

# *Faith Bible Church*

“Problem” of Evil 14  
Job 5: Eliphaz’s Three Lessons for Job

Any Questions?

These slides are available  
at

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

# 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**

(Perhaps + 99% of Christians are in philosophical darkness & thus unable to have deep thoughts of God or truth)

## Broad and deep understanding of BD

Continued development of doctrinal and philosophical thinking is more crucial to a believer's life than simply getting through the trials via those wonderful God-given problem solving devices. We must grow deeper in understanding God and Truth! It is important for each believer to be able to think biblically and philosophically--deeper and more accurately.

- Reality as such
- o Logic (32)
  - o Truth (22)
  - o 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: Truth 22

## Truth About God is Known to all of Mankind

**Romans 1:18** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who repress **the truth** in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because **that which is known about God is evident within them**; for God made it **evident to them**. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, **have been clearly seen, being understood** through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For even though **they knew God**, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

# Philosophical Foundations: Truth 22

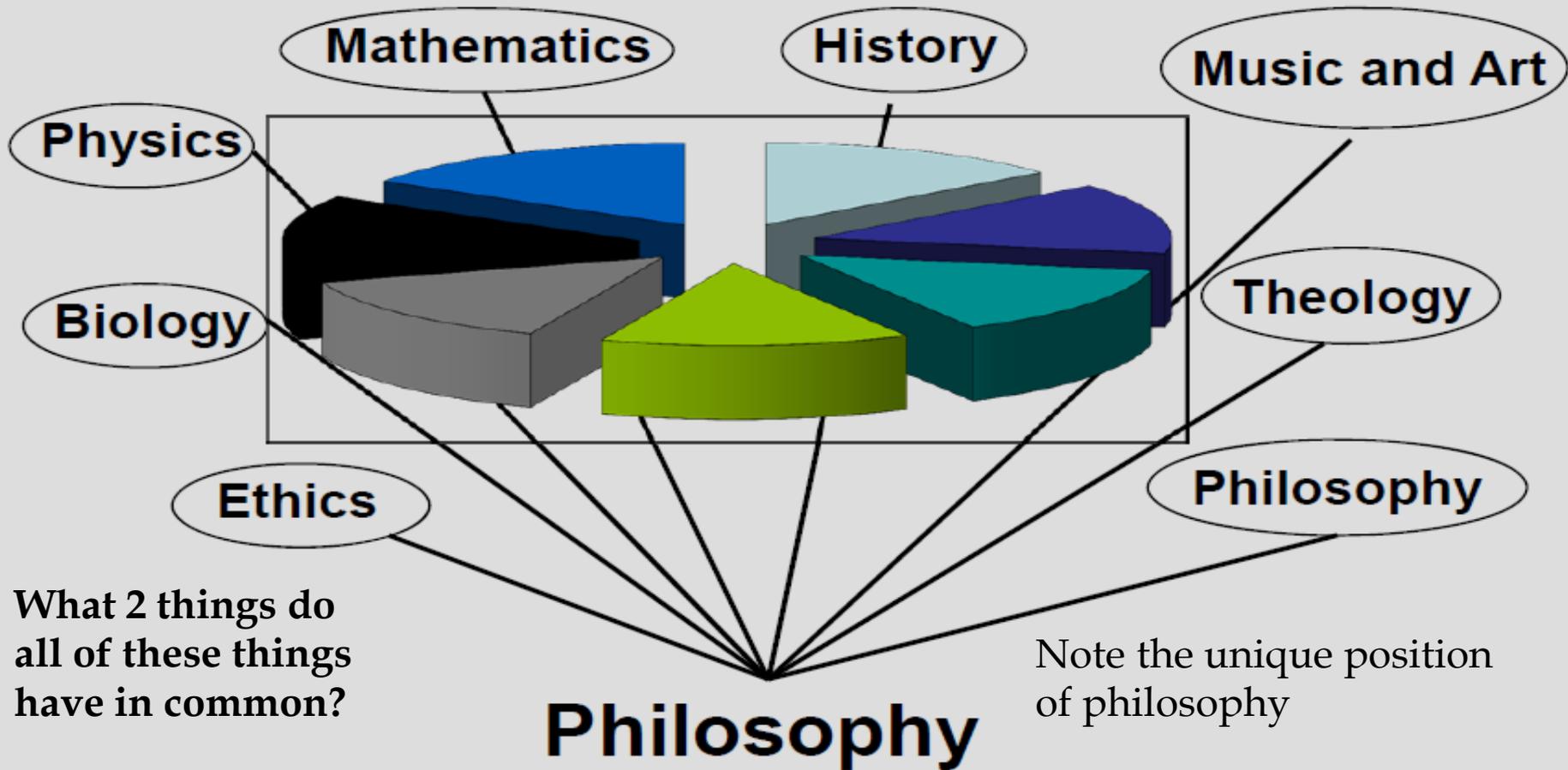
## Correspondence "Theory" of Truth



# Philosophical Foundations: Truth 22

Slices of reality,  
cf. majors in  
colleges

**Truth = Reality** (cf. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Act of the Mind)

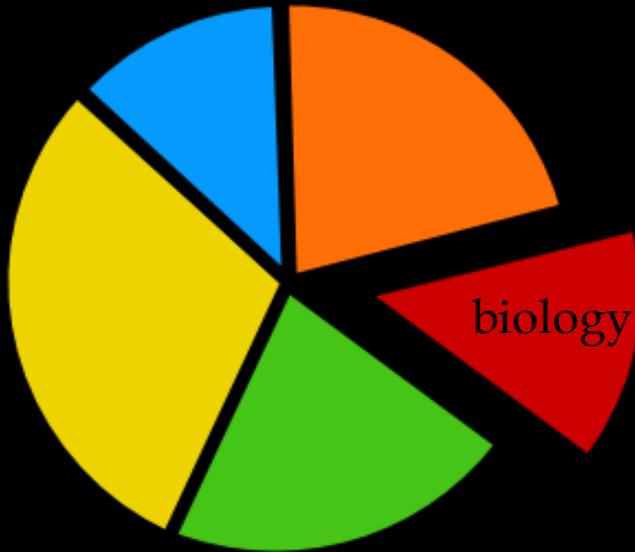


What 2 things do  
all of these things  
have in common?

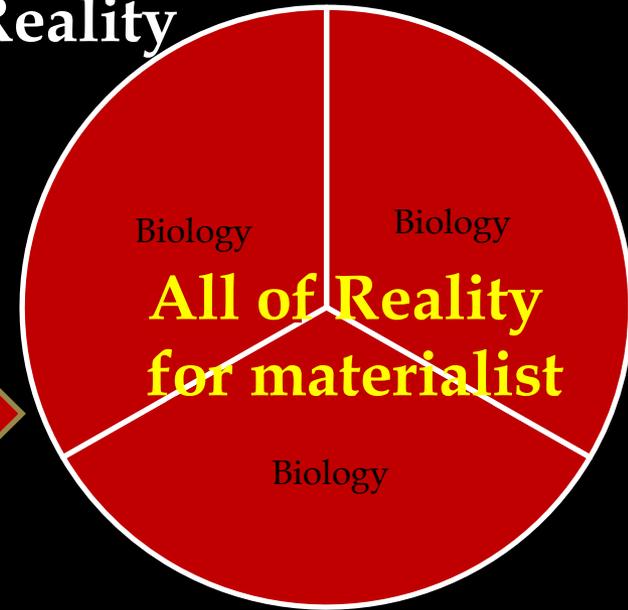
Note the unique position  
of philosophy

# Philosophical Foundations: Truth 22

## Modern Fragmentation of Reality



Biological materialist takes a fragment of reality and makes it the whole enchilada



Biological materialist



When biology and the natural sciences become all of reality then there is no basis for transcendent realities. The materialist must then make a **SECULAR LEAP OF FAITH** to accept these:

Values , meta-ethics ethics, rationality, God, human nature, free will, soul, spirit, thought, dignity, salvation, volition, aesthetics, love, justice, law, right, wrong, morality, spirituality, meaning and purpose of life, logic, et al.

## Philosophical Foundations: Truth 22

### Modern Fragmentation of Reality

1. The dichotomy in anti-intellectual forms of Christianity can be seen in language of “head” and “heart.” Is there any doubt that so many young people lose their faith because they have no way of dealing with objections from the *secular* world?

## Heart

The spiritual world: the spiritual life; Jesus Christ; God, faith, hope, the plan of God, Bible

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## Head-Brain

The secular world: Science, politics, economics,

## **Philosophical Foundations: Truth 22**

### **Modern Fragmentation of Reality**

2. Modern society is sharply divided. Anything above the bottom line is just your opinion. This leads to such things as moral relativism.

## **Private Sphere**

**Personal Preferences**

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## **Public Sphere**

**Scientific knowledge**

## **Philosophical Foundations: Truth 22**

### **Modern Fragmentation of Reality**

3. With the modern fragmentation of Truth/Reality, values have been reduced to arbitrary, existential decisions.

## **Values**

**Individual Choices**

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## **Facts**

**Binding on Everyone**

## Philosophical Foundations: Truth 22

### Modern Fragmentation of Reality

4. With the modern fragmentation of truth, there is a two-realm view of truth. In the upper story of personal meaning we have “that may be true for you but it’s not true for me.”

### **Upper Story**

Nonrational, Noncognitive

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### **Lower Story**

Rational, Verifiable

## **Philosophical Foundations: Truth 22**

### **Modern Fragmentation of Reality**

5. The dichotomy can be seen in the distinction between modernism and postmodernism. This division is the single most important weapon for delegitimizing the biblical perspective today.

## **Postmodernism**

**Subjective, Relative to Particular Groups**

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## **Modernism**

**Objective, Universally Valid**

# Philosophical Foundations: Truth 22

## Modern Fragmentation of Reality

### 6. The Enlightenment Dichotomy.

## Romanticism

Religion and Humanities

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## Enlightenment

Science and Reason

# Philosophical Foundations: Truth 22

## Modern Fragmentation of Reality

7. The Cartesian dichotomy.

### **Mind**

Spirit, Thought, Emotion, Will

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### **Matter**

A Mechanical, Deterministic Machine

# Philosophical Foundations: Truth 22

## Modern Fragmentation of Reality

8. The Kantian dichotomy.

**Value**

**Socially Constructed Meanings**

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**Fact**

**Publicly Verifiable Truth**

## Philosophical Foundations: Truth 22

### Modern Fragmentation of Reality

9. The believer who is philosophically astute is not only able to think deeper and more accurately about integrated Truth/Reality, God, Christianity, and Bible doctrine, he is able to destroy all arguments raised up against the Truth of Christianity. There is nothing more formidable than a philosophically-minded spirit-filled doctrinal believer.

**2 Corinthians 10:3** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup> for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. <sup>5</sup> *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

## Philosophical Foundations: Truth 22

### Modern Fragmentation of Reality

10. Classical philosophy is all about reality as such—Truth! In fact you were born with this gift from God: at birth your mind began abstracting and subtracting forms from sense data and using the law of identity, excluded middle, and noncontradiction to get to reality as such (milk).
11. Not only can you not get to reality apart from the fundamentals of classical philosophy, you can't think accurately or very deeply without it. Consider just how deceived the world is as it lives in only a fragment of reality, John 8:44.

**1 John 5:19** We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in *the power of* the evil one.

## Philosophical Foundations: Truth 22

### Modern Fragmentation of Reality

12. Classical philosophy recognizes the Scriptural emphasis on the two means of *knowing truth: external evidence and the inward ministry of the Holy Spirit.*
- a. External (Rom. 1:18-20; John 3:2; 9:32; 10:38; 14:11; Acts 2:22; 1 Cor. 15:5-8).
  - b. Internal (Rom. 8:15; 1 John 3:24; Gal. 4:6; 1 Cor. 2:9-12).

## “Problem” of Evil-14: Job 5

1. Job 5, Eliphaz’s 3-point sermon.
  - a. Lesson #1: Only the blameworthy are punished, 5:2-7.
  - b. Lesson #2: God governs the world of human affairs, 5:8-16.
  - c. Lesson #3: God will pardon and bless Job if he recognizes his sins, 5:17-27.

## “Problem” of Evil-14: Job 5

2. Although Job became confused and overwhelmed in his fiery trials of faith (which exacerbated his mental anguish), his view of the goodness of God is vindicated by God Himself:

**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.

## “Problem” of Evil-14: Job 5

3. There are two aspects to Job’s Suffering: the physical phenomenon of pain *and* the psychological mental pain/anguish. Let’s never forget that God is always there for us in our trials—be they physical or emotional trials. He has promised never to leave us or forsake us, Heb. 13:8.

**Physical pain: 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.

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

## “Problem” of Evil-14: Job 5

4. To advance in our understanding of issues in the “problem” of evil it is important to ferret out the difference between physical pain and mental anguish—the physical pain from nerves in the body versus the psychological pain from distress in the soul:
  - a. There is a difference between anguish as a psychological state and pain as a physical sensation with its own nerve structure.
  - b. Anguish as a psychological state includes such things as displeasure, suffering, distress, anxiety, remorse, fear, estrangement, boredom, frustration, hopelessness.

## “Problem” of Evil-14: Job 5

- c. While physical pain (from nerve endings) usually leads to psychological distress, this is not always the case.
- d. There is a difference between what is known as “pain sensation” (physical pain) and the “painful experience,” which latter includes the affective state of distress or suffering that is normally produced by physical pain which is caused by the pain-receptor nerves which are located all over the body (and are distinct from the nerves that mediate the sensations of touch, heat, and cold).

## “Problem” of Evil-14: Job 5

- e. Mental anguish is not attached to pain as in an exact and invariable proportion. It varies from person to person and from time to time with the same person.
- Pre-frontal lobotomies result in pain being felt but not as distressing.
  - Distraction and emotions can block pain (athletes, fear).
  - Cf. warfare where soldiers with painful wounds experience less anguish due to the fact that they are going home.
  - Death of martyrs.
  - Placebos.
  - Due to modern comforts, today’s man tends to resent pain more than his ancestors and feels that he is entitled to anything to remove the pain

## “Problem” of Evil-14: Job 5

- f. Values or benefits of Physical Pain.
  - 1) First, pain serves as an alarm, drawing our attention to injury or disease of which we might not otherwise be conscious. Pain induces a patient to seek the expert advice of a physician or a surgeon. Pain demands are clamant, and of a nature that cannot usually be ignored.
  - 2) Pain acts as an invaluable deterrent, keeping us from dangerous situations.

## “Problem” of Evil-14: Job 5

(Value or benefits of pain)

- 3) Sense of pain helps to create that condition of voluntary immobilization of an inflamed or injured part which the peripheral sympathetics are attempting to secure, and which is so essential a factor in bringing about a cure.
- 4) Pain serves as a preserver of life. It is a great benefactor that alarms and protects.

## “Problem” of Evil-14: Job 5

(Mental pain/anguish)

- g. However, severe mental anguish per se is usually a function of sin, evil, and human viewpoint. The human experience of such anguish is a result of becoming disoriented to God, Bible doctrine, and the plan of God. The stronger the self-centeredness the greater the anguish.
- h. Severe anguish caused by wishing that things were otherwise is failure to be fully conscious of God and His universal purpose of bringing good out of evil (Genesis 50:20).