

Reverent Scepticism

In our constant struggle as a Christian to believe, we are likely to overlook the simple fact that a bit of reverent scepticism is sometimes as needful as faith to the welfare of our maturing as a Christian.

It is **no** sin to doubt some things, but it may be fatal to believe everything that is preached or written on religion.

Acts 17:10-12 [NIV] *“As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. Many of the Jews believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.”*

The Bereans are commended because they evaluated what they were taught by Paul and Silas by checking the scriptures, today the Christian Bible, to confirm what they heard was true.

Note they approached the Christian Bible with a positive attitude of mind.

A preacher or teacher who gives God’s true message will **never** contradict or explain away anything that is found in God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

Faith is the root of all true Christian worship and maturity.

Without faith it is impossible to please our Creator God. [**Hebrews 11:6**]

Faith never means gullibility.

The person who believes everything that is preached and taught in religious circles is as far from the truth of God as the person who refuses to believe anything.

2 Corinthians 11:12-15 [NIV] *“And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about. For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.”*

Paul warned the Corinthians that there were men whose words could **not** be trusted because they were teachers who were being used by Satan, who is the origin of all lies. [**John 8:44**]

Faith engages the person and promises of the Creator God and rests upon them with perfect assurance, knowing that God cannot lie. [**Titus 1:2**]

Whatever has behind it the character and the word of the living Creator God is accepted in faith as the last and final truth from which there must never be any appeal.

Romans 3:3-4 [King James] *“For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.”*

Faith never asks questions when it has been established that God has spoken.

Thus faith honours God by counting Him righteous and accepts His Word, the Christian Bible, against the evidence of our own senses. That is true faith and of such we can never have too much.

Credulity, on the other hand, never honours our Creator God, for it shows as great a readiness to believe anyone as to believe God Himself.

The credulous person will accept anything as long as it is unusual, and the more unusual it is the more ardently they will believe.

Some Christians, because they are told they must believe certain things, feel they must believe everything, because they are asked to believe what is invisible in faith [**Hebrews 11:1**], they go right on to accept things that are incredible.

Matthew 24:24 [King James] *“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”*

A warning from Jesus Christ Himself against being deceived by “*signs and wonders.*”

2 Thessalonians 2:4-10 [NIV] *“He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God. Don’t you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendour of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.”*

God can and does work miracles, but so does Satan and those who are used by him.

Not everything that passes as a miracle is of God.

Hebrews 1:1 [King James] *“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,”*

God has spoken to us through men but **not** every man who claims to have had a revelation from God must be accepted as a prophet.

Other ways that human logic works are – the prophets were rejected in the past, therefore everyone who is rejected is a prophet of religion!

The early disciples of Jesus Christ were misunderstood, so everyone who is misunderstood is a disciple of Jesus Christ!

This is dangerous logic of the gullible Christian.

And it can be as injurious as unbelief itself.

Along with our faith in the Creator God must go a healthy scepticism of everything occult and esoteric.

Numerology, astrology, spiritism, and everything weird and strange that passes for religion **must** be rejected.

All this toxic matter has **no** place in the life of a true Christian.

John 14:6-14 [NIV] *“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.’ Philip said, ‘Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.’ Jesus answered: ‘Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long*

time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.'"

We have Jesus Christ and He is the way, truth and life.

What more does a Christian need?