

# *Faith Bible Church*

“Problem” of Evil-7: Job and Suffering

## **Romans 5:1-11**

**Any Questions?**

These slides are available  
at <http://www.fbcweb.org/sermons.html>

# Philosophical/Theological/Doctrinal & Spiritual Foundations

## Bible Doctrines

Eschatology  
 Thanatology  
 Ecclesiology  
 Israelology  
 Dispensationalism  
 Doxology  
 Hodology  
 Soteriology  
 Hamartiology  
 Natural Law  
 Anthropology  
 Angelology  
 Pneumatology  
 Christology  
 Paterology  
 Trinitarianism  
 Cosmology  
 Theology Proper  
 Bibliology  
 Prolegomena

Broad and deep understanding of BD

The nature and importance of maturity (τέλειος, teleios).

Maturity is always related to Bible doctrine/divine viewpoint working under the salubrious ministry of God the Holy Spirit (enlightening and empowering).

Maturity is not just how you handle problems with truth here and there like 2+2 = 4, there is so much more to God and Reality as such.

Logos Philosophy

- Logic (32)
- Truth (15)
- Metaphysics

**1 Corinthians 2:9** but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And *which* have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him.

Enough BD to be overcomer

1 John 2:14, "you are strong, and the word of God abides in you"

Lacks BD, DV

Eph 4:14, children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming

## Mature Believer – Level 3- Metaphysical Maturity

- High abstract metaphysical understanding of BD; Esse, HU, Trinity, Evil, Good,
- Enormous capacity for synthesis of BD and grasping of spiritual realities.
- Required to understand Trinity, free will, evil, good, the human soul, the hypostatic union, substances and properties, philosophy of mind.

## Young adult – Level 2- Doctrinal conceptualization

- Cf. Doctrine of evil
- Systematic understanding

## Baby – Level 1 = Basic Bible verses

- Basic passages on evil, good, God.
- Limited to isolated Bible verses
- Compare this level of understanding in the sciences where one starts with only the particulars of science.
- Lack of cohesion
- Empirically oriented (empiricism always leads to skepticism)

# Truth-15 – From Theories of Truth to Tests for Truth

1. The 6 contemporary views of truth
  - Coherence
  - Pragmatic
  - Functional
  - Existential
  - Fragmented (Fundamentalist, Scientism)
  - ✓ CORRESPONDENCE = Total Truth (the correspondence truth does have very powerful, pragmatic and existential qualities)

## Truth-15 – From Theories of Truth to Tests for Truth

2. One of the biggest challenges in our pre-evangelistic ministry to unbelievers is in communicating Christianity as correspondence Truth, Total Truth.
3. This is because most unbelievers in our postmodern epoch view religion as functional truth rather than reality as such (cf., NOMA of Stephen Jay Gould).

## Truth-15 – From Theories of Truth to Tests for Truth

4. It is unfortunate that many Christians also view Christianity and Bible doctrine in *individual* functional terms, rather than reality as such. As long as a believer has *merely* a functional view of truth, he is not really positive. As soon as the “benes” are outweighed by “troubles,” he is gone.
5. Every person, believer and unbeliever, seeks what he thinks is his best. All people who are in negative volition are simply on the Ecclesiastes’ merry-go-round. One does not have to join a Negative Volition club to be negative.

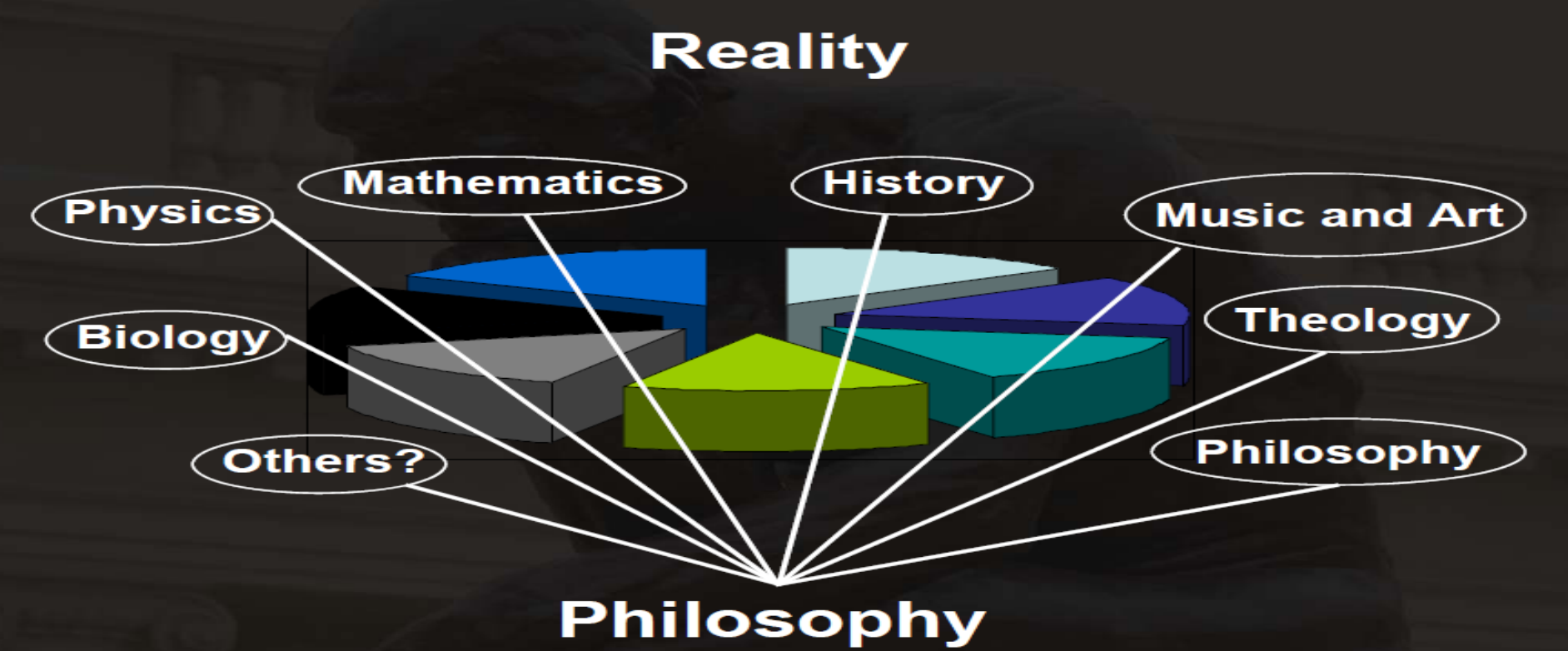
## Truth-15 – From Theories of Truth to Tests for Truth

6. We now live in the most anti-intellectual age of church history. Not only with regard to the Bible and Bible doctrine but with regard to all of the theology that is tethered to metaphysics.
7. Due to fragmented view of reality, unbelievers, both in society as well as in academia, are the most anti-intellectual when it comes to reality as such—that is, metaphysics. We live in the most philosophically and metaphysically ignorant/naïve age in 2,500 years. The results are devastating.

## Truth-15 – From Theories of Truth to Tests for Truth

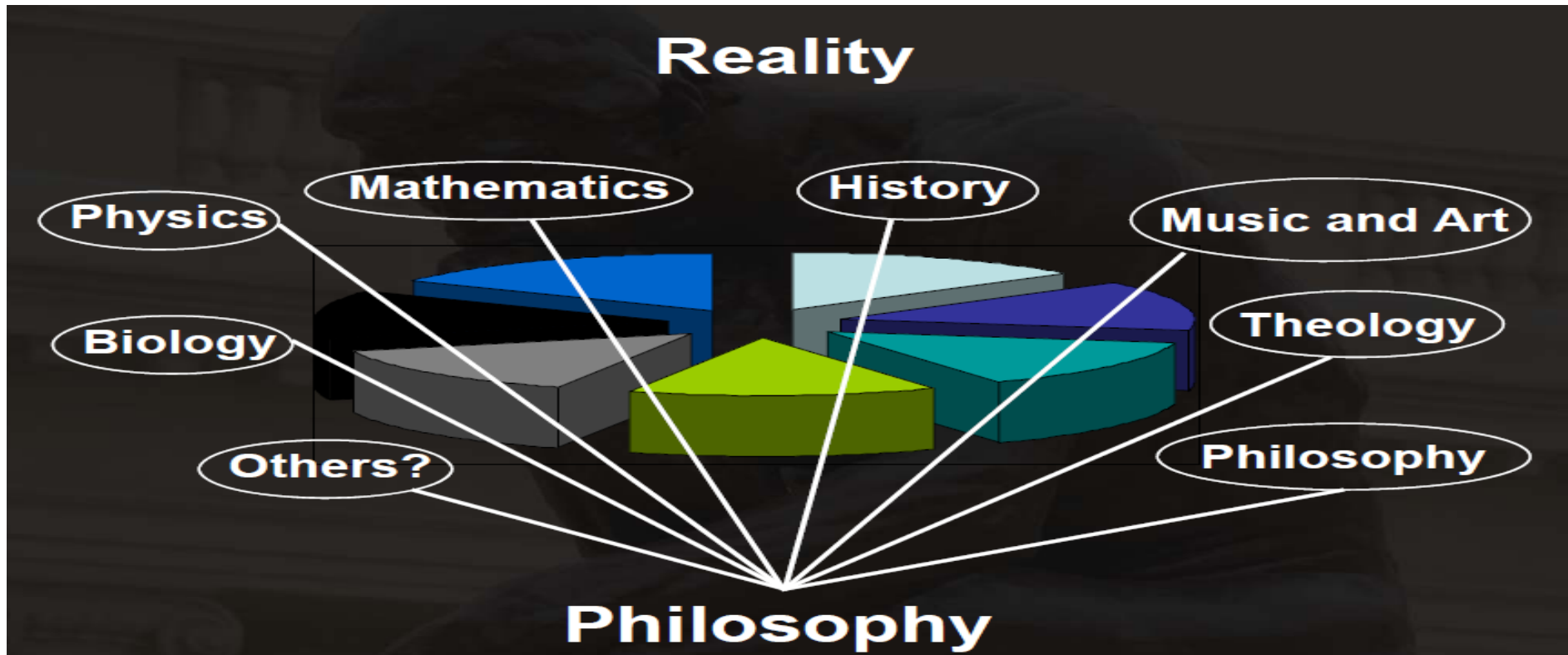
8. Although both the Christian and the unbeliever, in their respective anti-intellectualisms, are guilty of blind faith, the Christian is actually in a better epistemic position in intuitively believing in God as the best explanation for creation, design, and morality in the world. The unbeliever is the ultimate hypocrite and fool as he represses knowledge of God (Rom. 1-2). He loses all justification for all of the things he holds dear, including self, logic and rationality. For the Christian, anti-intellectualism has resulted in massive heresy. For the kosmos it is OK to be a “heretic;” in our world it is easy to scoff at the very mention of the term. In our Zeitgeist it can even be “cool” to be a heretic: Far better to be a buffoon in regard to God and metaphysics than a buffoon with regard to science and the particulars—according to kosmos diabolicus.

9. The history of the West is can be summed up as going from one fragmented view of truth (metaphysics, biology) to another (scientism).

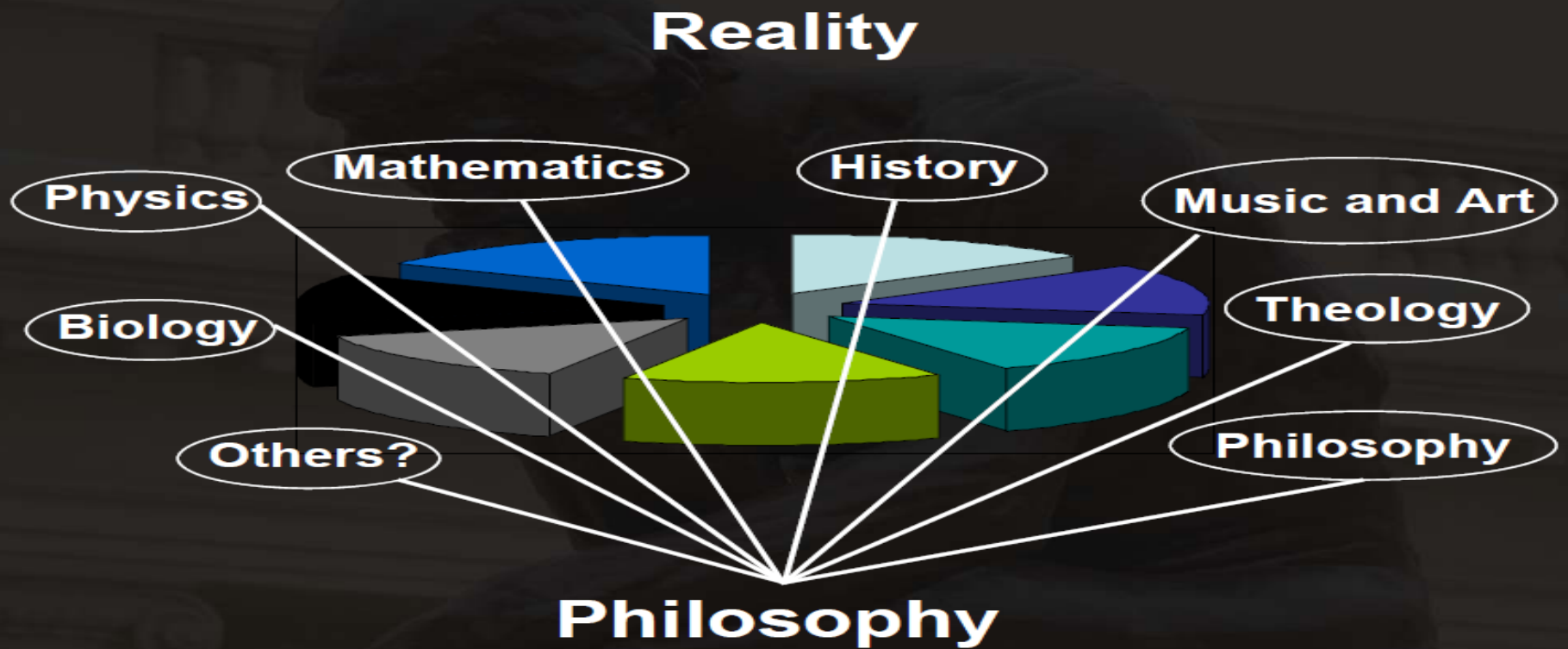




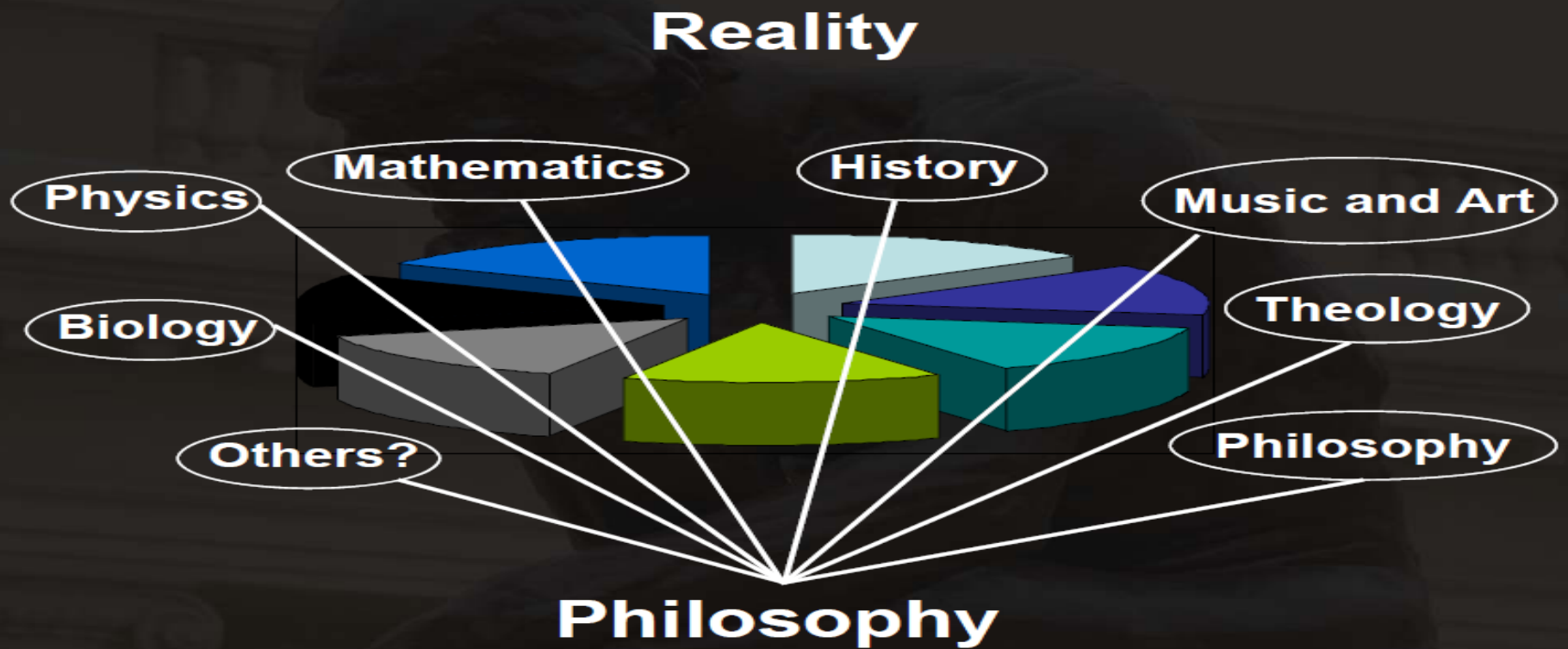
10. There are different slices of reality (metaphysics) and the great error in history is when the tools of analysis and methods of inquiry appropriate for one of the slices of reality are applied inappropriately to another slice of reality.



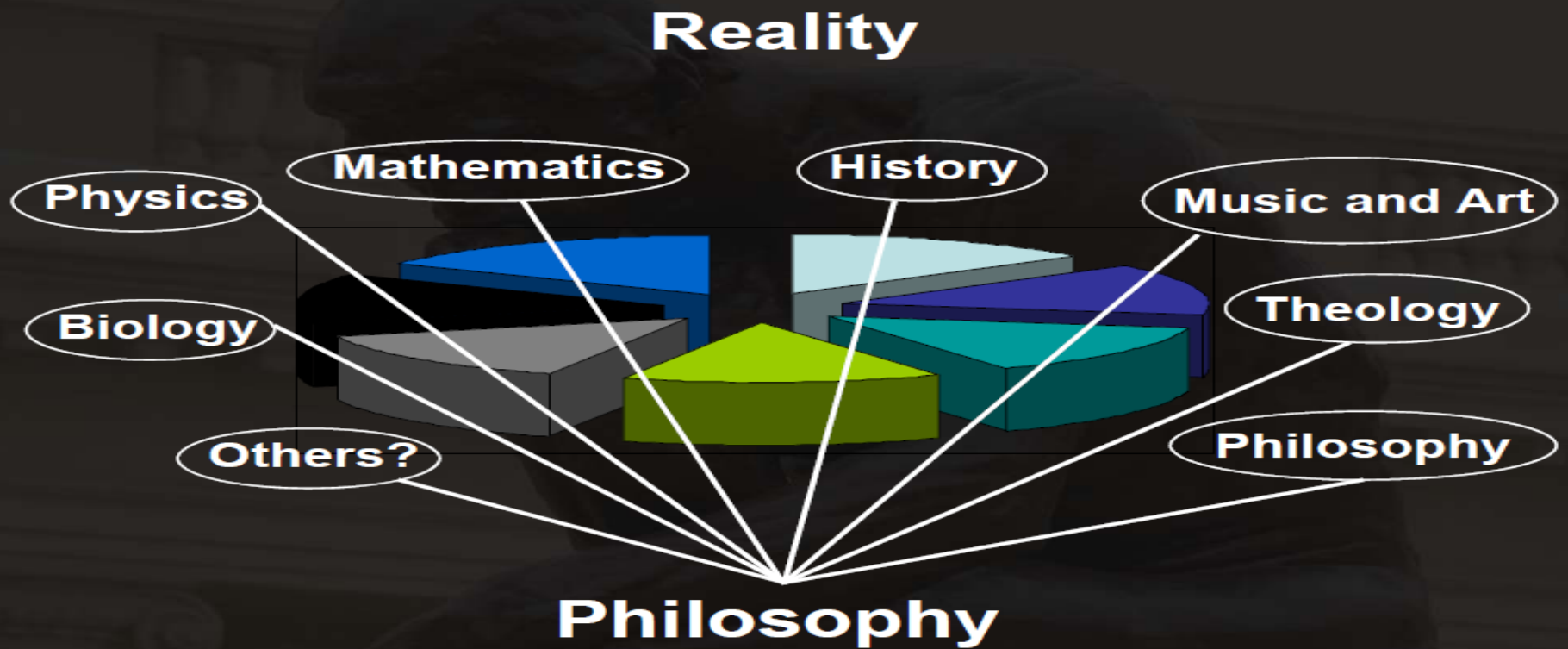
11. What tool would you use to investigate the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Living things? Moving things? Triangles? Aesthetics? Christ's death? Christ's substitutionary atonement? God? Is God a mathematical truth? Is the 16<sup>th</sup> president of the United States a mathematical truth? The only things you can prove mathematically are mathematical truths.



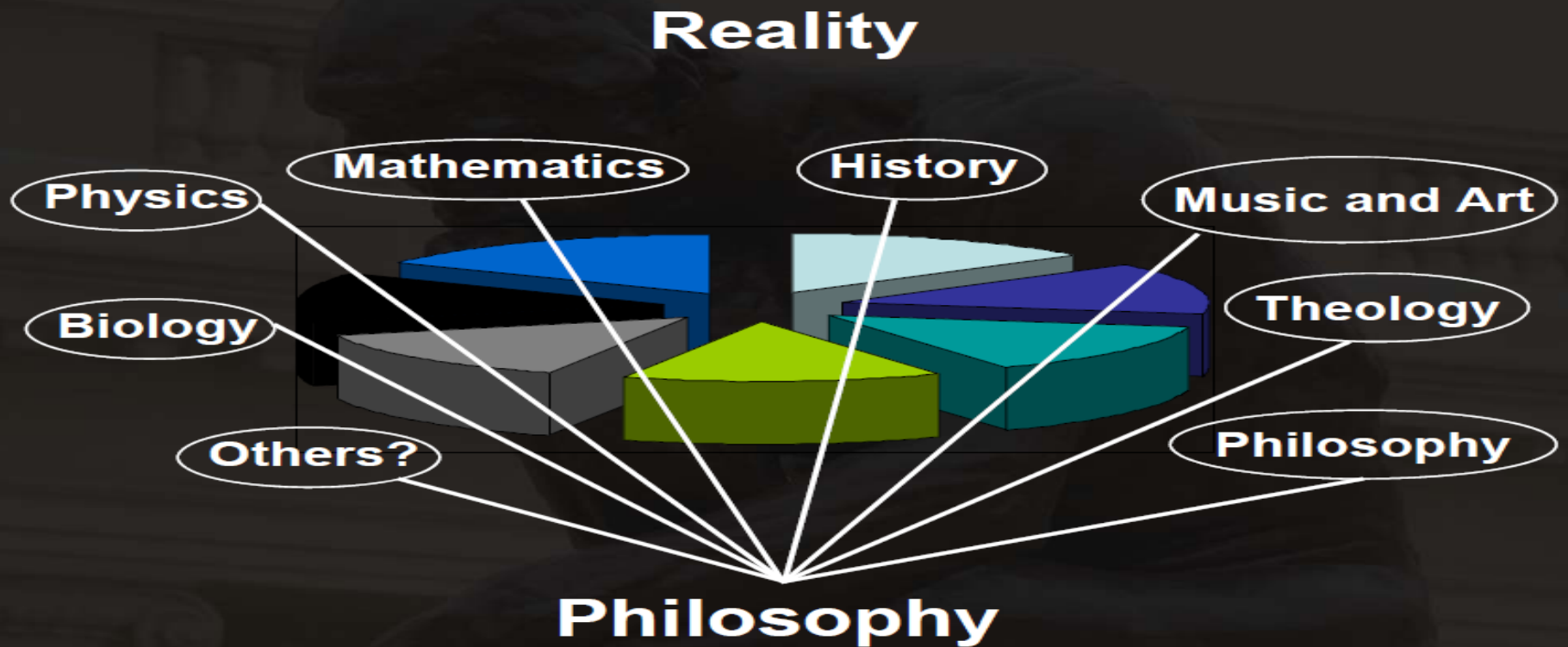
12. The slices of reality: biology is being/reality insofar as living; physics is reality as much as it is moving; mathematics is being in as much as it is quantifiable; aesthetics is being as much as it is desirable. History is replete with examples of the error in taking the tools of analysis of one discipline to use illicitly in another, cf. Aristotle, Descartes, Kant, modern scientism.



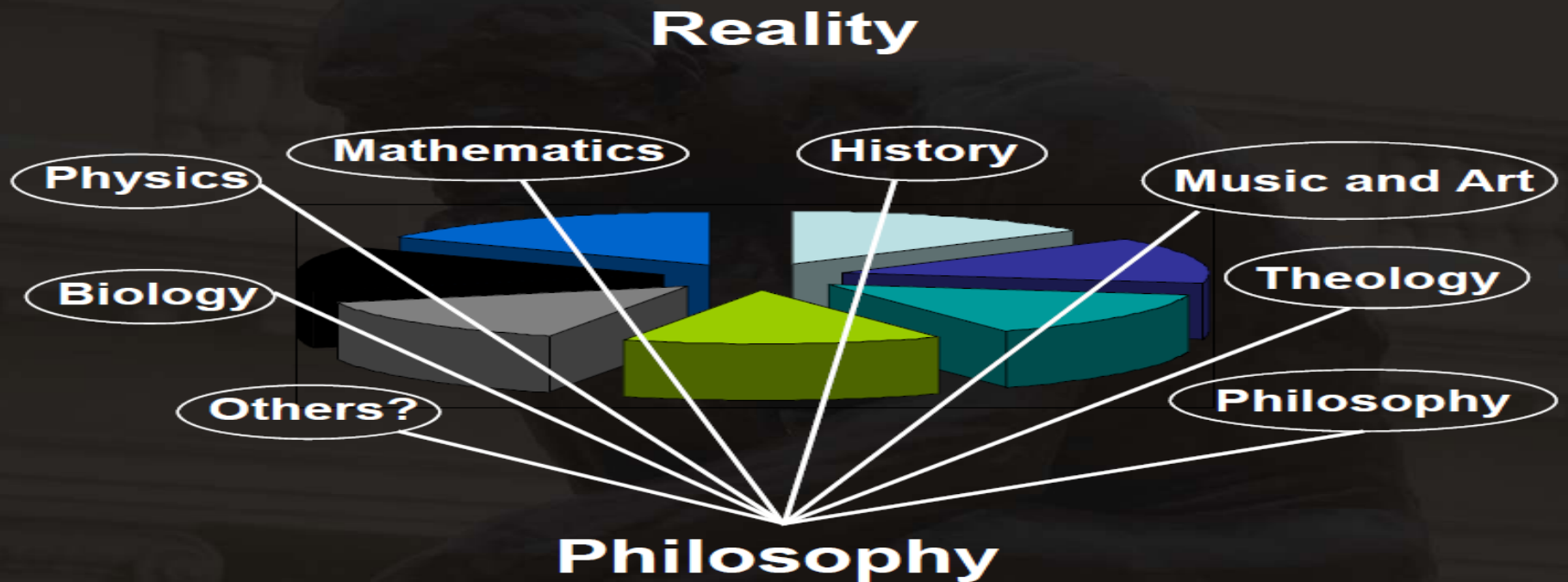
13. The shift from gross emphasis from metaphysics to scientism (cf. positivism) effectively “killed” metaphysics and human nature. This is why we are in such horrible times. The physicists can go quantify everything from the lepton, to the atom, to the molecule, to the “person,” except there is no person to be found.



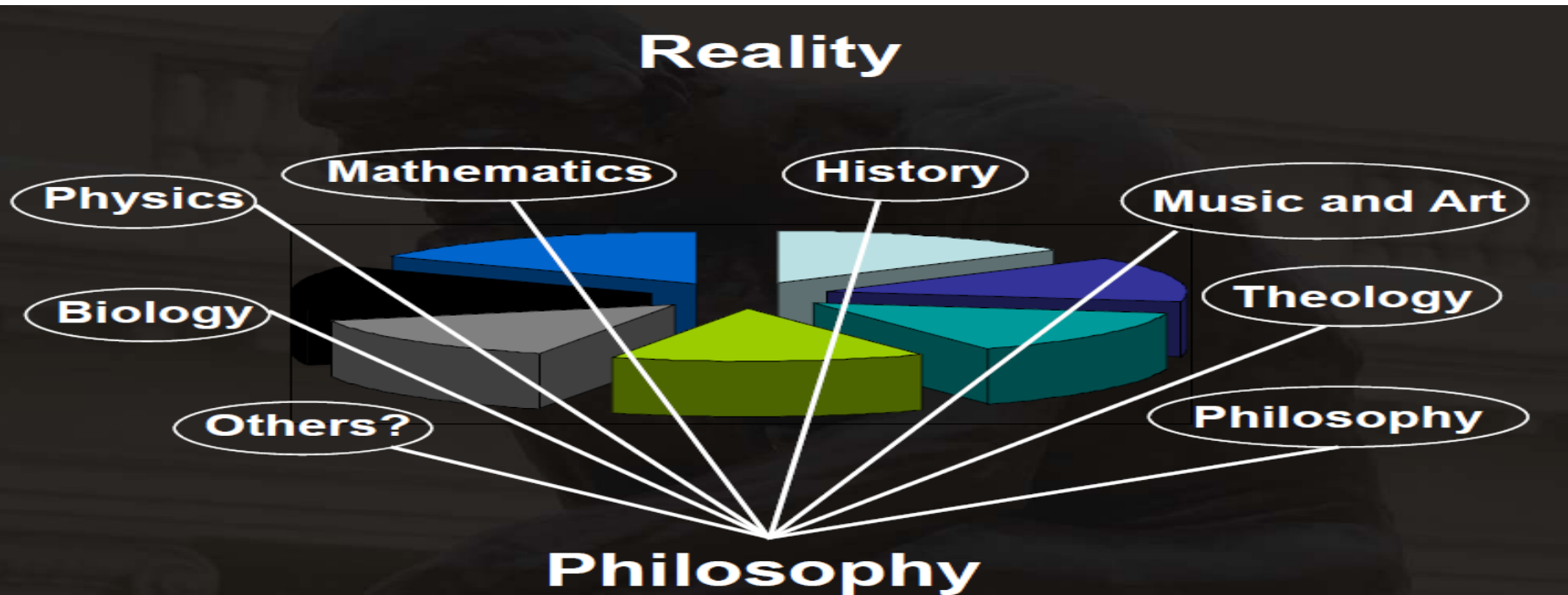
14. Along with the destruction of metaphysics comes the “loss” of reality in value, ethics, God, spirituality. Man went from being very concerned with being out of the good grace of the church and Christianity to only caring about not being out of the good “grace” of science—because now science is everything! Man scoffs at being labeled a heretic, but don’t you dare insult him by calling him unscientific.



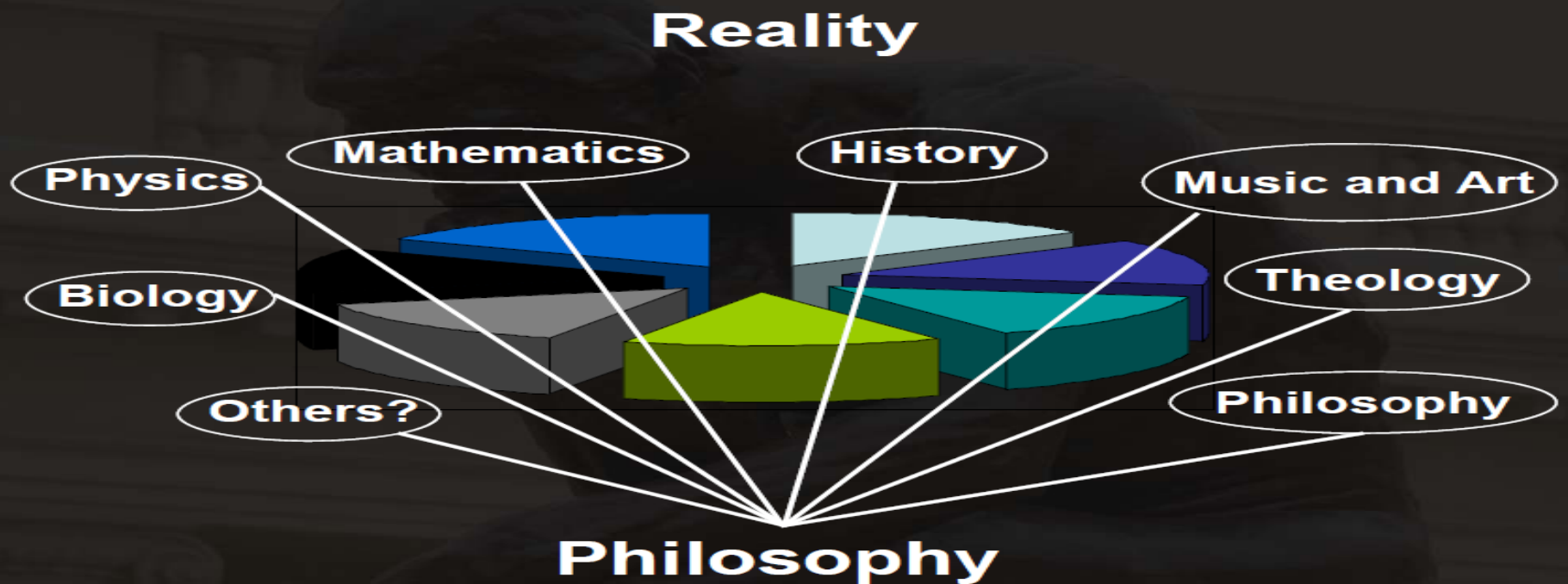
15. Science is no more the be-all or end-all or do all of Truth than any of the disciplines. There are many slices of reality/Truth. All science is the *empirical* study of physical entities—no more or no less.
16. The more scientism molds one's thoughts, the more radical one's empirical orientation is, the more skeptical he will be about God and the things of God (and the more diminished capacity for rationalism he will have).



17. All slices of reality have one thing in common: esse (existence, reality, metaphysics, reality as such). Not being as living, or moving, or as quantifiable but being as such--metaphysics. When one properly examines metaphysics/reality as such, he “runs” into God—not a vanilla God, but God with the robust attributes of simplicity, aseity, omniscience, omnipotence, impassibility. They all come from this classical understanding of the nature of existence: metaphysics. All of the attributes of God stand or fall together.



18. We now live in an age of metaphysical ignorance with a very high price. Auguste Comte's positivism eliminates all metaphysics from philosophy and restricts scientific knowledge to "facts" and relations to facts. However, how many atoms or molecules are there in truth?





19. Consider the results of the rejection of metaphysics

- ✓ No human nature, cf. same sex marriage, gay marriage.
- ✓ No human freewill—determinism; man is not responsible.
- ✓ Materialistic view of man—cf. anthropology, epiphenomenalism, psychology.
- ✓ No basis for right and wrong (ethics).
- ✓ No universals—only particulars.
- ✓ Spawning of Christian heresies with regard to Trinity, hypostatic union, simplicity of God, aseity, lack of understanding of God as Good, the nature of evil, et al.
- ✓ No immortal soul.
- ✓ Fideism.
- ✓ No God—when everything is measured by sense perception, there is no room for God
- ✓ Lack of capacity to believe in God, cf. Fred Hoyle, *God and the Astronomers*.

20. Repression of metaphysical truths goes hand in hand with repression of *the* true God. Although all human beings are essential metaphysical animals, due to their inherent hatred of the *true* nature of God they *repress* metaphysical truths about the true nature of God, Rom. 1:18-32.
- ✓ The metaphysical truths *prove* God. If they are only probable then man does have an excuse.
  - ✓ Repression is the process by which unacceptable desires and impulses are excluded from consciousness and thus being denied direct satisfaction are left to operate in the unconscious.
  - ✓ Man represses God's truth because it is contrary to his pattern of life. He is self-deceived like the drug addict who thinks he knows more about himself than the doctor.
  - ✓ The truth is actually "held" in an evil way.
  - ✓ Consider the metaphysical truths that are repressed.
  - ✓ Note how many times "know" is in our text.
  - ✓ All unbelievers have a cognizant knowledge of God that they repress. The admissions of prominent atheists are very revealing.

## Problem of Evil-7, Job and Suffering

1. Contrary to Bible commentaries, the book of Job provides a powerful theodicy that perfectly fits with the metaphysical truths of Esse, God, goodness, evil, and suffering. It should be no surprise that these truths are lost because without metaphysics one cannot get to them! “Mystery-talk” is a cop out on this level. Job provides us with picture-book illustrations of theodicy, philosophy, and theology. It explains perfectly how someone can believe there is a world in which suffering coexists with an omnipotent, omniscient, and perfect good God.
2. Job 1:1, 6-22; 2:7-10.

## Problem of Evil-7, Job and Suffering

3. Reflections on some of the metaphysics of suffering.
  - ✓ Although we tend to think that it is a prima facie case that *pain* and suffering is what produces bad or evil, this is demonstrably false.
  - ✓ Aren't there evils that do not include pain or suffering?
  - ✓ Consider the pain and suffering that human beings *voluntarily* submit themselves to—a pain that they could otherwise avoid, that is, pain that is not necessary for life or health.
  - ✓ Consider the *agony* professional athletes (e.g., football players, boxers, MMA fighters, hockey players, bull riders, marathoners) put themselves through in the interests of athletic *excellence*. They are only too willing to go through what is *necessary* for improvement.

## Problem of Evil-7, Job and Suffering

- ✓ Consider the women who refuse anesthetics in childbirth, although the baby would be born without the mother's **excruciating pain** just as well as with it. We would not consider it evil for a mother to go through natural childbirth. Many women go through it with more than one child. Would one call the midwife evil? What makes suffering and pain as such is not the suffering and pain; rather, it is a matter of a person's will and purpose. Voluntary childbirth needs no theodicy, no justification. There are many other things that she would consider gross evil that be far less painful (from purse snatching to the horrors of rape).

## Problem of Evil-7, Job and Suffering

- ✓ Consider the person who “starves” himself with the goal of losing weight in contradistinction to the person who goes hungry because he does not have lunch money.

# Problem of Evil-7, Job and Suffering

Consider what the New Testament says about suffering

- ✓ **1 Peter 4:13** but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.
- ✓ **Philippians 1:29** For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

## Problem of Evil-7, Job and Suffering

- ✓ **Romans 8:18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.
- ✓ **2 Corinthians 4:17** For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,



## Problem of Evil-7, Job and Suffering

- ✓ **Philippians 3:10** that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;
- ✓ **Rom. 5:3-4** And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; <sup>4</sup> and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;

## Problem of Evil-7, Job and Suffering

- ✓ **James 1:2-12** Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. <sup>4</sup> And let endurance have *its* perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. . . <sup>12</sup> Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.