

**Bible Doctrines (The True-Good-Beautiful)**

**T/G/B**

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

5: Hermeneutics
4: Linguistics-1
3: Epistemology 32 - Existence 50 - History 50
2:Metaphysics 32 - Trans. 50
1: Reality - Logic 32, - Truth 32

**Opening:** Our lives are part of the Greatest Love Story ever Told, a love story between God and His people, John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; Eph. 5:25-27; 32; 1 John 4:19; John 3:28, 29; Rev. 19:7-8; 21:3-7; 22:3-5. Note Paul’s and John’s description of the relation between Christ and the Church. They both knew the OT passages and that how the sacrifice of Christ was the means in God’s eternal plan where He would wed Himself to believers in an everlasting marital covenant. Indeed, all of salvation history is but a divine love story between God as creator and His own people—a story that comes to its climax at the bloody cross. God is actively pursuing a 2<sup>nd</sup> person love relationship with us. This often requires integration and that is where the difficulties come into play for most believers (difficulties are His megaphone). Life is to be a journey of love for God, only possible because He first loved us.

**Outline: 3 parts to Bible class:**

- 1) Spiritual foundations (20 minutes)
- 2) PR: Linguistics-1 (15 minutes)
- 3) Doctrinal development of faith, hope, love . . .

**Spiritual foundations:**

- 1) The biblical concurrent model of fellowship of walking with/before/after God (in contrast to popping in and out of circles/spheres) as illustrated with Moses in Exodus 3-4.
- 2) Consider the tremendous responsibilities of the pastor-teacher (2 Cor. 11:2). Consider the eternal ramifications.

**Preparation:** Concurrence and sin.

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

- Metaphysical understanding of God, creation, the spiritual life, man, and Bible doctrine.
- Transcendent relationship with God rather than nominal relationship with God.

Stage 3

Holy Spirit  Bible Doctrine

**Stage 2 – Christian doctrinal believer = life of doctrine!**

- Still Nominal understanding of God. Increase in perinoetic truth about God & the spiritual life. However, still plagued with pagan philosophy in view of God’s nature due to lack of metaphysics, which is due to modernism’s philosophical assumptions. He has become more stable, but still very dependent on others for confidence in absolute truths.
- Orientation still more about words than the reality.

Stage 2

Holy Spirit  Bible Doctrine

**Stage 1 – Christian baby = life of ups and downs.**

- Utilitarian understanding of God.
- All baby believers have a great deal of pagan views of God due to pagan horizon of meaning. All baby believers are tossed here and there by kosmos diabolicus, Eph. 4:14.
- For baby believers it is primarily about pragmatism. In other words, if it works or feels good , they think it must be true.

Stage 1

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**Satan has done a masterful job of concealing *Esse*, and in so doing distorting understanding of the true nature/core of reality, and thus the way we view God, the Bible, Bible doctrine, man, creation, and the spiritual life. It is mindboggling how wrong we were about basic natural and spiritual realities.**

Through PR, we will recover the true nature of language, meaning, and reality for a better understanding of God, creation, man, the Bible and the spiritual life.

Through PR, we have been able to recover the nature of knowledge and existence for a better understanding of God, creation, man, the Bible and the spiritual life.

Through PR, we have been able to recover metaphysics and the transcendentals for better understanding God, creation, man, the Bible and the spiritual life.

Through PR, we have been able to recover the nature and need of Truth and classical logic with its first principles for a better understanding, God, creation, man, the Bible and the spiritual life.

Through PR, we have been able to recover the nature of Realism for better understanding of God, creation, man, the Bible, and the spiritual life.

5: Hermeneutics
4: Linguistics-1
3: Epistemology 32
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1: Reality
- Logic 32,
- Truth 32

# Philosophical Foundations for a Realist Christian Worldview

## Linguistics/Philosophy of Language:1—Introduction

### Introduction

1. Recognition and appreciation for FBC whole truth seekers: You have demonstrated your love for the whole truth, time and time again. We only have two more areas of realism to deal with, but we still have some rather difficult things to get through to reach the whole truth in these areas. You have demonstrated that you love for truth and you are not too frangible.
2. Our study of philosophy of language will enable us to take off another layer of reality to see God in all things and to recognize the many linguistic/exegetical fallacies that pervade exegetical Bible churches. There is no telling what all we will uncover here. Again, I mean no disrespect to any of my teachers in exposing errors and discuss various fallacies (like with aorist tense). We must move forward in Truth, this is what pleases God!

3. Understanding how language maps on reality, the philosophy of language, is crucial for proper understanding of reality and God's Word. Satan has been very effective in seminaries by not training pastors in realism, which means automatic collapsing into some type of nominalism, which then corrupts their understanding of the Word, which then effects believers who depend upon them for accurate understanding of the Word of God and the spiritual life.
4. Without PR, pastors are at the mercy of linguists as well as victims of self-delusion in linguistical studies. Pastors are taught the original languages, but not the metaphysics of language and reality—this tends to create a type of Cartesian mentality. Exegetical fallacies as well as mental constructs of reality abound simply because of lack of philosophy of language as the pastors look up words and pick those that fit what they desire.

5. Given that pastors are not taught classical logic or linguistics, it really is amazing how much they do get right—mostly because of orthodoxy, which worked out these issues. Common push-back retorts on demands that pastors be trained in PR usually take the form of “it takes too long.” However, what is the point of years of training and study in the languages without PR? What about hungry believers who are really looking for someone to teach them Truth?
6. Moreover, Hebrew and Greek lexicons and grammars as well as conservative hermeneutical books have effectively removed metaphysics from the study of linguistics. This results in a very flat and often inaccurate view of truth and God.
7. One reason metaphysics has been removed from linguistics is because of the problems which were created by “metaphysics” (reductionism, scientism) that have replaced metaphysical realism. Without realism, “reality” goes back to mental constructs and representations as foundations—which means subjectivity and a flat view of reality.

8. Broad outline of this series on philosophy of language (linguistics).
  - a. Ancient theories of meaning.
    - (1) Plato (428-348 B.C.)
    - (2) Aristotle (384-322 B.C.)
  - b. Modern theories of meaning. They all influence all modern Christians.
    - (1) Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913)
    - (2) Gottlob Frege (1848-1925)
    - (3) Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951)
    - (4) Martin Heidegger (1889-1951)
    - (5) Willard Van Orman Quine (1908-2000)
    - (6) Noam Chomsky (1928-)
    - (7) Saul Kripke (1940-)
    - (8) Modern positivism and analytical philosophy (A.J. Ayer, etc.)

- c. A Realist's theory of meaning.
  - (1) Introduction
  - (2) The Foundation of Meaning
  - (3) The Communication of Meaning
  
- d. Meaningful God-talk.
  - (1) The Problem of theological language.
  - (2) Meaningful God-talk.
  - (3) Analogical predication.
  - (4) Analogical predication and metaphysical analogy.

## Love 28

1. 1 Cor. 13: Love and the Christian virtues of faith/hope/love.
  - a. 1 Cor. 13:2: The problem of knowledge without love:
    - Knowledge without love is arrogant thinking and thus can never be really true knowledge. True knowledge always possesses love for God and others, 1 Cor. 8:1-13.
    - Knowledge without love is knowledge unlike God's and thus not true knowledge or wisdom. We only see things as God sees them through love. In eternity we will all have a love that will enable us to see all things in a new light for the first time.
    - Lack of love or lack of knowledge is destructive to the spiritual life (Hos. 4:6; Isa. 5:13; 1 Cor. 3:16).
    - As per our study, the issue is relationship with God *by knowledge and by love*. The aim of all knowledge is love: love of God and others, especially fellow believers.

- b. 1 Cor. 13:13: Faith, hope and love. Illustrations of concurrence, faith/hope/love, and the transcendent narrative in the lives of believers in the Bible:
- Hebrews 2:14-15.
  - Hebrews 11:6-12:2.
  - Hebrews 11:10, 14, 16. We all know what cities and countries are and therefore we know what the Future Heaven will be like on earth.

## **“They desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one” (Heb. 11:14-16)**

1. Why is there a general lack of desire and anticipation of Heaven in modern Christianity, a lack that is not found in the Old Testament, the New Testament, and up through the Middle Age until we get to modernity? Heaven once gave believers strength and guidance in all of life, it was the pole star for pre-modern believers. What has happened? Why do modern believers rarely think about Heaven, especially in terms of the present life and accountability along with hope and anticipation.

2. Although all believers are forgiven and will never be judged or condemned, the Bible does indicate that in some way we will all give an account of our lives down to specific acts, actions, and words, 2 Cor 5:10; Matt. 12:36. Our memories will be more acute, not less, than now on earth. Our memories will not be wiped out.

Matthew 12:36 "And I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or worthless.

### 3. There are two heavens in the Bible:

- a. Intermediate heaven/paradise, Gen. 25:8; Luke 23:43; 16:22-31; Philip. 1:23. All believers who have already died are in this intermediate heaven in interim bodies. Just think, for most of us within 20-30 years we will be reunited with our loved ones, and saints of the Bible, around our Lord Jesus Christ.
- b. Future/Ultimate heaven, Rev. 21:1-7. The fact that God comes to the new earth makes the new earth part of heaven. Heaven, broadly speaking, is where God is. It is *not* the case that we will finally enter into some nebulous, angelic, harp playing, cloudy, sphere. God will come down to live with us in our place, the new earth. Remember, “Immanuel” means God with us, not the other way around. He will be with us on the new earth. This is the kingdom of heaven on earth.

4. The intermediate heaven is the present heaven and it is much better place to be than our present life on this earth, Philip. 1:23. When we die, depart from this earth, we will go to be with Christ and experience a joy much greater than we have ever experienced on this earth. However, this is not our permanent home.

Philippians 1:23 But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;

4. However, the heaven that we go to at death is not our permanent home. It may surprise you to know that there is indication that those in this heaven are aware of things on earth (Rev. 6:9-11). However, it will be a different perspective, like God's and elect angels. We will be relocated to the new earth, which will be our home, Rev. 22:3-5. It is on the new earth that we will actually see *Esse*, be like Christ, and serve Him.

6. In Ultimate Heaven we will eat, drink, work, have responsibilities, and delegate responsibilities to others. We will be physical as we are now, cf. Jesus. We will make plans and be involved in planning and administration.
- We will remember all of our lives and all the people we knew on earth. While we will not be married as we are now, we will have wonderful relationships with our spouses and all those we have known. Our marriage will be to Christ.
  - We will have bodies and there will even be different nations on the earth in the eternal state, signifying different human cultures.
  - There will be animals in heaven on earth like originally intended. There will even be trees in the eternal state—the very tree that was in the First Garden will be there.
  - We do know what *all* of these things are like—like having a body, eating, drinking, working, and other human activities. It will be very human, indeed! only perfect and we will enjoy time.

## 6. Can't imagine Heaven?

- a. The only way someone could not imagine what Ultimate Heaven will be like is if he could not imagine bodies, eating, drinking, responsibilities, productivity, nations, cities, trees, houses, cities, flowing water, fruit, or could not imagine living a life of love, thankfulness, worship and praise of God, or could not imagine experiencing a day without pain, disappointment, or productivity, or imagine a period of time without sin and evil, or imagine that *Esse* could be seen in all things, or imagine that one could see the love of God for all men.
- b. Recall that we have already received a down payment of our inheritance, Eph. 1:4. We have the opportunity to live a pre-heavenly life now! Heaven will be filled with the perfect life—no gossip, no failures, no disappointment, no sadness, no death.
- c. Recall Jesus's eternal existence: Recall that Jesus did not come back as a ghost. He had a body by which He walked, talked, ate, and enjoyed the company of others. We are human!

7. It is vitally important that we, like the saints of the OT and NT, stay oriented to our future home on the new earth and heavens wherein “righteousness will dwell,” 2 Pet. 3:13; Titus 2:13; 1 John 3:3; Isa 65-66. To lose this orientation is to miss the sacred romance with God and transcendent value.

2 Peter 3:13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;

1 John 3:3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

John 14:2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you." And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.