

Gospel Reset Bible Class, Part 3

IX. Where does mankind learn about creation, sin, death, accountability, punishment?

In addition to revealed knowledge, there is also natural knowledge.

Natural Knowledge -> creation > existence of God

Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

Romans 1:19-20 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Natural Knowledge -> conscience > right/wrong accountability

Romans 2:15 who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)

Revealed Knowledge

1 Corinthians 2:7-11 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9But 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. 11For 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.

X. What purpose does Natural Knowledge serve?

1. Outward discipline (Curb)

1 Timothy 1:8-10 But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, 9knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 10for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine...

Romans 2:14-15 for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, **by nature do the things in the law**, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, 15who show **the work of the law written in their hearts**, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)

2. Incites men to seek who God is.

Acts 14:15-17 "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, 16"who in bygone

Three Uses of the Law

1. Curb – 1 Tim 1:8-11, Rom 2:14-15
2. Mirror - Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.
Romans 7:7b On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."
3. Guide - Psalm 119:9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. 17“Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”

Acts 17:26-27 “And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27“so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

However, natural knowledge is limited in its ability.

1. By means of rewards and punishments only outward behavior (civil righteousness) can be somewhat controlled.

Romans 13:1-4 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. 3For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

1 Peter 2:13-14 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme, 14or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.

Matthew 7:12 “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

1 Corinthians 15:32b-34, If the dead do not rise, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!” Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.” 34Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God.

1 Kings 4:29-34 Solomon’s knowledge

2. By means of creation, man knows that there is a God, but cannot know the identity of the one true God. Because of a conscience, the teaching of the law resonates with man.

Corinthians 2:14 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.

Romans 1:18-21 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who suppress the truth in unrighteousness**, 19because what may be known of God **is manifest in them**, for **God has shown it to them**. 20For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Romans 1:28-32 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; ...

31undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32who, knowing **the righteous judgment of God**, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Ephesians 2:12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, Article V.

22 ...Dr. Luther very diligently urged this distinction in nearly all his writings and showed in detail that there is a vast difference between the knowledge of God which comes from the Gospel and that which is taught by and learned from the law, since from the natural law even the heathen had to some extent a knowledge of God, although they neither understood nor honored him rightly (Rom. 1:21).

Apology to the Augsburg Confession, Article IV. 7-8

7] Of these two parts the adversaries select the Law, because human reason naturally understands, in some way, the Law (for it has the same judgment divinely written in the mind); [the natural law agrees with the law of Moses, or the Ten Commandments] and by the Law they seek the remission of sins and justification. 8] Now, the Decalog requires not only outward civil works, which reason can in some way produce, but it also requires other things placed far above reason, namely, truly to fear God, truly to love God, truly to call upon God, truly to be convinced that God hears us, and to expect the aid of God in death and in all afflictions; finally, it requires obedience to God, in death and all afflictions, so that we may not flee from these or refuse them when God imposes them.

XI. To whom has God entrusted the teaching of Natural Knowledge? The state/government.

Note: God has given authority to rule to two kingdoms: church (right-hand kingdom) and state/government (left-hand kingdom).

1A. The church teaches revealed knowledge in order to impart salvation.

Mt 28:19-20

2A. The state/government uses natural knowledge with human reason in order to protect body and possessions with outward discipline so that there is order.

Romans 13

1B. The church benefits from worldly order (protection of body and possession) and outward discipline so that her members may gather to hear the Word and receive the Sacraments. The church uses body and possession to do good works of love toward the neighbor.

1 Timothy 2:1-2 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

2B. The government benefits from the church praying for the state/government and teaching her members to honor and obey the governing authorities. Parents are to educate their children to love their neighbor by serving others (including governmental vocations).

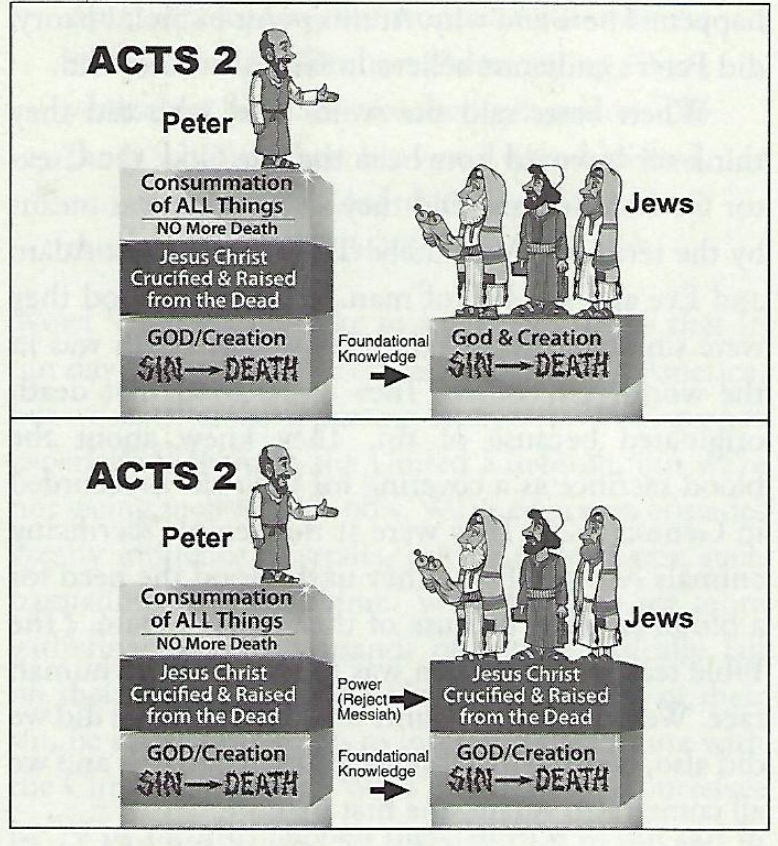
Titus 3:1

XII. Is natural law and human reason sufficient to govern the left-hand kingdom, that is, without revealed knowledge? Yes.

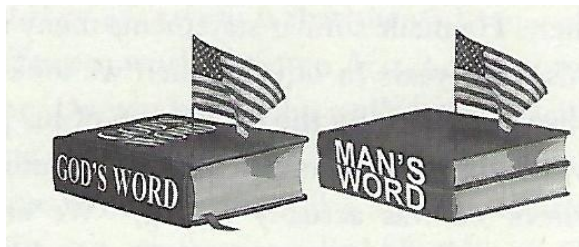
When the Scriptures denounce man's word, it is because man is setting up his human teachings as an object for faith to trust in. God's Word does not put down man's word when it is not being used for salvation. Outside of the kingdom of the church, man's word and human reason are to be used for the left-hand kingdom. The study of language, mathematics, science, etc. is used to serve society.

Excursus: Two Religions
Genesis 2-3
Page 51-54

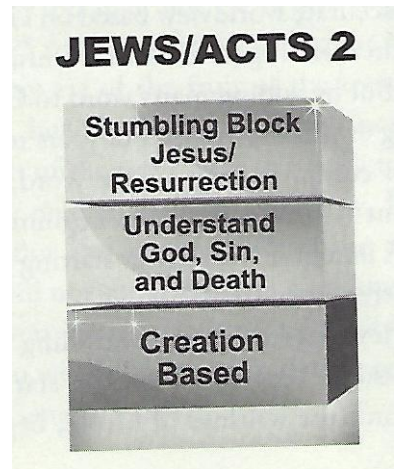
St. Paul Acts 17
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Example of Evangelism with Two Roads Understanding
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