

THE INCOMPARABLE EXCELLENCE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS.

[FROM DR. CARSON'S "KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS, THE MOST EXCELLENT OF THE SCIENCES."]

Knowledge in itself is good: it is only the abuse of it, or still more frequently the affectation of it in ignorance, that produces evil. The knowledge of the nature and properties of God's works cannot in itself be injurious. To suppose that it is, is a libel on God. But an affectation of knowledge, when there is ignorance is a thing most pernicious. And a great proportion of what is called science, is nothing but ignorance under the cloak of knowledge. Of this character is every part of modern science that pretends to contradict the Scriptures, or to modify their doctrines. Geological inferences and metaphysical doctrines, when they presume to dictate to the truths of inspiration, are worthy of no more respect than a madman's dream. As they are not the necessary result of necessary truth, they are not entitled to be heard in evidence. Their knowledge of the subject does not extend to the points in question. What metaphysics legitimately says, she says with the authority of an oracle. But when she speaks what she is not commissioned, she is entitled to no credit. Let Christians beware of mixing human science with the doctrines of the Divine word, and of regulating systems of theology by the authority of the schools of philosophy. This has always been a fruitful source of the corruptions of Christianity. Theologians affect wisdom and accommodate the doctrines of Scripture to the reigning system of philosophy. The pulpit becomes a mere fugleman to the chair of metaphysics. The very phraseology of science is transferred to theology, and every doctrine is tinged with its spirit. Against this I remonstrate. This I denounce as treason against God.

Science, advance! The gospel fears you not. As far as you are worthy of your name, you are delightful and useful to man. Geology, keep thy province, and thou mayest be useful. Go down, then, to the bowels of the earth, and bring up thy treasures. We defy thee to bring a witness that in his own language will testify against Moses. Such a witness, you say, alleges that the world must be millions of years older than what Moses makes it. False knave, the witness says no such thing. This is your unauthorised inference from his testimony. For any thing that the witness says, the world might have been made yesterday. Could not Almighty power give it all its present appearance even in its creation? Analogy cannot be received in proof against legitimate testimony. Look at that gourd of Jonah. You exclaim, it is several months old. False; it grew up last night. Look at that tree in paradise. You say it must have looked at the sun for half a century. False again. It is fresh from the hands of its Creator. Go on, then, geology, go on with your discoveries. We will thank you for your facts; we will trample on your arbitrary inferences.

Astronomy, thou art a noble branch of science! How transportingly delightful must it be with thee to roam through the immensity of space, and view the wonders that thou hast discovered in the heavens! Go on