

# The Beauty/Glory of God.19

(Truth/Goodness/Beauty of the Eternal Logos in John 1)

## John 1 : 14

And the Word was made flesh,  
and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory,  
the glory as of the only begotten  
of the Father full of grace and truth.

<http://www.fbcweb.org/sermons.html>

Crossway  
<http://www.crossway.org>

# Philosophical/Theological/Doctrinal/Spiritual Mental Framework

## Bible Doctrines (The True-Good-Beautiful!)

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

**P.R. - 32**

Hermeneutics

Linguistics

Epistemology

Metaphysics -11  
 (Trans. 24)

Reality -Logic 32,  
 Truth 32

1 Timothy 3:15 *but in case I am delayed, I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.*

- The "house" is the assembly of believers.
- They are called a house because God dwells in them personally not only as the cause of their human existence, but as the cause of their spiritual existence.
- The assembly of believers are called pillars and supports of truth.
- The pillar supports the roof.
- The foundation supports the entire superstructure.
- So the local church and each believer is designed to support truth.
- The greatest challenge of your life and my life is to advance in whole truth no matter the costs.
- Only truth is going to deliver us from all of the cosmic "isms" of life.
- Jesus's attitude to Truth, *"For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."* John 18:37.
- It is sinful and evil for any believer to lack commitment to whole truth.

Stage  
3

Stage  
2

Stage  
1

### Stage 3 – Christian metaphysician = life of glory!

- The believer who becomes a Christian metaphysician has a totally new mindset with regard to the nature of 'Ehyeh/Esse and the transcendentals.
- Only in metaphysics can a believer really understand Bible, the attributes and glory of God

Holy Spirit ↑ Bible Doctrine

### Stage 2 – Christian doctrinal believer = life of doctrine!

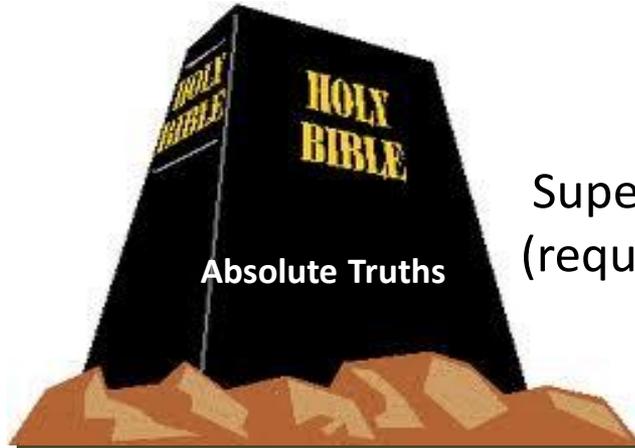
- Through BD, this believer has gained a great deal of divine viewpoint in his soul regarding God and the spiritual life.
- However, he continues to have some pagan views about God's *nature* due to lack of metaphysical development.
- He is stable, but still very dependent on others for confidence in metaphysical truths.

Holy Spirit ↑ Bible Doctrine

### Stage 1 – Christian baby = life of ups and downs.

- All baby believers have a great deal of pagan views of God due to the problem of pagan horizon of meaning.
- All baby believers are tossed here and there by the kosmos, Eph 4:14.
- For baby believers it is all about pragmatism or personal encounter with truth. If it works or feels good, they think it must be true.

# The need for philosophical/theological foundation of philosophical realism



God has given us two books of revelation

Supernatural Revelation  
(requires the Holy Spirit)

Natural Revelation

5- Hermeneutics – how do we understand that which is?

4- Linguistics – how is that which is communicated?

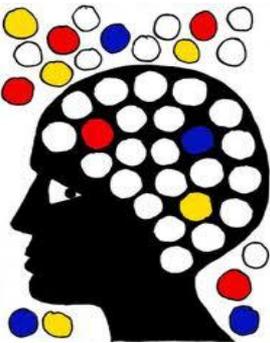
3- Epistemology – how do I know that which is?

2- Metaphysics – what is that which is? Being as being.  
(11-Transcendentals.24)

1- Reality – that which is (Logic 32, Truth 32)

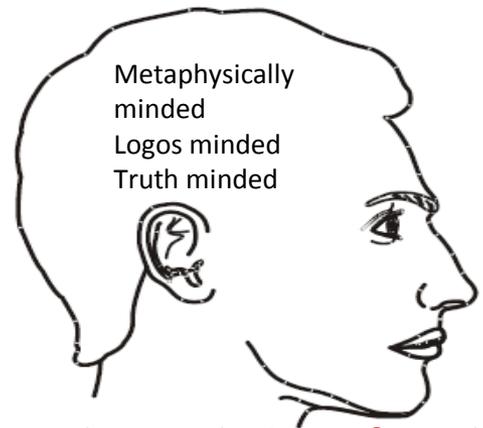
PR 32

# Foundations: Metaphysics



*A double minded man is unstable in all his ways,*  
James 1:8

Has capacity to see God and His glory is in the existence of all things



## Anti-intellectual, sensate believer

The contemporary believer is fragmented with a dozen "isms" due to the influences of Satan's diabolical kosmos diabolicus.

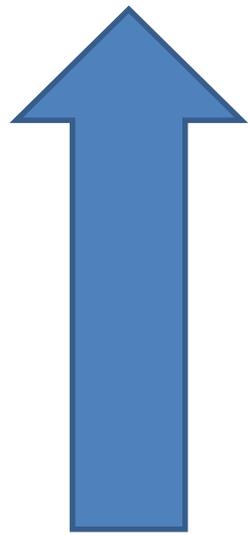
Contemporary Christianity is anti-intellectual, deistic, fideistic, pragmatic, and does not really seek truth as such.

Why did God choose for ou t live in the Laodecian Age?

## Pillar and Foundation of Truth:

Logos-believer: Grounded in 'Ehyeh metaphysics and reality as such. He is a seeker of Whole Truth and possesses a love and joy of learning about God and reality, John 4:24; 2 Cor. 3:18; 10:5; Titus 1:9.

אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה  
'Ehyeh asher 'Ehyeh



## 11—The Transcendentals.24

- 8-10 Being-Becoming
- 7-Satan's attack on metaphysics
- 6-Integration of 4 causes
- 5-Act of existence = "to be"
- 4-Act and Potency/potential
- 3- Four causes
- 2-Being *qua* being
- 1-Introduction

## Science of Metaphysics 11

# The need to break our Marxist view regarding beings

'Ehyeh/biblical metaphysics: Exod. 3:14; John 1:3; Psalm 19:1-3; Rom. 1:18-32; Acts 17:28; Col. 1:17)

**Ultimate reality of Being and beings**

**The Ancient Period (624 B.C. - A.D. 270):** Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes, Pythagoras, Xenophanes, Heraclitus, Parmenides, Anaxagoras, Empedocles, Zeno the Eleatic, Protagoras, Gorgias, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle (384-322 B.C.), Pyrrho, Epicurus, Zeno the Stoic, Epictetus, Plotinus.

**The Middle Ages (354-1349):** Augustine, Boethius, John Scotus Erigena, Avicenna, Anselm, Al-Ghazali, Peter Abelard, Averroes, Maimonides, **Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)**, Eckhart, John Duns Scotus, William of Ockham.

**The Modern Period (1466-1900):** Erasmus, Copernicus, Luther, Bacon, Galileo, Hobbes, Descartes, Pascal, Spinoza, John Locke (1632-1704), Newton, Leibniz, Berkeley, Voltaire, Rousseau, David Hume (1711-1776), Kant, Schelling, Fichte, Hegel, Marx, Bentham, Comte, Mill, Darwin, Kierkegaard, Marx, Engles, Dostoevsky, Nietzsche.

**The Contemporary Period (1900-):** Charles S. Peirce, James, Freud, Husserl, Bergson, Dewey, Whitehead, Russell, Einstein, Wittgenstein, **Martin Heidegger (1889-1976)**, Carnap, Ryle, **Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980)**, Beauvoir, Quine, Ayer, Austin, Kuhn, Foucault, Derrida, Richard Rorty.

Monism, Pluralism  
Atomism, Humanism,  
Pantheism, Platonism  
Aristotelianism  
**Essentialism**  
Rationalism  
Radical Empiricism  
**Thomism**, Nominalism  
Humanism, Scientism  
Agnosticism, Skepticism  
Secularism, Deism  
Idealism, Romanticism  
**Marxism = all beings are only matter and energy, just different degrees and modes of evolving**  
Anti-intellectualism  
Evolutionism  
Atheism  
Existentialism, Pragmatism,  
Hedonism,  
Post-modernism,  
Relativism,  
Positivism  
Functionalism,  
Coherentism  
Phenomenology  
**Existentialism**,  
Psychologism, Nihilism,

**Empiricism.** The Bible makes strong philosophical commitments of classical empiricism—ability to truthfully know the ultimate realm through the senses: Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:3; Rom. 1:18-20; Psa. 19:1-2; 2 Pet. 1:16; 1 John 1:1-2. How can anyone know something is a miracle except through the senses? All knowledge comes through the senses but not all knowledge derives from the senses. Overview of the difference between essentialism and classical existentialism ('Ehyeh metaphysics), and radical existentialism (Heidegger, Sartre).

# The Transcendentals-24

1. Although our society is increasingly becoming decadent as it continues to dismantle the metaphysics and transcendentals of Christianity, the believer always has the option of growing in glory because of the grace of God offered through the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit.
  - Christians need not accept the crude values of the world (e.g., the shallow, superficial, hedonistic, sexualizing of all beauty, and fanatical obsession with cosmetic beauty as illustrated in recent desires for cosmetic surgery, i.e. hand lifts.
  - Whatever is truly beautiful is going to find its ultimate source in God. The most beautiful person who ever lived was Jesus Christ.
  - Apart from grasping true beauty, the believer will be as confused as the world regarding true beauty, i.e. glory. Consider the effects on young men and women.

## The Transcendentals-24

2. The primary mode of grasping the beauty of God is through seeing God via doctrinal abstraction through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Every believer has the privilege of actually seeing the beauty of God, His excellence, His glory. This requires capacity. In carnality the believer does not see the beauty/glory of God and therefore will not be drawn to Him. While mechanics are important, by themselves they will not get you to the beauty/glory of God.

1 John 3:6 No one who abides in [in fellowship with Him] Him sins; no one who habitually sins **has seen (ἑώρακεν) Him or knows Him.**

3 John 1:11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who habitually does evil **has not seen [the true nature of God] God.**

# The Transcendentals-24

3. Jesus Christ is the Source and the Epitome of all beauty/glory.
  - Consider the majesty in Himself as 'Ehyeh.
  - Consider the magnificent portraits of creation He has given us.
  - Consider His infinite humility in becoming a man.
  - Consider His beautiful love on the cross.
  - Consider His infinite love, grace, mercy, grace, forgiveness, justification, salvation, love, mercy, et. al.

## The Transcendentals-24

4. He is the only one who can truly make you beautiful. This is God's plan for our lives: to see His glory and be shaped into His glory, Rom. 8:28-29. He is the only one who can make you more loving, more forgiving, yet stronger, and more confident. He is the only one who can provide you with the beauty in the excellences of virtue that are required to enjoy any of the temporal things of life.
5. The transcendentals must never be separated. True beauty cannot be separated from what is good and what is true. This is not only true in the natural realm, it is true in the spiritual realm. There is no such thing as a beautiful/glorious believer who has not also been transformed into a real goodness by God's truth.

# The Beauty of God.18

## John 1 : 14

And the Word was made flesh,  
and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory,  
the glory as of the only begotten  
of the Father full of grace and truth.

# The Beauty/Glory of God-19

A few personal words on my thoughts and desires when I accepted Jesus Christ and the journey now before us. My discovery is that it is far better than I ever dreamed (the Christ-form). I would hate to leave this earth not understanding what is before us. The critical need to bring together PR and BD. A word about the three glory roads in Scripture and the significance of this study.

**1. Introduction of glory in creation, Christ, and God:** Genesis 1-2; 3:6; 6:2; 12:11; Exod. 2:2; 25:8, 22; 29:43-46; 33:18-22; 40:34-38; Rev. 21:1-22:5; Psa. 19:1-2; Isa 5:20-21; 6:1-8; 42:18-20; Jer. 7:24-26; 13:13-14; Gal. 3:1-5; 2 Cor. 5:18-21; ; Matt. 5:8; 11:25-30; Rom. 1:18-32; Heb. 1:1-3; Philip. 2:5-11; 1 John 1:1-4; Prov. 6; 1 Peter. 3:1-5.

**2. Effulgence of God's beauty/glory manifested in the incarnation:** **John 1;** 2:11, 16; 3:13, 16-17; 4:6, 10, 14-18, 31-34; 5:17-27, 30, 36-37, 44; 6:33-48; 7:18, 28-30, 37-38; 8:12-14, 28, 31-42, 50, 58-59; 10:7-11, 14-18, 28-30, 38, 12:27-28, 32-50; 13:1-34; 14:6-31; 15:1-6, 8-19, 24-26; 16:7-15; 17:6, 24; 19:23-30; 20:28-31; 21:19.

**3. Old Testament Glory:** Job 38-42; creation, Garden, Abel, Abraham, Moses, David, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and the throne of Glory, lost glory (Psa 27:4; 32:1-11; 34:8; 145:8-17; Prov. 4:5-9; 2 Chron. 26; Isa. 3:18 48:4; 64:6; 53; Jer 6:22-23; 15:12-14; 27:36).

**4. New Testament Glory:** Luke 1-2; 4:6-13; 21:5; Acts 3:2; 17:26-27; 20:28; Rom 3:9-19, 21-26; 5:1-2, 6-11; 10:15; 1 Cor 1:18, 23-31; 2:8-9; 2 Cor 3:6-4:6; 8:9; Gal 3:13-14; 4:4-5; Eph. 1:6; 2:10; 5:25-32; Col. 2:9, 13-14; 3:10-14; 3:13-14; 4:4-8; Titus 3:4-6; 1 Pet. 1:8; 2:21-25; 2 Pet. 3:16; Heb 2:11-18; 5:5; James 1:11, 17; 1 John; 2:1-2; 3:2-3, 16; 4:9-10, 20; Rev. 5:9-14; 12:3, 7, 9.

**5. Conclusion: the beatific vision:** Rev. 21:1-22:5.

# The Beauty/Glory of God-19

John 1:3: Creation, Logos, and intelligent design in creation.

1. The most incredible display of the intelligence of 'Ehyeh-Logos on planet earth is the human cell. Every believer should watch the video "Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed" by Ben Stein; the full video (about 1 ½ hours) is on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0DTVpPiADE>. This video documents the modern fanaticism of Darwinian blind and random, non-guided evolution and its persecution of even long-established and recognized scientists who dare question Darwinism by even suggesting intelligent design.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-19

2. John 1:3 and the importance of personal discovery of Being/metaphysics. Apart from the discovery of metaphysics the believer will be blind to essential nature of Esse/'Ehyeh and glory of God in all beings because of his modern deistic and Marxist's influences regarding matter. Likewise, he will not understand the three critical transcendentals, true beauty, the nature of God, and dozens of other issues related to ultimate reality, the Bible, the spiritual life, man and God Himself.
  - Heidegger is right when he charges modern man with the "forgetfulness of being." Also cf., poet Shelly on the wonder of Being.
  - We get so wrapped up into **what** things are and **how** we can use them that we let drop out of consciousness the basic wonder, "the wonder of wonders, that anything **is** at all."
  - It is time for us to recover this fresh awareness of being itself instead of being absorbed in what they are as being thises and thats.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-19

3. Being is that which is. It is the most fundamental attribute of all real things. It is **“that which is.”** **“That which is”** has two irreducible yet inseparable aspects: the *is* of actual existence and the *that which*, the subject which exists or has existence. There are profound implications for the duality of essence/existence within a being.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-19

4. There are two distinct questions that can be asked of anything: *Is it?* and *What is it?* The *is* is what exists or what “presents itself”: a being is that which is actually present in some way. It stands out from non-being.
5. There are two main paths toward evoking the explicit awareness of the “is” of being.
  - a. Exploring the downward into any individual being to uncover the most basic level of its *act of existence* by which it is present in the world. All other attributes talk *about the subject* already given.
  - b. Expanding *outward*, following the drive of the mind to know all that there is, we see that the most basic attribute in each being is also that which is common to all other beings.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-19

6. The ultimate question really is, “How come the universe exists at all?” This is the question the greatest minds have pondered through history. Stephen Hawking referred to a hoped-for time when an eloquent and unified theory of everything would be developed and says,

“Then we shall all, philosophers, scientists and just ordinary people, be able to take part in the discussion of the question of why it is that we and the universe exist. If we find the answer to that, it would be the ultimate triumph of human reason—for then we would know the mind of God” (Brief History of Time, 210).

## The Beauty/Glory of God-19

7. Being of something gives it existence, its essence limits its existence. God is pure Subsisting Act of Existence that *is*, but is beyond all limiting essences or form, all *whats*.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-19

8. To move into metaphysics, one must move beyond the merely abstract understanding of the meaning of being toward an existential awakening to experience what actual existence means—that which is.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-19

9. Illustration of events that have moved humans into an existential awakening to what it means to be—the existential discovery of Being:
  - Threat of loss of one's existence or that of a loved one.
  - Realization that something is real and not just a dream.
  - Experience of gratitude of creation as directly coming from God.
  - Intense love and delight that so and so is truly real.
  - The contemplative wonder of a child, poet, artist, or scientist at the beauty and order of the universe and its presence, as often expressed by Einstein.
  - In great depression when one contemplates nothingness (Heidegger).

## The Beauty/Glory of God-19

10. It is being that the mind is oriented toward by a natural, innate affinity. It is the mind that uncovers being. The word for truth in the Greek *aletheia* = unveiled. Thus the mind is about unveiling being, bringing it into light of consciousness and speak it out in a *logos*, or meaningful word.
11. As Heidegger has put it, “Man is the spokesman of Being,” planted in the midst of it (*Dasein*) to listen to it with reverence and speak out its name and meaning truthfully. Thus a human being can be defined as the being called to raise to investigate and call out its meaning in human *logoi*.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-19

12. Being is an inexhaustible mystery. Being is all there is but is indistinct and indeterminate. We can never know any real being exhaustively, at least in this life. We can only keep bringing it in fuller light, into *logos*.
13. Some day we will be lifted up to share the total vision of the ultimate Source of all Being—God in the beatific vision.

# The Beauty/Glory of God-19

## John 1:42 – Esse, ‘Ehyeh before Simon.

1. Jesus is none other than Esse/‘Ehyeh, the Ultimate Being of all Being.

Philippians 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord [‘Ehyeh/Yahweh], to the glory of God the Father.

Colossians 1:16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

John 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am [‘Ehyeh]."

## The Beauty/Glory of God-19

2. Esse, the 'Ehyeh of Exodus 3:14 who appeared before Moses in the burning bush now stands enfleshed with the most perfect love and grace before the evil, sinful, corrupt, and weak Peter and proceeds to confidently promise to transform him into a Christ-form of glory.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-19

3. This transformation into the glory of Christ-form is only possible through God's grace. However, we by nature do not think we need His grace because of our built-in arrogance. All trials, difficulties, and testing are designed in some way to remove arrogance, the single greatest obstacle to the grace of God—the true, good, and beautiful. No man is too evil for Christ to change. All that stands in the way is 2<sup>nd</sup> order non-meritorious volition. The fatal flaw of Calvinism is that their God does not love everyone unconditionally.
4. The goal of divine providence for every believer is always the Christ-form, Rom. 8:28-30; Eph. 4:12-16; 2 Cor. 3:18.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-19

5. A look at the glorious Christ-form in Peter some thirty years later (1 Pet. 1:6-11, 2:9-11, 11-23; 3:8-9, 13-17; 4:1-2, 12-16; 5:1-3, 8-10).

## The Beauty/Glory of God-19

6. All of the tests and difficulties of life are divinely designed to transform us into Christ-forms. All difficulties and sufferings include calls from God and His grace into a 2<sup>nd</sup> personal relationship with Him. A look at some of the more fundamental tests that are designed for our glory—the TGB!
- #1: **Providential preventative testing**  **TGB**  **the Christ-form**, Psa. 119:67-72; 2 Cor. 12:7-10; Heb. 12:6-7; 2 Cor. 1:3. This refers to all of the difficulties that you go through to keep you from arrogance (enforced humility, privation). Arrogance is the great spoiler of life. This testing is to prevent or restrain the development of arrogance in the life of the believer. The virtue of humility must be inculcated before there can be true advance. The issue is never others. The issue is arrogance; it is what cripples marriages, relationships with people and God. The goal is the Christ-form, not just going through and being occupied with the difficulties.

# The Beauty/Glory of God-19

- #2: **Weaknesses and limitations**  **TGB**  **the Christ-form,**  
2 Cor. 12:7-10. There are all sorts of weaknesses of life: mental, health, financial, estrangements. The key is to be content in all of these trials. This cannot be done apart from the TGB which takes us into the Christ-form.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-19

- #3: **People testing**  **TGB**  **Christ-form**, 2 Cor. 12:10. There are all sorts of weaknesses of life: mental, health, financial, estrangements. The key is to be content in all of these trials. This cannot be done apart from the TGB and taking on the Christ-form. Some people will hate you and there is nothing you can do about it. The slander and animosity against you is parlayed into the Christ-form. Instead of bitterness, you become more forgiving and patient and not take yourself so seriously.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-19

- #4: **Thought testing** → TGB → Christ-form, 2 Cor. 12:10; Rom. 12:3; Philip. 4:6. Thought testing covers views of God, the plan of God, self, and others.
- #5: **Disaster testing** → TGB → Christ-form, Job. Anything from divorce, unfaithfulness on part of spouse, major health problems, losing a loved one, crime, murder, warfare, terrorism.