

From John 5:25-32. THE SOURCE OF LIFE, PART 1

#1. Generalization: THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE OF LIVING THINGS HAS NO INHERENT LIFE IN IT (v. 25, 26). In accordance with these two verses, life is an endowment from God and is not an inherent feature of the universe. The Lord tells us that He will speak to the dead and "the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God" (v. 25); "and those who hear will live" (v. 25).

Time and that which lies beyond are both the same to the Son. His voice is everywhere, determinant, quickening: "The Father has life in Himself" (v. 26.) There is life in the Son (v. 25.)

This means that life is not inherent in anything or in anyone except the Father and the Son. But there is an opposite premise of unbelief: Life and or the potential for life is inherent in the universe. Jesus says that premise is false; do not believe it.

The Lord rules out evolution. Therefore, in sickness, danger, threat, even death, life is not inherent in man, the medical arts, human action, the environment, situation or circumstance. This directly contradicts

- The realm of appearances
- Common sense
- Experience

Life cannot evolve in a universe where life is not inherent! In "the day of bad tidings," we look to the Lord in whom is all inherency.

John 5:25-32. SPECTRUM THINKING, PART 2

#2. Generalization: THERE ARE 2 DIMENSIONS OR MAGNITUDES OF THINKING, AND THESE ARE SEPARATED BY A COGNITIVE GULF (v. 27-29.)

The "low end" of the spectrum is the human dimension or magnitude.

The "high end" is the revealed dimension or magnitude of thought. Jesus told the disciples not "to marvel" (v. 28) at what they heard. Why? Thinking occurs along this spectrum, and the Lord says we must adjust our thinking up the spectrum! Many are slow or reluctant to "adjust up." So they reverse the structure of the spectrum, and therefore there is no need to adjust their thinking at all.

True biblical reasoning requires a move up *the reasoning spectrum*. Faith is not a subjective condition. According to this text; faith is a spectral (that is, of or pertaining to a spectrum) condition. The range of reasoning is thus spectral.

The immediate effect of unbelief is to reject the full spectrum and assume that the human dimension or magnitude affords the complete range of reasoning.

The worldly premise is this: "Critical thinking" must be founded upon

- human reason and wisdom,
- human experience and
- the interaction of time, matter and energy.

The heresy: To accept that premise is heresy. The Bible is consequently considered a fantasy, myth or a superfluous hypothesis. As a result, upon reading biblical promises, life explanations and warnings, some would "marvel." In their minds, these ideas are "too good to be true;" "too fantastic to believe;" "too incredible to depend upon;" and thus "too risky to act upon."

John 5:25-32. THE COGNITIVE GULF, PART 3

Generalization #3:

The spectrum of thinking does not constitute a smooth linear development from the low end of the spectrum (human dimension/magnitude) to the high end (revealed dimension.) There is between the two a cognitive gulf which must be crossed by a determined faith.

Eventually those in the tombs "will come forth" (v. 29.) There is to be a universal resurrection. But after that things change. Those of "good deeds" can expect the resurrection of life, and they of "evil deeds" rise to the resurrection of judgment (v. 29). The high end of the reasoning spectrum comes full force on everybody who has ever lived!

Such beliefs in universal resurrection and judgment belong beyond the cognitive gulf.

Generalization #4:

Understanding is also a spectral condition. The low end (human understanding) does not and cannot cross the cognitive gulf. Revealed understanding (high end) is always and only beyond this gulf. Understanding depends on where one is along the spectrum of reasoning--it is a location on the thinking spectrum. Understanding does not depend upon definition nor credulity.

Reading the Bible from the low end gives no heed to the cognitive gulf. Results:

- #1: The Bible is reclassified as a human document.
- #2: The low end of the spectrum cannot cope with the culture nor the society.
- # 3: Conformity follows.