## $\sqrt{47}$ Understanding the Bible

## or what His will is for us?

The God who discloses *Himself*, but discloses nothing *about* Himself, is an *unknown God*! In fact, the God who discloses nothing about Himself is a philosophical abstraction, an empty concept, a form without content. And He is certainly not the God of the Bible, who speaks and makes Himself known! As Paul on Mars' Hill did not hesitate to declare to the philosophers and citizens of Athens their unknown god, revealing Him to be the creator, the sustainer, the ruler, the redeemer, and the judge, so God's Word in the Bible unhesitatingly declares to modern liberal theologians their unknown god, revealing His nature, His works, and His will!

Earlier, as part of the fourth question, we asked how the conceptual knowledge of God given in Scripture relates to my personal knowledge of and relationship to God. We have found that God has disclosed to us His Word concerning His nature, His works, and His will. Now we also discover that our personal knowledge of saving relationship to Christ is mediated by the Holy Spirit through His revelation of the truths concerning Christ's person and redemptive work. Through His quickening work and through His Word the Holy Spirit unites us to Christ through faith, and in doing so He brings us into vital union with all of the saving benefits Christ has purchased for us. Thus personal knowledge of Christ is acquired via factual knowledge of God's revealed truth. Is this personal knowledge of Christ also maintained by the same means? It would appear so. Thus our fellowship with Christ, our continuing personal relationship with Christ, our ongoing experience of Christ, is maintained by the Holy Spirit via factual knowledge of God's Word as to who Christ is and what Christ has done, is doing, and will yet do. As we steep ourselves in God's Word, seeking always to understand, trust in, and obey that Word, we shall come to know God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit more fully, more deeply, more intimately, until at last our faith is exchanged for sight, and we see Him whom, having not yet seen, nevertheless we love, in whom believing we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory!

This mention of the word "glory" prompts me to take a fleeting look at the title of this paper -- "Revelation: the Word that Discloses God's Glory" and to ask: Why the inclusion of "glory" in the title? Actually, the concept of glory seems to be a particularly happy one to summarize the