
HISTORICAL AND THEOLOGICAL COMMENTARY ON IGNORANCE

SMALL RELIGIOUS groups, called “sectaries” in the seventeenth century, were plentiful in Bunyan’s time. Some had a peculiar emphasis on “inner light” as the leading principle in their lives. It was not that the Word of God was unimportant to them but that this subjective standard seemed to play the dominant role in their practice. Bunyan, as he writes, asserts an objective, infallible Bible from which revelation comes. In discussions with Ignorance, Christian attempts to cut through Ignorance’s basis of assurance that “my heart tells me so,” with the response, “Except the Word of God beareth witness in this matter, other testimony is of no value.”

In today’s changing religious landscape, the propositional truth foundation of church teaching from centuries ago is rapidly shifting toward a kind of “spirit-induced inner light.” Frequently we hear, “God told me” The touchstone of Scripture is being incrementally moved aside for a more subjective knowledge, allegedly coming directly from Heaven itself. This kind of neo-mysticism is rapidly making its way into the pews of the average evangelical church.

We ought never to forget that *Sola Scriptura* was the watchword of the Reformation. Scripture alone is still the only basis for faith and practice.
