

Faith Bible Church

**"Problem" of Evil 15
Job 6: Pain, Pleasure, and God**

Any Questions?

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

OPENING PASSAGE

Galatians 5:22–23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, ²³ humility , self-control; against such things there is no law.

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; Prolegomena

Broad and deep understanding of BD

There are two aspects to knowing God: knowledge of propositional truth (BD) and personal knowledge (fellowship). Both are crucial to a healthy growing spiritual life.

As far as the philosophical foundations (propositional truths), consider the ramifications of the two areas we have studied thus far.

- Reality as such
- o Logic (32)
 - o Truth (24)
 - 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 24

Modern Fragmentation of Reality

Note the dichotomy in anti-intellectual forms of Christianity with the language of “head” and “heart.” This dichotomy is the cause of many Christians becoming wacky, loony, and in some cases mentally ill as they become divorced or detached from reality as such. There are concerns today among prominent psychologists with regard to Facebook and addictions to pseudo-worlds and images.

Heart = non-rational, feelings

The spiritual world of faith and feeling God
Place where you can create reality

Head-Brain = ungodly, unspiritual

The secular world of logic
“Human viewpoint”

Philosophical Foundations: Truth 24 (Dichotomization of Reality)

Note the fragmentation in our postmodern society with its two-realm view of “truth” as such. In the upper story we have faith and subjectivity. In the lower story we have hard thinking, logic, and real truth. How could you communicate about the truth of Christianity to someone with such a postmodern paradigm?

Upper Story of “Faith”

Nonrational, Personal feelings, Values, Truth, Metaphysics

Faith: Religion, Christianity; Mormonism

POST-KANTIAN DICHOTOMY

Leap of faith required to move from the Lower Story to Upper Story

Scientism

Lower Story of “Facts”

Rational, Verifiable, Scientific

The “Real” Empirical World

Philosophical Foundations: Truth 24

Modern Fragmentation of Reality

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

Public Sphere

Scientific knowledge

Philosophical Foundations: Truth 24

Modern Fragmentation of Reality

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

Values

Individual Choices

Facts

Binding on Everyone

Philosophical Foundations: Truth 24 Modern Fragmentation of Reality

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

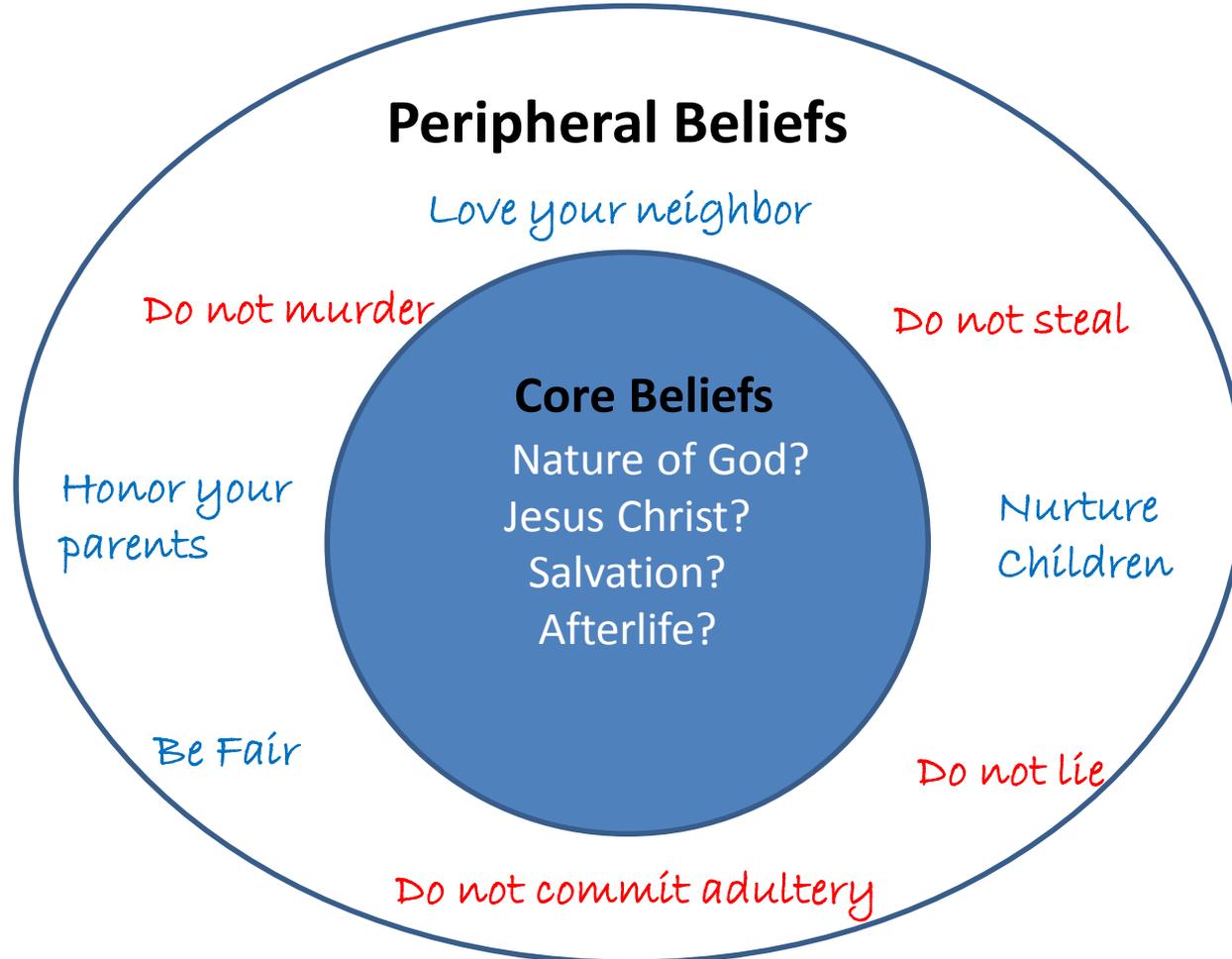
**Subjective, Relative to Particular Groups, rejection of logic
Socially constructed values (cf. Margaret Mead)**

Modernism

Objective, Universally Valid, logical

Philosophical Foundations: Truth 24

Religious Core Beliefs vs. Peripheral Beliefs



Another philosophical problem today is the myth that all of the religions of the world are “basically” the same.

What happens when Christianity stops being about theology, and Bible doctrine?

Attitude of fallen man toward the true God: Rom. 3:10-12, as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one; ¹¹ There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; ¹² All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one."

Regarding true knowledge of the true God, Scripture notes two avenues: *external evidence and the inward ministry of the Holy Spirit*—the external facts and the inward confirmation of those facts through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

- ✓ External evidence: **Acts 2:22**, "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—
- ✓ Internal evidence. **1 Corinthians 2:9-10**, 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." ¹⁰ For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

“Problem” of Evil-15: Job 6

Although Job became overwhelmed and disoriented, at the end God vindicated Job's view of the goodness of God. Job was no divine command theorist nor was he a Stoic or a deontologist. He knew the nature of man (e.g., natural law; virtue ethics) and that God was good and created man with natural self-interest and desire for pleasure/well-being.

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.

The direction and scope of our study of God and the “problem” of evil, suffering, and the various difficulties in life (how can God be loving in light of evil?).

- ✓ Most approaches to the problem of evil are very analytical with rigorous logic. This is required. However, when dealing with a subject that includes personal relationships, analytical philosophy is inadequate. This is where the biblical narratives come into play. Both the analytical (Dominican, left-brain precision) and personal approaches (Franciscan, right-brain broader and more nuanced and personal approach) by themselves are inadequate.
- ✓ We need a rigorous, logical, metaphysical understanding as well as the personal. We will be looking at both in this study. From complex logical analysis to the narratives of Job, Samson, and Mary of Bethany.

- ✓ The two approaches, logical and personal, should not be viewed as competitors, but as allies, each with something to contribute to and correct in the other.
- ✓ Both the analytical precision as well as the personal approach are needed for understanding the world as it is and how to live and thrive in it.
- ✓ Resolution to the problem of suffering must be understood both logically as well as personally. There are existential issues that outside of the reach of logic, and “stories” are simply inadequate.

Outline of Job 6.

1. Job and the natural law of pain and pleasure, 6:1-12.
2. Job and the betrayal of his “friends,” 13-30

1. It is crucial for every believer when going through aches and pains to make a distinction between natural physiological pain and mental psychological anguish (which often includes lack of fellowship and of submission to the plan of God coupled with feeling of entitlement). We have noted the many benefits of physiological pain.
2. Most often it is the mental anguish that is the real problem—and not so much the physiological pain. Many unbelievers willingly go through a lot more intense pain with a lot better attitude than some of the crotchety and murmuring Christians with relatively minor aches and pains.

3. Job's distress is more from psychological anguish rather than physical pain. He is far more upset at think of the loss of his children and the painful poisonous arrows of God than the physical pain. His anguish of losing all hope!
4. Job in chapter 6 is totally disoriented to God and his situation and this in turn adds tremendous anguish to an already horrible situation.

5. God created human nature to seek happiness/ well-being. It is in human nature to seek happiness and pleasure. Our Creator made us this way.
- ✓ Consider Aristotle's contribution in natural law (laws of divine establishment): teleology; purpose of all creatures being toward happiness or well-being; happiness being the end as no one seeks happiness to get something else; the habituation of character in accordance with reason; reason being what makes man unique among creatures and how this is where he achieves happiness.
 - ✓ However, since Aristotle does not have a concept of sin, he cannot explain man's irrationality. Man has a propensity to sin which is anti-God and anti-life. "Who will deliver me from the body of death?" Rom. 7.

6. The problem is not that man seeks his own self-interested pleasure/well-being, the problem is that he is mistaken about his best interest (e.g., children who would love to just eat candy all of the time; the cocaine addict). Even the lush and the profligate is seeking happiness, but they are mistaken about what is really their best interest and well-being/happiness. Only God satisfies and gives capacity for all of His creaturely blessings.

7. Consider the pattern in the history of rock stars who start out with immediate and sensual pleasures only to crash and burn, (you cannot flout moral laws any more than laws of physics, sooner or later they will catch up with you) and how so many of the ones who survive realize that what they really wanted was love that is found in a wife and children—not the groupies.