

Examining Presuppositions- Dispensationalism (5)

Fundamentalism vs. Evangelicalism

1. Dispensationalists are often labeled “fundamentalists” —with a pejorative intent. Term was coined in 1920 to refer to those who held to a strict literal adherence to the Word of God.
2. Both Fundamentalists and Evangelicals trace their roots back to Hodge, Warfield, Scofield and Machen and their defense for the inspiration of Scripture against liberalism. British and American scholars wrote a 12 volume collection of essays between 1910 and 1915. Over 3 million copies sold.
3. 5 Fundamentals of the faith: inerrancy of the Bible, virgin birth, divinity of Christ, atoning character of His death, and His bodily resurrection. Irreducible minimum of these 5 categories. One could disagree on details. What do you consider essentials and non-essentials to the faith? Why?

4. Fundamentalists: moral majority, no smoking, no drinking, KJV only, dictation theory of inspiration, due to fear of compromise tend to be isolationists, anti-intellectual—not willing to engage the world intellectually, legalistic, focus is on preaching on the sin, Bible-thumpers, would like to institute biblical/Mosaic law, intolerant, divisive, lack of grace orientation, stuff-shirts, really “serious” about God and the kingdom, obsessive about externals, self-righteous, harsh and tend to bring up past failures, “guilt-runners.” These characteristics are not true of all.
5. Evangelicals. Biblical term emphasizing the need for regeneration. Evangelicals likewise hold to the fundamentals of the faith. However, they engage the world intellectually, e. g. apologetics. The focus for the evangelical is on the grace of God rather than the sinfulness of man. The issue is grace rather than slamming people for their sins. They tend to be grace-oriented.

THE ESSENTIALS OF YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE – YOUR LIFE WITH GOD

#1—Salvation: John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, (ὥστε) that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

#2—Fellowship with God: 1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, so that (ἵνα) when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

#3—Spiritual Growth: 2 Peter 3:17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled (τῶν ἀθέσμων) men, you fall from your own steadfastness, ¹⁸ but grow (αὐξάνετε) in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

*N.B. it is really easy to do bad hodology, good hodology is *rare*.

LIFE OF DAVID (94) – Government, part 7: More on Evil and the Relationship between the Church and State

Review:

- Government 1 - The 7 laws of divine establishment.
- Government 2 - The Evils of Big Government, 1 Sam 8.
- Government 3 - The purpose of Government, Rom 13.
- Government 4 - How Christ and BD founded Western Civilization
- Government 5 - Natural Law and the 5 decay stages of a nation
- Government 6 - The Real Problem of Evil with all of “its sweetness and light.” Without BD, no one, not even the well-meaning Bible believer, stands a chance.

1. Evil is the grand policy of Satan as the ruler of this world.

- ✓ Evil includes human good, sweetness and light, social and economic panaceas; the attempt to solve the problems of life apart from God, natural law or the laws of DE; social gospel; social action (cf. America's messianic complex); socialism; religion; legalism; "Christian" victorious life panaceas; prosperity gospel; "its good because it is helping some people" mentality, et al.
- ✓ Because of the "compassion" of evil it is no longer safe for our children to *freely* play with neighborhood kids up and down the street in many communities—all the while we feed and house the psychopaths, druggies, prostitutes, and child molesters. Look what the compassion of evil has done to the black family. Look at our country! High price of evil!

2. Chafer, “The motive of Satan is four times revealed, and these disclosures stand out like milestones in his career.

- 1) **His master passion**. His secret purpose was to be “like the Most High (לְעֵלְיִן) Isa. 14:14.
- 2) **His ideal** in others. In the Garden he recommended his own goals, “you shall be as gods (כְּאֱלֹהִים).”
- 3) **His desire** to take the place of God. When he met the last Adam in the wilderness, he manifested his desire to take the place of God, “if you will worship me,” Lk 4:7.
- 4) **His motive** ultimately revealed in the assumption of the Man of Sin, 2 Thess. 2:4.
 - ✓ **2 Thessalonians 2:4** who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

3. Isaiah 14:12-15. Satan's original sin—the 5 “I wills:”

- ✓ 14:12. Isaiah sees the whole career of Satan in retrospect. “Lucifer, the son of the morning.” Written from the perspective of the end of Satan’s career. In this verse we have his fall and power over the nations. Note the 5 sins:
- ✓ 14:13. #1, “**I will ascend into heaven.**” His desire was to be in the abode of the third heaven where God is. This reveals His self-seeking intention above God’s will.
- ✓ 14:13. #2, “**I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.**” The stars here point to angels (Job 38:7). He wanted to take the place of God and rule over all of the angels.
- ✓ 14:13. #3, “**I will sit also upon the mount of assembly, in the recesses of the north.**” Congregation refers to Israel. Sides of the north refers to Jerusalem.

- ✓ 14:14. #4, **“I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.”** “Clouds” more than a hundred times clouds refer to the glory of God. Satan wants the glory which belongs to God. Note the glory of Lucifer’s original creation, Eze 28:12-19.
- ✓ 14:14. #5, **“I will be like the Most High.”** He picked this title because it was this title that was used for God being possessor of heaven and earth. His purpose is to gain authority over heaven and earth. *This essential evil character of Satan is clearly revealed.* As imitator of God, he will do anything to accomplish this goal. Consider his temptation to Eve. The man of sin in the Tribulation will likewise declare himself to be God, sitting in the temple of God.
- ✓ **Satan’s philosophy of ministry.** To gain the highest heavenly position; regal rights both in heaven and on earth; Messianic recognition, a glory which belongs to God alone, and a likeness to the Most High, the possessor of heaven & earth.

4. **Chafer on kosmos diabolicus**, “Next to the lie itself, the greatest delusion Satan imposes—reaching to all unsaved and to a large proportion of Christians—is the supposition that only such things as society considers evil could originate with the devil—if, indeed, there be any devil to originate anything. It is not the reason of man, but the revelation of God, which points out that governments, morals, education, art, commercialism, vast enterprises and organizations, and much of religious activity are included in the *cosmos diabolicus*. That is, the system which Satan has constructed includes all the good which he can incorporate into it and be consistent in the thing he aims to accomplish. A serious question arises whether the presence of gross evil in the world is due to Satan’s intention to have it so, or whether it indicates Satan’s inability to execute all he has designed.”

5. In every generation there is always a remnant (ῥᾶψ, **λεῖμμα**) of doctrinal believers who stand in stark contrast to the majority of believers who live in Satan’s system of evil—the Zeitgeist (cultural, intellectual, ethical, spiritual, political, moral, and mood of an era), Matt. 5:13; Hos. 4:1-6, 2 Chron 7:14; I Kings 19:9-18; Isaiah 1:9; Rom. 11:2-5.

6. Only the doctrinal remnant is able to stay out of the Evil Zeitgeist while society, the religious rabble, and religious leaders continue to call good evil and evil good. The remnant lives in doctrine and thus lives apart from the kosmos diabolicus.

7. **Evil is far more difficult to overcome than sin.** Sin comes from man's OSN whereas evil pervades man's heart/thinking. Therefore, evil is far more difficult to get rid of. Evil gets into the thoughts, the frame of reference, the memory center, the vocabulary, the norms and standards, and then on the launching pad, Mtt. 15:18-19.

- ✓ **Matthew 15:18** "But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. ¹⁹
"For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

8. Sin was solved at salvation, but evil can only be resolved through spiritual growth/BD resulting in maturity— supergrace! Cf. Rom 12:1-2.
9. The sins of humanity were judged on the Cross, but problem of evil/good works was not solved at the Cross, John 5:29; Rev 20:11-15. Satan loves to promote any “good deed” if that will keep the person from accepting the free gospel of Jesus Christ and life in fellowship.
10. Evil will continue as the policy of Satan until the millennium. He continues to attempt to improve the world by human good and evil. It is the nature of Evil to distort legitimate things (i.e. morality, charity, prayer).

11. Satan attempts to improve Christianity with religion and ministers of “righteousness.” Satan is not opposed to quoting Scripture, Matt. 4:6. He loves all of the distortions on Christian TV from tithing to bribing God. He loves to focus on buildings, programs, and productions—monsters which have to be fed—just as long as BD is not taught. He is a genius at parlaying good/legitimate things into evil.

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; (διάκονοι δικαιοσύνης) whose end shall be according to their deeds.

12. The believer's sin is handled by rebound relating it to the Cross, but evil can only be avoided by establishing a command post of the soul—constructed of Bible doctrine.
13. When a believer is in extended carnality or reversionism, he lives a life of trusting in evil. Only the daily intake and use of the WOG under FHS can remove this evil thinking and protect him.
14. The greatest enemy of mankind and the believer is evil, which always produces arrogance. Evil is not simply an isolated sin—it is a way of thinking that dominates the life.

15. Evil is the single hardest thing to overcome in the CWL. It takes years and years of consistent and persistent BD under the FHS. The problem is that in evil/arrogance doctrine—this message, BD—is rejected out of hand!
16. Evil originates from the arrogance and evil genius of Satan. It is the epitome of arrogance to assume that man, by man's efforts, can really solve man's deep spiritual and psychological problems.
17. Evil has no capacity to understand grace or what a relationship with God really is or means. Evil has no capacity for freedom for self or for others. Evil makes self into a god—even a savior of sorts.

18. Overview of Lucifer, the Evil One, Isa.14:12ff.

- a. Satan wants to be like God—not unlike God.
- b. He wants to be possessor of heaven and earth.
- c. Satan brought in “evil” for the first time with his independence.
- d. Satan will try to establish a kingdom, but will fail, cf. 17.

- e. Consider how Satan used His position and God-given gifts against God. Ultimate failure of the prosperity test.
- f. Consider how Satan rejected intimate fellowship with God.
- g. Consider how Satan used power from God to fight against and oppose God to the very end. The gifts of God are irrevocable.

- h. Satan will fail to clean up the world or improve nature of man.
- i. Since Satan deceives the whole world (Rev. 12:9), it is not hard to see why he will permit about anything but the teaching of Bible doctrine. He totally rejected Bible doctrine, Jn. 8:44.
- j. Satan loves to get people to reject God and natural law so they will move into idolatry and eventually worship him. He is always pushing success without God—the epitome of evil.

The Relationship between the Church and State

1. There are 3 perspectives on the relationship of church and state.
 - a. **Secularism—State over the Church: Marxism/Statism.**
 - b. **Reconstructionism—Church over the State (many Christians).**
 - c. **Jeffersonianism—Jeffersonian (or natural law) type of separation between church and state.**
2. **Secularism—state dominates everything—including church.**
 - a. Marxism/secularism as per the old Soviet Union and China.
 - b. This has been rapidly increasing in the United States.
 - c. Leadership often claims a separation of church and state, but in practice it is the domination of the church by state.
 - d. In secularism state ends up imposing irreligion on the church.
 - e. Government is reduced to situationalism as it dismantles all God-given moral absolutes, cf. Humanist Manifestos I and II. As the state rejects God (Rom 1:20ff), inalienable rights & moral law from the Creator is replaced with civil law.

3. **Reconstructionism/Theonomy: Church over State a.k.a. theocracy.** The reconstructionists want to reconstruct civil government in a theocratic model, cf. Constantine, Charlemagne, Roman State Church, Augustine's *City of God*.
- ✓ AKA dominion theology, kingdom-now theology, theonomists
 - ✓ Reformational State churches: Calvin and Puritans. What Calvin did for Geneva, Constantine did for RCSC
 - ✓ Puritans in early American colonies followed Calvin and persecuted believers like Roger Williams.
 - ✓ Players today: Rushdony, James Kennedy, David Barton.
 - ✓ The aim is to Christianize both America and the world.
 - ✓ Generally postmillennial. They see the need to bring in the kingdom by establishing Mosaic Law in society.

4. Problems with theonomy:

- ✓ God never gave biblical law to Gentiles as basis for civil law.
- ✓ Theonomy is unworkable in a pluralistic society
- ✓ Theonomy politicizes the church's mission
- ✓ Theonomy stresses God's special revelation to the neglect of natural law (Romans 2:12-14)
- ✓ Theonomists deny the practical value of general revelation and natural law (due to noetic effects of sin). However, the Word declares that natural revelation is clearly seen, written on the hearts of all unbelievers, and is the grounds for their being without excuse and is sufficient for them, to eternally perish, Rom. 2:12.

5. **Jeffersonianism (J): The Natural-Law View.** Natural Law and the Founding of our Great Country. Note the natural law in the *Declaration of Independence*—our nation’s birth certificate:

➤ *When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the **Laws of Nature and of Nature's God** entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, **that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.** --That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed*

5. Jeffersonianism (J): The Natural-Law View.

- ✓ Avoids both statism as well as theonomy.
- ✓ Opposes statism because statism denies divine NL.
- ✓ Opposes reconstructionism because
 - ✓ J denies special revelation as basis for civil government
 - ✓ J denies that any national church should be the law of the land, thus allowing freedom of belief for all groups.
- ✓ In J civil government is based on Nature's Law which comes from Nature's God.
- ✓ By basing government in natural, universal, moral law, Jeffersonianism avoids antinomianism (secularism) on the one hand and state-mandated religion (reconstructionism) on the other.

5. Jeffersonianism (J): The Natural-Law View.

- ✓ Natural Law did not begin with Christians: Natural law is also found in ancient Hindu, Chinese, Greek, and Roman writings that predate the time of Christ.
- ✓ Natural Law is reflected in God's image within humanity; the image is marred but not wholly blotted out. Thus, God is just in punishing unbelievers for not living in accordance with natural law written on their hearts.
- ✓ Natural law is common to all people whereas special revelation is only for believers.
- ✓ Jefferson believed these unalienable rights are rooted in Law of nature that derive from Nature's God.

- ✓ On the Jefferson Memorial in D.C. are his words: “God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?”
- ✓ For Jefferson, natural law is not a humanly descriptive “is,” but a divinely prescriptive “ought.”
- ✓ Secularists who attempt to argue that it is a violation of the First Amendment to impose a moral laws based on a Moral Lawgiver (God) are **full of balderdash (σκύβαλα)**! Foundational natural law is the view of the Declaration of Independence, our country’s founding document. It is a twisted logic that pronounces our National Birth Certificate unconstitutional.

6. More on Natural Law—Rome, Stoics, and the Rule of Law.

- ✓ Late 18th century representatives in colonial America greatly admired and were influenced by Stoic philosophy.
- ✓ Stoicism: Posidonius (150 B.C), Seneca (4-65 A.D.), Epictetus (55-138 A.D.), Marcus Aurelius (121-180 A.D.).
- ✓ Stoicism at its core taught that the physical world is governed by law and that the affairs of the state and of daily life must mimic, and approximate, and be obedient to those same principles of lawfulness. It must be the *hegemonikon* of reason that regulates life (note the Aristotelian and Platonic echoes).
- ✓ Nature and natural law are expressions of the *logos*—an ordered realm, governed by law great and minute, collectively establishing what is “right” for entities that comprise it. When things are out of order there is chaos, degradation, disease, madness, brutality, monstrosity.

7. Pagan Stoic thought:

- ✓ Rationality, law, and order were all connected.
- ✓ Out of rationality, law, and order came liberty—which is antithetical to anarchy.
- ✓ Liberty was conforming one's behavior to a principle rather than to dictatorial instinct or tyrant.
- ✓ What the law imposes is something that a rational being will find justifiable.
- ✓ This led to the development of the concept of the *individual* person and a moral order.
- ✓ The moral order was an express of the logos, the rational order of things.

- ✓ Things that violated the normal *order*, canons of reason, were considered inherently unnatural: insanity, emotions—the passions, anger. This is where we get “stoic” terminology.
- ✓ They believed that the mark of the rational being—fit for the rule of law—was not to be controlled by passion.
- ✓ Irrationality was considered evil.
- ✓ This rule orientation lead to desire for man to enter the political realm as well as become lawgivers.

8. Cicero (106-43 B.C.) and the Roman world.

- ✓ He noted that in every community, there are certain precepts that are honored without exception. These *ius gentium* are universal, understood, and adopted. He, like Aristotle, noted the core principles of equity that are “universal and the same.”
- ✓ He recognized that these were not passed on from one tribe to another throughout the world.
- ✓ He taught that it arises from the very nature of human nature itself as a rational being.
- ✓ This will be referred to as the *ius naturale*, the “natural law.” This will lay the foundations for one of the most developed theories in philosophy of law: the theory of natural law. It will be further developed by Thomas Aquinas. NL is not some RC conspiracy.

- ✓ Regarding natural law—*Ignorantia legis neminem excusast--* “Ignorance of the law excuses no one.” Here the aspect of the rule of natural law is more fundamental than local ordinances.
- ✓ Not to know this is to be an unnatural, defective, kind of being.
- ✓ This Roman development of law enabled her to administer order/law to the known world.
- ✓ This Roman law set rational precepts that rendered life predictable, that let people know their obligations, and their rights, and their duties.
- ✓ It was a law for settling disputes without force, without violence, a system that revered the citizen in the sense of holding that citizen responsible to the rule of law as a rational being.

- ✓ The law of nature was understood as a law instilled by nature not merely in mankind, but in all creatures of the sky, earth, and sea (Justinian). Those natural laws included orderliness, purpose, flourishing and survival. Animal kingdom does not requires years of instruction, nor is the infant taught to take nourishment at the breast.
- ✓ Man is fitted out by God with certain intuitive understandings essential to life—a rational being—at core man God wired man to be an intuitive moral rational being that transcends differences in culture an custom.

- ✓ Much of modern society—especially the courts—due largely to the acceptance of human good and evil, rejects *ius naturale* and thus reject Aristotle’s equity, Plato’s sense of absolutes, Homer’s humanity—and thus the natural law of man’s shared humanity of sense of right and wrong.
- ✓ Modern society has stripped man of his agentic powers (Social cognition theory perspective that views people as self-organizing, proactive, self-reflecting and self-regulating, not just as reactive organisms shaped by environmental forces or driven by inner impulses). Because man is created in the image of God, regardless of customs, he is rational and therefore a moral orderly creature. “Even a madman reasons rightly from wrong premises,” Locke.

- ✓ While Rome had religious pagan presuppositions and many corruptions, it was their recognition of and adherence to the principle of natural law that enabled them to build a framework for Western Civilization.

- ✓ After Socrates defeated skepticism and Rome had instituted a strong sense of rationality, order, and yes, natural law, then the world was ready for Christianity.

- ✓ Christ and Christianity came at the right time, the workable framework, though bankrupt in absolutes, was established.
 - **Galatians 4:4** But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,