

God's Two Books

Psalm 19

Introduction: Why the Faith-Science Dialogue Matters

1. Truth is an inherent good. All truth is God's truth!
2. A duty to make the Christian faith intelligible. Faith & science: a major issue for youth people (Barna)
3. So that Christian theological and moral claims will be taken seriously. Too much is at stake!
4. We need to hear the voices of Christian brothers and sisters employed in the sciences

God's Two Books: Nature and Scripture

God has written two books and we must read both together in order to have a full—comprehensive and personal—knowledge of God.

A. Book 1: Nature (vvs. 1-6; also wisdom literature)

The book of nature gives us general knowledge of God; a *generic* GOD.

Creation:

1. Praises God (v. 1)
2. Reveals God (v. 2)
3. To all (vv. 4–6); Rom. 1:19–20
4. But in a subtle way; we need eyes of faith to see it (v. 3)
Such knowledge remains abstract and impersonal, even ambiguous.

B. Book 2: Scripture (vv. 7–13)

The book(s) of Scripture gives us *special* knowledge of God: particular, concrete, and *personal*.

1. Creation reveals 'God' (generic); Scripture reveals 'the LORD' (Yahweh, the covenant God of Israel).
– Compare vv. 1–6 with 7–13.
2. Scripture reveals God's will (laws, instructions, decrees, commands, etc.)
3. Scripture reveals God's character and personality (perfect, clear, trustworthy, right, pure, etc.)
 - God is revealed most perfectly in Jesus (John 1:18; Col. 1:15)
4. Scripture reveals *our own hearts to us, before God* (vv. 12–13): sin, self-deception, guilt.

C. We need to read both of God's Two Books well (together, with the help of the whole church!)

1. The two books enrich each other. Verse 14 brings God's two books together in worship and prayer.
2. The integrity of each book must be respected, otherwise we offend the Author
3. What do we do when the two books 'contradict' each other?
Pause. Pray. Study. Reflect. Discuss. Trust God – He's the author!

Some Helpful Resources:

1. The [Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation](#) and the [American Scientific Affiliation](#)
– see their magazine (*Nature*) and academic journal (*Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*)
2. The [Veritas Forum](#) (free access to lectures connecting Christian faith to a wide range of intellectual topics)
3. The [Discovery Institute](#)
4. The [Biologos Foundation](#)