

SCIENCE AND SUPERSTITION

THE BIBLE, KNOWLEDGE, AND THE UNKNOWN

*"The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge;
and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge."*

~ Proverbs 18:15

1. People are Superstitious

- a. 90% of Americans believe in a 'higher power' (All believe in unknown powers)
 - i. The 'Flynn effect' is in decline (i.e. people do not reason as well these days)
- b. Superstition ~*def.* An accepted belief not based on evidence, reason, knowledge.
 - i. Irrational fear or reverence of an unknown power; mysterious blessings, curses.
 - ii. Omens, auspicious days, horoscopes, 13, rabbit's foot, knock on wood, breaking mirror, storks, shooting stars, penny in a well, lucky charms, Santa, Groundhogs
- c. Those ignorant of nature or nature's God, will fall into superstition.

2. Superstitious Christians

- a. Superstition includes false religious belief, irrational ideas of the supernatural.
 - i. Blind faith = accepted belief in God without knowledge of that faith.
- b. Ignorant Christians breed superstitious belief: cross necklaces, undestroyed Bibles, Jesus images, angel babies, guardian angels, curses, spirits, 666, relics, icons, signs
- c. Paul warns against Jewish fables and Christians not learning truth - Titus 1:14, 2Ti 4:4
- d. The admonition is to refuse superstition, receive godliness & true faith - 1Ti 1:4, 4:7-8

3. The Great Deliverer from Superstition

- a. Science ~*def.* Knowledge. Comprehension of truth and facts by the mind.
- b. Science (knowledge) delivers from superstition. Superstitious do not have knowledge.
- c. The God of the Bible is ancient deliverer from superstition - Acts 17:22-30
- d. God prohibited superstitious practices, divining, astrology, charms - Deu 18:9-12
- e. He opposed his own kings and priests when they followed superstition - 2 Kings 21:5-6
- f. God can be understood by the mind and reason, but not all beliefs about God are true.
- g. His worshippers put "wise men" to shame - Dan 1:4, 19-20, 2:27-28, 5:11-12
- h. God has revealed himself (Christ, Bible), so we can have knowledge of God (science)

4. The Bible and Knowledge

- a. The Spirit of God is wisdom, understanding, knowledge (not fear) - Exo 31:3, 2 Tim 1:7
- b. The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple - Ps 19:1-7, 119:100
- c. Wisdom is the principal thing - Prov 1:2-5, 4:5-7, 14:7, 23:23
- d. Seek knowledge and you will find the knowledge of God - Prov 2:4-6
- e. They hated knowledge and chose not to fear the LORD - Prov 1:29-30
- f. It is not greater knowledge to refuse understanding the word of God - 1 Cor 2:11-13
- g. Scripture is given for us to abound in knowledge - Phi 1:9, 2 Tim 3:16, Eph 4:17-18
- h. Knowledge can only ever be true, because it aligns with what God knows. Rom 3:4
- i. In Christ are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge - Col 2:3

5. When Science Becomes Superstitious

- a. Denying the supernatural does not protect you from superstition:
- b. These days, science is presented as opposed to God/faith (absurd) - Rom 1:20-22, 28
- c. When "scientists" do not like to retain God in their knowledge, they become fools.
- d. Faith vs. Reason was dealt with 1000 years ago by religious thinkers.
 - i. If you don't know God, and fear believing in him.
 - ii. If you don't know the Bible and think it is filled with fables (false stories)
 - iii. If you don't know faith and think it is believing without evidence (Heb 11:1)
 - iv. If you think lab coats, degrees, and scientific instruments guard you against wrong conclusions, logical fallacies, theories without proof, other considerations.
- e. "Trust the science" (blindly) is no longer science, it is superstition by another name.
- f. It is not science that corrupts faith, it is knowledge without all evidence - 1 Tim 6:20-21
- g. Some are ever learning and never able to come to know the truth - 2Tim 3:7
- h. Scientists constantly correct themselves (good), which shows discovery not declaration.
- i. Scientific discovery not showing more simplicity, but more complexity, more unknown.
- j. Ignorance of nature breeds superstition, but so does ignorance of nature's God.
- k. Without the knowledge of God, revelation in the Bible, faith, men fall into superstition.