

Studying to the Glory of God

Daniel 1

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Informal survey

- Why did you go to college?
 - “It was the default plan.”
 - “My parents expected me to.”
 - “So I can get a better job.”
 - “It was what everyone else was going to do.”
 - “I had no idea what else I could do.”
 - “To get away from my parents.”

Informal survey

- Why do you study?
 - “So I can pass my classes.”
 - “So I can get a job / better job.”
 - “Because otherwise my parents would be angry.”
 - “So I can get into grad school.”
 - “So I don’t look like a bum.”
 - “So I don’t get kicked out of UCLA...so humiliating.”

Special revelation and general revelation

| | Special revelation | General revelation |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| a.k.a | Revealed theology | Natural theology |
| Revealed in | Scripture | Natural world |
| Accessible to | Specific people (Jews, Christians) | All people |
| God's existence | Assumes God's existence | Provides evidence for God's existence |
| Sufficiency for salvation, faith, and conduct | Sufficient | Insufficient |
| Propriety for fixing your car or building a house | Improper | Proper |

Special revelation and general revelation

“The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands” (Ps 19:1).

“For since the creation of the world [God’s] invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made...” (Rom 1:20).

“The whole creation of God preaches!” (Jonathan Edwards)

“(The universe was) built for us by by the Best and Most Orderly Workman of all...How exceedingly fine is the godlike work of the Best and Greatest Artist” (Nicolaus Copernicus).

Special revelation and general revelation

| Special revelation | General revelation |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| " <u>T</u> ruth" | " <u>t</u> ruth" |

"All truth is God's truth, but not all truth is God's Word."

Special revelation and general revelation

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Creation and the Fall

Creation

Special
revelation

+

General
revelation



The Fall

Special
revelation

+

General
revelation

+

Lies of
Satan & world



Today

Scripture

+

(General revelation)

Secular
studies

(Lies of Satan & world)

Discernment and studying

| | Liberal undiscerning Christian | Conservative undiscerning Christian | Biblically discerning Christian |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Scripture (<u>T</u> ruth) | Accepts | Accepts | Accepts |
| General revelation (<u>t</u> ruth) | Accepts | Rejects | Accepts |
| Lies of Satan and the world | | | Rejects |

Discernment and studying

