

Back to School: Two Methods of Knowing Anything

Written by Calvin Fox

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In theory, there are two, very different ways to approach knowing anything. There are two, and only two, very different ways of interpreting reality or facts: Biblical & non-Biblical. There are two, very different ways, of interpreting reality (facts or data), of understanding the meaning of everything:

1. The way that starts from God [Pre-suppositionalism], from Special Revelation and with a regenerated heart, in which dwells the Holy Spirit who gives illumination.
 2. The way that starts apart from God and Revelation and with an unregenerated heart.
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More than being different, these two ways oppose each other- they are actually inimical [Webster- i-'ni-mi-kal: adjective from latin inimicus enemy – 1. being adverse often by reason of hostility or malevolence 2 a. having the disposition of an enemy : hostile b. reflecting or indicating hostility]

Isaiah 55:8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. 9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 65:2 All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations ["following their own thoughts"-CSB]

Genesis 6:5 The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that

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every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

All human beings are persons with the attributes of the image of God, ie- all people have the faculties for rational thought, creativity, morality and living in community. These remain "good". Thus, human society, culture and civilization is functionally possible and essentially "good". This is Common Grace. However, unregenerate humans function under the control, at base, of "radical corruption" [flesh=sarx] and with total inability to change that, ie- they function in the context of "death". The unregenerate function, not only apart from God, ie- automously but, in opposition to God

Romans 8:7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

Colossians 1:21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge BUT Romans 3:18 There is no fear of God before their eyes

Romans 1:18 men suppress the truth by their wickedness...21 their thinking became futile

Ephesians 4:17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

This means that they the facts they observe, they interpret accordingly; especially, when it comes to the purpose and connectivity of those facts.

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In addition, human beings function under the influence of the Fallen Powers which manifest themselves through the Institutions God has ordained: Marriage, Family, Church and Civil Government and the governments thereof, particularly, husbands, Fathers, Elders and Rulers. Thus, human beings select and use [facts] for ungodly objectives, eg- science in support of Eugenics and Racism

The enmity to God is seen very clearly in the Philosophy of Naturalism and in the virulent opposition of many of its proponents to Intelligent Design

(Continued in the Article below)