

**CHINA MISSION
NEWSLETTER**

MISSIONARY

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KAOHSIUNG – 1 March 2021

Dear brethren:

How can a 2,000-year-old book be relevant today, unless it allows for evolving cultural and societal values? Just the other day, this question was asked of me by a friend with whom I discuss the Bible at every opportunity. Many toss up this question only as a thoughtless excuse to evade the Book's binding precepts, yet, with my friend, it was a sincere and thoughtful question deserving of a compelling answer. Can there even be an immutable, timeless standard of moral and ethical truth?

An eternal truth presupposes an eternal God. There can be no immutable, timeless standard of moral and ethical truth that transcends all epochs of time and all cultural boundaries, unless there exists both an eternal God, and an objective revelation of truth from that God. God exists. To argue otherwise would be to argue that the Creation, which exhibits intelligent design beyond anything explicable by mere randomness, did not require a designer. Likewise, there is credible evidence that the Bible is the only divinely inspired word of God, evidence that no other religious writings possess. Christianity is an evidenced faith, supported by objective evidence, not subjective feelings.

Many long for "the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension" (Philippians 4:7), but feel that such a faith in God and His word would be a compromise of their intellectual integrity. God gave man the ability to reason and the power of logic to discern truth; He would not give man an illogical religion. Christianity is an evidenced faith. God does not expect us to believe blindly. The disciplines of Christian apologetics and Christian evidences, when examined with an unbiased mind, demand but one conclusion. To deny the existence of God and reject His word is both illogical and unreasonable. Man is "without excuse" (Romans 1:20); "seek, and you will find" (Matthew 7:7). There are compelling reasons to believe, if you desire to seek God and His truth.

My friend commented that unlike other missionaries, I approached the Scriptures as an intellectual. He says all the other preachers just tell him to have faith, to just believe. This is often referred to as a "leap of faith" in many denominations. Belief in God does not require us to discard objective reasoning, or the desire for objective evidence. If there exists no objective reasons to believe in the God of the Bible, then a man is left to subjectively believe in any god that suits his philosophical analyses of life,

and his carnal desires. This is, in fact, the selection process by which most subjectively choose a religion or some philosophy to guide them through this present life. This is an exercise in futility. "There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death" (Proverbs 14:12). Man simply does not have within himself the knowledge or wisdom to determine an inerrant moral and ethical standard. "I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). Only God can reveal absolute truth.

The Bible is the mind of God in human language (2 Peter 1:20-21). It is the standard by which all men will be judged in the Last Day. It has absolute authority in any and all matters addressed. It supersedes all other authority whether it be patriarch, king, or ecclesiastical hierarchy (Acts 5:29). Nor can human traditions, social customs, cultural norms, or political correctness excuse disobedience to God (Romans 3:4). God has given man the power to reason and the ability to think logically. When applied to understanding the objective word of God, they are tools to correctly discern God's will for man. Any line of reasoning, however, that portends to improve upon the wisdom of God is nothing more than arrogance, the work of the devil as he appeals to the vanity of a man who thinks he is wiser than God and able to update immutable and timeless standards. Truth, justice, and righteousness never become obsolete, never become untrue, never need updating. What one does when one finds truth is the defining question of eternal consequence.

Your servant in Christ,

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