



A New Gnosticism

The Respectable Practice of Evangelical Burglary

Deuteronomy 29:29

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The secret things belong to the LORD our God,
but the things that are revealed
belong to us and to our children forever,
that we may do all the words of this law.

Main Point

If we do not understand and trust God's plan for revelation, we will be tempted to embrace practices aimed at burglarizing His secret counsel chambers.

Understanding Revelation

We must understand the content of God's revelation (*the what*).



Deuteronomy 29:29

The secret things belong to the LORD our God,
but the things that are revealed
belong to us and to our children forever,
that we may do all the words of this law.

God has revealed things to us.

Deuteronomy 29:29

The secret things belong to the LORD our God,

but **the things that are revealed**

belong to us and to our children forever,
that we may do all the words of this law.

God has hidden things from us.

Deuteronomy 29:29

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that we may do all the words of this law.

**The things revealed belong to His
people**

Deuteronomy 29:29

The secret things belong to the LORD our God,

but **the things** that are **revealed**
**belong to us and to our
children forever,**

that we may do all the words of this law.

The hidden things belong to Him

Deuteronomy 29:29

The secret things belong to the

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So, *what* does God reveal?

The Content of God's Revelation

God reveals *Himself* to us.

God reveals Himself!

Deuteronomy 4:35

To you it was shown that you might know that the LORD,
He is God; there is no other besides Him.

Deuteronomy 7:9

Know therefore that the LORD your God,
He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant
and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation
with those who love Him and keep His commandments.

God reveals Himself!

Psalm 9:16

The LORD has made Himself known...

Romans 1:19

...because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

He revealed it!

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The LORD has made Himself known...

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...because that which is known about God is evident

within them; for **God made it evident to them.**

The Content of God's Revelation

God reveals Himself to us.

God reveals *His will* to us.

Because God created us as His image bearers, His revelation of Himself to us is a revelation of His will for us.

Leviticus 11:44

“For I am the LORD your God.
Consecrate yourselves therefore,
and **be holy, for I am holy.**”

Deuteronomy 29:29

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What are these things?

Deuteronomy 29:29

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**The things revealed are His
Word.**

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**The things revealed are His
Words**

Deuteronomy 29:29

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that we may do **all the words of this law.**

His Word is His will for us!

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belong to us and to our children forever,

**that we may do all the words of this
law.**

Note Jesus' words...

Matthew 7:21

Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does **the will of My Father** who is in heaven will enter.

Jesus is speaking of God's will of command.

But what are the secret things?

Deuteronomy 29:29

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belong to us and to our children forever,
that we may do all the words of this law.

It would be important to know because
these things belong to the LORD!

It would be theft to take them!

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to the LORD our God,**

but the things that are revealed
belong to us and to our children forever,
that we may do all the words of this law.

What is the context?

The LORD has been instructing His people as to the blessings and curses of His covenant.

The secret things would include the *whys, hows, whats, and whens* of the LORD's dealings with His people.

Some Examples

Job

I will say to God, “Do not condemn me;
Let me know why You contend with me.” (10:2)

Job asked “why” more than a dozen
times,
but the LORD never told him!

Some Examples

Mark 4:26-27

And He was saying, “The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows — **how, he himself does not know.**”

Acts 1:7

He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority.”

Some Examples

John 21:21-22

“So Peter seeing [John] said to Jesus,
“Lord, and what about this man?” Jesus said to him,
“If I want him to remain until I come, **what is that to
you?**”

The *secret things* are God's dealings and plans and reasons that He has determined ***not*** to reveal to us.

We will be kept from attempting to burglarize the secret chambers of God by understanding *how* God reveals Himself and His will.

Understanding Revelation

We must understand the content of God's revelation (the what).

We must understand **the means**
of God's revelation (*the how*).



What means does God use?

Creation

General Revelation

Romans 1:19-20

That which is known about God is evident within them;
for God made it evident to them.

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes,
His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly
seen,
being understood through what has been made.

Psalms 97:6

The heavens declare His righteousness,
And all the peoples have seen His glory.

These reveal God!

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And all the peoples have seen **His glory.**

Because we can know the
Creator
of all things, we can know many
things about all that He created.

What means does God use?

Creation

Christ

John 1:18

No one has seen God at any time;
the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father,
He has explained Him.

John 14:9

Jesus said to him, “Have I been so long with you,
and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip?
He who has seen Me has seen the Father.”

Hebrews 1:1-3

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers
in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,
in these last days has spoken to us in His Son...

And He is the radiance of His glory
and the exact representation of His nature.

**Christ is the Word of God with
us!**

What means does God use?

Creation

Christ

Scripture

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The things revealed
are revealed by Words!

In the Law, the LORD reveals
Himself to His people.

In the Law, the LORD reveals
His will for His people.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
so that the man of God may be adequate,
equipped for every good work.

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for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
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2 Peter 1:2-3

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

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The Westminster Catechism

“The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man’s salvation, faith and life, is either expressly stated in Scripture or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture.”

By that which is explicit

“The whole counsel of God concerning
all things necessary for his own glory,
man’s salvation, faith and life,

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The Westminster Catechism

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.

Faithful meditation upon God's Law
will yield for us tremendous fruit
in our ability to discern God's will for us
in the day to day of our lives.

Consider the insights gained from
meditation upon *the one*
command,
“You shall not murder”?

What means does God use?

Creation

Christ

Scripture

The Holy Spirit

Remember...

Deuteronomy 29:4

But to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear.

Man cannot understand, see, or hear apart from God's grace.

The Spirit is the Helper and Illuminator

John 14:16-17

I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see

Him

or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

The Holy Spirit illuminates the mind

1 Corinthians 2:14-16

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

But he who is spiritual appraises all things,
yet he himself is appraised by no one.

*For who has known the mind of the Lord,
that he will instruct him?*

But we have the mind of Christ.

The Spirit uses the Word of God to light the way of God for the people of God.

His illumination is not revelation *in addition* to God's Word but enlightenment *from* God's Word.

Psalm 19:8

The commandment of the LORD is pure,
enlightening the eyes.

So, does the Spirit speak to us?

Understanding Revelation

We must understand the content of God's revelation (the what).

We must understand the means of God's revelation (the how).

We must understand the reason
for God's revelation (*the why*).



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law.**

But why?

For His own glory!

Matthew 5:16

Let your light shine before men in such a way **that they**
may
see your good works, and **glorify your Father who is in**
heaven.

For His own glory!

Ephesians 1:5-6, 12, 14

He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,
to the praise of the glory of His grace...

...to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be **to the praise of His glory.**

...who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, **to the praise of His glory.**

Philippians 1:11

...having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, **to the glory and praise of God.**

New Gnostics and Evangelical Burglars

What is the new Gnosticism and the
respectable practice of Evangelical
burglary?



Gnostic Evangelicalism

What is the new Evangelical
Gnosticism?

What is the old Gnosticism?

The belief that knowledge of God and salvation, is not intellectual but mystical and comes through experiences of special revelation or enlightenment.

The Gnostics believed they had special access to knowledge.

What is the new Evangelical Gnosticism?

The belief that at least some knowledge of God's plans, intentions, and will is not intellectual but mystical and comes through experiences of special revelation or enlightenment.

The Evangelical Gnostic believes in *private* words, visions, and revelations from God.

An Example:

“God is raising a generation of prophets, apostles and an apostolic prophetic generation who will reveal that one of the main positions of the office of the prophet and apostle is to stand and abide in the secret place. It is there they will receive God's secret counsel to act as pillars to manifest and establish His will in the earth.”

Evangelical Burglars

What is the respectable practice
of Evangelical burglary?

It is the common belief that God will use private mystical experiences to reveal His will to us that lead to claims of “God told me...” .

It is the common and acceptable claim to special revelation!

Why?

A flattened view of Scripture.

An individualized faith.

A desire for spiritual validation.

A desire to justify decisions.

Conclusion:

If you will properly embrace
God's Word, it will prove
fruitful for all of your life and
will free you to rest in its
sufficiency!