

Chapter Eight Workbook:

Revealed vs. Hidden 1-

Overview

Scripture Memory:

Deuteronomy 29:29

29 "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

Scripture Review:

- Revelation 22:18 & 19
- II Timothy 3:16
- II Peter 1:21
- Deuteronomy 29:29
- Isaiah 55: 8 & 9

- Hebrews 4:12
- I Thessalonians 4:2
- Psalm 19: 7 & 8
- Hebrews 9:15
- Luke 1:1 – 4

Revealed Vs. Hidden 1 - Overview

Introduction: Finite man encounters the infinite Mind of God.

A. Things Hidden – Deuteronomy 29:29

1. Does God have the right to withhold information from man?
 - a. Does the fact that God does not give to man all information up front bring into question the authority or knowledge of God?
 - b. To whom does the fact that God knows things that man does not know reflect?
2. All relationships accept the fact that there will not be universal disclosure of all facts on demand.
 - a. Are our children free to demand all facts concerning the finances of the house or the intimate relations of their parents?
 - b. Does the withholding of these facts bring into question the validity or love of the parents?
 - c. How would you feel if your child said, “Because you will not give me all the details of _____, I doubt that you are my father.”?
 - d. In the same way, the fact that some information is withheld does not reveal a weakness on the part of the party withholding the information.
 - 1.) The fact that we withhold certain information from our children does not reveal a weakness in our lives but in theirs.
 - 2.) A child cannot say, because you wont tell me all the details of _____, perhaps you don’t really know, maybe you are just making all this up.
 - 3.) Yet often we relate to God in this way. In the space below, give an illustration of an area that because God does not reveal all the details, man is willing to bring into question, not just His sovereignty but His very existence.
3. It does not bother or threaten God that He has not chosen to reveal all to us, any more than it bothers or threatens our parents. Unfortunately for mankind, the childish response to the parents valid reply, “Because I said so!” is often repeated in our

relationship with God. For many a child, this response brought into question the authority and wisdom of the parent. The child thinks that sense the parent would not justify his actions, then perhaps the parent cannot justify his actions. In the same way finite man often thinks that sense God will not explain, reveal or justify His actions, then perhaps God is not all that He presents Himself as. In the space below give an example of this from your life.

4. How does this line of thinking reflect on the sinful nature of man rather than the fallibility of God?

5. God has in fact withheld many facts, motives and pieces of the puzzle from us. Below are listed areas which God has withheld knowledge from man. Read the passage and then reflect on what has been withheld by God in His revelation to man.
 - a. PSA 90:2 Before the mountains were born, Or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.

 - b. ECC 11:5 Just as you do not know the path of the wind and how bones are formed in the womb of the pregnant woman, so you do not know the activity of God who makes all things.

 - c. MAR 13:32 "But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

 - d. JOH 21:25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books which were written.

- e. ROM 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

- f. 1CO 2:11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

- g. Can you think of any others? List them in the space below...

6. It is important for the teacher to learn, when asked a question concerning “secret things” to take a deep breath and say, “The Bible does not say and it cannot be known.” Can you think of a time when you were asked about “secret things”, that rather than reply up front, “The Bible does not say, so I don’t know”, you instead tried to give a vague answer of some sort. Reflect on the above list and answer this question as it relates to one or more of these areas.

7. The Bible is clear about speculations, we are not to go there, we are to refuse them, sense the Bible does not say, and sense it cannot be known, it is better to go on. We ask a question, God says, “You cannot know this, it is a secret” and our response is “OK” and we move on to something else. Read II Timothy 2:23. Have you ever been guilty of speculations? Give an example in the space below.
2TI 2:23 But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels.

B. Things Higher – Isaiah 55:8 & 9

- 1. It is the same way with higher things.
- 2. There are many things that we could tell our children but it would not make sense to them or they are not ready.

3. The response to a question, "What does that mean" can be "We can explain that to you someday, but you are not ready" is completely legitimate. It does not call into question your ability but theirs. Give an example of a question a child might ask which would warrant this response.

4. It is the same way with God. If we do not understand something in His Word and He does not choose to explain it to us, it reflects on our state, not His. In the space below, give an example of a question we might ask God which would warrant this response.

5. Parables (which will be studied in chapter 9) are an example of this. Parables are given to us, but without the explanation of God, they are too high for us to understand. As such they represent a form of judgement of God upon or finite minds. Popular wisdom tells us that Parables were given to help us understand the Word of God. I can remember a very prominent preacher telling me. "Jesus was a man of His times. He would be walking the hi ways and byways of Galilee, look out over the countryside, make observations and then weave them into parables so that even the most common uneducated man could relate and understand the loftiest spiritual truth. We should strive to relate the Bible to twentieth century man in the same way!" Read Jesus' explanations of the use of Parables in the passage below...
 MAT 13:10 & 11, 13 & 14 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" And He answered and said to them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted... Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, 'You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; And you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; Why were Parables given?

Were they to help people understand spiritual truth?

Who were the only people who could understand His Parables?

Do all the Parables in the Bible come with explanations?

What does that tell us about our teaching of Parables?

6. Another example of this is prophecy (which will be studied in Chapter 10 Read II Peter 1:20
2PE 1:20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,
Are we free to interpret the meaning of Prophetic Scripture?

Who has the authority to interpret Prophetic Scripture?

What if the Bible does not give the interpretation? How does that affect our teaching?

C. Things We Can But Should Not Know – II Peter 1:6

1. It is perfectly valid for parents to place restrictions on their children concerning what they can know. Think of an area that you have or would apply this to your child.

2. God has this same right. Give an example below...

3. Below are verse as examples of things which man was never meant to know. Read the passages and suggest a practical area of life experience...
 - a. MAT 5:27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery';

 - b. MAT 5:28 but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.

 - c. EXO 20:13 "You shall not murder.

 - d. EXO 20:15 "You shall not steal.

e. EPH 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

f. 1TI 4:1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

g. Can you think of an example which is an issue with the modern day church?

4. All the above can be known, all the above are forbidden to be known. Those who manifest the fruit of the spirit of self-control do not know those things which God has forbidden.

5. The Word of God reveals in Genesis 2:16 & 17 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die. "

a. How much of the garden did Adam have to himself?

b. Yet where did Adam and Eave seem to hang out?

c. In JER 33:3 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.' What does God offer to teach us?

d. Yet man lingers near that which God has forbidden, even though there are vast things, unknown to us, waiting for God to reveal to us. Why is this so?

e. We are the man with the cable TV, it has 250 channels, yet he finds himself lingering near the two or three channels forbidden to him even though there are 247 where he may freely watch. Still satan is saying to us, "Has God said really said 'no'?" It is for man to excised self-control, to exhibit the fruit of the spirit of self-control and this begins with not even being there.

f. Give an example with which you struggle...

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Revealed vs. Hidden 1 - Overview

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Deuteronomy 29:29

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Isaiah 55:8 & 9

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Genesis 3:1 - 5

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How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Jeremiah 33:3

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