

The World's Confusion vs. God's Knowledge

In Acts 19:23-41, the city of Ephesus came to be in a *confused uproar* that very nearly became a riot. The words translated in v.29,32 as "*confusion*" (two different forms of the same root) actually refer more literally to *riotous persons* or an *uproar*, though it is obvious from v.32 specifically that there was much *mental confusion* behind the disturbance. That's kind of the way things usually go with us humans- we first get *confused* (mentally) and then become *uproarious/riotous* even though we don't even know "*for what cause they had come together*"!

Now contrast the previous to the principle of divine truth stated in 1Cor.14:33, "*for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches.*" There is a larger context here regarding "spiritual gifts" and their usage, but let's just stick to the stated principle for today's lesson. The word translated here as "*confusion*" is different that those used in Acts 19:29,32, and basically refers to *disorder*- which is very similar to *uproar* and *riotous* conduct. In either case, both are born of *mental confusion*, cp. Acts 19:32 and 1Cor.14:23.

Think about our world today and the *confusion* that controls it. To illustrate the point, what's been the most divisive thing over the last couple of years? Vaccines vs. Natural Immunity, Masks vs. No Masks, Stay Home vs. Get Out and Go, right? Now, what's the "truth" about these things? Go ahead- "google" it and try to find out the "truth," I dare you! The "experts" can't even agree, and *CONFUSION* reigns ... and with it, *uproar* and *riots*. The "truth" is that **the word of God is truth** (John 17:17) and it doesn't reveal anything about Covid (or any of its variants). What God's word does tell us is how we should *think, feel, and treat* our fellowman, and brethren, if we would follow that "truth," it would prevent a lot of *uproar* and *riots*. But that was just an illustration of the point that **much confusion exists in our world today**. As this past week's article highlighted, **the world is confused about: Spirituality, Morality, and Sexuality** to the nth degree, and there's a simple reason for it... **they "do err, not knowing the Scriptures,"** Matt.22:29 (KJV)!

So let's be clear about a couple of things this morning:

- 1. The confusion of the world comes from a lack of God, 1Cor.14:33,40; Jas.3:13-16,17-18.** *Confusion, bitter jealousy, selfish ambition, evil, and disorder* don't come from Jehovah, *knowledge and order* does. The *wisdom from above* produces *purity, gentleness, reason, peace, mercy, good fruits, and steadfastness*. *Confusion* and its ilk come from a lack of God.
- 2. Religious confusion comes from not knowing or not understanding the Word of God, Matt.22:29; John 20:1-2,8-10; 2:22.** When Peter and John reached the empty tomb, they "*believed*"- not that Jesus was risen from the dead as we might suppose (for such does not accord with what follows in v.9), but rather they *believed* what *Mary Magdalene* had told them, *i.e.* that "*They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him,*" v.2. Why? Because "*as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead,*" v.9! **Understanding the Scriptures yields true knowledge and belief, John 2:22. Not knowing/understanding the Scripture produces confusion, unbelief, and 'religious' error!**

Therefore, the *confusion of the world* regarding both “God” and “Man” can be eliminated by *reading* and *understanding* “the Scriptures” since they provide answers to *Who* God is, *Who* I am, *What* is right, and *How* I should live:

1. Because they are *inspired* (*theopneustos*- literally, *God breathed*), **2Tim.3:16-17; 1Cor.2:10-13**. They reveal *the mind of God* by the process of *inspiration* to the *mind of man* in words given/guarded by the *Holy Spirit* that *teach, reprove, correct, and train* us in **His righteousness** rather than our own *self-righteousness!*
2. Because they provide *understanding* and *insight*, **Eph.3:3-5**. In this context, a “*mystery*” isn’t something *mysteriously unknowable*, but simply refers to a *truth not yet revealed*, *v.5*. Note that this *mystery* (that *all* can be *fellow-heirs/members/partakers of the promise* of salvation in Christ Jesus) **through the gospel** (*v.6*) that was **revealed** and **written** (*v.3*) and can be thus **read** and **understood** to provide **knowledge/insight** (*v.4*). Otherwise, “*life*”- both *physical* and *spiritual*, will remain a *confusing mystery!*
3. Because through them, God grants *true knowledge* of Himself, Jesus Christ, and “*everything pertaining to life and godliness,*” **2Pet.1:2-3**; and through such *true knowledge*, we can: **receive His promises, become partakers of the divine nature, and escape the corruption** (and *confusion, PCS!*) **of the world, v.4**; **grow our faith into fruitful usefulness (v.8)** instead of remaining **blind and short-sighted (v.9)**; and **never stumble** (in *darkness and confusion*), **vv.10-11**; **having escaped the defilements of the world BY THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, 2:20!**

Besides eliminating the *darkness* and *confusion*, and receiving the blessings and benefits of *light* and *understanding*, there’s one other reason we should *read, understand, and live* the Scriptures: **We will be judged eternally by them, John 12:46-50.**

Are you “*sick and tired*” of the *confusion of the world* regarding *Who/What* “God” is? *Who/What* is right? *Who/What* you are? *Who/What* you want in life? Remember, “*God is NOT a God of confusion, but of peace,*” **1Cor.14:33**. Read, understand, and live His Book for *true knowledge, understanding, and wisdom* to eternity!