

Mt. 11:25-27 (WCF 1:7) “The Perspicuity of Scripture”

For the Children: When I was in school, maths was not clear to me at all. That was not because maths itself is unclear. It was because my mind was unclear. Later, I was able to understand it a little bit better. Many people find the Bible confusing. That is not because the Bible is confusing about our salvation or how we are to serve and worship God. It is because the minds of many remain unclear – until God opens their eyes to see the Truth. Then it all starts to make sense, and the Bible is seen to be full of clear wisdom.

Questions: Are all parts of the Bible easy to understand for the believer? Do we have to work at understanding it, or does God simply tell us? Do we need other people to explain the Bible to us?

Introduction:

First Point: The Son Knows

- 1) Implied by the Doctrine of God: Scripture is God-breathed. It therefore partakes of His character. He is not a God of confusion. He knows all – including our nature and needs. He can communicate perfectly
- 2) The Son's Divine Knowledge: The Lord Jesus' knowledge of God is equated with the Father's divine knowledge of His Son. He can therefore perfectly communicate God to us. Moreover, “all things” have been handed over from Son to Father – all authority, salvation, judgement, and the Kingdom. His credentials are impeccable for revealing all such things to us
- 3) The Son's Desire to Reveal: The Lord Jesus not only has the ability to communicate clearly, He has the desire as well – it is not only the Son who knows the Father, but also “anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him”

Second Point: Infants Know

- 1) Knowledgeable Infants: The Lord gives thanks that His Father reveals the Truth to “infants” – not all little children as such; but only to those who are humble, dependent upon Him, who lean on Him for understanding. The term does imply, however, that even little children or uneducated people may understand the truth, with the Lord's help. See WCF 1:7
- 2) What Infants Know: These “infants” have “these things” revealed to them (v. 25) - God's Kingdom, Jesus' Messiah-ship, the Gospel. The Perspicuity of Scripture does not mean every believer learns all doctrines, or understands every passage of Scripture. It means that all we need to know to be saved, to worship and obey God, is somewhere in the Bible taught clearly, so that we may come to a sufficient understanding of such things – with the Spirit's aid. Of course, the Spirit uses our use of “ordinary means” to learn such matters – the reading/hearing and study of God's Word
- 3) Some Hard Things: Perspicuity does not mean there are no parts of Scripture that are hard to understand. See 2 Pet. 3:16. The harder parts keep us humble, keep us busy studying to discover answers and keep us from holding the Word in contempt. The Church, Christian writers etc. can help us to understand the more difficult parts. But we do not *need* the Church to interpret the Scripture as a whole for us. We need the Lord, His Word and Spirit, for that

Third Point: The Intelligent Don't Know

- 1) Intelligent Fools: The wise and intelligent do not understand the things of God. Here, the “wise and intelligent” are not simply those with high IQ. The educated can also understand God's Word, with His help (WCF 1:7). The terms refer here to those who rely solely upon human reason. See 1 Cor. 8:18f
- 2) Hidden Clarity: It is not just that such people do not understand. The Lord *hides* the truth from them. This is a punishment for being hard-hearted against the Lord. See Mt. 13:10f. This involves the Lord giving sinners over to the blindness they desire, so they move even further from seeing the Truth
- 3) Praise for Revealing and Concealing: The setting here is one of increasing opposition to Christ, but also the success of the “Seventy.” The Lord Jesus openly praises His Father both for His revealing to – for it shows His mercy; and for His concealing – for it shows His just wrath against sin

Conclusion: