real, factual, historical, undeniable EVENTS, notably Jesus' death and resurrection (eg., I Corinthians 15).

So we continue to proclaim that all human quests for "the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" still begin and end in Christ, "the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12.2), despite the numerous attempts by fallen human beings to ignore Him or downgrade Him.

Thanks be to God, the facts cannot be altered: Jesus Christ is Lord, Fact! - and literally every aspect of human existence takes its lead from that great truth.

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