

OBSTACLES TO KNOWING THE TRUTH

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Sheep in the Word Ministries • quicknotes.org • 2007

How difficult is it to learn the Truth? Very difficult!
There are many, many obstacles to overcome.
All have been allowed and intentionally put in the way by God.
Compare how hard it is to learn the Truth now with how easy
it will be in the Millennium: "For the earth will be full of
the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea"
(Isa. 11:9; cf. Hab. 2:14).



GOD

Pilate asked cynically, "What is truth?" (John 18:38). No wonder.
God has purposely put a lot of things in the way to keep us from learning
his Word. There are enough obstacles to discourage most people,
and this removes most of the competition for the highest eternal rewards.



INSPIRED WORD OF GOD

misinterpretation • misunderstanding • error • faulty presuppositions • faulty logic (logical errors) • wrong conclusions
eisegesis (reading something into the text) • legalism (manmade rules attributed to God) • false doctrine
anti-supernatural bias • many interpretations • many interpretational approaches (mythological, allegorical, literal)
darkness • confusion • unclear • see in a mirror dimly (1 Cor. 13:12) • uncertainty • guesses
conjecture (inference or prediction from incomplete or uncertain information) • reading between the lines
hapax legomena (a word only occurs once) • lost word meanings in the original languages • lost cultural meanings
no original manuscripts • textual variants • language barriers (Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek) • translation differences
canonicity problems • seems like foolishness (1 Cor. 2:14) • defies common sense • requires walking by faith and not by sight
satanic obscuring • limited revelation • progressive revelation • purposely hidden from the wise by God (Matt. 11:25; Luke 10:21)
hard, deep doctrine (meat, Heb. 5:11-14; hard to understand, 2 Peter 3:16)
everyone thinks they're right • don't know who's right (no absolute standard of interpretation)
sloppy, incomplete, inaccurate study (lack of time, resources, and training) • pick and choose what you want to believe
carnality (no illumination or teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit) • spiritual immaturity (insufficient frame of reference)

SEEKING THE TRUTH



PRINCIPLES

- (1) If you study, you will get some things right.
- (2) The odds are too high against learning the Truth without the Holy Spirit's help.
- (3) If you live your life pleasing to God, you will get more things right because the Holy Spirit will illuminate and teach you all Truth.
- (4) The more you study the more you will get right.
- (5) The more Bible study tools (qualifications) you have, the more you will get right.
- (6) No one will get everything right—except Jesus.
- (7) God doesn't expect you to get everything right.
- (8) God expects you to try hard to learn about Him.
- (9) God will reward you for trying and for what you learned about Him (Luke 10:42).
- (10) We will all know the Truth in the Millennium.
- (11) Some Truth is crystal clear; for example, Do not commit adultery. Do not steal.
- (12) Few want to hear the Truth.
- (13) You can find plenty of excuses not to seek the Truth.