

"HEAR YE HIM"

A Devotional Series For Radio

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The Sermon: THE GLORY OF GOD IS INTELLIGENCE

Scripture: Doctrine and Covenants 90:5,6.

Intelligence, or the light of truth, was not created or made, neither indeed can be. All truth is independent in that sphere in which God has placed it, to act for itself, as all intelligence also, otherwise there is no existence. Behold, here is the agency of man, and here is the condemnation of man, because that which was from the beginning is plainly manifest unto them, and they receive not the light. And every man whose spirit receiveth not the light is under condemnation, for man is spirit. The elements are eternal, and spirit and element, inseparably connected, receiveth a fullness of joy; and when separated, man can not receive a fullness of joy. The elements are the tabernacle of God; yea, man is the tabernacle of God, even temples; and whatsoever temple is defiled, God shall destroy that temple. (6) The glory of God is intelligence, or in other words, light and truth; light and truth forsaketh that evil one.

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What is intelligence? Where does it come from? We are told that the glory of God is intelligence. Intelligence is the capacity for knowledge and understanding. It therefore is not the same as education or learning or knowledge or understanding; it is the capacity for receiving and using these things. Since God's capacity for knowledge and understanding is infinite, comprehending all things, his intelligence is infinite. There is nothing he does not know, nothing he does not comprehend or understand, no principle and no law which he does not know how to use, no factor which is ever overlooked when he makes decisions. The glory of God is intelligence, or in other words light and truth. "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."

Intelligence in man is like the intelligence which is the glory of God, but man possesses it to a lesser degree. Intelligence in man is not education or learning or acquired knowledge, but rather that mysterious living part of man which receives, perceives, understands, and makes use of education, learning, and knowledge. Intelligence is inherent -- born in us; education and learning are acquired through the use of that innate, inherent intelligence. Intelligence is the light of truth. It is that faculty which enables man to recognize, to grasp, and to know truth. Intelligence is a faculty of the spirit, the living soul of man, not of his mortal and perishable body. Intelligence is eternal, as the spirit of man is eternal.

Our scripture lesson says that intelligence, or the light of truth, was not created or made, neither indeed can be. It is eternal, self-existent, uncreated -- even as God is eternal, self-existent, and uncreated; for intelligence is an attribute of God himself. The glory of God is intelligence. All intelligence comes from him. One of the best and most logical arguments to prove the existence of a God who is the Creator of all things is the argument that intelligence does not and cannot grow out of unintelligence, or reason out of unreason. It is completely unreasonable to assume that senseless, inert, unintelligent, unreasoning matter could by any process of evolution produce man, endowed with intelligence, capable of logical thought and reason, and able to collect, organize, and apply the knowledge which his intellect makes available to him. The gap between inert matter and intelligent man is too great to be bridged by any process of evolution. Intelligence in man is explainable only in terms of creation, in which a self-existent, eternal, uncreated Creator shares his own eternal, uncreated intelligence with man.

This eternal, uncreated intelligence which is God's glory, the light of truth, God has shared not only with man, but to some degree with every other form of life. With no education or instruction, the birds know instinctively how to build their nests by means of this God-given intelligence. The beaver knows how to build

his dam and his underwater house. The spider spins her web which is a marvel of engineering skill and geometrical design. The ant and the bee and the squirrel know how to store their winter food. The salmon finds his way to his spawning ground without any road maps or guide service, just as migratory birds find their way through trackless air. Even the sunflower turns her face to the sun, guided by the same intelligence. Thus is the uncreated, eternal intelligence which is the glory of God shared by even the lower forms of life.

Of course there are limitations of this intelligence as it is manifested in the lower forms of life. The bird cannot build a beaver dam; the beaver cannot build a nest; the sunflower must remain in one place. Yet each form of life within its own peculiar limitations manifests intelligence. "All truth is independent in that sphere in which God has placed it, to act for itself, as all intelligence, also; otherwise there is no existence." Unless there is intelligence, there is no life, no existence. But where there is intelligence, there is not only the power, but also the obligation of making choices within the natural limitations set by nature and by environment.

Of all God's earthly creation, man has the largest degree of this divine and eternal intelligence. Because he has the largest capacity of any of God's creation for receiving, understanding, and using knowledge and apprehending and appreciating truth, man has the greatest obligation and the greatest opportunity for making right choices. His intelligence enables him to weigh and measure the consequences of each act, and to choose between good and evil. "Light and truth forsaketh that evil one," says our scripture lesson, and if intelligence is light and truth, intelligence will forsake evil.

Sin is not only wicked and rebellious and wrong; it is most of all stupid, because man has intelligence which is light and truth, and if he forsakes that light and truth and turns to darkness, he is not true to himself, or to his intelligence, or to God who is the giver of light and truth and intelligence, and reverting to darkness, error, and stupidity. In the third chapter of his gospel John says, "This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men love darkness rather than light, because

their deeds are evil. For every one who doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he who loveth truth, cometh to the light, that his deeds may be manifest.

The stupidity of sin is further demonstrated by this fact; that once we have made a wrong or unwise decision, it is human nature to justify and defend that decision rather than to confess our error and turn again to God's light and truth and intelligence for guidance in future decisions. Rather do we tend to turn our backs on the light, to defend and stick by our wrong decision, to condone our sin, to walk by the false light of our own carnal nature rather than by the light of that divine intelligence which is the glory of God. Once we have rejected light, we are under condemnation, and we have restricted our intelligence, for light receiveth light, and intelligence cleaveth unto intelligence. "That which is of God is light, and he that receiveth light and continueth in God, receiveth more light, and that light groweth brighter and brighter, until the perfect day." (Doctrine and Covenants 50:6)

Paul exhorted the Ephesians to use their intelligence in making decisions, and to avoid the darkness and stupidity of sin. He wrote: "Have no fellowship with the works of darkness, but rather reprove them All things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light; for whatsoever doth make manifest is light." (Eph. 5:11-13)

"The glory of God is intelligence, or in other words light and truth. Light and truth forsaketh that evil one." Because God, with his infinite and eternal and perfect intelligence always chooses good rather than evil, he dwells perpetually in light and glory. If man would approach unto that glory, he must make maximum use of his portion of intelligence. He must follow light and truth; he must use his intelligence to make right and good and wise decisions. After a lifetime of such right and good and wise decisions, in which man's intelligence cleaves unto and responds to the glorious intelligence of God and of his light and truth, man may be fitted to dwell in God's presence, in God's glory, comprehending more and more of his light and truth until we reach the limits of our capacity, and a fullness of enjoyment.