

Faith Bible Church

“Problem” of Evil 13 – Job 4

Any Questions?

These slides are available

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

OPENING PASSAGE

3 John 1:2-4 Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may advance on the good road (εὐοδοῦσθαι = εὖ/good + οδῶω/trip/journey) and be in good health, just as your soul advances on the good road (εὐοδοῦταί σου ἡ ψυχή).
³ For I was very glad when brethren came and bore witness to your truth, *that is*, how you are walking in truth. ⁴ I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.

- Just as certain things are not good for your body, certain things are not good for your soul—like sin and carnality. On the front end certain things that may seem good and pleasant (e.g., a lot of candy and junk food), but in reality they are not good for your body—so it is with evil and sin on the soul.
- The overriding issue for all of our souls is truth: growth in knowledge of truth and walking in Truth—more self-integration with Truth

Philosophical/Theological/Doctrinal & Spiritual Edification

Bible Doctrines

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

Philosophical Foundations

Broad and deep understanding of BD

The Crucial importance of philosophical foundations to really be able to integrate with Truth as such. Without Truth as such, Christianity just another mindless religious system.

- Reality as such
- Logic (32)
 - Truth (21)
 - 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

- Things in terms of Bible doctrine that is undergirded by biblical passages

Baby & meaning of life

- Limited to isolated Bible verses
- Does not apply doctrine or divine viewpoint to all the issues of life
- Fragmented understanding of truth.

Carnal believer lacks integration with God and True due to human viewpoint

Philosophical Foundations (Reality) – Truth 21

The 6 views of truth (that range from Anton LeVay & Hagin to Nietzsche)

1. Coherence (e.g., Stephen Hawking: imaginary time and numbers)
2. Pragmatic (William James, John Dewey)
3. Functional (Oprah Winfrey, modern American view of religion)
4. Existential (Kierkegaard; human existence over human essence)
5. Fragmented: Fundamentalist (Finis Dake), Science (scientism, Dawkins).

ALL OF THE ABOVE ARE BUT DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF PERSPECTIVALISM (human viewpoint ways to avoid Truth per se)

- ✓ **6. CORRESPONDENCE – Biblical meaning of truth: The way things actually are (commonsensical, Aristotle, most all Christian apologists).**

Philosophical Foundations (Reality) – Truth 21

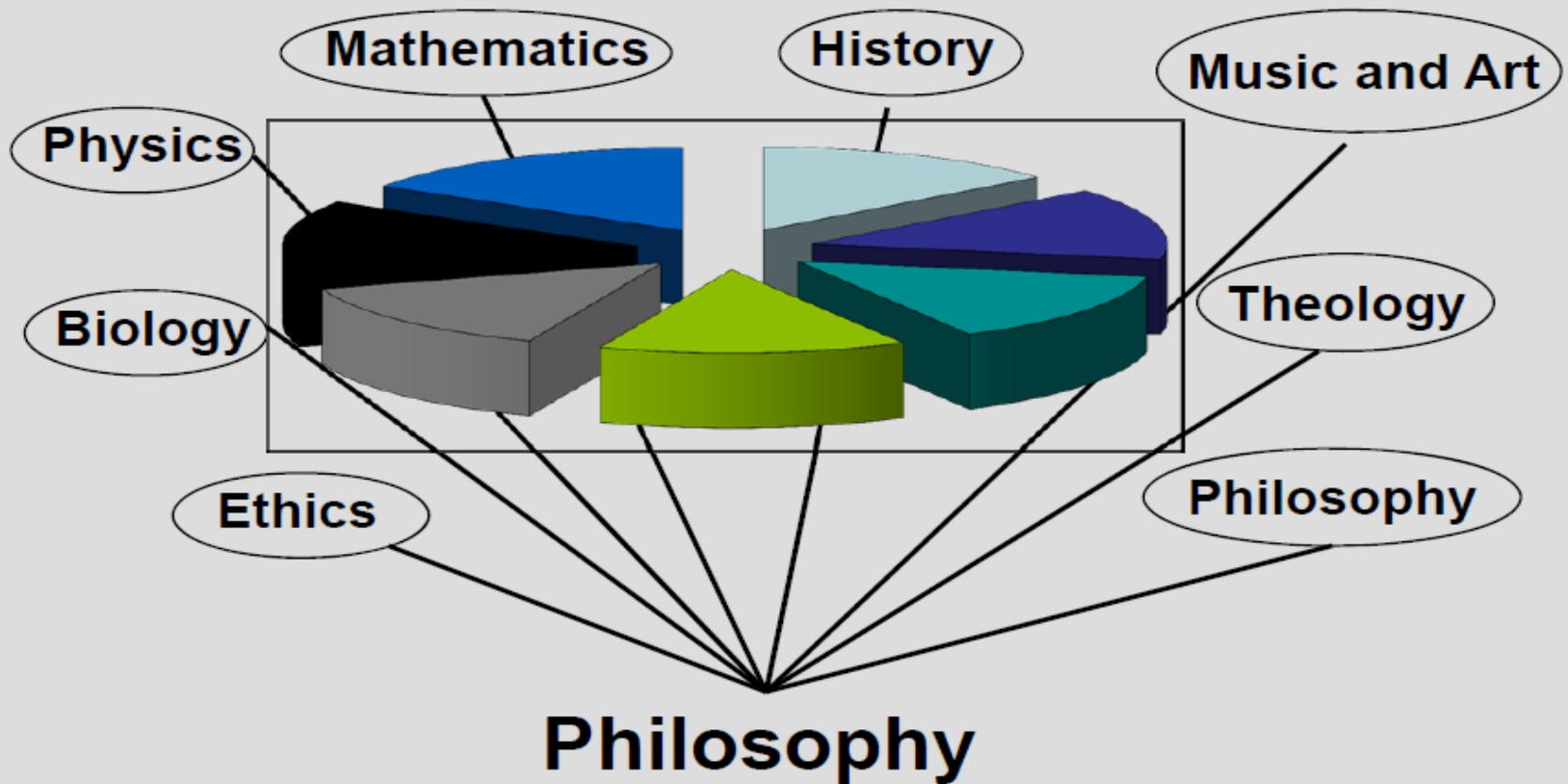
CORRESPONDENCE TRUTH

- ✓ When we say Jesus is the God-man and the only way to God we do *NOT* mean that this is *merely* true “according to Christianity.”
- ✓ The Biblical way is not just a way of looking at things: it is the way things actually are – not the way of looking at things that coheres or is functional or is practical or is existential.
- ✓ All other views of truth traffic in deception. The whole kosmos lies in the lap of the evil one by means of his evil system of kosmos diabolicus.

1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the Evil One (ἐν τῷ πονηρῷ κεῖται).

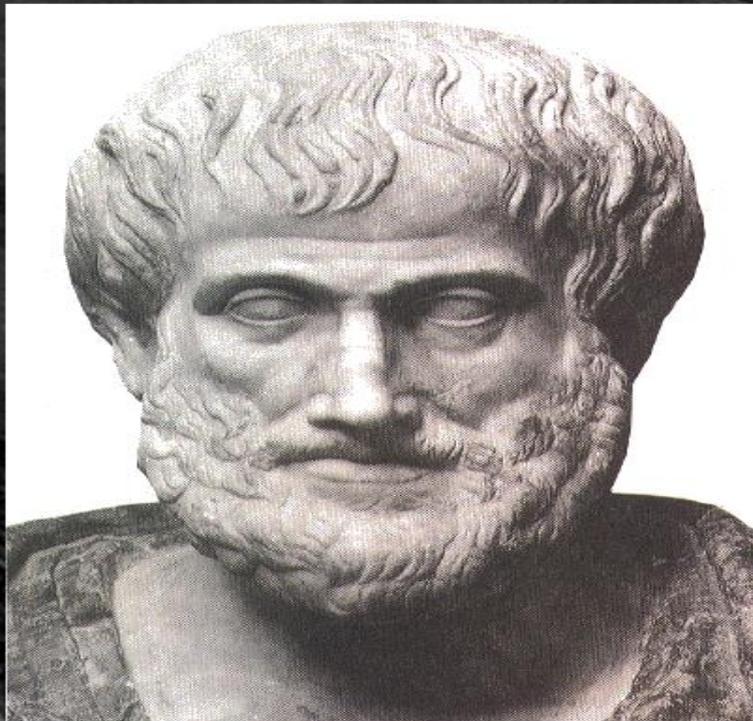
Philosophical Foundations (Reality) - Truth 21

Truth = Reality (cf. 2nd Act of the Mind)



Philosophical Foundations (Reality) - Truth 21

What accounts for the fact that Aristotle had a better understanding of the meaning of Truth than many Christians who actually possess Truth in Christ and in the Bible?



Aristotle

To say of what is, that it is not, or of what is not, that it is, is false, while to say of what is, that it is and of what is not, that it is not, is true."

Metaphysics, IV, 7, 1001b26-29 Translation by Richard McKeon, The Basic Works of Aristotle (New York: Random House, 1941).

Philosophical Foundations (Reality) – Truth 21

1. The best *tool* for working with Truth/Reality as such under the ministry Holy Spirit is Classical Philosophy with its insistence on reality as per its emphasis on the laws of thought/logic – e.g., the law of non-contradiction, excluded middle, and identity.
2. Being rational is not to be confused with Rationalism.

Philosophical Foundations (Reality) - Truth 21

3. The doctrinal believer who has even a basic understanding of Classical Philosophy (laws of reason) is both powerful with regard spiritual life and formidable with regard defending doctrine precisely because of his grasp of reality as such.

Philosophical Foundations (Reality) - Truth 21

4. Because of the doctrinal believer's grasp of truth through Classical Philosophy, he is ever more confident with regard to his own personal Christian faith, and as a powerful apologist he is formidable, cf. 2 Cor 10:3-5.
5. The Apostle Paul is the best example of living in the unique Church Age doctrine while possessing the power to destroy all human viewpoints raised against Christianity, 2 Cor. 10:3-5.

Philosophical Foundations (Reality) - Truth 21

6. The doctrinal believer with a classical philosophical foundation is able to think for himself and therefore can defend the doctrine he has learned.

Philosophical Foundations (Reality) – Truth 21

7. While understanding the original languages is crucial, the tools of reason (Classical philosophy) guides and guards the use of the original languages. What do you think guides the lexicons? The original languages are important, but the reality in the concept behind the word is what is most important (by the way we will have 32 classes on Greek and 32 on Hebrew when we get to Bibliology). The original languages are essential, but they are not the answer or end-all in and of themselves.

“Problem” of Evil-13: Job 4 – Self-righteous Eliphaz

1. Job’s Suffering: the physical phenomenon of pain *and* the psychological mental anguish.*

Job 2:13 Then they sat down on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights with no one speaking a word to him, for they saw that *his* pain was very great.

Job 3:1 Afterward Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his *birth*.² And Job said,³ "Let the day perish on which I was to be born, And the night *which* said, 'A boy is conceived.'

*Remember: To one degree or another God is always present to every sufferer. No sufferer is isolated from the love of the omnipresent God; and to the extent to which the sufferer is open to it, the presence of God to that sufferer comes with shared attention and closeness, for the consolation of the sufferer, cf. Job 38-39 with 42.

Elephantiasis



Chronic Eczema



Melanoma



Leprosy



“Problem” of Evil-13: Job 4

2. Exacerbation of Job’s mental/psychological anguish via the lips of Eliphaz, Job 4:1-21
 - a. Eliphaz’s first *lesson*: the impatience of Job, 4:1-5.
 - b. Eliphaz’s second *lesson*: Job and His Family Justly Punished, 7-11.
 - c. Eliphaz’s third *lesson*: the vision of Eliphaz, 12-21.

“Problem” of Evil-13: Job 4

3. As we will see, Job’s “comforters” held to the divine-command theory of ethics (which is rejected by God in His speeches). These comforters insist to Job that he should take whatever happened to him as good and right *simply* because God did it.
4. The idea that something is good simply *because* God wills it is called the divine-command theory of ethics. This is related to Euthyphro dilemma.

“Problem” of Evil-13: Job 4

5. However, it is noteworthy that, when God adjudicates the dispute between Job and his comforters, God comes down squarely on Job’s side. It will take the sacrifices and Job’s prayers to keep the comforters from the wrath of God.

Job 42:7 And it came about after the LORD had spoken these words to Job, that the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, because you have not spoken of Me what is right as My servant Job has.

Job 42:8 "Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, and go to My servant Job, and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves, and My servant Job will pray for you. For I will accept him so that I may not do with you *according to your* folly, because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has."

“Problem” of Evil-13: Job 4

6. Clearly, Job’s friends came down on the divine command theory of the Euthyphro dilemma: “Do the gods will what they will because it is good, or is what the gods will good because they will it?”
7. For Job’s comforters, whatever God wills is good just because it is God who wills it. In deciding whether something happens is good, on the comforters’ view of it, we need only to consider the agency. If God is the agent of what happens, then that is sufficient for its being good; *any* other facts of the case are irrelevant to a moral evaluation of it. If Abraham took this view, he would have failed the test to sacrifice Isaac, (as we will see in the future).

“Problem” of Evil-13: Job 4

8. The divine command theory is a theory of ethics in which the ultimate foundation for morality, or what is right, is the will of God. This is also known as ethical voluntarism.
9. If one answers that things are good because God commands them, then if God commanded to torture babies, it would be good simply because God commanded it.
10. Islam holds to ethical voluntarism. Muslims hold very strong to the sovereignty of Allah. They believe that God can command whatever he desires, and that, in and of itself, makes it good. Allah is arbitrary and can be as capricious as he wants. This view of God is inconsistent with the biblical portrait of God and not worthy of worship.