

of an offering being made to an idol, to the sun, or to the moon.

5. Jesus recognized the ability of the common people to distinguish between bread and stones, and between a fish and a snake (Matthew 7:9-10).

6. Jesus recognized that people are readily able to distinguish between old cloth and new cloth, and between old wineskins and new wineskins (Matthew 9:16-17).

Even in this incomplete list we have quite a range of types of observing ability which God has openly recognized to be valid and accurate. So, any argument that man does not have the ability to observe with satisfactory accuracy, or that scientific observation of the natural world is of little value, can be dismissed. Those who are inclined to wonder if scientific observation is really effective need only to consider the fact that scientific investigation has delivered us from most of the fearful superstitions which haunted our ancestors, and has discovered the cause of most diseases of man, domestic animals, and domestic plants.

The reason for the reliability of man's observation is found in the fact that man was created "in the image of God" (Genesis 1:27; John 10:34-36). It is of course very true that man lost a priceless portion of that image of God when he rebelled against his Creator in the Garden of Eden. But we must still recognize that the powers of reason, observation, and analysis which man had received as a part of God's image were not lost. As we have seen, Christ himself recognized them as still present in man. God has given us the gift of rationality, so that "the laws of thought are also the laws of things." Or to put it another way, "In God's veracity we have the guarantee that our faculties (in their normal exercise) do not deceive us."²

Francis Schaeffer explains that the scientists of Reformation times believed in the reliability of man's observations, and that this belief was rooted in their Christian faith. He says, "The early scientists also shared the outlook of Christianity in believing that there is a reasonable God, who has created a reasonable universe, and thus man, by use of his reason, could find out the universe's form."³ This ability of man is a reality because he possesses some of the image of God with which he was created, thus allowing his reason to be in agreement with the patterns of God's creation. To summarize, there are similarities between the mind of God and the mind of man, and because of this, man can observe and understand the kinds of things God has placed on the earth.

We must further realize, as Christ did, that the powers of reliable observation in man are not dependent upon his being a Christian. Rationality and the power of analysis are a part of God's universal gift to the human race. This can be illustrated by the case of the counting of the rings of two maple trees of the same species which have been cut down. A layman may approach the stumps, count the rings, and decide that one tree is 40 years old and the