New Covenant HS & COTH ABF (2018), Redeemer BC (23 June 2019) Dr. Rick Griffith

Title

COTH Main Service (20 June 2021), Bridge Com Church Harstine (8 Aug 21) Single Message

NLT 30 Minutes

**The Secret Things of God**

***Deuteronomy 29:29***

**Topic:** Knowledge

**Subject:** How should you deal with your ignorance of God’s ways?

**Complement:** Obey what God says instead of worrying about what he will never tell you.

**Purpose:** The listeners will obey what they know of God’s will rather than worry about what they do not know.

**Meditation:** Deuteronomy 29:29

# Introduction

Eye

### Interest/Need: Speakers usually tell what they know. Just to shake things up a bit, today I will tell you what I DON’T know! We all have questions. So what would ***you*** like to know?

#### Why are we still in this pandemic after a year and a half? I don't know.

#### Why are many wealthy people you know often the most ungodly? I don't know.

#### Why do some women who don’t want a child easily get pregnant but you long for a child in your barrenness? I don't know.

#### Why can’t you hear from God on that key question that you have? I don't know.

### Subject: How should you deal with your ignorance of God’s ways? What should you do since you do not really know why God does what he does?

Why Ignorance

### Background: Israel was poised to enter Canaan but still needed to know much about God even after Moses recorded all five books of the Pentateuch. They still needed forming.

Context

#### Today’s text is given at the end of 40 years of wilderness wandering. In Deuteronomy, Moses, the covenant mediator, speaks to Israel's new generation opposite the Jordan (1:1). Imagine traveling your whole life in the desert—even being born amidst the dirt, dry plants, and scorpions—and the nicest thing you’ve ever seen is an interesting rock formation!

Deut 1:1 Map

#### Your parents have been fully disciplined by God for failing to trust him to bring them into a rich, lush land. Your parents are buried along the way as a testimony to God’s word of judgment that they wouldn’t come into Israel’s inheritance.

#### Finally, Israel is poised to cross over into Jericho, but do they really understand God’s ways? Well, some of them. But they have so many things they still don’t know.

Crossing to Jericho

#### So Moses commits to prepare them. What would he say? He gives five sermons in Deuteronomy, and today we will look at only one verse in the last sermon.

Renewal

### Preview & Text: Today we will see three keys in Deuteronomy 29:29 on how to deal with what we can know and cannot know.

Subject

(How should you deal with your ignorance of God’s ways? Here is the first thing to do…)

Main Point 1 (2 slides)

# 1. Don’t worry about God not telling you everything you want to know (29a).

[The LORD isn’t obligated to answer all your questions—so deal with it.]

## God has secrets and he isn’t telling! In our world’s explosion of knowledge, we still don’t know many things:

### Why godless people live so long with so much money (Pss. 37, 73)

### Why hundreds of millions of mothers kill their own children in the womb which totally defies their maternal instincts

### Why the ones most calling for tolerance are the least tolerant

### Why God would cause his Son to suffer so much on our behalf

### Why I would be the only boy from a broken home in my class growing up

### Why God allowed me to come to know him when so many others never do or do so later in life

### Why I have so many privileges to serve him throughout Asia in 35 countries when others never get to leave the USA

## He hasn’t told us why he changed our plans to go to Jordan.

World Map

### We don’t know why God is leading us from Singapore to Jordan.

JETS

#### But I have been invited to teach at JETS.

Arabic

#### Why I would teach in Arabic at this stage of life I don’t know!

Dad, Mom, & Jesse

### We don’t know why God would move us away after our granddaughter’s birth on July 31.

Secret Things

## So what secret thing do you need to just leave with God?

Subject

(So how should you deal with your ignorance of God’s ways? Be willing to stay ignorant! God has secrets and he’s not telling. So what should you do instead of striving for answers to everything?)

Main Point 1

# 2. Instead, seek to know what God does tell you (29b).

MP

(2 slides)

[The LORD speaks—though he doesn’t say all we want to know. So listen to him.]

## But what has God revealed?

### God gave us a Bible of 1100 chapters so long that we’ll never learn it well in one lifetime.

### We have everything in Scripture that we need to know for life and godliness (2 Pet 1:3 NLT: "By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life.")

### This is why I have committed my life to help people understand what God has revealed in this precious Book!

## Mark Twain noted, “It ain't the parts of the Bible that I *can't understand* that bother me, it's the parts that I *do understand*.”

200,000 Slides

6 squares

Twain

9 squares

9 pictures of Moses

## My BibleStudyDownloads.org website helps people see what God has revealed in Scripture.

### Six courses can help you go from Apologetics to Church Transformation.

9 courses

### Another 9 courses provide thousands of pages of notes and theology courses.

7 squares

### Another 7 courses survey the whole Bible and various worldviews.

### But 9 courses give details within each Bible book in NT Survey and OT Survey.

### But the OT Survey is in 9 languages—and 53 languages in total on the website.

## How can you better know what God has already told you and me? Well, do you have a plan to learn his Word? We find that just reading three chapters together as a couple at breakfast each day brings us through the Bible once every year.

Things Revealed

Transition

(3 slides)

(How should you deal with your ignorance of God’s ways? We have seen that we need to know what God wants us to know. But why? It is so you can…)

# 3. Obey what you do know (29c).

MP

(2 slides)

[Put into practice your limited knowledge.]

## We need to know the Bible, book by book.

Book by Book

### God does not want us to be smarter sinners but trusting saints despite the fact that he will not reveal some secrets to us.

### In the book of Job, God never did tell Job the reason for his suffering. He only expected Job to continue to trust and obey him.

## We need to obey what we learn in Scripture.

### So I preached through the entire Bible, book by book.

### My goal is to sum up a whole book of Scripture in one sermon—and do that 66 times!

Be Faithful

### Since we are human *beings* and not “human doings,” each sermon starts with the word “Be...” So the overview of Genesis is “Be Faithful” and so on all the way to Revelation entitled “Be Triumphant.”

Be Triumphant

Subject

(How should you deal with your ignorance of God’s ways?)

# Conclusion

### Obey what God says instead of worrying about what he will never tell you (Main Idea). Follow what you know the Lord reveals—don’t fret over what he does not reveal (restated).

Main Idea

Follow the words

### Exhortation: How can you better follow all the words of this law?

#### Stop worrying about how much you know since God isn’t telling many things.

#### Be more concerned with who you are becoming.

#### But are you doing what he asks of you? James 4:17 says, “To him who knows what is right to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.”

### Prayer

Prayer

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### Deuteronomy 28 is the most explicit chapter in the Bible on Israel’s blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience. In fact, the chapter ends with a prophetic tone to indicate that the nation would even disobey to the extent that they would be thrown out of the land.

### Deuteronomy 29 follows with the words of the nations that would ask for the reason for the exile. The response to them would be that God kicked them out for refusing to obey him.

### Deuteronomy 30 then follows, indicating that God would eventually restore them.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### Deuteronomy 29:29 is actually the hinge verse between these two chapters. It addresses the confusion that people would have between God’s discipline and restoration of Israel. Why would God exile his own people? And what should they do until their restoration which is still future in our own day?

### So here is our verse for today: “The Lord our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that he has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions” (Deut. 29:29).

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### Our text is given at the end of 40 years of wilderness wanderings. Imagine traveling your whole life in the desert—even being born amidst the dirt, dry plants, and scorpions—and the nicest thing you’ve ever seen is an interesting rock formation!

### Finally your parents have been fully disciplined by God for failing to trust them to bring then into a rich, lush land. Your parents are buried along the way as a testimony to God’s word of judgment that they wouldn’t come into Israel’s inheritance.

### Do you understand God’s ways? Well, some of them. But you have so many things you still don’t know. Sound familiar?

# Questions

### What matters might be included in “secret things” that Israel didn’t understand?

### Why would God keep some things from us?

### What has actually revealed to us?

### Why is obedience so key?

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

Text

# Possible Illustrations

### Mark Twain noted, “It is not the things in the Bible that I do not understand that bother me most. It is what I *do understand.*”

### The Bible…Basically seminar helps summarize what God has revealed in Scripture.

# Possible Applications

### Questions we ask

#### Why is it that some of the wealthiest people you know are often the most ungodly?

#### Why does God allow millions of mothers to kill perfect babies in the womb and then give a disabled baby to parents who long for a child?

**The Secret Things of God**

***Deuteronomy 29:29***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: The way we should respond to our ignorance of God’s ways is not to worry about what we don’t know but instead obey what we do know.

# I. The content of what we would like to know is not revealed to us by the LORD (29a).

# II. The content of what we need to know is not revealed to us by the LORD to benefit us and our children (29c).

# III. The reason the LORD tells us what he does reveal is for us to obey him (29c).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will obey what they know of God’s will rather than worry about what they do not know.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Need: We all always have questions that remain. So what would you like to know?

### Subject: How should you deal with your ignorance of God’s ways?

### Background: Israel was poised to enter Canaan but still needed to know much about God even after Moses recorded all five books of the Pentateuch.

### Preview & Text: Today we will see three keys in Deuteronomy 29:29 on how to deal with what we can know and not know.

(How should you deal with your ignorance of God’s ways?)

# 1. Don’t worry about God not telling you everything you want to know (29a).

## God has secrets and he isn’t telling!

## He hasn’t told us why he changed our plans to go to Jordan.

## So what secret thing do you need to just leave with God?

(So how should you deal with your ignorance of God’s ways? Be willing to stay ignorant! God has secrets and he’s not telling. So what should you do instead of striving for answers to everything?)

# 2. Instead, seek to know what God does tell you (29b).

## Mark Twain noted, “It ain't the parts of the Bible that I *can't understand* that bother me, it's the parts that I *do understand*.”

## My BibleStudyDownloads.org website helps people see what God has revealed in Scripture.

## How can you better know what God has already told you and me?

(How should you deal with your ignorance of God’s ways? We have seen that we need to know what God wants us to know. But why? It is so you can…)

# 3. Obey what you do know (29c).

## We need to know the Bible, book by book.

## We need to obey what we learn in Scripture.

### So I preached through the entire Bible, book by book.

### My goal is to sum up a whole book of Scripture in one sermon—and do that 66 times!

### Each sermon starts with the word “Be...” So the overview of Genesis is “Be Faithful” and so on all the way to Revelation entitled “Be Triumphant.”

(How should you deal with your ignorance of God’s ways?)

# Conclusion

### Obey what God says instead of worrying about what he will never tell you (Main Idea).

### How can you better follow all the words of this law?

### Prayer

**Dr Rick Griffith**

June 20, 2021

Church on the Hill

**The Secret Things of God**

***Deuteronomy 29:29***

# Introduction

### We all always have questions. So what would you like to know?

### How should you deal with your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God’s ways?

# 1. Don’t worry about God not telling you everything you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to know (29a).

## God has secrets and he isn’t telling!

## He hasn’t told us why he changed our plans to go to Jordan.

## So what secret thing do you need to just leave with God?

# 2. Instead, seek to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ what God does tell you (29b).

## Mark Twain noted, “It ain't the parts of the Bible that I *can't understand* that bother me, it's the parts that I *do understand*.”

## BibleStudyDownloads.org helps people see what God has revealed in Scripture.

## How can you better know what God has already told you and me?

# 3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ what you do know (29c).

## We need to know the Bible, book by book.

## We need to obey what we learn in Scripture.

### So I preached through the entire Bible, book by book.

### My goal is to sum up a whole book of Scripture in one sermon—and do that 66 times!

### Each sermon starts with the word “Be...” So the overview of Genesis is “Be Faithful” and so on all the way to Revelation entitled “Be Triumphant.”

# Conclusion

### \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ what God says instead of worrying about what he will never tell you (Main Idea).

### How can you better follow all the words of this law?

Download this sermon PPT and notes for free at BibleStudyDownloads.org/resource/old-testament-preaching/