

Too Smart For Your Own Good

Ecclesiastes 7:16: neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself?

The Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries liberated the common man's conscience from the oppressive authority of the Catholic Church. For over a millenium the European population suffered under the capricious jurisdictions of papal oppression. Corruption in the priesthood, the building of great cathedrals on the backs of heavily taxed citizens, forced conversions under the Crusaders, the selling of indulgences, and other problematic practices were forced upon a largely illiterate population who did not have the ability to read the Bible for themselves—and certainly not in their own languages. Such problems created a climate in which many were happy to consider the claims of the Protestant Reformers and learn to read the Bible in their mother tongues.

As an outgrowth of this liberation, the Great Enlightenment was birthed. Having justifiably renounced superstitions, ritual, and obsequious submission to the clergy, many went a step too far in also abandoning the Word of God as the final arbiter of truth and only authority for moral ethics. Rather than exercising faith in the invisible God and His infallible word, men became subscribers to the fatuous notion of empirical reasoning. The enlightened mind would hail back to the greek philosopher Protagoras' assertion that "Man is the measure of all things". Empiricists demand physical proof(ie.what one can see, hear, or touch) and only what can be reproven to be true through experimentation and outward observation. Science would now be enthroned as the final court of appeals, while the Bible would be ridiculed as fable or at best sententious aphorisms.

Rationalism paves the way for "scientific" skepticism. Man may now demand of God proofs and evidences that satisfy their contrived definitions of truth. In their distorted view, the Bible does not deserve our trust until it is deemed worthy by the hard evidence and higher authority of scientific rationalism—which has no room for the divine or the miraculous.

Happy is the man who has bound his conscience to the Holy Bible and not been enslaved to the musings of "science falsely so called" I Timothy 6:20. What a sagacious word then is this, found in Psalms 131:1: "LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me." Truly the omniscient Creator, the originator of all wisdom, owes no man explanations.

Have a blessed day

Pastor