

The Right Questions

Proverbs 2:2 - 5 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; 3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; 4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; 5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

There is an old saying: "It's not the answer but asking the right questions". I once heard a man say: "I don't like to answer questions" Someone who will not answer questions could be afraid they will be proved wrong or that their pride will be hurt. The person who asks the right questions is one who is thinking and understands their need for more information. They are not satisfied with the pat answer, or the sound bite and seek to understand more. This sometimes is thinking outside the box or just taking the time to look further.

We have many today who just accept the common answer (or method) and do not think for themselves. They are content to let others do their thinking for them and not to ask questions. A prime example of this is the belief in atheistic evolution. People are content to say: "the teacher said it is true so it must be true". The teacher could be anyone that the person looks up to for information (or the person that does their thinking for them). Why don't we ask more questions and do more thinking ourselves. Since the beginning of time there are those who understand that many people do not ask questions about published information. This is how evil people have always manipulated the masses.

In 1860, owing to the introduction and widespread acceptance of general anesthesia, open surgery was increasing in the world. Yet on the wards of the average hospital the odds of a patient surviving a surgical operation were about the same as escaping a great battle in war where they lined up and shot at each other. In the surgical wards wound infections spread from patient to patient like wildfire. No surgeon could ever be certain that his patient would survive his surgery. Compound fractures were the surgeon's nightmare, often ending up in "hospital gangrene" and amputation. The death rate from major surgical operations or limb amputation was as high as 40%, rising to 60% in French hospitals. Even simpler operations carried a high risk of death from infection. The hospitals were blamed for this, and there was much talk of closing them down and having the patients being taken care of at home.

Hygiene in hospitals was deplorable. A haunting mildly nauseating smell of putrefaction clung to the clothes of the surgeons, some of whom were not ashamed to speak of the "the good old hospital stink." Old rags were strewn about the operating room, also sponges and dirty instruments. Surgeons rarely washed their hands; wore street clothes while operating; and circulated freely between the living patients they treated and the dead ones they dissected or autopsied. No attempt was made to isolate septic cases, and the nurses and dressers moved directly from patients with septic wounds to healthy ones. The water supply was often polluted, and dirty toilets were placed next to the patient area. A hospital was not expected to be more spotless than a carpenter's shop.

According to the prevailing theory of the time, wound infections ("putrefaction") were attributed to gases (chiefly oxygen) entering the wound and causing tissue breakdown. Opinions varied as to how the air became tainted but no real effort was made to change procedures or look for a real cause. No surgeon ever risked opening an abdomen or entering a joint. Abscesses were left unopened, rarely drained and were treated by methods that would prevent the entrance of oxygen.

But in France a rising young chemist, Louis Pasteur, was about to unleash a great revolution. He had studied milk, wine, beer, silkworms, and yeasts. Between 1850 and 1860 he had performed a series of rigorous experiments that led him to conclude that the souring of milk by the production of lactic acid and the conversion of glucose to ethanol to make wine were initiated by living microscopic organic matter. It was his finding that human diseases occurring during life could also be caused by living transmitted germs.

Later Surgeon Joseph Lister in England would read Pasteur's papers and make the connection between germs and infection. After reading Pasteur's paper Lister conceived the idea of preventing surgical infections by destroying the organisms that caused it. He settled on a substance called German creosote, used to clean up a sewage plant nearby and then available as a 5% carbolic acid solution. For his first patient, one with a compound fracture of the leg, he produced a small bottle of carbolic acid, poured some into the wound and made a paste of it by mixing it with the blood, then covered the wound and added some fresh carbolic acid every day. The patient recovered with no infection. Between 1865 and 1867 he treated eleven cases of compound fractures, of which nine healed without infection.

London surgeons were neither impressed nor persuaded. One surgeon while operating sarcastically asked the nurses to close the door, so as not to allow Mr. Lister's germs to come into the room. The nurses also grumbled and were difficult to work with, being accustomed to regarding the wards as their private domain into which no man should come without their permission and interfere with any of their arrangements, such as ventilation or the ways they dressed the wounds.

Pasteur and Joseph Lister were not satisfied with the answers to their questions. They began to search for new answers and began to ask new questions. Their questions and research lead to the hospital safety we enjoy today.

We should not just accept the same old answers the world gives us today. We need to keep searching for the truth in the word of God. Look deeper than what we are told. Ask more questions and then seek the true answers.

"Posterity will one day laugh at the sublime foolishness of the modern materialistic philosophy. The more I study nature, the more I stand amazed at the work of the Creator. I pray while I am engaged at my work in the laboratory." L. Pasteur

1. Much of This World is Secret

A. Deu_29:29 The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

B. Much of God's work is not known. Some (a small part) is revealed to believers. I laugh every time I hear a Scientist tell me what life is like elsewhere in the universe. Speak some Godless theory about something like there is no doubt that it is true. Personal Theory presented as absolute truth.

Charles Surgeon said: *"The sum total of all human knowledge is but as a drop of the bucket compared with the wisdom of God..."*. This is still true even though knowledge has increased greatly. Man has bypassed the billions of things we do not understand to stand on the few we do. Mankind is always pointing to their accomplishments and saying how smart we are. Some of the things that are said we understand, are many times found to be wrong.

One of the most technology advanced nations in their day was Nazi Germany. But they were Evil. They were fundamentally wrong.

C. Dan 2:20 - 22 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: 21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: 22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

D. Pasteur believed this, that is why he prayed continually to God for guidance. Daniel believed this, that is why he could tell the King that God would reveal his dream. Paul believed this, that is why he could keep on going even when things looked bleak.

2. God Knows What is in the Darkness

A. Imagine what it was like in Daniel's day. The dark was a scary place for many. If you had a lamp or a candle, the light didn't go very far. There was a dread and some fear when the sun went down.

Today we own the night. We keep finding better and better ways to cancel out the darkness.

The darkness we fear is the future. The darkness visible in this world is a spiritual darkness. The direction this world is heading is scary, but we can always rely on the light of the Lord to get us through.

- B. **Dan. 2:22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.**
- C. God knows what is around the corner. The lives of the Prophets and the Apostles was one of trust in God. They knew that God had a plan and that they were in the plan. They knew that God's promises were true. They understood that He would reveal the secret things as they needed to know them. They knew that if they didn't put their trust in God then the worlds darkness would swallow them up. We really do not have a choice. The best preparation for the troubles of tomorrow is trusting God today.
- D. If we were in a deep dark woods and were trying to find our way out. We would not move toward deeper darkness. We would instead move toward the brighter light.
- E. **John 3:19 - 21 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. 21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.**
- F. We need to always move toward the truth. We should not be afraid of God and His truth.. God love us as much as he loves His own Son. **John 15:9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. Rom_5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**
- G. *"Jesus Christ makes no mistake... When He enlists a man in His service, He shows him the dark side; He lets him know that he must live a life of self-denial. If a man is not willing to go to heaven by the way of Calvary, he cannot go at all. Many men want a religion in which there is no cross, but they cannot enter heaven that way. If we are to be disciples of Jesus Christ, we must deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow Him. So let us sit down and count the cost. Do not think that you will have no battles if you follow the Nazarene, because many battles are before you. Yet if I had ten thousand lives, Jesus Christ should have every one of them. Men do not object to a battle if they are confident that they will have victory, and, thank God, every one of us may have the victory if we will." - D. L. Moody*