
Words of Truth

God Doesn't Hide His Works

By: Brian A. Yeager

All too common we hear of people that say things like, "who knows, maybe God was behind that". I propose that such a mindset is ignorant. I most recently, as I am writing this article, heard a so-called "preacher" from Alabama make similar statements numerous times in a sermon of absolute ignorance as he preached falsely on prayer and providence. (I would name that false teacher [Romans 16:17-18], but I only have the audio of it without any hard evidence of exactly who preached it). He made the argument that God is behind so many things and we'll never know it. Not once did he provide a Scripture for that claim, but he made that claim over and over again in so many words. Sadly, this man reportedly was working with the church of Christ in a town in Alabama.

I think of the many times that I (likely you too) have had discussions with people of the Pentecostal religion. They claim to have modern day spiritual miraculous abilities. We know that such days are over (I Corinthians 13:8-13), however they claim they can heal, speak in unknown tongues, etc. When challenging them, they often claim they cannot show you their abilities because that would be tempting God. To which, we oft reply, that the purpose of said abilities was to be tested and prove who real teachers were during miraculous times (Mark 16:15-20, Hebrews 2:1-4, and I John 4:1). We point out to those people that God is a "prove all things" God (I Thessalonians 5:21). Yet, some turn around on the subject matter of "providence" and make the same stupid arguments the Pentecostals make.

Brethren, while we have walked away from such nonsense long ago, we need to be prepared that many so-called "churches of Christ" have not. They fall into the same failures as do false modern day miracle workers and denominations that teach such. All of them play the game of "who knows" and "God works in mysterious ways". We need to be ready to show these people that their reasoning is flawed from the ground up. The premise of the doctrine fails and thus does the doctrine. God does not hide the works that He does.

God Makes His Works Clearly HIS WORKS

After a time of rain, why is there a rainbow in the sky? Here's the answer: *"And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all*

flesh that is upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth” (Genesis 9:11-17). Do you see rainbows today? Who put them there?

Rainbows are just a small chunk of what God does to say to us all, “HERE I AM”. The Bible says: *“Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness” (Acts 14:17). Every sunrise on this earth is the work of God (Matthew 5:45). The abilities you were born with are God given (I Peter 4:11). God has left evidence of Himself all over the universe for us to see (Romans 1:20). Yet, people act like He hides what He does? That is false. He shows His existence (Acts 17:16-31) and He WANTS credit and glory for ALL that He does (Psalms 19:1, Psalms 105:2, and I Chronicles 16:24). When God does something He takes credit for it!*

God Goes Out Of His Way To Get The Credit For His Actions

A doctor performs a surgery. The person lives. Some people even use the word “miracle”. Was God behind it? If God left you to wonder if He was behind it, then you can know He was not behind it. He would not allow that doctor to get the glory for His work. Notice: *“I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images... For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another” (Isaiah 42:8; 48:11).*

When a sinful city or country falls, some wonder if God is behind it. Listen, whether it was Babylon (Isaiah 13:1-14:23) or Jerusalem (Matthew 24:1-34), God foretold of His punishments against nations. In fact, He foretold of their punishments so that no other person or false deity could get the credit (Isaiah 41:14-29). He DID such things to establish His might (Isaiah 45:1-12). Then, after He was finished with that city or nation, He often left a few to tell of what happened for evidence that He is the Lord. Notice: *“But I will leave a few men of them from the sword, from the famine, and from the pestilence; that they may declare all their abominations among the heathen whither they come; and they shall know that I am the Lord” (Ezekiel 12:16).*

What about that “God works in mysterious ways” garbage? Listen, while under the Old Law the promise of salvation was a mystery (I Peter 1:10-12). Even that mystery was not kept hidden (Romans 16:25-26, Ephesians 1:9, and Ephesians 3:1-11). God does not secretly perform a bunch of supernatural things in secret and allow people to wonder what has happened. Notice: *“For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else. I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the Lord speak righteousness, I declare things that are right” (Isaiah 45:18-19).*

Conclusion

I have proven that God is not the CIA of deities. He wants to be known and wants His works to be known (Joshua 24:31, Psalms 25:14, Psalms 145:9-13, and John 18:20). The truth is, preachers preach things that are false. They cannot prove them. It is easier for them to say that God works mysteriously than to say they’ve taught something they cannot prove!