Theology, the Queen of the Sciences

Because of the limitations of scientific investigation, we need something outside of science to use as a guidepost to make sure that we stay on the path of truth within our scientific investigations. That something is the Word of God. We have many and varied indisputable authorities and evidences that what is written in the Bible is exactly what it claims to be: the words spoken by God (see Bible in the Dialectic Stage for more on this topic). We know that God only speaks truth, also through many and varied indisputable authorities. Therefore, using Logic, we can know that what is written in the Bible is Truth.

This over-arching, absolute Truth acts as a plumb line for all the endeavors in which humankind is involved, including science. Truth does not contradict itself, therefore we can know that absolute Truth and scientific truth will not contradict, either. Thus, through Logic, we have answered the question, do the Bible and science conflict? The answer is no. Any “truth” that conflicts with the absolute Truth is not in fact a truth. Since science seeks to determine truth and separate it from falsehood, then its goals and its findings are in complete agreement with absolute Truth and Biblical writings.

A underpinning of classical thought is that Theology is the Queen of the Sciences. This means precisely that we recognize that absolute Truth exists, and that it has been revealed to us through the Word of God, the Bible. Since we know that truth cannot contradict itself, we know that any real truth that science discovers will not contradict this absolute Truth. We know that any claim to truth that does contradict this absolute Truth is suspect, in the same way that we suspect the house timber of crookedness if it is not parallel to the plumb line, rather than suspecting the plumb line of some inner flaw.

But this does not mean we return to the days of Galileo and the Inquisition. The church in Galileo’s day had adopted the teachings of a man, Ptolemy, as fact; and bent the Bible to fit his theory. Ptolemy was the leading astronomer in the classical world in 130 A.D.; he rejected a sun-centered universe for an earth-centered one. His teachings influenced astronomy for the next 1500 years. Because the church adopted the leading scientific theory of the day, rather than searching the Bible themselves to see what it had to say, or whether it spoke on the topic in question, they actually opposed the truth from advancing. The Reformation addressed these errors, but the church today, dangerously, is slipping into them again. We need to be like the Bereans, whom Paul commended (Acts 17:10-11).

What happened to Galileo is in fact a strong witness that Theology must be the Queen of the Sciences. When we make something else Queen, as the church did in Galileo’s day, by making man’s opinions rather than the Word of God Queen, then we have lost sight of our plumb line, and we can no longer see what is straight or true.

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