

Mandated Mystery

Proverbs 9:9

Give to a wise one, and he will be still wiser;
teach a just one,
and he will increase in learning.

A wise man will learn from *any* person or experience, because he knows that it is his task in life to gain wisdom.

A wise man will *certainly* learn from Scriptures, which are the basis for his wisdom gained anywhere else. Wisdom gained *outside* of Scriptures is always merely a means of either applying Scriptural concepts or perceiving them more clearly; but the Scriptures themselves are the wisdom. **There is not a wisdom beyond Scriptures** that even Scriptures themselves are trying to attain to. God has made it clear that the Scriptures are a final word, needing no amendment:

Psalm 119:96 I have seen an end to all perfection; Your Commandment is exceedingly broad.

When we stand before God in Heaven, God will not need to amend any of His words of Scrip-

ture. He counts them all clear and sufficient.

This view of things is in stark contrast to the modern view that Scriptures are somehow unclear and/or incomplete.

There are only four possibilities concerning the problems and complexities of life:

1) There is no answer

(meaning there is no God, or there's only a God who watches but does not intervene);

2) There is an answer, but it is not in the Bible, at least not completely

(maybe the answer is in Jesus personally, but the Scriptures are only a partial way to access Him);

[Now we cross the line over into modern evangelical belief]

3) The answer is in the Bible, but God has communicated it in such a way that we cannot understand it all.

(or our perceptive abilities cannot climb to the uppermost rungs of Scripture's ladder);

[And finally, we cross the line over into Biblical Christianity]

4) There is a complete and satisfying answer in the Bible

(some of it may be hard to understand, but God means us to **study** and pray and understand it all).

The prevalent view today, even among most who *say* they believe the Bible is a complete revelation, is the 'Mandated Mystery' view, view #3 above: that God has somehow *intended* (*mandated*) that we not understand Him completely, at least not through His communications in Scriptures. And that's why we don't ardently delve into the Scriptures. There are pet topics that are of **great** interest, to be sure. But we are not in all-out search mode, because the Bible has too many confusing (and some frankly embarrassing*) passages and concepts.

Adherents to this view are either very holy (in their own form of sanctification) or very unholy.

They are very *holy* in that they follow without question a God who only teases them with tidbits of encrypted information. They accept this obscurity as a test of faith and proceed with reverent dignity.

Or they are very *unholy* in that **THEY** have made themselves the official spokesmen for a God who sends spotty, often strange memos out of His top

floor office: a Boss who nonetheless demands that His underlings take Him completely seriously. These executives, handling God's affairs for Him, have basically taken over the corporation, hiding the Boss's 'isolated genius' dementia behind their more sensible version of the body's mission and vision.

Are you going along with the coup?

[There would seem to be a large contingent among the Mandated Mystical view who are both holy *and* unholy at the same time, living, as it were, on two levels: a social level and a conscience level. Socially they are holy, faithfully following the God who has given us an unfinished document. Conscience-wise, they feel compelled to defend God's eccentricity, so they dip into the public relations men's bag of tricks to provide necessary excuses.]

* Like God telling His people to wipe out whole cities: men, women, and children.