

Limitations of Nature to Lead Man to Ultimate Truth

- I. Preliminary thoughts.
- A. The created order is a data set that can be analyzed. The “stuff” of creation does not lie but conclusions about it and drawn from it are subject to limited power of investigation, faulty premises and biases, assumptions, inadequate sampling, etc.
 - B. The data of the creation is the same for both the unbeliever and the believer. The difference is in how the data is interpreted and processed.
 - C. If the created order is an equal witness to Scripture in finding ultimate truth (God), then what is the significance of Scripture?
 - D. Can a man with a functioning mind grounded in logic discover and concede ultimate truth (God) from the created order, or even from Scripture? Or is something more needed?
 - E. Can a regenerate man with a grasp of grammar and definitions of words be perfected from Scripture alone, or is Scripture inadequate to the task?
 - F. By what means has God determined to save believers: human wisdom or preaching?
 - G. Can man by logical analysis of available data alone be converted to the truth of the gospel?
 - H. Can regenerate man with a knowledge of Scripture be fully informed and formed in the image of Christ without preaching?
 - I. We ought not to glorify human wisdom nor human ignorance.
- II. To underscore his argument for hair length, Paul says, “Doth not nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?” (**1CO 11:14**).
- A. This reasoning is based upon the premise that the natural order of things is a weaker revelation that shames those who should be wise enough to know better than to erase distinctions between the sexes.
 - B. The brute creatures generally present clear differences in appearance and function between the sexes.
 - C. Paul's reasoning here is that the natural order of things contains a measure of instruction which should be given *qualified* consideration.
 - 1. Nature is under the bondage of corruption (**ROM 8:20-22**) and is therefore limited in its ability to instruct men as to what is right.
 - 2. This counters the faulty notion that some Christians affirm, to wit, that Nature is “...the 67th book of the Bible.”
 - 3. Nature is a broken, impure “book” overwritten with entropy/death but Scripture is unbroken, pure, lively, durable and only corrupted by man’s tinkering.
PRO 8:8; 30:5; JOH 10:35; ACT 7:38; PSA 119:89; MAT 24:35; 2CO 2:17.
 - 4. The supreme standard by which right is determined is Scripture. **PSA 119:128.**
- III. Scripture speaks of things which men know naturally. **JUDE 1:10.**
- A. Those whose corrupt antics Jude condemns are “...as brute beasts...”
 - 1. They are defiling the flesh after the manner of the sinners of Sodom and Gomorrah. **JUDE 1:7-8.**
 - 2. They are doing “...that which is *against nature*...” (**ROM 1:26-27**).
 - 3. This is why sodomy is such a repugnant sin: it violates the morality God has declared in the Scripture and also the witness of nature which predominantly demonstrates male-female sexuality.
 - B. Scripture speaks of the sin of being without *natural affection*. **ROM 1:31.**
 - 1. It is natural for men to have a desire for women, and vice-versa.
 - 2. It is natural for parents, particularly a mother, to tenderly care for offspring.

3. It is natural to have an interest in one's own health and life. **EPH 5:29.**
4. It is natural to assume one has power over one's own body and therefore defend it.
- C. Mind that those things which men know naturally do not require the new birth or the light of God's word. Therefore,
 1. the rejection of sodomy, etc. is not necessarily proof of regeneration or conversion.
 2. the pro-life cause is not necessarily proof of regeneration or conversion. The animal world has examples of pre-emergent protection of young.
- D. brute: Wanting in reason or understanding;....Of human beings: senseless, stupid; unintelligent, unreasoning, uninstructed; sensual.
 1. The animals have not the capacity for rational or abstract thought; they do what they do by base instinct.
 2. The animals are not spiritual as man was made spiritual. **GEN 2:7; ECC 3:21.**
 3. The animals are not held morally accountable for their conduct.
 4. Is it any wonder that a God-rejecting world strives to equate men with animals?

- IV. Nature serves as a limited witness to men to which they are held accountable. **ROM 1:18-21.**
- A. The universe is a declaration of His glory and creative genius. **PSA 19:1-3.**
 - B. The universe's existence can not be explained except by the recognition of the Laws of Thermodynamics being subordinate to the First Cause.
 1. The universe did not spontaneously emerge from nothing.
 2. The universe is not eternal. The law of entropy denies this possibility.
 3. A Force greater than the universe must have brought it into existence.
 4. But even the ultimate explanation of the universe's existence depends on faith, not observation and reason of natural things. **HEB 11:3.**
 - C. There is a profound order in the stars and their systems which He has named. **PSA 147:4; JOB 9:9.**
 1. The heavenly lights are set for signs, seasons, days and years. **GEN 1:14.**
 2. They have distinct settings and courses (**JDG 5:20**) which demonstrate order and provide for navigation.
 3. They exert influences. **JOB 38:31.**
 4. A prophesied star was discerned by the Magi as heralding Christ's advent. **NUM 24:17-19 c/w MAT 2:2, 9.**
 - D. The unique existence of life on earth, its dependence on the sun, and the careful balance of all things physical testifies of His special purpose for man.
 - E. God corrected Job by pointing him to His genius in nature which Job could never duplicate or control. **JOB 38-41.**
 - F. Nature provides all sinners with a profound proof of God's being, power, justice and the veracity of His written word: the fossil record which speaks of sudden, calamitous deposition and burial caused by a Great Flood. One has to be willingly ignorant to deny this record. **2PE 3:5-6.**
 - G. There is no contradiction between the testimony of Scripture and the data set of the natural order.
 1. Scripture declares the data set of the natural order to be corrupt and decaying, and the natural order is so.
 2. True science will accord with Scripture but not false science. **1TI 6:20.**
 - H. Nature can not teach heaven nor heaven's spiritual truth. **2CO 4:18; 5:7; HEB 11:1.**
 1. Observational reasoning obviously has limitations: it can only deal with phenomenon (a thing that appears or is perceived by any of the senses, or by the mind).

2. The *things that are not seen* (**2CO 4:18**) can only be known by special revelation from God Who is superior to the creation and has infinite knowledge not limited to the revealed order of things. **1CO 2:9-11.**
3. The unobservable things of God revealed by the Spirit cannot be perceived by natural man who has not the Spirit, one who has not been regenerated spiritually. **1CO 2:14 c/w TIT 3:5.**
 - a. The carnal (not spiritual; material, temporal) mind is averse to God Who is Spirit. **ROM 8:7-9.**
 - b. (**JOH 3:6**) That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
4. Even the regenerate spiritual man is limited in his perception of spiritual things by a lack of repentance to the acknowledging of the truth. **2TI 2:25.**
 - a. Repentance is the first command of the gospel, even before faith. **MAR 1:15.**
 - b. Sin must be laid aside in favor of the sincere milk of the word. **JAM 1:21; 1PE 2:1-2.**
 - c. Genuine rational thought is an outgrowth of repentance: the mind being reconciled to God's sovereignty over human interests opens the door to sound thinking. **LUK 15:11-19; DAN 4:34-37.**
5. The critical elements for ultimate truth are not from the natural order of things but are: spiritual birth from God, special revelation from God, repentance to the acknowledging of truth, faith to accept whatever God's word declares, and a humble, holy life which prevents one from being turned over to delusions. **2TH 2:10-12.**
6. The way of holiness is such that "...the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein" (**ISA 35:8**).
 - a. A superior intellect is not needed, but rather a humble mind like Christ's. **PHIL 2:5-8.**
 - b. (**JAM 3:13**) Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.
- I. Therefore, phenomenon and intellect/reasoning alone cannot lead one to ultimate truth and may actually lead one to vain worship of an impersonal Force or to warped polytheistic idolatrous conclusions about deity. **ROM 1:22-23.**
 1. "Life is the greatest mystery, and deity must therefore be life. All life depends on the sun. Therefore we worship the sun from which all blessings flow."
 2. "All observable life demonstrates a male and female principle. This principle must derive from male and female deities."
 3. "The sun is the manifestation of male deity which fertilizes mother earth with its light and heat."
 4. "Male-female intercourse flows through all, from the heavenly to the earthly."
 5. "This solar male-female principle goes through a repetitive cycle of birth, maturing and death (spring, summer, fall, winter), death being the last thing that revives the cycle of life back to spring."
 6. "The deity therefore is telling us that death is needed to invoke his blessing."
 7. "The highest form of observable life is man and there can be no better sacrifice therefore to please deity (and it is preferable to use an unsullied infant)."
 8. "We must honor the generative power of deity by sex and killing."
 - a. Pagan religions commonly featured both.
 - b. Mind how much this parallels a depraved culture today which affirms

- atheism as the highest expression of the human mind. There is not a huge difference between idolatry and atheism.
- c. The polytheistic idolater at least acknowledges a higher unseen power.
 9. An alternative or adjunct to these previous points is amazement at the genius of the natural order which fosters a conclusion that human intellect is the supreme manifestation of deity and the “wisest” men are most god-like.
 - a. Of this inclination we must be cautious lest we exalt intellect or learning over Christ-likeness. **COL 2:6-9, 18.**
 - b. A little child of God by Scripture can be sufficiently wise. **2TI 3:15; LUK 2:46-47; 2KI 5:2-5; MAT 18:3-4.**
 - c. “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God...” (**1CO 1:21**).
 - d. Athens was the citadel of human wisdom but also the citadel of superstitious idolatry (**ACT 17:16**). God called their wisdom *ignorance*. **ACT 17:30.**
 - e. Satan/Lucifer is “...full of wisdom...” (**EZE 28:12**) but not godly.
 - f. The things of greatest importance are hidden from the eyes of such wise ones. **MAT 11:25.**
 10. The Jews who had God’s oracles (**ROM 3:1-2**) displaced them by rabbinical wisdom and sophistry, making God’s word of none effect. **MAR 7:13.**
 11. The Greeks were enamored with the likes of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle: the great minds of reason. But Paul sets the cross and gospel over such. **1CO 1:17-25.**
 12. Catholicism was driven not by Scripture alone but by (among other things) *Scholasticism* (The doctrines of the Schoolmen; the predominant theological and philosophical teaching of the period A.D. 1000–1500, based upon the authority of the Christian Fathers and of Aristotle and his commentators.). Thomas Aquinas (*aka*, Doctor Angelicus) notably wedded Aristotelian logic to Christian faith.
 - a. Some of the best information on reason and logic may be found in the vast knowledge base of Catholic writers and teachers. But that system is largely built on a logical fallacy.
 - b. It does not hold that the truth of Scripture is the final authority but rather that the Church is an infallible institution of Christ which determines inspired truth through its leaders. The position may be summarized as follows:
 - (1) Christ established an infallible Church from which came the inspired Word.
 - (2) How did Christ establish this infallible Church? He did so through His Word.
 - (3) Why was this Word trustworthy to begin with? Because the infallible Church says so.
 - (4) This is *circular reasoning*, the logical fallacy of one assuming the truth of what he is trying to prove: his proof ends up being his assumption of the truth he is trying to prove.
 13. God’s people will suffer for lack of knowledge (**HOS 4:6; ISA 5:13**) not so much the lack of knowledge of temporal things but of Himself as revealed in Scripture. **2PE 3:15-18.**
 14. There are few things that perturb the intellectual elite more than to be caught in a logical fallacy by a simple, God-fearing man with good arguments. **JOH 9:30-34.**
 15. It is a sad thing to see a saint become enamored with intellect, wisdom, philosophy, etc. to such a degree that plain gospel truth is set aside in favor of the intelligence or

- wisdom of men.
- a. Paul's most prolific warnings against worldly wisdom are found in his letters to the Corinthians.
 - b. He was fitted by training to philosophize them better than Aristotle but he had seen the vanity of that approach and repented of it.
PHIL 3:7-8 c/w 1CO 2:1-5.
 - c. He warned them about being corrupted from the *simplicity* (The state or quality of being simple in form, structure, etc.; absence of compositeness, complexity, or intricacy) *in Christ*. **2CO 11:3.**
16. Many have made shipwreck of their faith (or of others' faith) by the wisdom of men which masquerades as being superior to the wisdom of God revealed in Scripture. Consider:
- a. the "accommodation" theorist who vainly "bends and blends" Scripture to satisfy the intellectual peers whose Darwinist approval he craves.
 - b. the Christian psychologist who is enamored with the "self-esteem" theory which, in the absence of real scientific evidence, holds that the lack of self-denial is not the real barrier to abundant living.
 - c. seminaries and bible colleges which churn out highly-trained unbelievers who once thought they had God's word in hand.
 - d. "*When Christians unto Carnal Men give ear,
Out of their Way they go, and pay for 't dear.
For Master Worldly Wiseman can but shew
A Saint the way to Bondage and to Wo.*"
(John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, p. 17)
17. Human wisdom, intellect, logic, etc. have their place and use but Scripture dare not be overruled by such. **ROM 3:4.**
- a. The lively oracles were Israel's chief advantage. **ROM 3:1-2; ACT 7:38.**
 - b. The Scriptures contained their wisdom and understanding. **DEU 4:6.**
 - c. Education's great goal should be to justify God's wisdom. **LUK 7:29, 35.**
 - d. Solomon's wisdom needed a great reset. **ECC 1:17-18; 12:12-13.**
- J. The wisdom of God in the crucifixion death of His only begotten Son exceeds all the wisdom of the wisest creatures. **1CO 1:23-25.**
1. The greatest philosopher would never have concluded that the Creator God would humble Himself to become a man that would suffer death unjustly, for such would imply that God is dead.
 2. The Jews were perplexed at the notion that the Immanuel (*God with us*, **ISA 7:14**) Messiah of promise should be humiliated and die. **JOH 12:34.**
 3. The princes of this world saw only the elimination of a trouble-maker who was threatening the established order, not the subjection of all princes and kings to the One they crucified, nor the confirmation of the only continual government ever in history. **1CO 2:6-8 c/w PSA 2:7-12; MAT 16:18; HEB 12:28.**
 4. Satan in all his subtlety and craftiness was undone by the one thing he thought would be his triumph over God: the death of Christ. **HEB 2:14-16.**
 - a. The resurrection of Christ made the Man to be Lord of all angels.
HEB 2:9; 1PE 3:22; MAT 28:18.
 - b. Satan lost not only the legal claim He had on the elect because of sin (**ROM 8:33-34**), and the government of men through their blindness and fear, he also lost access to heaven, being overcome and ruled by the pleasure of a man, Jesus Christ, Who is his judge and executioner. **REV 12:7-12.**

- K. The assumption of Satan's minions that human wisdom/intellect is the "God in us" is behind the notion that the higher intelligence is divinely fated to rule. Example:
1. "FORCE, unregulated or ill-regulated, is not only wasted in the void, like that of gunpowder burned in the open air, and steam unconfined by science; but, striking in the dark, and its blows meeting only the air, they recoil and bruise itself... The blind Force of the people is a Force that must be economized, and also managed, as the blind Force of steam, lifting the ponderous iron arms and turning the large wheel, is made to bore and rifle the cannon and to weave the most delicate lace. It must be regulated by Intellect." (Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*, p. 1, "1st. deg. Apprentice")
 2. "There is, after all, a 'divine right' to govern; and it is vested in the ablest, wisest, best, of every nation. 'Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding: I am power: by me kings do reign, and princes decree justice; by me princes rule, and nobles, even all the magistrates of the earth' " (Ibid. p. 203, "12th. deg. Grand Master Architect")
 3. There is some validity in such observations. c/w **PRO 8:13-16**.
 4. It is self-evident that a complete ignoramus is ill-fitted to be in a position of authority. Even the qualifications for the ministry of Jesus Christ include proper instruction and aptitude (**TIT 1:9; 1TI 3:2**) and "continuing education" by study. **2TI 2:15**.
 5. Mr. Pike changed "...I have strength" (**PRO 8:14**) to "...I am power..." which shifts the dynamic from *possessing strength* to *being the very power epitomized*.
 6. Mr. Pike skipped **PRO 8:13**, "The fear of the LORD..." which fear is the *beginning* of wisdom and knowledge. **PRO 9:10; 1:7**.
 7. Mr. Pike assumed that all men were "blind force" except folks like himself. A better model would be that all men inclusively are a "blind force" that are best regulated by the knowledge of God as revealed in Scripture.
 - a. "Masonry, like all the Religions, all the Mysteries, Hermeticism and Alchemy, conceals its secrets from all except the Adepts and Sages, or the Elect, and uses false explanations and misinterpretations of its symbols to mislead those who deserve only to be mislead; to conceal the Truth, which it calls Light, from them, and to draw them away from it." (Ibid. pp. 104-105)
 - b. Translation: "We cleverly lie."
 - c. Such "Light" is more akin to *Ignus Fatuus* (marsh gas which is a bioluminescence sometimes visible over swamps which leads the unwary wanderer into trouble).
 8. Daniel and his three brethren were wiser than all the sages of the realm because they were principled men who feared God and God gave them knowledge (**DAN 1:8, 17-20**), Daniel being especially blessed with special revelation. **DAN 2:28-30**. See also **GAL 1:11-12**.
 9. "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians..." (**ACT 7:22**) but not by that fitted for leadership in God's system. It took forty years of humility, marriage, children and direct revelation and threatening from God to even get him to a point where God would put him to use (**ACT 7:29-30**) and what God gave him on Mt. Sinai was true wisdom. **DEU 4:6**.
 10. Deep thinkers are not necessarily good thinkers. **PSA 64:6**.
 11. Paul was a highly-schooled rhetorician who renounced his clever tactics in favor of rude, great plainness of speech. **2CO 4:1-2; 11:6; 3:12**.
 12. The other apostles, by contrast, were deemed by the intelligentsia of their day

- unlearned and ignorant* (**ACT 4:13**) but God called them *royal judges* (**MAT 19:28**) whom He would give "...a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist" (**LUK 21:15**). **ACT 6:9-10**.
13. Christianity is a calling of "...not many wise men after the flesh..." (**1CO 1:26**) for it magnifies the crucified Christ against humanistic pride and knowledge.
- L. Worldly wisdom and knowledge must be subject to heavenly wisdom and knowledge. **JAM 3:13-17**.
1. Hence, the warnings against the spoiling power of philosophy and a *puffed-up* mind. **COL 2:8, 18 c/w 1CO 8:1**.
 2. The heavenly wisdom does not breed pride, envy or strife among brethren.
 - a. The wise, knowledgeable man should not lord his attainments over others since such could open doors of envy and strife.
 - b. Nor should he by sophistication gainsay plain truth which does not mesh with his learning. Ministers must be braced against such. **1CO 1:20 c/w EPH 4:11-14; TIT 1:9**.
 3. Heavenly wisdom is *easily intreated* (asked about or for something). It does not harden itself against appeals for mercy, favor or correction.
 4. The wisdom from above is first *pure*, not proud nor cunning.
 5. If it comes down to a contest between intellectualism and "what saith the Scripture?," Scripture wins. **PSA 119:128**.
- V. It has been said that God designs to instruct men by general revelation (phenomenon and logic) and by special revelation (inspired prophecy). The former deals with observable things to which human reasoning is applied, the latter deals with information communicated from the Supreme Intellect (God) directly and includes information which must be accepted by faith since it is beyond human ability to test it.
- A. Some analogies that have been suggested to describe these fields are:
1. They are like two blades of scissors cutting through information to get to the truth.
 2. They are like two witnesses in a court case to prove a matter.
 3. They are like two legs walking towards the true house of worship.
- B. There is validity in such analogies but it must be always remembered that one blade of the scissors, one witness, and one leg are inherently flawed because of the bondage of corruption. **ROM 8:20-22**.
1. General revelation and special revelation may work together towards a positive result in discovering ultimate truth. We utilize grammar and logic in both disciplines but the disciplines are not exact equals.
 2. General revelation must be overruled by special revelation since God only is not corrupted nor corruptible.
 3. As noted earlier, general revelation unguided by special revelation may lead only to idolatry and baseness. **ROM 1:21-26**.
 4. General revelation by reasoning may generate a logical conclusion of the necessity of a unique Creator God but it will never of itself lead men to Jesus Christ as the Answer of all things.
- C. Where men were not familiar with the special revelation which only was to the Jews (**PSA 147:19-20**), Paul did make reasoned arguments from the nature of things but consider Paul's experience on Mars' hill. **ACT 17:16-31**.
1. Paul did not here argue Hebrew Scriptures with the Athenians but addressed them on the basis of what they themselves had conceded and was evident in nature.
 2. But the whole scene was set up by Paul preaching Jesus and the resurrection. **v. 18**.

3. It is by preachers and preaching of the gospel that men are brought to the knowledge of Christ and the need to repent unto Him. **ROM 10:13-17; 1CO 1:21.**
4. Impressive intellectual arguments alone will never convert someone to Jesus Christ.
5. It should not be overlooked that there is spirit-to-spirit power at work in conversion; it is not merely a matter of logical deduction from facts. **1CO 1:18; 2:14; 2CO 2:15-16.**
6. The one leg of general revelation may be useful in leading a sincere inquirer to "...feel after him..." (**ACT 17:27**), even to bring the inquirer to a monotheistic conclusion but the wisdom of God in Christ resides in the gospel which must be preached.
- D. There is not only a "knowledge" component in conversion to the truth of Christ, there is a moral component also.
 1. One may have all the facts needed to add up to Christ, may even believe all pertinent data, but not submit to the same by denying sin and self and being baptized unto the government of Christ as a "separated" saint. **ACT 24:24-25; 26:27-28.**
 2. One must *hunger and thirst after righteousness* and this sincere desire, upon coming to terms with the inadequacy of self-righteousness, concludes Christ as righteousness. **MAT 5:6 c/w PHIL 3:8-9; ROM 10:4.**
 3. Mentally conceding that one is a sinner and that Christ is his only hope of salvation is not loving Christ. Loving Christ is submitting to His will. **JOH 14:15, 21.**
 - a. Men will generally cleave to that which they love, and what they cleave to the most says a lot about their "first love." **REV 2:4.**
 - b. The minister of the Ephesian church was plainly told that there would come a time when some would no longer be satisfied with the doctrine of God and would therefore seek other teachers. **2TI 4:3.**

- VI. As noted at the beginning of this outline, we do not disparage extra-Scriptural knowledge and education. But neither should we glorify human intellect, especially where it counters God.
- A. Good instruction in language-arts and logic can be beneficial for better comprehension of Scripture so that "...when ye read, ye may understand..." (**EPH 3:4**).
 - B. Education can be beneficial for the sake of apologetics (defence of doctrine) by enhancing knowledge in the tangible sciences that actually confirms the existence of God and the testimony of Scripture.
 - C. A system of education which teaches just laws and a system of government that applies and enforces them will restrain wickedness. **DEU 13:11; 17:12-13; 19:20; 1TI 1:8-10; 1PE 2:13-14.**
 - D. There are limits to what can be accomplished by education.
 1. No matter how qualified the teacher, nor how correct the method, nor how good the curriculum, a stubborn fool will not learn. **PRO 1:7; 17:16; 27:22; JER 17:23.**
 2. Education will not change man's nature. Only God can do this.
 3. Education in phenomenon is not what perfects man. It is conformity to Christ that perfects men (**EPH 4:13**). Sir Francis Bacon sagely observed that the chief virtue of the O.T. was wisdom but the chief virtue of the N.T. is Christlikeness.
 4. Education will not produce paradise on earth. **2PE 3:13.**
 - E. There are some types of education to be avoided. **PRO 19:27.**
 - F. The instruction that causes to err from the words of knowledge includes the teaching of:
 1. Folly. **PRO 16:22 c/w GEN 34:7; JDG 19:22-23; 2SAM 13:12; JOB 42:8; PSA 49:11-13; PRO 14:8, 29.**

2. Lies. **ISA 9:15.**
 3. Rebellion. **JER 28:16.**
 4. Idolatry. **JER 12:16 c/w 1CO 10:7 c/w EXO 32:5-6; COL 3:5.**
- G. Satan is always seeking to direct our attention away from the word of God to other sources of knowledge. **GEN 3:5-6; 2CO 11:2-3; 2TI 3:7.**
1. Other sources of knowledge which complement the word of God are not the danger; it is other sources of knowledge which *contradict, deny or forbid* the word of God that represent the danger.
 2. "I am afraid that schools will prove to be wide gates to hell unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them in the hearts of youth. I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not constantly occupied with the word of God must become corrupt." (Martin Luther)
 3. History and Scripture essentially bear out Luther's observation in that education and wisdom exclusive of God and His word yields corruption. **ROM 1:22-32.**

VII. The foundation and source of true education is God. **PRO 1:7; 9:10.**

- A. To rule God out of the educational process is to rule out the very source of wisdom, knowledge and understanding. **PRO 2:6.**
- B. True education comes from fearing the Lord and not by simply studying the world we live in. **JOB 28:12-28.**
 1. Wisdom "cannot be gotten for gold."
 2. More money is not the solution to man's educational problems!
- C. Jesus Christ had God the Father for His teacher and He confounded the learned men of His day. **JOH 8:28; 7:14-15, 45-46; MAR 6:2-3.**
 1. A learned man knows letters.
 2. The Greek word translated "letters" in **JOH 7:15** is *gramma* from which we derive our word "grammar."
 3. Grammar is a vital part of learning and facilitates understanding of the truth of Scripture. **2TI 1:13.**
 4. An everyday God-fearing believer who studies his Bible and hears it expounded by preaching can have more understanding than enemies, teachers, and the ancients. **PSA 119:98-100.**
- D. **2CH 15:3** describes modern, secular education.
 1. The secular schools are "...without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law."
 2. Consequently, we are witnessing unrest, great vexations, and destructions. **2CH 15:5-6.**
 3. Some have wondered why God didn't stop a mass shooting in a school but He hasn't been allowed in there for about 50+ years. What has been allowed in schools is:
 - a. Atheistic humanism.
 - b. Darwinian evolution which equates man with the brute creation and denies him hope and purpose that exceeds the limits of biological life.
 - c. Promiscuous sexual activity and the benefits of abortion.
 - d. Drag queens to confuse young minds about their very nature.
 - e. Race-based agendas.
 - f. Conformity to the state is the chief end of education.
 4. Parents need to be alert to the pervasive corruption that a child will be exposed to in

secular grade-school or which a young adult may face in a secular institution of “higher” learning. **1CO 15:33**.

- E. The person best fitted for processing all the competing voices and challenges of modern education is one who is grounded in the doctrine of God’s word, committed to Christ and holds steadfast to “...let God be true, but every man a liar...” (**ROM 3:4**).