



Thoughts About Ministry

THOUGHTS



▲ John Gryz

Okay, I will finish my thoughts about “knowing” and ministry with this reflection. If Jesus in His final moments, with the weight of the cross beginning its descent upon Him, can say those words to the Father in this truly “Lord’s Prayer,” I believe they are of utmost import. If I add to this the possibility that this Gospel of John may have been a post-Revelation writing and a final closing to the gospels bearing the name of a disciple, then this definition of eternal life (“that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent”) holds a very special place in the canon. Arguably, it is the latest word occupying the space of our Bibles. And this prayer comes from the lips of a man knowing He is about to die. And the two crucial points at the outset of his prayer is: Know God, Know Jesus. If I understand this “knowing” within the framework of a life limited upon this earth and a life opening into the unknown of eternity, I recognize the limitations that come with “knowing.” The knowing of God and the knowing of Jesus now prepares us for the knowing of God and the knowing of Jesus into infinite eternity. What we know now holds a candle against the sun of what is unknown and yet, to be discovered in infinite eternity. Thus, following Jesus (“discipleship”) is about preparing us for dealing with the unknown...as much as dealing with the known. We “know” sufficiently to place our lives in the hands of this God and this Jesus. And yet, this “knowing” remains thoroughly unfilled and thus, unfulfilling. And it is this that can open us up to humility and the death of hubris. When I realize that I hold a candle to the sun, I can speak with a different sense regarding the power of the candle. I recognize the rightful place of the candle—it undeniably serves against the darkness in my room. However, it is only a foretaste of the soon to come dawn. And when that dawn comes and the day emerges, the candle will dissipate in the fullness of the sun’s rays.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

The last issue of *Thoughts About Ministry* could not occur due to office illness.



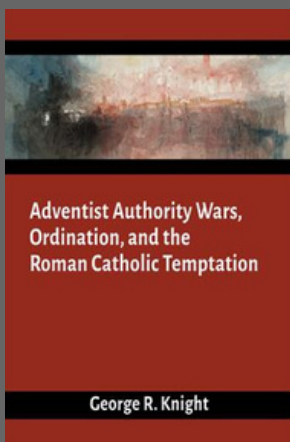
I look forward to being with you and your families in a little over a week. We have a special itinerary planned: a visit to all things Abraham Lincoln in Springfield. Pete is putting together an exciting day there together.



There will be no issue in two weeks as we will be completing our Pastor's Family Retreat.



Book Notes



Not to stir a hornet's nest but to advance a wider consideration, the following provocative statement by my former seminary professor invites a deeper reflection: "The real issue in Adventism today is not the ordination of female pastors but the issue of authority." In his work, *Adventist Authority Wars, Ordination, and the Roman Catholic Temptation*, retired professor Dr. George Knight presents a discussion about the question of ecclesiastical authority.