

Words of

Truth & Reason

Acts 26:25

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First Things First

*Have you learned anything by starting at the end?
Of course not ---*

All learning requires us to learn “first things first.” In math, you must first learn to count and identify written numbers and various symbols (+, -, =). In baseball, you must first learn about balls, bats, and bases. Spiritual things are similar.

Since spiritual things cannot be seen with our eyes, how can we learn them? We learn about them using what we do see. For example, though you never saw your great-great-great-great grandmother, you know she is in your family tree. Similarly, the things we see teach us of God’s invisible power (Romans 1:20). *The heavens declare the glory of God* (Ps. 19:1). God is.

This is the most basic truth to learn.

Knowing that, we also see the invisible power of God in Scripture in the fulfillment of ancient prophecies (2 Pet. 1:19-21). Knowing these first principles, there is a “gold mine” of knowledge available to you that will train you in truth and help you escape error. This world is full of false ideas about God, man, right/wrong, and salvation. Without learning “first things first” you will be deceived. Do you understand the first principles of God and Scripture? If not, now is time to begin to learn. Keep reading---

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First Things First: Man

All learning requires us to learn “first things first,” even math and baseball. Here are some “first things” about man.

God created man in His own image (Gen. 1:27) Man did not evolve from, nor is he a descendent of, any animal. Man was created in God’s image. Something cannot come from nothing, and life does not come from non-life---it is sad that many brilliant scientists ignore these *first things*. Being in God’s image today, we inherit no sinful nature.

Man must understand God’s words (Gen. 1:28; 2:16-17) Adam and Eve understood what God expected of them without a human creed, catechism, or council. Today God has spoken through Christ in Scripture (Heb. 1:1). We can, and must, understand what He has said there (Eph. 3:3-4; 5:17). How? Begin with the basics---learn *first things first*.

Man must worship God (John 4:23) Jesus said that God is seeking true worship from man, so we must comply. Since we benefit by giving God what He expects, we should trust and obey Him. Learn God’s plan for true worship (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23-25; 14:15; 16:1-2; Matt. 15:8-9; Heb.10:24-25).

First Things First: Physical Life

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge (Prov. 1:7)

God did not make “first things” complex—error is the source of confusion. Understanding the truth of any subject begins with the basics. Consider the basics of physical life that every scientist is able to understand.

Something cannot come from nothing All life must have a source, and all true science agrees. God is the source of physical human life which requires the union of body and spirit (Genesis 1:27; 2:7; James 2:26).

Life cannot come from non-life Millions of hours and dollars have been wasted trying to prove that human life has evolved from non-life. Genesis 1 is full of physical facts, including the statements that plant, animal, and human life can reproduce themselves—life only comes from life. The *living* God is the original source of all life on earth.

The life is in the blood Why is “bloodletting” no longer a medical practice? By sight, doctors have learned that life is in the blood, but this was already known by faith (Gen. 9:4).

As our society increasingly excludes God you need to understand these “first things” about physical life. These lessons can help us understand first things of spiritual life---

... you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God . . . (Heb. 5:12)

You are invited to:
Sunday AM Bible classes:
10:00AM
Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes
& Worship: 7:00 PM

First Things First: Spiritual Life

Just as it is impossible to understanding the “first things” of physical life without God, so it is with spiritual life.

What is spiritual life? Spiritual life is more than consciousness, for even the most rebellious sinner is conscious. “He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1 John 5:12). Who has the Son? “He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son” (2 John 9). Spiritual life is unity with God which is lost by sin (Ezekiel 18:20; Romans 6:23).

Spiritual life, lost by sin, requires blood Hebrews 9:22 says “without shedding of blood there is no remission.” Jesus came to earth to die so spiritual life would be available.

Spiritual life is regained when sin is forgiven (Rom. 6:6, 11) God offers forgiveness and life to sinners by Christ’s death. These verses show us when God forgives sin: Acts 2:38; Romans 10:9-10; 6:3 (Christ’s death includes His blood). Did any verse teach forgiveness without faith, by faith alone, by prayer, or by submission to man-made religion?

These “first things” of spiritual life are essential to unity with God. Send us your comments or questions.

Questions from this issue’s articles:

1. Name the most basic “first truth” that everyone needs to know.
2. How can man understand what God has spoken, since there is so much controversy today?
3. Name three basic facts about physical life.
4. When does God give spiritual life to the sinner?

* Mail your answers to the church of Christ in Quail Valley 4104 E. Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501
OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* If you have a comment or question, call (793-6700; 569-4491) or visit our website **WWW.QVCOC.COM**

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