

The FACT of the Matter

One big difference between man and the rest of God's creation is man's ability to reason and make rational decisions. That being the case, God demands that man use his mental faculty to make proper conclusions based upon facts and evidence. Through His prophet Isaiah, God stated, "**Learn** to do well; **seek** judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and **let us reason together**, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:17-18, emphasis B.G.). God requires His people to **learn** that which is right, **seek** after that which is right and make proper conclusions based on that which is right. Sadly, many today make their conclusions based upon standards other than the truth, while others make deductions based solely upon the facts they like.

It is extremely unfortunate that many decide to be ignorant in regards to certain facts which are relevant to making a particular decision. The Law of Rationality demands that one make only such conclusions as are warranted by **ALL** of the available evidence. By **choosing** to be ignorant about some of the facts regarding a matter, an individual is doomed to make an **irrational** decision. God teaches that those who make decisions, despite evidence to the contrary, "are without excuse" (Romans 1:20). God also teaches that, just as ignorance is no excuse today, it will not be an acceptable excuse on the Day of Judgment either. "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them **that know not God**, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power" (1 Thessalonians 1:8-9, emphasis B.G.).

Just as unfortunate is the knowledge that there are also those who simply reject the facts. These individuals have the evidence they need in order to make a rational decision, but **choose** to make a conclusion contrary to the available facts. Such was the case with the Jewish leaders in the first century.

And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed **a notable miracle hath been done** by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and **we cannot deny it**. But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:14-18, emphasis B.G.).

Rather than concluding the truth, that these men must have been from God since they were able to perform such a miracle as healing a man "lame from his mother's womb" (Acts 3:2), they **chose** to reject the facts and demand that the men cease their preaching of the Christ. Jesus told the Pharisees, "ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition" (Mark 7:9). Perhaps that is the reason why many reject facts today – in order that they may do as they desire rather than what God commands. God desires that all men come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4), but He will allow men, as free moral agents, to lie to themselves so much that they believe the lie rather than the facts (2 Thessalonians 2:11).

In contrast to those who ignore and reject evidence, let us be fact finders. Jesus implores,

“*seek* ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness” (Matthew 6:33, emphasis B.G.). He also declares, “Ask, and it shall be given you; *seek, and ye shall find*; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” (Matthew 7:7-8, emphasis B.G.). We need to continually examine and prove ourselves to ensure that we are being honest with the facts and making only such conclusions as are warranted by those facts (2 Corinthians 13:5).

– *Brad Green*