

Eternity Daily Bible Study

Searching For The Truth

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Number: 08

Topic: Logic And Spiritual Truth

Bible Verses: 1 Corinthians 14:33, 1:18-21, 30-31

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Should Christians be logical or is that unspiritual? Are logic and faith opposed? Isn't logic just "human wisdom" and simply the study of atheists, humanists and unbelieving academics?

Not at all! God is wise, rational and logical and His Universe operates according to stable and discernable laws that are highly organized and systematic in nature. God is a "God of order" and that includes intellectual order.

1 Corinthians 14:33 ... *since God is not a God of disorder but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints,*

Logic even has a prized place in spirituality and there are many places where logic is used in Scripture especially in books that set forth an argument such as Job, Ecclesiastes, Romans and Galatians. However God is wise with a different kind of logic to the Greek philosophers of old:

1 Corinthians 1:18-21,30-31 *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is God's power to us who are being saved. 19 For it is written: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will set aside the understanding of the experts. 20 Where is the philosopher? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Hasn't God made the world's wisdom foolish? 21 For since, in God's wisdom, the world did not know God through wisdom, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of the message preached.....But it is from Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became God-given wisdom for us — our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, 31 in order that, as it is written: The one who boasts must boast in the Lord.*

Spiritual truth cannot be arrived at by intellectual effort alone. No one can boast of their wisdom before God. No one can say "I worked out how to get to heaven" or say "My knowledge and intellectual capacity was my salvation...." Even the wisest person cannot save themselves from death or escape from the power of sin!

Logic does not save us, however it can be extremely helpful after we are saved! God's logic operates on the basis of revelation. It starts with "God said X" and concludes with "therefore I shall do Y...". Logic helps us to connect the dots between revelation, faith and obedience.

The word "therefore" is used over 600 times in the Bible and generally connects a revelation or command from God with a desired act of obedience that logically follows from it, here are just two examples:

1 Thessalonians 4:17-18 *Then we who are still alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

Colossians 2:14-16 *He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it out of the way by nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; He triumphed over them by Him. 16 Therefore, don't let anyone judge you in regard to food and drink or in the matter of a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day.*

You can use your concordance or bible software to find many more such verses that demonstrate the "therefore connection" between revelation and obedience following the pattern "God said X, therefore the logical and rational thing to do is Y".

God expects us to think logically and carefully about His commandments so as to put them into practice diligently. Faith and logic are not opposites; rather faith and logic enhance each other when they are used properly!

Faith believes that God is good, powerful and very faithful so logic says "therefore I can go into ministry without any need to be afraid" so the person then steps out into ministry and exercises more faith...and so on.

Faith and logic operate together so that the believer says "If God said this, then and therefore I can step out and do that.." Logic reveals to us the practical consequences of faith and of believing the good promises of God.

Logic is a key component of due diligence, and it is the hand of the diligent that makes wealth (Proverbs 10:4), therefore logical people will tend to be wealthier, healthier and happier than irrational, foolish and superstitious people.

The logical and diligent person thinks ahead on the basis of the facts: "My property taxes are due next month on the fifteenth so therefore I had better start putting aside the money now.." This is a proper use of logic to plan life wisely and well, to avoid foreseeable crises, and to set good life goals and pathways to success. So we see that thinking logically and rationally can help us to avoid much pain in life.

What is true in the financial realm is also true in the spiritual realm! Logic and diligence are among the chief characteristics of the good and faithful stewards in the gospel parables:

Luke 12:42-46 *The Lord said: "Who then is the faithful and sensible manager his master will put in charge of his household servants to give them their allotted food at the proper time? 43 That slave whose master finds him working when he comes will be rewarded. 44 I tell you the truth: He will put him in charge of all his possessions. 45 But if that slave says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and starts to beat the male and female slaves, and to eat and drink and get drunk, 46 that slave's master will come on a day he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.*

So logic builds upon revelation and faith to bring good results for the Kingdom of God. Revelation is first grasped by faith, then implemented by logical application to life.

Logic is also useful for testing truth claims. God does not talk nonsense. God does the impossible but God does not do the ridiculous. God creates stars and planets but He does not create square circles.

However I am not talking about pure philosophical logic with secular and humanistic starting points. I am referring to logic based upon faith in God and the knowledge of the Scriptures.

Let's just say that a spiritual leader claims to be absolutely infallible in his/her pronouncements. This is against both logic and Scripture. Logic tells us that we are finite human beings with imperfect knowledge and understanding. Since we cannot understand all things we thus cannot be infallible about all things. Secondly it is against Scripture that says we are all sinners, and that none is good but God alone. We are told that if anyone claims he is without sin, then he is a liar (1 John 1:7-10). We all say some things that are true and good and some things that are badly mistaken. No person (except Jesus who was God in human flesh), is absolutely infallible.

There is a humorous saying that I once heard from an air-force officer I knew who was involved in big defense contracts and always had to check everything out very carefully. He used to say: "In God we trust, everyone else we verify". Logic is one tool that may help us to verify some of the crazy claims that go around in Christian circles.

Logic can be applied to spiritual con-artists such as those who claim to have the "hundredfold" anointing. That is, if you give to their ministry you will, soon afterwards, get 100 times much back again.

So if you give \$100 to the ministry you should quickly get back \$10,000 from God, now you put that \$10,000 back and then reap one million, you reinvest that million dollars back in the ministry again and now you have a hundred million, then 10 billion, then one trillion and finally 100 trillion dollars , which is far greater than all the wealth in the world.

So, the logical outcome is, that in just 7 donations to this ministry with the hundred-fold anointing you would get to own the whole world! This is ridiculous and the ridiculous is false! The biblical truth is that the "hundredfold" is a one-time reward in the Millennium for faithful, sacrificial Christians (see Matthew 19: 28-30).

Logic can help you to check out offers and investments that are "too good to be true" and can be one factor in discerning God's will. You can look at who God has made you to be, and the spiritual gifts you have been given, and the ministry opportunities before you, and make a logical deduction about where best to start serving the Lord (with prayer of course).

Logic can be appreciated, trained and made part of your spiritual armory for detecting deception and for working out how to put God's commandments into good effect.

Blessings,

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