

9/14/25

## **Sermon – Faith Before Knowledge**

### **Scripture – 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:7**

#### **Main Message – The Real Truth answers the “WHY” of our universe.**

The Gnostics of Old – Learn as much spiritual knowledge so you can unlock the truth

The Gnostics of Today – Learn as much Science about the universe so we unlock the truth.

Neither of these empirical, learned, scientific studies will ever answer the question, WHY? This contemporary mindset, much like its ancient predecessor, elevates specialized knowledge—now cloaked in empirical data—above faith, promising salvation through endless scientific “revelations.”

#### **Read 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:7**

God’s Creation Defies Reductionism: Modern Gnosticism, often manifesting as scientism, reduces the universe to mere matter and mechanism, dismissing any transcendent purpose. The Creed declares, “I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth” (Genesis 1:1; Psalm 89:11), asserting that the cosmos is the purposeful work of a sovereign God. Science may describe the “how” of creation, but only faith in the Creator answers the “why,” exposing the limits of empirical inquiry.

1. **Incarnation Challenges Abstract Knowledge:** Those who idolize science often treat truth as impersonal data, detached from divine relationship. The Creed counters, “And in Jesus Christ... conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary” (Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:35), proclaiming that ultimate truth is a person—Jesus, God incarnate. This historical reality defies reduction to laboratory analysis, demanding faith in God’s intervention in human history.
2. **Christ’s Work Outshines Scientific Salvation:** Modern Gnosticism seeks redemption through technological progress or intellectual breakthroughs, yet each new discovery yields more questions, never ultimate answers. The Creed’s affirmation of Christ’s suffering, death, and resurrection (Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 27:26, 50-60; 1 Corinthians 15:4) presents a completed act of salvation, far surpassing science’s fleeting “continued revelations.” Christ’s cross and empty tomb offer what no algorithm can: reconciliation with God.
3. **Bodily Resurrection Rejects Escapist Ideals:** Some modern ideologies, like transhumanism, envision transcending the body through technology, echoing ancient Gnostic disdain for the physical. The Creed’s “resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting” (Daniel 12:2; 1 Corinthians 15:52-53) defends the eternal value of embodied existence, rooted in God’s redemptive plan, not human innovation.
4. **Communal Faith Over Individual Elitism:** The scientific quest for truth can foster an elitist mindset, accessible only to experts. In contrast, the Creed’s “holy catholic Church, the communion of saints” (Ephesians 2:19-20; Psalm 133:1) grounds truth in a universal community of believers. This shared faith, open to all, dismantles the notion that only the intellectually privileged grasp reality.

The Apostles’ Creed confronts modern Gnosticism’s claim that science is humanity’s sole guide. As 2 Timothy 3:7 cautions, the endless chase for new knowledge without God’s truth leads to futility. The Creed, rooted in Scripture and history, calls us to faith in God’s revealed acts—creation, incarnation, redemption, and resurrection—providing the certainty and hope that science’s ever-shifting revelations can never deliver.