



February 22, 2009

What Do We Hope To Find

If you have ever lost anything and spent time looking for whatever it is, you can understand how frustrating that can be. A search begins with wanting to find something. Most of the time we know what that is. There are times when we realize we may not have had as clear an idea of what we were looking for as we thought. We might think we know where to look but realize we were mistaken. Our search may be limited by preconceptions of what we are looking for, where it might be found and what the lost item actually looks like. Often times we find something in a place we did not expect to locate it and it's appearance may not be what we thought as well. In religion many begin searching for God with a preconceived notion of what they are looking for. In spite of the fact that one may not have any religious background, or, have one that they have set aside for many years, the search often begins with the familiar. With this thought in mind we can say that the preconceptions will limit what we discover. In short, we will find what we already wanted to experience. This type of thinking leads many to rule out legitimate sources of spiritual knowledge seeking to gratify a self defined need for fulfillment. The scriptures have the ability to set us on the proper path if we desire to find truth. Solomon, writing of wisdom, helps to clarify the correct course. ***“Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.” (Prov 2.2-6)***. Notice the particulars as set forth in this passage. One must first desire the knowledge of the Lord. Solomon compares this to a hidden treasure. We can accurately state that none of us will come to a knowledge of God on our own. There is no inner light waiting to be discovered through introspection. The first step in understanding is knowing spiritual wisdom is outside the realm of personal experience. The fear of the Lord that Solomon speaks of is reverence toward God that will guide us in our search. We will not accept the word of an-

other person alone but will verify the accuracy of what we are told. David states. ***“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.” (Psm 111.10)***. Respect and reverence place a peculiar significance on the results of that which we seek. Solomon states that the ***“Lord giveth wisdom”*** as cited above. How is that done and where do we find this knowledge? Solomon answers that in the same verse when he writes, ***“...out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding”***. (Prov 2.6). Where can we find the word spoken by God? Throughout the scriptures God's people are directed toward his word. If we believe in God and trust his power, then we must also trust that the Lord has given us what he wants us to know. Peter states that all things pertaining to life and godliness have been revealed (2 Pet 1.3) and Paul tells us that this was done through divine inspiration (2 Tim 3.16). Paul told the Corinthians that it was the mind of God which the spirit of God revealed (1 Cor 2.11-13). Jude tells us that this was revealed once to the saints (Jude 3) and has been preserved just as Christ stated (Matt 24.35). Our search thus begins with a desire to know what God has revealed. We determine to respect the authority of the Lord and so will turn to the source of knowledge, his word. We must also be willing to give up our own notions of what we seek to find when we discover that the scriptures tell us something different. Respect for God will compel us to accept his commands, and only those, leading us to obey the truth, as God intended. We will do this in spite of what others, or ourselves, might want to hear or believe resulting in true obedience and acceptance by God, not other humans. Doing these things will lead us to salvation and fellowship with the Lord and others who have made the same determination.

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