

# Faith and Modern Knowledge

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Colossians 2:6-11.
- B. Having come to Christ, Paul is interested that they would continue in Him.
- C. Greek Christians were in danger of being exposed to the love of human wisdom.
- D. Paul suggests that there is nothing more dangerous to Christian truth than philosophy.

## II. Paul says that the world knows God not by wisdom.

- A. This does not mean that Christians are anti-intellectual.
  - 1. The keenness of God's intellect is evident in His writings, and He makes appeal to human wisdom. (Isaiah)
  - 2. For the Christian, the Scriptures are confirmed by their utter reasonableness.
- B. Paul's warning is against philosophy, not knowledge—it is the love of wisdom.
  - 1. The supreme confidence in human wisdom as a means of discovering truth is wrong to Paul.
  - 2. Human knowledge has resulted in much good.
  - 3. However, human knowledge is not remotely adequate for the discovery of truth.
  - 4. The mind of man is fallen and sinful—as a result, it is completely inadequate.
- C. Areas where the weakness of human wisdom is noticeable.
  - 1. The things of God can only be made known to the spiritual man—rebirth is required.
  - 2. Man does not even understand himself in the spiritual realm.
  - 3. In the programs of life, man's wisdom is shown also to be very faulty.
- D. Life itself demolishes the theories of men.

## III. A biblical epistemology.

- A. The proper order.
  - 1. Truth is intended to touch our mind first.

2. Truth is then intended to move our emotions in the final decision of the will.
3. In fallen man, the whole process has been reversed—we find mental excuses to do what we have already intended to do.

B. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. (I Corinthians 3:18)

C. The world holds preaching to be foolish, but the great revelation of God rests upon the incarnation of the Son—Jesus Himself. (Hebrews 1)

D. God’s revelation is a mystery to be obeyed.

1. We must learn to be content with mystery.
2. We can believe what we do not entirely know.
3. The gospel is always addressed to the basic man and not the professional front of a man.
4. We have no more right to challenge these mysteries than to challenge Jesus Himself.

**Application questions:**

1. Why is Paul against humanly wisdom as a source of truth?

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2. How have you seen life demolish the theories of men?

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3. With what mysteries of the Christian faith have you had to wrestle? Why is contentment with the mysteries necessary and natural?

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