

# Things Revealed and Things Not Revealed

## Introduction; Some folks say, “There the wrong way and there’s my way.”

- A. Those in military service sometimes say, “There’s the military way and the right way.”
  - 1. When we work for someone and they tell us to do something that we think is foolish, we say, “There’s the right way and there’s the boss’ way.”
  - 2. We recognize that there are many ways to do things and not all of them are right.
- B. This is very true in religion.
  - 1. There is man's way and there is God's way. There is God's way and there is the wrong way. Consider just one example of this in the old law
  - 2. *Lev 10:1-2 Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. 2 So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.*
  - 3. They thought they could do things their way and use fire from some other source than the altar before the Lord —Lev 16:12.
  - 4. God has told us what He wants us to know. He has told us a) what to do, b) how to do it, and c) why to do it. There is His way and only His way if we want to live eternally.
  - 5. What God has not told us is not for us to know or do. God’s silence is not an excuse to speculate and act. We must do only what the Lord tells us. What is not revealed does not belong to us.
- D. We will consider some secret things and some revealed things today.
  - 1. First we will consider things that are not revealed to us. These are not for us to be concerned about in this life.
  - 2. Then we will consider things that are revealed. This is what we need to know to have life and godliness —2 Pet 1:3.

## I. There are some things that God has not revealed to us.

- A. **Deuteronomy 29** is one of Moses’ last speeches to the people in Moab.
  - 1. He is reminding them of the covenant they have made with God.
  - 2. **Vs 9-13**; He is making the covenant with the people. They must follow the Lord. He tells them God would punish them if they do not keep the law or if they follow idols.
  - 3. Deuteronomy is not really discussing what God hasn’t told man, but what He has told us. Men must obey what God has revealed. That is what He wants us to know and do.
  - 4. *Deut 29:29 “The secret things belong to Jehovah our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”*
  - 5. God has given us the words of His law so we can obey it. However there are some things He has not revealed. They are not important to us. We will consider three (3) things briefly to illustrate this.
- B. **First**, God has not revealed what the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good & evil was.
  - 1. In Genesis 3 we see the beginning of sin in the world. Eve ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Adam ate also and they were cast from the garden.
  - 2. It is very common to hear it was an apple tree —though cherry, pomegranate, and others are suggested also.
  - 3. In Genesis 1 & 2, Jehovah God made all things, and then makes man in His own image. Everything that God made was good. He gives all of this to mankind.
  - 4. In Genesis 2:15 ff., He places Adam in the garden to take care of it. There is one prohibition and that concerns the tree in the middle of the garden.

5. Satan comes and tempts Eve to eat of that tree. She knows better but does so anyway.
6. *Gen 3:4-6 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.*
7. The apple is pretty and may keep the doctor away. However we do not know if eating it would give an innocent person the knowledge of good and evil —perhaps this means, an evil good or turning good into evil.
8. We do learn a lesson here. We must obey God or face the consequences. We may not know what the tree was they were supposed to avoid, but Adam and Eve did.
9. We know today what God expects of us if we study the N.T. This is what we are responsible for. We need to ignore foolish disputes —2 Tim 2:23.

### C. Second, the Lord has not revealed when Jesus was born.

1. Much of the modern world celebrates December 25th as the birthday of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (some also say Jan 6th, etc.). Many think He was born in the year zero (0) or AD one (1). There is actually no year zero (0) so this isn't so.
2. In the N.T. period and early centuries of the church, the date of Jesus birth was not celebrated nor even known.
3. After a time different areas began recognizing it at different times. One of the early councils of the church was called to decide a time for all areas to celebrate His birth.
4. **Luke 2:8-20** tells us that Shepherds were in the field by night watching their flocks. The winter season (Nov to March) in the mountains of Judea were usually cool and wet. Shepherds usually did not take their flocks out and spend the night with them then. They kept them in sheepfolds (John 10). So November to March (and probably October to April) are not good guesses for His birth.
5. Matthew 2 tells us Herod was king in Judea when Jesus was born. Herod was in Jerusalem when the magicians came to find the new born king. Herod later tries to kill Jesus by having all the infants of Jerusalem killed. He fails.
6. Josephus tells us Herod died around the end of March or beginning of April, 4 BC —some use April 1, 4 BC as the death of one of the greatest fools who every lived.
7. He also tells us that Herod spent his last 40 days of life in Jericho where there were warm springs and it was warmer. Luke 2:22 ff. tells us Jesus was presented in the temple with two turtledoves as the law stated. This was 40 days after His birth. This had to happen before Herod tried to kill Jesus and left for Jericho.
8. So Jesus was born at least 80 or 90 days before Herod's death. This would be early January. Since He would probably not have been born in the middle of winter, He would have been born before 4 BC.
9. *Luke 2:1-3 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.*
10. Using the dates here (and other secular information), Jesus was probably born 5 or 6 BC. So we do not know the specific day, month, or even year when Jesus was born. Late spring, summer, or early fall of 5 or 6 BC is the best we can do. This is not enough information to set up a birthday celebration for Jesus Christ.
11. God has not chosen to reveal this date. The early church did not celebrate his birth. We should not speculate and make a custom for the church on things that God has not said.
12. In late December the pagans celebrated the Saturnalia and Brumalia. These were later declared to be Christ's birth and made into church holidays.
13. These mid-winter holidays celebrated the victory of light over darkness (late December being the shortest days of the year). This was a concession to the pagans who were being converted and did not want to give up their mid-winter festival.

### D. Third, Jehovah has not revealed when Jesus will return again.

1. Men are always making predictions about when Jesus will return. This began even in the first century, N.T. era.
2. Many go to Matthew 24, the book of Revelation, and many of the prophets to predict when Jesus will return. Yet many have come up with many different dates. Each claims the Bible is clear on when Jesus will return. Yet all have been wrong.
3. We should take the Bible at face value and not try to bend it to our way of thinking. Too many people try to make the Bible say what they want it to say.
4. *2 Pet 3:16 ...as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the*

*Scriptures.*

5. *Matt 24:34-35 "Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."*
  6. *Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants; things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,*
  7. We see that these passages spoke of the first century and not 2000 years later. Other passages tell us Jesus' final coming will not be known.
  8. *2 Pet 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.*
  9. *1 Thess 5:1-3 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.*
  10. We should not pay attention to those who tell us when Jesus is coming. We must be ready at all times because we do not know when He will return.
  11. This lesson is taught in the parable of the Ten Virgins in Matt 25:1-13. We should study it.
- E. There're things the Lord hasn't revealed to us.
1. They are secret and cannot be known without God. We must be satisfied with what God has revealed to us.
  2. Too many in religion today base what they do on things God has not said. We cannot justify ourselves on things not revealed.

## II. There are some things that God has revealed to us.

- A. The things God has revealed to us in His word belong to us and our children forever.
1. "***We must do all the words of His law***" —Deut 29:29. This is what Moses wanted Israel to learn. We should too.
  2. Moses was encouraging the people to obey the words God did reveal. We need the same encouragement.
  3. We will briefly consider three (3) things God has revealed to us.
- B. **First**, the Lord has told to walk with Him by following His commands.
1. He has revealed how we can live a life pleasing to Him. He has told us how to live a righteous life.
  2. *Gen 3:8 And they heard the sound of Jehovah God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of Jehovah God among the trees of the garden.*
  3. Adam & Eve walked physically with God in the garden. Exactly how God walked and talked with them is not known. It was during these times when God would teach them and explain what they should and shouldn't do.
  4. *Gen 5:23-24 So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.*
  5. Enoch walked with God. By the life He lived he pleased God —Heb 11:5. God took Enoch before his time. If we will walk with God by obeying Him, He will take us in our time.
  6. *Deut 5:32-33 "Therefore you shall be careful to do as Jehovah your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. You shall walk in all the ways which Jehovah your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess."*
  7. *Eph 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*
  8. *Eph 4:1-2 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,*
  9. Adam and Eve did not walk with God. They sinned by eating whatever fruit the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was. We should not make this mistake with the word He has given us. Our law is really just as simple as theirs.

- C. **Second**, God has revealed the day of Jesus' resurrection and the day we should worship.
1. We do not know the day of His birth, but we do know the day of His resurrection. We know the day we should worship and treat as holy.
  2. *Mark 16:9 Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons.*
  3. Jesus rose on the first day of the week. The early church worshipped on this day and remembered His death, burial, and resurrection on that day.
  4. *Acts 20:7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.*
  5. *1 Cor 16:1-2 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.*
  6. We may not know when Jesus was born, but we do know when He was raised so that we can also be raised. We worship on the first day of the week and remember His sacrifice and glorification for us.
- D. **Third**, Jehovah has shown us there will be a resurrection for all of us.
1. We do not know when Jesus will return. But we know He will return and that we will be raised to stand before Him in judgment.
  2. *John 5:28-29 "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth; those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."*
  3. *2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*
  4. *2 Pet 3:11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,*
  5. *Matt 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*
  6. In that day we will be judged by how we have walked with God and how we have kept the things He has revealed to us. That day is coming. We may not know when, but we must be ready when it gets here.
  7. *Acts 17:30-31 "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."*
- E. The things revealed to us belong to us and our children forever. We must do them

## Conclusion; There is a right way and a wrong way.

- A. In religion the right way is God's way and the wrong way is man's way. The wrong way is man doing what God has not revealed.
- B. God has revealed Himself to us through the Holy Spirit in His divine word, the Bible. It gives us all we need to know in religion.
1. *2 Pet 1:3 ...as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue...*
  2. We must study God's word and see how He wants us to live and what He wants us to do and not follow what man says in religion.
- C. There may be many things we wonder about. God has not revealed them. We must accept what He says and not go beyond what we find in His word.
- D. We must begin to walk with God by having our sins washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ. We do

this by faith, repentance, and baptism.

1. *Mark 16:15-16 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."*
2. *Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*
3. *Gal 3:26-27 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*
4. *Rom 6:3-7 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.*