

principle which God had known from the beginning.

Since William Harvey's time science has overwhelmingly demonstrated many other facts concerning the natural world. A few of these are: that tree rings represent annual growth, that many species of organisms produce reproductive cells which unite (instead of just "seed" growing in a womb), that mosquitoes carry malaria, that many kinds of bacteria exist, that iron is more dense than aluminum, that the sun is farther from the earth than the moon, that there are rocks on the moon, etc. Certainly these are all cases where God has allowed men to finally discover some of what He knew all along to be true.

This principle then gives us confidence that at least many of the discoveries of science are true and reliable, because they are merely a revealing of what was long ago included in God's knowledge of what He had established. Thus the argument which we sometimes hear, that all observations made by man are uncertain and theoretical, is erroneous.

Uncertainty and Change in Science

It is sometimes said that because scientific theories change, and because some of the material of science becomes outdated, that all discoveries of science are tentative and uncertain. This is a misunderstanding, based on a lack of familiarity with science. We frequently hear very misleading statements, such as, "Every science textbook is out-of-date within five years of the date of publication." It is true that the style of presenting the material, additional discoveries of the finer details of living cells, and changes in opinion as to what should be taught in a given course, encourage the frequent revision of textbooks. But the basic facts of the books are not changing. For example, we have recently heard that there is some uncertainty and some new evidence concerning the exact shape of the earth, but the basic fact that the earth is essentially a globe is demonstrated many times daily by air vehicles traveling to distant destinations, and finally arriving at their starting point by flying around the earth. Science may discover numerous high or low points on the globe, but will not some day decide that the earth is thin like a pancake!

As those of us who are in science, work at our profession, we constantly encounter both chemical and biological data which have been published and known ever since the early days of science--the densities of various elements, certain characteristics of various living cells, types of reproduction in organisms, etc. Science is always learning more details concerning the things we study, but as R. W. Maatman says, "New knowledge rarely proves older ideas to be wrong."⁵ Maatman then goes on to explain and illustrate this principle:

What does happen is that older ideas may be seen in a new context. Consider the example of quantum mechanics and Newton's laws. Some persons have erred in claiming