

## **The Benefits of Loving God: Spiritual Comprehension**

### **Eph 3:17-19**

that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. NKJV

Have you ever told someone a secret only to find out that very soon it was no longer a secret? I am sure we all have done that.

There have been some very significant secrets; the Manhattan Project and the D-Day invasion just to name two. Great lengths were taken and huge amounts of money expended to keep those secrets.

But God has secrets too. Deuteronomy 29:29 "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. NKJV

Science has been able to pry into many things once unknown and unknowable before technology. But spiritual things can not be assessed by the material. Man has no way of knowing God or about Him except that God reveals himself. Rom 11:33-36 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 34 "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?" 35 "Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?" 36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen. NKJV

Daniel 2:22 He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him. NKJV

There are things that God has chosen to hide from the masses of this world but yet He has chosen to reveal those same mysteries to His children. Let us look at a few.

- I. Understanding God is only by personal revelation.
  - A. God revealed Himself to different individuals ever since the days of Adam and Eve.
    1. But not always the same to everyone.
    2. Man has a responsibility to seek for the true God and God will reveal Himself to all who seek Him.
    3. When a people do not seek the true God but one of their own making, you end up with the pagan religions that span the globe.
    4. Unless God intervene in history, mankind is doomed to continue to develop false Gods and false religions.
    5. Pagan ideas of god are based on half truths or demonic ideas about God.
    6. Paul describes the corruption of the knowledge of God into the various

pagan religions in Romans 1

7. I am sure that we have all seen the special on the discovery of a society where everyone had sex with everyone and the anthropologist thought it was so sad that western civilization had brought about monogamous relationships to the families there.
  8. Or listen to the programs that extol ancient civilizations that required human sacrifice so appease their gods.
- B. We have a written revelation of God, delivered to us down through the ages.
1. It gives us a consistent understanding of God.
    - a. 1 Tim 3:16 16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory. NKJV
    - b. Think of it. A book written over a period of 1,500 years by over forty authors from every background from kings to shepherds, from governors to slaves, yet without conflicts of testimony as to who God is or His nature and purpose.
  2. Jesus confirmed the writings of the Old Testament
    - a. The writings of Moses are the scriptures spoken by God. Mat. 22:23-33
    - b. The commandments given by Moses are the commandments of God. Mk. 7:8-13
    - c. The Books of Moses are a testimony to God speaking to him. Mk. 12:26
    - d. Moses wrote of me said Jesus. John 5:46
    - e. The knowledge of sin and salvation is found in Moses and the prophets. Luke 16:29-31
    - f. Luke 24:44-45 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. NKJV
    - g. Mark 12:36 For David himself said by the Holy Spirit: NKJV
    - h. After reading a portion of Isa 61 Jesus said, "This day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears.
    - i. Jesus proclaimed that God's word was truth. John 17:17

3. He authenticated the most questionable passages in the Old Testament.
  - a. The creation. Matt 19:4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' NKJV
  - b. The flood. Luke 17:27 They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. NKJV
  - c. Destruction of Sodom. Luke 17:28-29 Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; 29 but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. NKJV
  - d. Lot's wife. Luke 17:32 Remember Lot's wife. NKJV
  - e. Jonah. Matt 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. NKJV
  - f. Naaman. Luke 4:27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." NKJV
4. The writers of the New Testament also confirm that of the Old and also the writings of the New Testament.
5. Jesus Himself confirmed the continuing revelation in the New Testament.
6. The only revelation we have is in the pages of New Testament.

II. Understanding God's Word is only by the teaching of the Spirit.

- A. Without the teaching of the Holy Spirit people cannot understand the Word of God.
  1. 1 Cor 2:13-14 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. NKJV
- B. The Word of God did not come by man's wisdom nor is it comprehended by man's wisdom.
  1. 2 Peter 1:21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. NKJV
  2. 1 Cor 1:20-25 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the

disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?  
21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. NKJV

III. Only those indwelt by the Holy Spirit have an inward testimony of their salvation.

A. Understanding how to be saved must be revealed to people by God.

1. We are only dispensers of information, God must give the understanding.
2. 2 Cor 4:3-6 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. 5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. 6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. NKJV

B. Regeneration takes place in connection with divine truth by the Spirit of God.

1. James 1:18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth , that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. NKJV

C. Once saved, there is an inward witness of the Holy Spirit to the child of God.

1. Rom 8:16-17 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. NKJV

IV. God reveals His plans to His saints.

A. By the Spirit we understand God's plan for the future

1. 1 Cor 2:6-14 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 10 But God has revealed

them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. NKJV

- B. God reveals how the world will end.
  - C. How the wicked will be judged.
  - D. How He will form a new heaven and new earth.
  - E. How His children will be with Him forever.
    - 1. Ps 25:14 The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant. NKJV
- V. God reveals the secrets of life to His children.
- A. 1 Cor 4:1-2 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. NKJV
  - B. We do not pursue that which fades away.
    - 1. We understand what is most important.
    - 2. We know what is worthy of pursuit.
    - 3. We know what is and is not worth dying for.
  - C. We know how we are to treat others.
    - 1. The golden rule is not just a motto, it is ingrained on each child of God.
    - 2. We want others to know Jesus most of all.
    - 3. Provide all things honest in the sight of all men.
  - D. We know what place God should have in our lives and how we should honor Him.
    - 1. Rom 8:18-19 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. NKJV

Those without the love of God will never understand God, His Word, His love, or the sacrifice of His Son. They will grope in the darkness of sin, never comprehending the purpose of their lives.