from God, it may mistakenly expect something too deep and mysterious for ordinary understanding.

However, God’s words have never been too difficult either to understand or to obey.

When Moses was giving God’s law to his people, he said, "What I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you. It is not beyond your reach" (Deu 30:11)

When Paul wrote by divine inspiration to the Corinthians, he said, "I do not write to you anything more than what you can read and understand" (2Co 1:13). Later he said, "I fear lest... you should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" (2Co 11:3).

Peter admits that Paul’s letters "contain some things hard to understand" but not too hard. Peter blames distortions of what Paul said, not on any complexity in Paul’s letters, but on the readers being "ignorant and unstable" (2Pe 3:15-16). God’s word is meant to be understood and God made it simple enough to be understood.

Second Untruth
“You Need to be a Scholar”

Are the scriptures so complicated and difficult that one needs higher education to understand them?

Don’t get me wrong. Scholarship is not a bad thing. Do they not translate the Bible for us? However not everyone can be a scholar. It would be very unfair of God to make his word available only to those with the ability and opportunity to be scholars. There is the problem, too, that many scholars think God’s word is foolishness and many scholars are confounded by God’s word (Isa 29:14, 1Co 1:18-31).

Paul is a good example. He was a scholar of some note, and his was the era of enlightenment and wisdom from such scholars as Socrates, Aristotle, and Plato. His own teacher was the eminent Gamaliel (Acts 22:3). But it took an experience on the road to Damascus to really ‘educate’ Paul and awaken him to the truth. His scholarship had not enlightened him (Acts 22:6).

When Paul later stood up in the Areopagus to address scholars of his day, his message was impressively simple (Acts 17:22-31).

It is not scholarship as such, but "a love of the truth" and the will to do God’s will --that is what you need (2Th 2:10-11 Jhn 7:17). It is a pity to waste your life reading too many books of uninspired men whose theories contradict each other. Rather be devoted to the words of the prophets of God, and of Jesus and his apostles (Eccl 12:9-14 2Pe 3:2).

As we leave this point, here’s an appropriate thought...

- Skill in calculus is not essential to doing your tax return.
- Knowing chemistry doesn’t necessarily make you a good cook.
- Understanding photosynthesis doesn’t make you an expert gardener.
- Being a scholar does not ensure that you understand the scriptures.

Third Untruth
“You Need a Key to the Scriptures”

Some feel that you have to know some kind of key or system to unlock the "secrets" hidden in the Bible. But the gospel itself is "the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past" (Ro 16:25). Note carefully what Paul says there. The New Testament is not a mystery needing some key. It is a revelation. It is the key that unlocks and opens the door of understanding.

The Bible is not "a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma." The Bible explains the mysteries and explains itself. It is "a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" (Psa 119:105).

One part of the Bible is the key to another part. No system or key devised by man will help. All you need to do is discover