

WHEN WE TRY TO EXPLAIN GOD

Isaiah 55:8-9 ... “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways,’ says the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.’”

There are many different ideas and theories among Christians about what heaven will be like. But it is important to understand that the ideas and theories of man are just that, ideas and theories created by men who are not satisfied with the explanations offered to us by God. Men create their own theories about the beginning of life when the Bible’s creation story seems too hard for them to believe. Man creates his own ideas about how the universe came to be when he finds it too difficult to believe that God created it. When men discuss what heaven might be like, they often substitute their own imaginations for what the Bible says. We must be careful not to accept as fact, the imaginations of men. God has explained to us everything he considers important. If we become dissatisfied with God’s explanations and create our own, we substitute faith with our own theories.

My wife has a motorbike-trike for her personal transportation. She can put gas in it, start it, and drive it. But she knows very little about how the engine works. She just trusts that it will run when she needs it (and that someone else can fix it when necessary). She is satisfied with what she knows about it and the transportation it provides for her. My wife also does not know where exactly heaven is, how large it is, what it will smell like, or when she will go there. But the Bible tells her she is promised a place in heaven and that it will be more spectacular than she could possibly imagine. She is satisfied with that explanation. Is my wife weak because she cannot answer technical questions about her motorbike, or details about heaven? No. She is only exercising trust and faith. That is exactly the place where God wants us: To have faith in him and avoid wasting our precious time theorizing about the things he has hidden from us. However, some Christians feel so strongly about their need to explain God, that they consider those of us who are satisfied with God’s explanations, weak.

If God wanted us to know the details of the universe and other things that man explains with his imagination, he would have explained it to us. Today’s Scripture passage is God speaking and telling us that his thoughts and deeds are far greater and higher than our own. You and God do not share the same thoughts. You either come up with your own ideas about God, which is sacrilegious, or you agree with his thoughts, even when you do not fully understand them. This is the basis for faith, which is affirmed in 2 Corinthians 4:18 ... “...we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things that are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” If you are not satisfied with what God tells you in his Word, it is possible you are not born again. God gives us who are born again, a peace about his ways through faith. Insufficient faith, which causes you to struggle with what God tells you, is the mark of an immature Christian, or even an unbeliever.

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