

# The Beauty/Glory of God.29

Glory/Beauty of God in John 1:43

“Follow Me”: More on God’s Love for Creation

## 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.

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# 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. 34)
- Reality –Logic 32,  
Truth 32

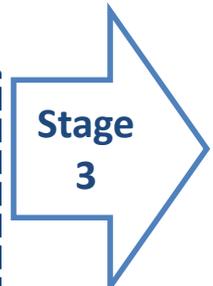
Any questions? Any ambiguities that need for clarification?

God's plan is for you to be a "pillar" and "foundation" of truth (1 Tim. 3:15). This cannot be done with modern nominalistic, post-realist, deistic, fideistic mindset.

It is one thing to memorize Bible doctrine, it is quite a different matter altogether to have the mental foundation to really get it.

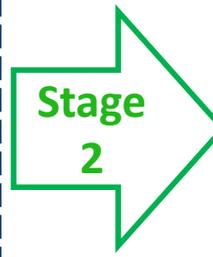
Consider how difficult and funny it was in our last Bible class where we saw God portraying for Job His intimate love for inanimate and animate creation like the seas. Consider the ramifications for Job as well as for us. Has cosmology changed?

Metaphysics is key to really understanding God and His Word. Metaphysics goes much deeper than worldviews. It deals with the very cognitive structure or map of your thinking. It is one thing to speak of your worldview. It is something else to actually be able to map out the roads necessary to get to that destination. Metaphysics has changed my entire understanding of God, TGB, love, joy, and freewill. It heightens all we have studied on fellowship with God.



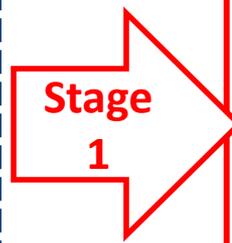
**Stage 3 – Christian metaphysician = life of glory!**

- 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



**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.



**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.



# History of Metaphysics – **Classical** vs. **Modern**

**Biblical/'Ehyeh metaphysics: Ex. 3:14; Jn. 1:3; Psa. 19:1-3; Rm. 1:18-32; Acts 17:28; Col. 1:17; Rev. 4:11**

**The Ancient Period (624 B.C. –A.D. 135): Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes, Pythagoras, Xenophanes, Heraclitus, Parmenides, Anaxagoras, Empedocles, Zeno the Eleatic, Protagoras, Gorgias, Socrates, Democritus, Leucippus, Epicurus, Plato, Aristotle, Pyrrho, Epicurus, Lucretius, Zeno the Stoic, Epictetus**  
**MATERIALISM: things (atoms & void) self-existed. Aristotle and Plato fight against materialism.**

**The Classical Christian-Esse period (30-1349): Jesus Christ, Apostles, Aristides (A.D. 110), Plotinus, Patristics, Augustine, Boethius, John Scotus Erigena, Avicenna, Anselm, Al-Ghazali, Peter Abelard, Averroes, Maimonides, Bonaventure, Thomas Aquinas, Eckhart, John Duns Scotus, William of Ockham. PHILOSOPHICAL REALISM:**  
**Metaphysics of God, truth, creation, man, grace, sin, evil, angels, Satan.**

**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, Engels, Dostoevsky, Nietzsche.**  
**MATHEMATICS AND MATERIALISM.**

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

## **Ultimate reality of Being and beings**

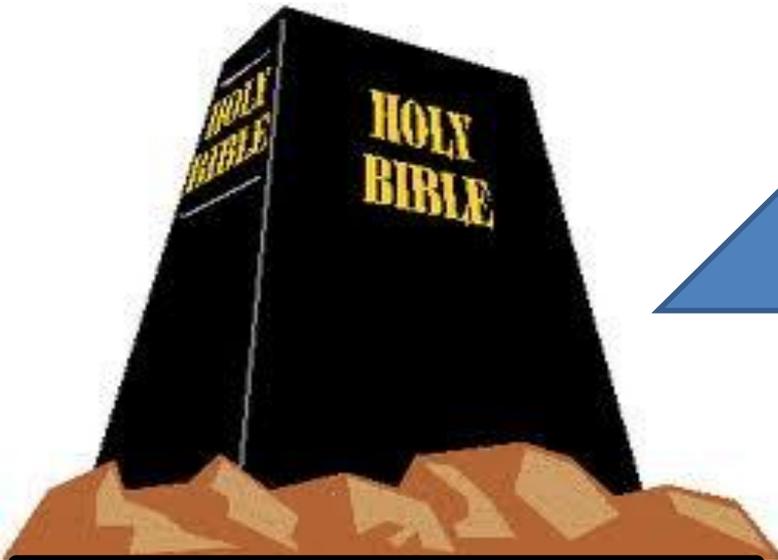
Monism, Pluralism  
Atomism, Humanism,  
Pantheism, Platonism  
Aristotelianism  
Essentialism  
Rationalism  
Radical Empiricism  
Thomism, Nominalism  
Humanism, Scientism  
Agnosticism, Skepticism  
Secularism, Deism  
Idealism, Romanticism  
Marxism, Anti-intellectualism  
Evolutionism, Atheism  
Existentialism,  
Pragmatism,  
Hedonism, Positivism  
Post-modernism,  
Relativism,  
Functionalism,  
Coherentism  
Phenomenology  
Existentialism,  
Psychologism, Nihilism.

**Classical Christian (A.D. 30-1349)**. They took enormous pains in mapping out man's internal makeup/map as it relates to God/Esse. They understood that God gives existence to the very thoughts in your mind and no intention (act of your will), no thought, can exist or pass to another thought with Him giving it existence and knowing each one intimately (cf., Heb. 4:12-13). God Himself turns man's will towards Himself, but man can freely turn his will away from God and thus corrupt and fragment himself. It was understood that unless man is free, a man can not choose between right and wrong and is not responsible for what he does. They understood that no act can be wrong if it cannot be avoided, and that in Determinism there is no responsibility.

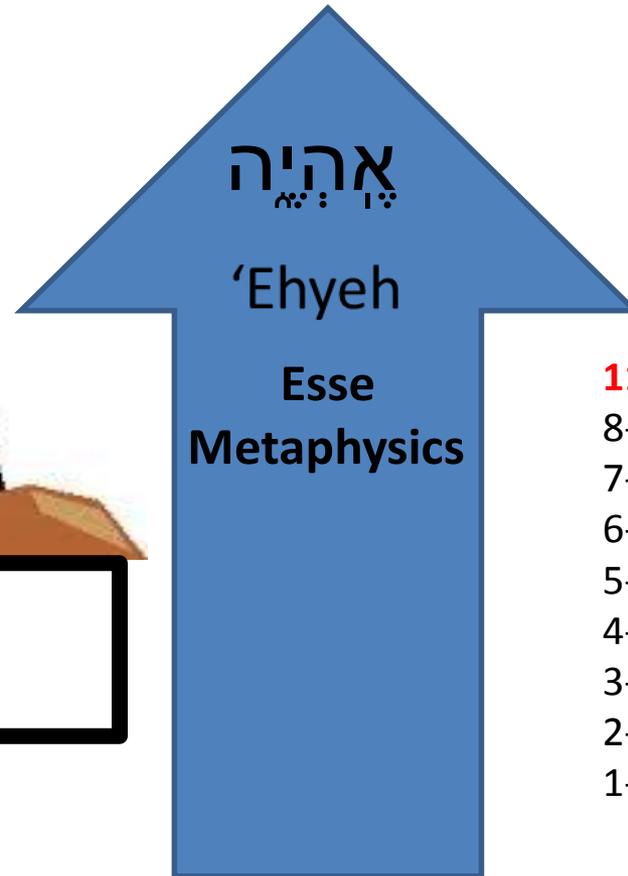
**American metaphysical naturalism.** Due to methodological naturalism, reductionism, man has been dehumanized in the name of science. The rejection of God and the embracing of naturalism that promised to bring man so much freedom and autonomy stripped it all away and along with it dignity (cf., Sartre). Modern science and Darwinism rejects any notion of human free will. The Darwinian influence has permeated everything from the criminal justice system, to social policies, business policies, education, etc.

# Foundations: Metaphysics-11

The blessings of metaphysics are incalculable for the Bible believer. Without it, it is shocking how blind even a doctrinal believer can be to so much of God, His existence, and love that are manifested all around him (cf., creation, glory, love, and that all essences are invisible, e.g. Bible. This has been a long time in the making and a long time coming. It underlies all that I have been teaching over the past 30 years. Thank you for your support of the teaching of Truth as such at FBC.



'Ehyeh asher 'Ehyeh  
Metaphysics

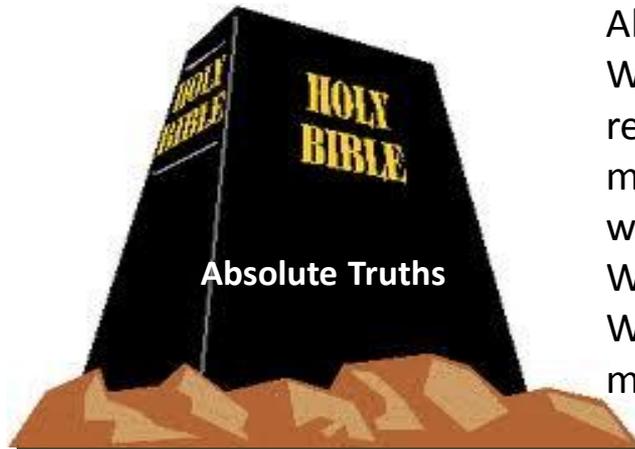


## 11—The Transcendentals.33

- 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 for philosophical/theological foundation of philosophical realism



Almost all pastors are very nominalistic in dealing with the Word of God as they attempt to get the meaning of realities in the Bible from the word instead of the metaphysical reality the word is pointing to. Ever wonder why many quotations in the NT are taken from Septuagint? Why Jesus's quotes from the OT were not word for word? What about anthropopathisms? What about one word meaning different things in different contexts?

**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.  
( Metaphysics 11: Transcendentals.33)**

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

PR 32

# The Transcendentals-33

## (The Existence of Beauty: Poetry)

1. Understanding the *beings* of Beauty as per aesthetics is to be distinguished from judging their quality. The goal of aesthetics is beauty and true beauty brings pleasure. It is an added blessing to understand what we enjoy.
  - We have noted the different modes of beauty in music, paintings, and dancing and how beauty brings unique pleasure in each area.
  - Next we turn to poetry.

## **The Transcendentals-33**

### **(The Existence of Beauty: Poetry)**

2. Poetry, like music, is an art of time. This does not mean that it requires time to perceive a poem, for the same holds true with respect to a painting. Music and poetry are arts of time in the sense that their works do not have a total simultaneous existence, like that of the arts of space like paintings and architecture.

# **The Transcendentals-33**

## **(The Existence of Beauty: Poetry)**

3. Poetry is an art of the mind. Thoughts becomes the material of art only because it itself has its own body, namely language, the embodiment of the word. Its material are words, spoken, heard and understood.

# **The Transcendentals-33**

## **(The Existence of Beauty: Poetry)**

4. Poetry has its own unique form. Its material consists of sonorous forms of sounds of language, taken together with the ensemble of the quantitative and qualitative relationships that make it up. Each word, each group of words, each sentence, or element of the sentence in a consequence is perceived in sonorous unity that produces beauty and thus gives pleasure.

# The Beauty/Glory of God.29

Glory/Beauty of God in John 1:  
“Follow Me”: More on God’s love for Creation

## John 1 : 14

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# The Beauty/Glory of God-28

The glory road. **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.

**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.

**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).

**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.

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

## The Beauty/Glory of God-29

John 1:1-3 – Note John's esse metaphysics!

1. Scientists now know that all of reality is made up of matter, energy, and information, and it all came out of nothing. BTW, Darwin was wrong and Einstein was right when he said to Nils Bohr, "God does not play dice with the Universe, Nils." Bohr replied "Stop telling God what to do, Albert"
2. The fact that lower life forms have information in them (cf., mold, bees, and animals) should not come as any shock to the believer. All of creation has information which we see in the form of instincts; it all came from the Logos. He put the "rational" instincts in all things.
3. New information is never added by environment. The changes all have to do with mutation's and sloughing off of genes, cf. going from the wolf to the Chihuahua, the latter of which is the result of microevolution's mutations which actually degrade the ability of the animal to survive in the wild.

# The Beauty/Glory of God-29

John 1:43 – “Follow Me” (ἀκολουθεῖ μοι) – loving Christ.

1. We are looking at two ideas.

#1 – The nature of the love of God.

#2 – The nature of man’s 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> order wills and volitions and the ubiquitous problem of fragmentation.

**Based on what we have been studying,  
what is good and what is bad about this concept?**



## The Beauty/Glory of God-29

2. Almost no modern Christian, including doctrinal believers, understand either the true nature of God ('Ehyeh, Esse) or the true nature of His love (for good and union) for mankind and all of creation, even though God Himself has revealed these truths to Job and recorded it in His Word for us.
3. These truths regarding God, His love, and creation are not just extra doctrines or doctrine to add to other doctrines. They are total truth, whole truth. They are transformational. I would argue that they are more transforming to us than to Job or Moses because of the state in which we find ourselves.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-29

4. The fact that these total truth doctrines have not been taught or developed is because the modern mind is incapable of seeing them because of a naturalistic, anti-metaphysical framework. The modern mind is ill-equipped to receive these truths.
  
5. Only through the development of metaphysical thinking can the believer really see these truths. This is not just new information. It is a whole new way of thinking (like a logic course). Failure will always lead to nominalistic approaches to the Word of God no matter how much exegesis or languages one knows. In nominalism the exegete stops at or at least focuses on the meaning of the word instead of seeing the metaphysical reality that the word points to.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-29

6. God's portrayal of His love for all of creation. Due to the importance of these truths and recent comments by believers of FBC that they are now beginning to see what I have been talking about over the last year, I am going to "hit" this again. I want you to see what God showed Job and then apply it to Esse metaphysics, your life and your cosmology.
  - a. Job 38:8-11. God's love and intimate connection with the seas. The nature of second-personal relationship.
  - b. Job 38:12. God's love and intimate connection with darkness and light. Darkness and light have dwelling places, and God gets them to those places by personal interaction with them. He does not issue an impersonal decree stipulating where darkness and light must be. Rather, He Himself guides them there.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-29

- c. Job 38:28-29. God depicts His love for inanimate creation is giving it existence.
- d. Job 38:41. Young and helpless animals are described *by God* have having a personal relationship with God—and so are powerfully, fully grown animals.
- e. Job 39:9-11. The implication is that Job could not have such an intimate relationship with this fierce animal, but God can and does.
- f. Job 40:15-41:5. Note God's intimate relationship with Behemoth and Leviathan.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-29

7. It is a grave mistake to see nothing but God's power over all of creation. God deals as a parent with His creatures, from the sea and rain to the raven and the donkey and even to the monstrous behemoth and leviathan. He brings them from the womb, swaddles, feeds, and guides them, and even plays with them. Most importantly, He talks to them; and somehow in some sense they talk to him in return.
  
8. God explicitly reveals His love for inanimate and animate creation. To get this is to move into a totally new way of seeing reality and entering into a rich, deep, and joyous fellowship with God on a second-person level.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-29

9. Can something, namely the creation all around us, that was once dead and empty of God's presence, ever be elevated to the point where it radiates with God's glory (Rom. 1:20; Psa. 19:1-4)? Can old false ways of viewing God's love ever be corrected? Can the modern believer ever hope to enter into wonders of God in all of creation? Or is it too late? Are our minds too unbiblical to receive what God taught and Job received? Are we doomed to be blind to it all like the rest of the world? It was much easier for classical Christianity to see and live in its beauty than for us because they had metaphysical support in their community. They were taught metaphysics.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-29

10. Will we ever be able to see what Job sees in Job 42:5-6? Or will be limited to what we hear, namely Bible doctrine and be blind to the creation-around-us truths? Are our lives only to be about the other world?
11. The idea behind the divine speeches is that God's relationship to all His creatures is person, intimate, and parental. This is no less true today than in the time of Job.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-29

12. God, like a good parent, will sometimes allow His children that He loves to suffer—but only if that suffering confers benefits that could not be achieved apart from that suffering, Acts 2:22-24; Rom. 5:1-5; 8:28; 2 Cor. 12:7-10; Philip. 4:4-9; James 1:2-4; 1 Pet. 1:6-9.

- Would you choose someone else to be God, if the could guarantee you no more testing, suffering, disease, or death?
- Would that person love you more or less than God?
- God has His own ways to bring children to Himself. Consider Abel and Cain.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-29

13. If God loves all of creation, then a fortiori that He loves man who is made in His image even more. If God deals maternally with even inanimate parts of His creation, if He seeks to preserve the good even for the ravens, then a fortiori, He will be faithful in dealings with human beings who are worth so much more. Sound like a familiar argument?

Matthew 6:26 "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?"

Matthew 6:30 "But if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more do so for you, O men of little faith?"

Jesus expected the disciples to be oriented to Esse metaphysics and apply it to their lives as they see God in all of creation.

## The Beauty/Glory of God-29

14. While refinement is a major part of testing, we must never forget that the issue in all testing is the love of (plenary genitive) God. God's love for us is always manifested in making us better and in drawing us closer to Him. The issue for us is the good and 2<sup>nd</sup> person love for God—always! This is what Job grasped. He saw the love and goodness of God illustrated in all of creation.

2 Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ controls us,

What Job wanted was answers, what He got was God's love! Love for God must underlie all spiritual virtues.