

The Contradiction of Knowledge

Text: 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Corinthians 8:1

Introduction:

- At first appearance these two verses seem to be at odds with one another.
- On the one hand in 2 Timothy 2:15 we are commanded to study the Word of God.
- On the hand in 1 Corinthians 8:1, we are told that knowledge can make one prideful.
- The Bible tells us about pride in Proverbs 16:18, "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."
- The main reason that we are to study the Word of God is not to fill our heads with Bible knowledge to be approved of man but to be approved of God.
- What does it mean to be approved of God in relation to our study of the Word of God?
- It means that you can prove from the Bible what you believe doctrinally and you can demonstrate biblically the principles that you claim to live by.
- In Ecclesiastes 1:18, the Bible tells us the results of having too much knowledge.
- "For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow."

- What I want to focus on in our study is cases in the Bible where someone had knowledge others did not have and the results.

CASE # 1 - SATAN

- In Ezekiel 28:11-15, the Bible gives us a description of Satan before his rebellion against God.
- "Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee."

- I believe that Satan, the anointed cherub possessed knowledge that the other cherubim did not.
- It certainly puffed him up.

- Remember in our description of Satan in Ezekiel 28:12, the Bible says that he was "full of wisdom".
- Notice what the Bible says about Satan in Ezekiel 28:16-17, "By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, **thou hast corrupted thy wisdom** by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee."
- The Bible says that Satan corrupted his wisdom.
- In other words, he used the knowledge that he possessed for evil and not good.
- He was prideful or puffed up because of the wisdom and knowledge that he possessed.
- In fact, I want you to notice one of names ascribed to Satan in Job 41:34.
- In Job 41:34, Satan is called the "...he is king over all the children of pride."

CASE # 2 - ADAM & EVE

- They wanted knowledge that is why they bought Satan's sale pitch in Genesis 3:15.
- "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."
- "...ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."
- They said to themselves, "hey, we will be just like God if eat of the tree"
- They became puffed up.
- But look at what happens as a result.
- Remembering what the Bible says in Ecclesiastes 1:18, their knowledge increased but so did their sorrow.
- The Bible tells us in Genesis 3:16-24, "Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living. Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them. And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."

- The woman was cursed.
- The man was cursed.
- The earth was cursed.
- Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden.
- All mankind and the creation cursed as a result.

-The Bible tells us in Romans 5:12 as the result of the increased knowledge of Adam that, " Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"

CASE # 3 PAUL, THE APOSTLE

-In 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, we are told about the Apostle Paul, " And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

-The Lord revealed to Paul knowledge of spiritual things that He never did to anyone else.

-We see this in verse 7, "...the abundance of the revelations,..."

-What the Lord revealed to Paul was the mystery of the church.

-Jew and Gentile in one body, the body of Christ, all saved the same way by grace through faith in the blood atonement of Christ.

-The church was pictured in the Old Testament but never revealed to the prophets.

-But notice what the Lord did to keep Paul humble and to keep from getting puffed up or prideful.

-The Lord gives Paul a thorn in the flesh so He can use Paul.

-Left unchecked Paul may have been destroyed by pride.

-God knew Paul was human subject to the Adamic nature.

Conclusion:

-We need to ask ourselves.

-Are we puffed up over the spiritual things that God has revealed to us through His Word?

-Remember, the main reason for studying the Word of God is to be approved unto God and not to try to impress man with how much Bible information we know.

-It is important to remember how we are to give out that Bible knowledge to others.

-It should be given out in love.

-The Bible says to "speak the truth in love".

-"Charity edifieth".

-God's has given us knowledge to give out to and teach others.

-Not to hoard and get puffed up about.

-Remember, the admonition in Proverbs 16:18, " Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."