

Knowing God the Creator is essential for human beings

“The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.” Psalm 14,2;

Seeking God? What does that mean? Is it about information? Much is written about the significance of information in our lives and how it influences us. However, you won't find the word “information” in the Bible. Instead of “information,” both the Hebrew and Greek texts use the word “knowledge¹.” Do you see the difference? Knowledge is always the result of processing certain information. It is higher-order information that arises gradually from other information. For example, Jesus' parable of the fig tree says that from partial signs (*Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When its branch is yet tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near:*) that is, from partial pieces of information—we can form new information, the insight that summer is already near. Not all information necessarily develops or improves our understanding. Even understanding can be good or bad, but the meaning is clear from the word itself. The brain and the heart work with information to understand and draw more complex conclusions and insights from simpler information. From birth, people learn and come to know things, relationships, themselves, and the world in which they live; and if they are fortunate, they also come to know God the Creator, His power, and His divinity—which, though

¹ Hebrew דָּאָת [daat] /recky ἐπίγνωσις, εως, [epignōsis]

invisible, people can “see” when they reflect on His work (Romans 1:20).

There Are Good and Bad Sources of Knowledge

“He that walks with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.” says King Solomon (Prov. 13:20). He knew that not every source of information is good, that not all knowledge is created equal. However, it is not only fools who can produce and spread misinformation. The psalmist writes: *“The fool has said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that does good. ... There were they in great fear: for God is in the generation of the righteous. You have shamed the counsel of the poor, but the LORD is his refuge.”* (Psalm 14:1,5-6). Today, the greatest sources and disseminators of false, misleading, and harmful information are propaganda, advertising, and, at times, even culture. This information is usually created and spread by intelligent but corrupt, amoral, and sometimes even blinded people. Their morality is not guided by good moral qualities, but by their own selfish values and the wisdom of this world, which is increasingly at odds with the fundamental creative principle, which is THE SUPPORT OF LIFE. Everything that supports life (in the general sense, this means supporting the life of all creation) must be in harmony with God’s natural order. Knowledge grounded in God’s natural order is life-giving.

Life-giving knowledge is at least as important² to the human soul as basic physical needs. Misguided knowledge can lead to poor decisions, harmful habits, and other life-threatening actions. Good knowledge sustains life, including health, and gives it a higher and deeper meaning. Life-giving knowledge opens people's eyes to see the hope of eternal life, which does not end with a person's death but, on the contrary, opens up a better future for them after the resurrection. Life-giving knowledge makes a person freer. Jesus tells us, "*And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" (John 8:32).

Truth (truthfulness) is a characteristic of life-giving knowledge. A lie, on the other hand, leads to destruction. Who is the source of life-giving knowledge? Even at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, most people in Christian countries knew the answer. The source of life—and, naturally, of life-giving knowledge—is our Creator. God, who made the heavens and the earth and everything in it. He had everything essential for sustaining life recorded for us in the Bible. His Word, as recorded in the Bible, is still alive and relevant today. God's adversary is doing everything in his power to divert our attention from this hope.

We will not address here the question of why so many people have turned away from God. Nor will we address why aggression and hostility toward efforts to return to God's

² In fact, it is much more important, because this life-giving knowledge opens people's eyes so that they may find the path of life and understand that death is not the definitive end, but rather that there is hope for eternal life after the resurrection.

natural order and biblical values are on the rise. This confirms the words of the Psalmist: „*The fool has said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that does good. The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that does good, no, not one. Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.*“ (Psalm 14:1-4) People often fail to see how they are being blinded by the manipulation of information—both good and bad.

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Prov 1,7;

It is likely that many readers who do not yet know God or His word will pause at the phrase “” “What kind of fear?” they may ask themselves, “*The fear of the Lord*³” but when they substitute the word “respect” for “fear,” they realize that it refers to a natural respect for authority. We can now understand that King Solomon, the author of these words, is telling us that the path to life-giving knowledge leads through respect for the highest authority, which is God the Creator. It makes sense. How can you accept advice and admonition from someone you do not respect?

And that is the problem. People are influenced by propaganda spread by the media, as well as by government-promoted

³ The Lord is a substitute name for the original Hebrew name of God, “יהוה” (YHWH).

ideologies that run counter to God's natural order. And so we are inundated with a great deal of information of various kinds and quality. Yet this is not just about information in the form of words. We are driven by various desires and cravings fueled by advertising, the inclinations of our own hearts, and destructive ideologies that manipulate public opinion. We chase after these things and the worries of making a living, seeking a better standard of living, just as Jesus spoke of (Matthew 6:31–32). The result is overwhelm and fatigue, which sap our strength to seek life-giving knowledge. On the other hand, everyone today has far greater access to information than ever before. Even the Bible can be read online in many languages. The problem, therefore, is not the unavailability of life-giving knowledge, but a lack of interest in it and a reluctance to understand it.

Life-giving knowledge is always connected to the Creator

Where else should we naturally look for life-giving information than to our Creator? He is the source and giver of life. That is why He commissioned Moses to write the Torah. The word Torah can be translated as “Law,” but also as “instruction.” Loosely speaking, the Torah consists of texts containing instructions for life. That is why God also had these words written: “*See, I have set before you this day life and good, and death and evil;*” (Deut. 30:15) In other words, everything that supports life is good; everything else is evil. According to Luke 16:17, Jesus said of the Torah: “*And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one dot of the law to fail.*” The Law remains a valid source of God's instructions for life. The same is true of all Scripture. The apostle Paul summarized this in his second letter to Timothy: “All

Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim. 3:16–17).

Anyone who wants to live and have a future must seek out the source of life.

The psalmist says that those who are wise seek God. Not just any God, but God the Creator, the originator of the heavens and the earth and all life. It is this same God who sent His Son Jesus to earth to be born in human form as the Son of Man and to live a sinless life in that form. So that in the end He might give Himself up to be killed, like a lamb without blemish, and through His righteous and pure life redeem for us sinners the hope of eternal life. God’s Word bears witness to all the fundamental causes that have led—and continue to lead—to all tragedies, pains, sorrows, and sufferings. God’s Word offers all people, without exception, the hope of forgiveness of sins and eternal life. That hope has been justly redeemed by Jesus Christ and is indisputable. Jesus came to save humanity, to redeem from sin everyone who desires it (John 1:29; 1 John 3:5). This is life-giving information that leads to life-giving knowledge. Let us seek the Giver of life and His Son, for our future lies only with them.