

GOOD NEWS
for the unsaved
WORLD!

(#17)
The need for a renewed mind,
in order to recognize God's glory in creation

GOD – AS SEEN IN CREATION

- ✓ The infinite Creator God cannot be seen.
- ✓ Jesus Christ, God revealed in human form, will not be seen again until he returns to judge the earth.

HOWEVER ... ☞ God's eternal power and divine nature are clearly visible in creation.

... since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them.

For his invisible attributes, that is, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what he has made.

As a result, people are without excuse.

Romans 1:19-20 (CSB)

ALSO ... ☞ God's glory can be seen, both in heaven and on earth.

The heavens declare the glory of God; **the skies** proclaim the work of his hands.
Psalm 19:1 (NIV)

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; **the whole earth** is full of his glory."
Isaiah 6:3b (NIV)

**WHEN YOU LOOK AT CREATION
DO YOU SEE THESE THINGS?**

★ **If not, then WHY?** ★

**UNSAVED PEOPLE DON'T SEE THESE THINGS
BECAUSE THEY SUPPRESS THEM.**

... people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ...
Romans 1:18b (NIV2011)

- ✓ IT'S NOT GOD'S FAULT, for **WE** are the ones who chose to go astray!

For though they knew God, they did not glorify him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became worthless, and their senseless hearts were darkened.
Romans 1:21 (CSB)

This alone have I discovered: God made humankind upright, but they have sought many evil schemes.
Eccles. 7:29 (NET)

**IF UNSAVED PEOPLE WERE WILLING TO SEEK HIM,
THEY COULD FIND HIM ...**

- ✓ **YES**, it is possible...
 - ... he never left himself without a witness.
Acts 14:17a (NLT)
 - He did this so that they might seek God, and perhaps they might reach out and find him**, though he is not far from each one of us.
Acts 17:27 (CSB)
- ✓ But **NO** they aren't willing.
 - ... there is **no one who seeks** God.
Romans 3:11b (CSB)
 - They may seek after "gods," but not **the one true God.**

**BUT GOD HAS SAVED ME.
I'M CHANGED!**

I STILL DON'T SEE IT.

WHY?

FIRST OF ALL, IT'S NOT GOD'S FAULT.
His glory* is visible in creation (whether or not we look for it).

* (We will use the word "GLORY" to represent all aspects of God that can be recognized and understood through creation.)

OBVIOUSLY, WHEN PEOPLE MISTREAT CREATION, GOD'S GLORY MAY BE MORE DIFFICULT TO SEE.

*** BUT THIS IS NOT THE WHOLE ISSUE. ***



➤ Sin may mar God's revelation in creation, but it can't remove it.
➤ Scenes like this should remind us of the horribleness of sin!

EVEN THOUGH GOD'S REVELATION IN CREATION IS NATURALLY VISIBLE, LEARNING TO RECOGNIZE IT WILL TAKE EFFORT.

THE DEVIL is doing everything he can to make it difficult. He will use:

- ✓ **YOUR OWN SIN** to cloud your thinking.
- ✓ **THE SINFUL WORLD** to distort your perspective.

===== :

ARE YOU WILLING
... to put forth the effort to reject the world's values?
... to pursue holiness and reject sin?

TO SEE THESE THINGS, WE WILL NEED RENEWED MINDS!
(God uses Scripture to accomplish this.)

- ✓ The values and habits we developed before salvation have blinded us to the truth.
- ✓ Even now, when we sin, it becomes more difficult to see these things.

... be transformed by the **renewing** of your mind.
Romans 12:2b (NIV)

... the new self, which is being **renewed** in knowledge in the image of its Creator.
Col. 3:10b (NIV)

You were taught ... to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be **made new** in the attitude of your minds; ...
Ephes. 4:22a, 23 (NIV)

WHERE IS YOUR FOCUS?

Do you pay NOT ENOUGH attention to God's revelation in creation and in the Bible? → WISE PEOPLE PAY ATTENTION TO THE BIBLE... AND TO CREATION! [See next page.]

Do you pay TOO MUCH attention to the views of the world? → THE WORLD HAS MANY DIFFERENT WAYS TO DENY GOD'S GLORY IN CREATION!

Do you listen to church-goers who attempt to "Christianize" the world's teachings? → IN THE END, THESE PEOPLE SACRIFICE SCRIPTURE AND EXALT THE WORLD'S VIEWS.


WISE PEOPLE PAY ATTENTION TO BOTH: THE BIBLE AND CREATION!

- ☞ As our minds are renewed by **Scripture**, we will better understand **creation** and how it reflects God's glory.
- ☞ If we are delighted in God's glory, we will delight in his works in creation. (We probably won't know as much as this wise person!)

ACCORDING TO JESUS ...
"Anyone who listens to my teaching and obeys me is **wise**, ..."
Matthew 7:24 (NLT)

THIS GUY WAS "SUPER-WISE"!
[Solomon] could speak with authority about all kinds of plants, from the great cedar of Lebanon to the tiny hyssop that grows from cracks in a wall. He could also speak about animals, birds, reptiles, and fish.
1 Kings 4:33 (NLT)

HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU SPEND LISTENING TO THE ATHEISTS (AND SIMILAR) WHO DENY GOD'S GLORY?

 **THE WORLD IS AN IMPERSONAL PRODUCT OF CHANCE.**

ALL THE DESIGN AND BEAUTY YOU SEE JUST "HAPPENED" TO COME INTO EXISTENCE

HAVE YOU ACTUALLY BEGUN TO BELIEVE
THOSE WHO HATE GOD?



THINGS WEREN'T
CREATED IN 6 DAYS... IT
TOOK BILLIONS OF YEARS.

WE CAN EXPLAIN
EVERYTHING
WITHOUT GOD!

IGNORANT AND UNSCIENTIFIC
PEOPLE MAKE "GODS."
TODAY, WE HAVE SCIENCE!

WHEN ATHEISTS (AND SIMILAR) MAKE LYING
CLAIMS, DO YOU ACCEPT WHAT THEY SAY?



HUMANS STARTED OUT PRIMITIVE
AND IGNORANT, IN A WORLD THEY
DIDN'T UNDERSTAND. THEY NEEDED
TO INVENT "GODS," TO EXPLAIN
WHAT THEY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.

TODAY, WE UNDERSTAND SCIENCE AND
THE LAWS OF NATURE. SO, WE DON'T
NEED A "GOD" TO EXPLAIN THINGS!

WHEN CHURCH-GOERS "CHRISTIANIZE" THE
VIEWS OF ATHEISTS (AND SIMILAR), DO YOU
ACCEPT WHAT THEY SAY?



CHURCH-GOERS WHO
HAVE ADOPTED THE
VIEWS OF PEOPLE
WHO HATE GOD!

GOD ONLY DOES
"SUPERNATURAL"
THINGS!

WHEN WE CAN'T EXPLAIN
THINGS SCIENTIFICALLY,
THEN WE CAN SAY THAT
GOD IS AT WORK!

IF WE CAN EXPLAIN
HOW SOMETHING
WORKS, THEN IT'S
NOT GOD DOING IT!

WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY

To OBSERVE: the design, beauty, function, interrelatedness, purposefulness, cause-and-effect, and everything else that is a reflection of God's power, majesty, wisdom and glory.

To CONSIDER: the horribleness of sin and its consequences – which mask the display of God's glory. (*We, the human race, must take credit for such things ... we can't blame them on God!*)

**BUT WE WILL
NEED THE BIBLE,
TO TEACH US HOW
TO DO THESE.**

Credits

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