Faith Bible Church

"Problem" of Evil - 18
Job 9; Internal Integration and God

Our Calling into Fellowship with Jesus Christ and the Need for Experiential Washing

1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful (πιστὸς ὁ θεός), through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 13:8 Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me (μέρος μετ᾽ ἐμοῦ)." ⁹ Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head." ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed (ὁ λελουμένος) needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean (καθαρὸς), but not all *of you*."

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
Prolegomena
(Philosophical
Foundations/
(Reality/Truth)

Not only does much of contemporary society look like it was personally designed or structured by Satan so does much of contemporary Christianity

The essence of Evil is privation. Much of contemporary Christianity has no clue about Evil and how devastating it is especially in the realm of background knowledge.

Reality as such
○ **Logic (32)**
○ **Truth (27)**

Broad and deep understanding of BD

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
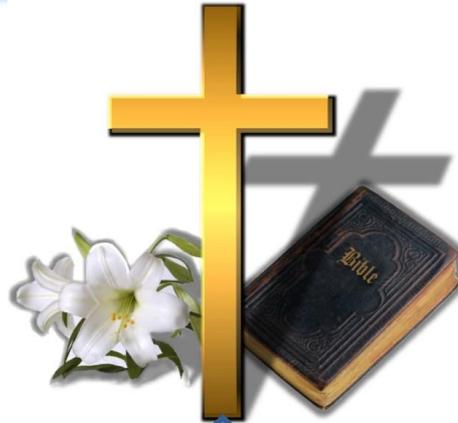
Baby & meaning of life

- 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 27 (Dichotomization of Reality)

Metaphysical Realm

**Christianity,
Meaning of human life**

**God, Logic
Esse, 1st principles
Justice, Love, Truth**

Unbeliever is unable to provide a unified view of Truth

Physical Realm

**Physicalism
requires a blind
irrational leap
of faith. The
physicalist life really
is unlivable.**

**Scientism
Verifiable, Scientific
The "Real" Empirical World**

**Secularism
mocks Christianity
for "blind faith" – yet
secularists
must steal our values to
function in life.**

Metaphysical Realm:
Christianity,
Bible doctrines,
Meaning of human life

God, Logic
Esse, 1ˢᵗ principles
Justice, Love, Truth

1 Classical "Reason"	2 Evidentialist "Facts"	3 Reformed "Bible"	4 Fideistic "Encounter"

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Holy Spirit

2/18/2012

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**Emphasis on reason in Classical Approach Illustrated
(Peter Kreeft, "*Between Heaven and Hell*")**

John Kennedy: If you want to be so logical, I challenge you: prove to me logically that Jesus is God and not just man.

C.S. Lewis: All right.

Kennedy: What?

Lewis: I just said, "All right." Why the surprise?

Kennedy: I thought you were going to say something about mysteries and faith and authority and the church. Do you mean you are going to *reason* yourself into the old faith?

Lewis: Not myself; I'm already there. But you, perhaps.

Kennedy: Did you reason yourself into it? Did you arrive at your belief by reason alone?

Lewis: Reason *alone?* Of course not. But I looked before I leaped. I reasoned before I believed. And after I believed too—I mean, once I believed, I was convinced by the way reason backed up faith. It couldn't prove *everything*, but it could give very strong arguments for many things, and it could answer all objections.

Kennedy: *All* objections?

Lewis: Certainly.

Kennedy: That sounds pretty arrogant to me. Who are you to answer all objections?

Lewis: No, No, I don't claim that *I* can answer all objections but that *reason* can—all objections are answerable.

Kennedy: Why do you believe that?

Lewis: If truth is one, if God is the author of all truth, both the truth of reason and the truth of faith (I mean divine revelation), then there can never be a rational argument against faith that's telling, that's unanswerable. Faith may go beyond reason but it can never simply contradict reason.

1. Outline of Job 9: Job's First Spiel on the Problem of Evil.

    a.   God is Almighty, 9:1-7.

    b.   God is Omniscient, 9:8-10

    c.   Job cannot struggle against God, 9:11-21.

    d.   The Evil Lot of the Just and the Wicked, 9:22-35.

2. Before one can grasp the problem of Evil in any depth, a great deal of background knowledge is required, e.g.,
    a. Analytical (left-brain skills) precise knowledge.
    b. Narrative (right-brain skills) for nuanced understanding necessary for interpersonal relationships.
    c. 1st person knowledge of self as person.
    d. 2nd person knowledge of God as a Person
    e. 3rd person "that" knowledge about God (Bible doctrine).
    f. Personal internal integration and the presence of God.

3. Example of analytical framing of the "problem."
   a. God is omniscient—He knows about all evil.
   b. God is omnipotent—He is able to stop evil.
   c. God is love—He desires to remove evil.
   d. Yet, evil, much evil continues to exist.

4. Narrative understanding of evil. We will be filling in the background knowledge with Job, Samson, and Mary of Bethany.

5. The inadequacy of 1st and 3rd person knowledge.
   - ✓ The distinction between 1st and 3rd person knowledge on a natural and supernatural level.
   - ✓ It is the "that knowledge." Gnosis knowledge.
   - ✓ As far as God and Bible doctrine, 3rd person knowledge is the how and what knowledge.
   - ✓ This would be associated with the analytical knowledge.
   - ✓ This is just talk about God.
   - ✓ Strengths provides accurate understanding of Bible doctrine and the nature of God.
   - ✓ Weaknesses if not coupled with 2nd person knowledge: legalism, self-righteousness, lack of spiritual life,
   - ✓ This is the main problem of Job as well as Eliphaz and Bildad.

6. The need for 2nd person personal knowledge.
    - ✓ Knowing God personally.
    - ✓ Relationship knowledge.
    - ✓ Impossible apart from the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
    - ✓ Greatest source of power and motivation in the world.
    - ✓ Weaknesses: without correct 1st person knowledge, this knowledge is fallible and can lead to mysticism, fanaticism, and heretical views as per liberalism and the Franciscans.
    - ✓ On a human level deficiencies in 2nd person experiential knowledge have analogies to autism (serene self-sufficiency, lack knowledge of persons and their mental states, lack of personal connectedness).
    - ✓ Biblical narratives provide aid in translating 1st and 3rd person truths into 2nd person knowledge. Narratives tend to resonate more than formulas on a personal level.
    - ✓ Perhaps lack of capacity for 2nd person knowledge and love toward fellow believers may be related to not being able to connect to God on a 2nd *PERSON* level.