

## Can Man Understand God? Can He See “The Whole Light” Of God’s Truth?

These questions are prompted by a newspaper article that appeared in our city about mid-March of this year (2015). The affirmations were made that:

- (1) “God is **too big to understand.**”
- (2) “God’s **whole light can’t truly be seen** without all of the **world’s religions.**”
- (3) “It takes **all of humanity** and the array of the **great religious traditions** to see the totality of God’s light.”

I have not listed the author’s name ... because: (1) He is not the subject of this inquiry! (2) His identity is not important insofar as this article is concerned. He is probably a personable and likable man. But, as regards the “Truth of God,” it is not the **person who teaches** that is important, but the **teaching itself!** And the teaching in the article is **fallacious!** So ... let’s consider ...

### Is God “too big to understand”?

It is true that mankind **does not** understand **everything** about God. *Deuteronomy 29:29* says: “*The secret things belong unto the LORD our God ...*” This was written in regard to Old Testament teaching. It is, however, also true of New Testament teaching.

On the other hand, the Deuteronomy passage goes on to say: “... *but those things which are revealed belong unto us ...*” Both Old and New Testaments teach us that God has revealed **all that we need to know** about Him.

*Romans 16:17 (NKJV):* “*Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the **doctrine which you learned**, and avoid them.*” That “doctrine” was the teaching of the New Testament ... which was, at that time, being revealed unto them! And Paul indicated that they were **capable** of **learning** it! They could learn the “revealed” things about God and His will for mankind!

*Philippians 4:9:* “*Those things, which ye have both **learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me**, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*”

*2 Timothy 3:14:* “*... continue thou in the things which thou hast **learned** and hast **been assured of ...**”*

We need to understand that “**God’s whole light**” is **not revealed** by examining all of the “**world’s religions.**” Keep in mind that the “**world’s religions**” include:

- (1) The rejection of God and the acceptance of idols.
- (2) The rejection of Jesus Christ (and/or the acceptance of “false” christs).
- (3) Satanism.
- (4) And who knows what all (in the realm of religion) mankind has created within his own mind and foisted off on the world as being “from God”!

“**God’s light**” is revealed (**1<sup>st</sup>**) in ... **Creation!** Included in this knowledge is: God’s **omnipotence** (i.e., His power to create and control). And God’s **omniscience** (i.e., His **knowledge** of all that is extant in the universe). And God’s **omnipresence** (i.e., His ability to be **everywhere** — functioning throughout all of His creation.

“**God’s light**” is revealed (**2<sup>nd</sup>**) in ... **The Bible:** Which not only unveils more clearly those truths imparted by Creation and those imparted through the earthly life of His Son, but opens our eyes and hearts to **numerous facts concerning God and His relationship** with mankind! Among which are the following:

- A. “God” equates the Godhood, consisting of 3 beings. (Identified as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.)
- B. The physical universe is a creation of God, not something that has eternally existed.
- C. This universe is physically controlled by “laws” established by God. (What we call “The laws of nature.”)

- D. Among the earthly “creatures” of God, only human beings were created in “His image.” (Being not just “physical,” but also “spiritual” in their nature.)
- E. Besides the “laws of nature,” God gave (to mankind) “laws” that were to be obeyed by those who become mature enough to understand.
- F. And when those laws were broken, God made it possible for all violators to be forgiven ... but not “unconditionally.”

In the article under consideration, the observation is made that: “It takes all of **humanity** and the array of the **great religious traditions** to see the totality of God’s Light.” This statement is the precise **opposite** of New Testament teaching. Notice carefully the terminology: “All of **humanity**”; not “All of **Christianity**!” “Humanity” includes not only those who accept the **existence of God** and who accept the **Bible as the Word of God**, and who accept the fact that **Jesus is the Son of God!** It includes all who **deny** these biblical affirmations!

And then there is the expression: “The array of **religious traditions**!” Not “The array of **New Testament traditions**,” or “The array of **Christian traditions**!” It includes all the array of **purely human traditions!** We are encouraged to accept as true, beneficial and saving ... any religion that the mind of man can conceive and produce!

When people are determined to establish their **own** religion, rather than accept that which has been revealed by the Creator of the universe, they bring condemnation upon themselves! (Read Romans 1:18-32). And the world is filled with such “man-made” religions!

Claiming that our God is “too big to be understood,” and drawing from that conclusion the **false notion** that it is acceptable to walk in ways that **violate His revealed will** is — purely and simply — a form of **unbelief in His revelation to mankind!** Never, in the history of man, did God accept worship and service that violated His **revealed Word!** (Whether that word was revealed orally or in written form!)

God didn’t place us here and say, in essence: “Okay, figure out how you want to worship and serve me ... and **I will accept it!**” Not from “day one” of human existence did God so deal with mankind! Nor did He ever indicate: “Just so long as you acknowledge my **existence** ... you will be all right!”

Rather: He always called upon human beings to learn, understand, believe and obey His revelation to them! Genesis through Revelation teaches this.

Here’s another faulty statement: “We might say that it takes a whole village to see who God is.” Now, most of us would readily admit that we have learned biblical truths ... not just from our own studies, but from teaching that emanated from others. But to claim that one **could not, on his own,** learn (**from the Bible**) who God is (i.e., His nature and character); and learn what God would have us to do in order to be forgiven of sins; and learn how God would have us to live (so as to be pleasing in His sight) ... would seem to **bring reproach on God’s ability to instruct in a manner that could be understood!**

Is the Bible **from God**, or **man**? If one’s answer is: From God **and** man, I must disagree! The Bible is **from GOD!** It came, however, **through man!** For anyone who claims to be a Christian, this should not be a matter for debate! But to argue that God is **incapable** of revealing His truth in understandable language borders on blasphemy!

But the truth stated in the above paragraph does not tell the whole story. For there, thankfully, is the matter of **translations!** Can they be understood? Yes! Can they make mistakes? Yes, and have done so. But can they be compared by competent Greek scholars — and corrections made? Yes! On the other hand, does it take a “whole village” to understand what is said? No!

Perhaps the statement in the article that bothers me the most — in view of the fact that it was written by one who professes a devout faith in **Jesus Christ** as the **only begotten Son of God, and the Savior of the world** — is the following: “I also have to have the humility to admit that while Jesus Christ might be **my Way, my Truth and my Life** in representing who God is, God is too big to

understand until we see all of the colors and angles represented by the spectrum of religious traditions.” (Emphasis in this quotation in mine, RH) And my answer to this statement is ...

**Ridiculous!** The New Testament doesn't say that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life ... “just for **some** people”! The only reason one needs for accepting the fact that Jesus is “**the way, the truth and the life**” is **the Lord's own statement of that fact!** His language does not leave room for a **different savior** to be **someone else's way, truth and life!**

The plain truth is (as anyone should know who claims to be a Christian — much less a **leader of Christians**): There is **no other man who is the Savior** ... other than Jesus Christ!

Listen to the word of truth on this matter (and this is just a sample):

**Luke. 2:11** “For unto you is born this day in the city of David **a Saviour**, which is **Christ the Lord.**”

**Phil. 3:20 (NKJV)** “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for **the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ**”;

**Titus 2:13 (NKJV)** “... looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and **Savior Jesus Christ**”;

**Titus 3:6** “... **Jesus Christ our Saviour**”;

**2 Peter 1:11** “... our **Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**”;

**2 Peter 2:20** “... **the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ** ...”;

**2 Peter 3:18** “... grow in grace, and in the knowledge of **our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**”

There is **no other saving truth** ... than the gospel of Jesus Christ! There is no other **acceptable faith** ... than a submissive faith in Jesus Christ!

The plain truth is: We **can** understand the Word of God! And once we understand it, we will **know that there is but one Savior — Jesus Christ!** And we will know that there is but **one way to be saved — By faithful submission to the gospel of Jesus Christ!**

**Can Mankind Understand God? YES ...WE CAN!**