

Jesus the One and Only- Jesus Before Reason

Jesus Before My Understanding

Triggered by these messages? Then either they are definitely wrong or exactly right!

Movie Clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yua73H88Eac>

Faith and Reason: How do we reason?

1 Corinthians 3:19-20 ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, “*He is the one who catches the wise in their craftiness*”; ²⁰ and again, “The Lord knows the reasonings of the wise, that they are useless.”

Original sin and the pursuit of knowledge

1 Corinthians 8:1-3 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies. ² If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know; ³ but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

Romans 14: treating each other with contempt

Pride of knowledge shuts out the capacity to love and leaves us with incomplete conclusions, since we have missed the ultimate point of all knowledge- to know the God who gave it!

Proverbs 12:8a ⁸ A man will be praised according to his insight...

Beware the seductive allure of “original insights!” Pride is often the primary driver behind the pursuit of knowledge; men and women use perceived intelligence to gain reputation and respectability.

This is equally true for the Seminarian as it is for the Philosophy Student. All knowledge that does not maintain a living faith as its foundation is superficial and deceptive.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau (Late 18th c./social and cultural progress had led only to the moral degradation of humanity)
Jean Paul Sarte (Early 20th c./ Existentialism- Remove God- essential atheism- then ponder the meaning of existence)
Theology: Calvin vs. Arminian./ End Times Theories/ Gap Theory/ Theories of Authorship ,etc.

1 Timothy 1:3-5 ³ As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, ⁴ nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than *furthering* the administration of God which is by faith. ⁵ But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

Titus 3:9-11 ⁹ But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. ¹⁰ Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, ¹¹ knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

Jesus is calling us to become SPIRITUAL and LOVING as first priorities, even if it means being criticized as anti-intellectual.

Spiritual people are able to value all things properly, allowing us to determine what knowledge is worth investing in!

1 Corinthians 2:14-16 ¹⁴ But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. ¹⁶ For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Reason becomes an idol when we want to be respected as “original thinkers” more than we want to have the mind of Christ- to think God’s thoughts after Him!

God’s thoughts exceed the capacity of reason to comprehend. We access them through the Holy Spirit and by faith.

1 Corinthians 2:11¹¹ For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

The Holy Spirit leads spiritual people in our intellectual and spiritual pursuits, and we get the benefit of both!

Faith is superior to reason. Reason cannot comprehend God, try as it might, but faith can employ reason in its pursuits.

Hebrews 11:3-8³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

Faith unlocks the understanding! For this reason, the greatest benefits of science, medicine, and technology have been discovered and enjoyed by people of deep and profound faith.

Proverbs 9:10¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

1 Corinthians 1:30a³⁰ But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God...

James 3:17a¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, **reasonable**...

God gives us wisdom and understanding when we fear Him and honor His Son first. And God's wisdom is reasonable!

Colossians 2:2-3² that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and *attaining* to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, *resulting* in a true knowledge of God's mystery, *that is*, Christ *Himself*,³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Hear the invitation:

Jeremiah 9:23-24²³ Thus says the Lord, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches;²⁴ but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the Lord.