

Is There Life Out There?

Recently, the U.S. government has started to release declassified information and footage regarding Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAPs), otherwise known as Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

Some have argued that there must be life elsewhere because the universe is so massive. To many people, it seems strange that God would create a universe so vast if mankind exists only in one small corner of it on planet Earth.

I think we can settle the debate! There is life out there! The Bible tells us of an eternal God, who is alive, *"For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy..."* (Isaiah 57:15) Furthermore, scripture gives us insight to where God dwells, *"Look down from Your holy habitation, from heaven..."* (Deuteronomy 26:15). The Bible provides a glimpse into what this place will be like and reveals God's conditions for us to enter there.

The Bible also describes angels as spiritual beings who have appeared at various times in this world, yet makes no mention of civilizations or beings elsewhere in the physical universe. To conclude otherwise would be going beyond what is written.

Mankind has been placed on this planet, as the psalmist declared, *"The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; But the earth He has given to the children of men."* (Psalm 115:16). As we look toward the heavens, let us remember the words of David, *"The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork."* (Psalm 19:1) Rather than speculating about unknown worlds, we should focus on the eternal home God has revealed and prepare ourselves to dwell with Him forever.

- by Josh McCord

False Standards

I often hear people trying to establish right and wrong based on the wrong standard. Here are some examples:

- Our Parents (Mt. 10:21, 34-37). As much as we should love and respect our parents, we cannot establish right and wrong on the basis of our parents alone.
- Our Conscience (Ac. 23:1; 26:9-11; 1 Tim. 1:12-13). Even though our conscience can be useful, we may still be wrong even though our conscience doesn't bother us. Paul had followed his conscience even when he was a persecutor.
- Emotions & Feelings (Pr. 14:12; 28:26; Jer. 10:23). Just because something "feels" right to you, that doesn't necessarily make it right. Sin can even "feel" right.
- The Majority (Mt. 7:13-14). Don't ever think that something is right simply because most believe it. The majority is headed to destruction.
- Preachers & Religious Leaders (2 Cor. 11:13-15; 2 Pet. 2:1-3). Your preacher may be a great guy, but that doesn't mean he is right.
- Tradition (Mt. 15:1-9; Col. 2:8). Truth is not established by how long something has been around. Sin has been around a long time, too.
- The Good End (Rom. 3:8). The end doesn't always justify the means. Something is not right just because we may think it is causing "good".

What is the "RIGHT" way to tell right from wrong? God's WORD, and HIS word ALONE (Jn. 12:48).

- by Andrew Mitchell

"We Know That You Know What We Know"

In sports and in warfare there is often a fascinating contest of strategy. Sometimes it is simply stated this way: "We know that you know what we know." Each side studies the other. They know the opponent's tendencies, strengths, and weaknesses.

That same principle applies in our spiritual battle with Satan. Paul said, "We are not ignorant of his devices" (2 Corinthians 2:11). The devil has certain well-known methods. He is a liar (John

8:44). He makes evil look appealing and harmless (2 Corinthians 11:14). He appeals to “the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life” (1 John 2:16). And he is constantly looking for an opportunity to destroy the careless Christian (1 Peter 5:8).

None of this is a secret. We know exactly how he works. And Satan knows that we know. That is why one of his most effective tools is to get us to relax. If he can persuade us that sin is not so serious, that one compromise won't hurt, or that we are strong enough to handle temptation on our own, he has gained an advantage.

For this reason the Scriptures repeatedly urge us to stay alert. “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong” (1 Corinthians 16:13). God has not left us defenseless. He has provided the whole armor of God - truth, righteousness, faith, salvation, and the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:11-17).

The good news is that the devil can be defeated. James assures us, “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

Satan knows our weaknesses. But we know his tactics. More importantly, we know the strength and faithfulness of the God we serve. If we remain vigilant and trust in Him, we can win the battle.

- by Greg Gwin