

Example Two: concerning incapability for understanding the truth of God:

(a) New Testament characterization of the unregenerate state:

"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart."

(Ephesians 4:17-18)

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

(I Corinthians 2:14)

(b) Old Testament characterization of the state of the believer:

"I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation."

(Psalm 119:99)

"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."

(Psalm 119:130)

"The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes."

(Psalm 19:7b-8)

"Evil men understand not judgment; but they that seek the Lord understand all things."

(Proverbs 28:5)

In this second example of antithesis, the unregenerate man's understanding is darkened, and he is full of ignorance. But even more strongly, we are told that he cannot know, perceive, apprehend, grasp, or understand the things mediated by God's Special Revelation, the Scriptures, except by the discernment which the Holy Spirit alone can graciously bestow upon him. On the other hand, we read that the Old Testament believer is enlightened, given understanding, and made wise by God's words. Given the fact of the noetic effects of sin, we are safe in asserting that the latter man is surely not unregenerate!