

SECRET THINGS, REVEALED THINGS

Deuteronomy 29:29

INTRODUCTION

- The “Tomb of the Unknown Soldier”, bears the words, “KNOWN UNTO GOD”
- It is a wonderful confession that though there are many things that are unknown to man, all things are known to God
- As the children of Israel prepared to enter the Promised Land, God repeated his law to them, and at the end of the law, he pronounced blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience
- There were many uncertainties facing the children of Israel; what did the future hold for them? when and how would the blessings or the curses come to pass?
- God was telling them that there were certain things that he had not revealed to them, and not to concern themselves with that, but to concern themselves with the things he *had* revealed, to take them to heart and obey them

I. GOD’S RIGHT TO THE SECRET THINGS

- A. The humble saint acknowledges that many things are incomprehensible to us
 1. There is knowledge that is “too wonderful for me” (Psalm 139:6; Proverbs 30:18-19)
 2. Solomon pleased God when he humbly said, “I am but a little child”, and requested of God an understanding heart (1 Kings 3:7)
- B. Things concerning the nature of the Godhead are secret to us

1. The Trinity – one God in three Persons
 2. The Hypostatic Union – Jesus Christ is both God and Man in one Person
- C. Things concerning God's will
1. God's *decretive* or *sovereign* will is largely hidden to us, while his *preceptive* will is revealed (cf. Isaiah 46:9-11)
 2. The tension between divine sovereignty and human responsibility (Acts 2:22-23; 4:27-28)
 3. There are many events transpire that leave us confused as to what God is doing, or why he is doing it (cf. Job)
- D. Things concerning the future
1. No man knows the day and hour of the Lord's return (Mark 13:32; Acts 1:6-8)

II. OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE REVEALED THINGS

- A. God has revealed himself to man
1. Deism is the heresy that there is a God who made all things, but who is distant and utterly removed from his creation, and who gives no special revelation to mankind
 2. God has revealed himself *generally* through the creation (Psalm 19:1-2; Romans 1:20)
 3. God has revealed himself *specialy* through his word (Psalm 19:7-11)
 4. The "things which are revealed" refers to the law of God – "all the words of this law" (cf. Deuteronomy 30:11-14)
- B. God's revelation is clear and specific

1. The doctrine of *perspicuity* (clarity) means simply that “the Bible is an open and plain book” (Psalm 119:105,130)
2. The excuse, “The Bible is too hard to understand,” is mostly used by those who *do* understand it but choose not to obey it
3. “It ain’t those parts of the Bible that I can’t understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand” (Mark Twain)
4. The Bible not only gives *general* commands and prohibitions, but supplies us with countless *specific* precepts as to how we are to please God
5. A faithful preacher will not just speak in generalities, but specifics (2 Timothy 4:2)

C. God’s revelation is entrusted to his people

1. The verse without the italicised words reads: “The secret unto the LORD our God: but those revealed unto us and to our children for ever, that may do all the words of this law”
2. There is a clear idea of *possession* – the secret things are God’s; the revealed things are ours
3. It is not mere availability or accessibility, it is *ownership*
4. While God’s word is available to all people, it is entrusted to those who are in covenant with him (Romans 3:2)
5. As believers, we have been entrusted with the sacred truths of the Christian faith
 - a. “Keep that which is committed to thy trust” (1 Timothy 6:20)
 - b. As stewards of the mysteries of God, we must be found faithful (1 Corinthians 4:1-2)

- c. We must “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)
- D. God’s revelation is to be passed on to succeeding generations (Psalm 78:1-8; 2 Timothy 2:2)
- E. God’s revelation is to be obeyed
 1. We must be *doers* of the word, not hearers only (James 1:22-25)
 2. “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.” (1 John 5:3)

CONCLUSION

1. Peter, in John 21:21, asked the Lord Jesus for details concerning the future
2. The Lord’s answer is almost a summary of Deuteronomy 29:29: “*What is that to thee? follow thou me*” (John 21:22)
3. If God has not revealed certain things to us, then we don’t need to know them, nor should we devote our time trying to figure them out
4. Yet God has entrusted his word to us to possess, to pass on, and to practise
5. “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” (James 4:17)
6. “The sermon has been preached, but it has not yet begun to be done.”