

concerning nature is on an equal level with the spiritual truths found in the Bible. There are indeed truths concerning our relation to God, the work of Christ for man, etc., which are "spiritually discerned," or "spiritually appraised" (I Corinthians 2:14), and are in some sense higher than are the facts of nature and of history. However, the higher status of the spiritual truths is due to their quality or classification, rather than to their source.

Perhaps we can now summarize this brief treatment concerning truth by saying that God is the source of all truth, regardless of where it is found, or how it comes to man. A statement from Warren Wiersbe may help in this summary: "We do not look upon truth as something men have invented. We take truth, regardless of where we find it, whether truth is found under a microscope, through a telescope, or wherever God has put truth in this universe of ours."⁹ To this we would add the warning, when you are looking through that microscope or telescope, be sure to remember the distinction between genuine observation and opinions you might formulate as a result of superficial observation. We do not declare something to be fact or truth without a long series of repeated observations by numerous capable observers--such as the many surgeons observing the flow of blood through the heart, which we mentioned above.

The Dangers of Compartmentalization

It would be inappropriate to close a chapter on "revelation and science" without a warning against the danger of forming a dichotomy out of the two. Many scientists who have embraced Christianity have made the mistake of never trying to reconcile their profession with the divine revelation of the Bible. Hence they have often harbored within themselves two contradictory lines of thought, saving themselves from mental torture only by keeping the possibly conflicting ideas separated into two "compartments" of their mind. We are of course not saying that objective observations of science are in conflict with the teachings of the Bible; they are not. But some of the theories which are usually regarded as a part of science are not in harmony with the Bible. In this case there needs to be a true reconciling, rather than a rejection of the idea of reconciliation by regarding science and Christianity as two completely unrelated disciplines. They do have definite dissimilarities, but they are not unrelated, for they both deal with realities.

Francis Schaeffer aptly explains that the modern science of the 19th and 20th centuries has largely given up the principle of antithesis which Francis Bacon and the other scientists of the Reformation held. Thus the recent philosophy of science does not admit the need of reconciling revelation and natural science. Schaeffer comments on the better position of the early founders of modern science as follows:

They all believed in the rational. This word has no relationship to the word 'rationalism'. They acted upon the basis that man's aspiration for the validity of reason was well founded. They thought in terms of antithesis.