

nature and through His Spirit, He gives us an understanding so that we can know Him and do know Him, partially yet truly.

Does God's revelation of His will count as self-disclosure? That is, does God's revealed Law -- defined as the will of God addressed to man's obedience at any given time -- reflect His holy and righteous character? Not if God's nature is completely opposite to His revealed will. Not if God's Law has not really been revealed, but is simply the product of man's attempts to conceive of what God's will might be!

Has God revealed His will? In the Garden of Eden He told our first parents to subdue the earth and rule over all of its creatures, and to take care of the Garden, but not to eat of the forbidden tree. Later God made a covenant with Noah and gave him commands. Still later God gave the people of Israel His ten "words" inscribed on stone. In Exodus 31:18 we read that "When the Lord finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the Testimony, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God." And in Exodus 32:15-16 we read that "Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back. The tablets were the work of God, the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets." Again and again God revealed His will through His prophets and apostles, and preeminently through His Son.

But is the revealed will of God completely contrary to His revealed nature? In the Bible we find just the opposite. We discover that God is righteous, and that His revealed will is righteous. In Psalm 119:75 we read, "I know, O Lord, that your laws are righteous." And in verses 137-138 we read, "Righteous are you, O Lord, and your laws are right. The statutes you have laid down are righteous; they are fully trustworthy." And in Psalm 19:7-10 we read that the law of the Lord is perfect, trustworthy, right, radiant, sure, altogether righteous, more precious than gold, and sweeter than fresh honey! God's justice, righteousness, and holiness are beautifully mirrored in His perfect Law!

But now we must ask, Does God's revelation of His works count as self-disclosure? Do His works of creation and providence and miracle and redemption and judgment reveal His nature? Not if the events represented by these designations are not really divine works at all, but simply the outworking of natural forces operating by chance. Not if these events are sufficiently ambiguous in their origin or character that we cannot assign them to the category of the supernatural. And not if these works are unaccompanied by any explanation of their meaning, so that we are left to place upon them any interpretation that we may wish.

Has God revealed Himself in His works? Does His material universe reveal Him as the divine, powerful, wise, skillful and benevolent Creator and Preserver of the world? Does the nature of man reveal Him as the knowing, personal, holy, and just Lawgiver