

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

<b>T/G/B</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: Language-4
3: Epistemology 32
- Existence 50
- History 50
2:Metaphysics 32
- Trans. 50
1: Reality
- Logic 32,
- Truth 32

P.R. - 32

**Responsibility of every believer: 1 Thess. 5:21.**

**Outline of Bible class.**

- 1) Spiritual foundations (15 minutes)
- 2) PR: Philosophy of language-3 (15 minutes)
- 3) Doctrinal development of heaven (45 minutes)

**Spiritual foundations:**

- 1) **The Sacred Romance** by knowledge and by love (John 3:29; Rom. 5:8; Eph. 2:4-5; 1 John 3:1, 4:9-10, 19; Rev. 19:7-8, 21:1-4).
- 2) **Conduit Christianity and the HS.** In conduit Christianity the main ministry of the Holy Spirit is being the Power Source, which does not work unless one is completely confessed up, and does X, Y, and Z, which then enables believer to be a good conduit for supernatural virtue. The believer's relationship with God is viewed in a Cartesian, Baconian, scientific manner. "Don't quench" the Spirit is viewed spatially, e.g., as extended in space.
- 3) **Concurrent Christianity and the HS.** The Holy Spirit is also critical in the concurrent model, but it is viewed in terms of personal relationship—the bride of Christ. The Holy Spirit raises up the believer's intellect and will to the supernatural level of the theological virtues, which are concurrent with a person's nature. Also, rewards in concurrentism is about motives, 1 Cor. 4:5; 2 Cor 5:9-10.
- 4) **Preparation for Bible class.** The need for the Holy Spirit to lift up our minds and wills to the supernatural level so we can "get it."

**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

# Philosophical Foundations for a Realist Christian Worldview

## Philosophy of Language:4—What is Philosophy of Language?

### 1. Overview of this series on philosophy of language. The Roadmap:

- a. Introduction
- b. What is philosophy of language and why it is important? 
- c. Theories of meaning.
- d. Plato (428-348 BC)
- e. Aristotle (384-322 BC)
- f. Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913)
- g. Gottlob Frege (1848-1925)
- h. Bertrand Russell (1872-1970)
- i. Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951).
- j. Martin Heidegger (1889-1976).
- k. W. V. O. Quine (1908-2000).
- l. Noam Chomsky (1928-).
- m. Realist view of meaning.
- n. Foundation of meaning.
- o. Communication of meaning.
- p. Elements of language.
- q. Function of language
- r. Meaningful God-talk.
- s. Analytic Philosophy
- t. Conclusion.
- u. Analogy.
- v. Metaphysical analogy.

2. The root of all modern vexing problems in modern philosophy of language is the belief that one can dispense with philosophical questions regarding reality by means of language. Language has become the new means of finding meaning.
3. However, this modern project is doomed because any attempt to try to get to reality by language means that one starts in the mind, and if one starts in the mind, one will never be able to get out. This is the bane of every system that rejects Realism.

4. There is no transcendent signified in modern philosophy of language. Both the signifier and the signified are in the mind. And if there is no transcendent signified, then meaning can only be created by a language community, and words can mean whatever you want them to mean so long as communication is still possible. Again, there is no way for the mind to connect with the world without a transcendent signified.

5. Moreover, one cannot get to reality by starting with “knowledge.” Yet, that is what modern philosophy of language does. It studies knowledge—it starts with knowledge. However, there is no knowledge without subject and object. You cannot know the knowing event without there being a subject and object. However, all modern views are all about studying knowledge as such apart from the knower and the known. Again, there is not such thing a knowledge that exists by itself—doctrinally or otherwise (no such thing as knowledge cycling through our souls).

6. Language 101: No word, *in and of itself*, has a universal, univocal, platonic, transcendent meaning.

John 3:16 "For God so **loved** the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. . . . 19 "And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men **loved** the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil.

2 Timothy 4:8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have **loved** His appearing...4:10 for Demas, having **loved** this present world,

1 Corinthians 13:4 **Love** is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant . . . bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

John 10:34 Jesus answered them, "Has it not been written in your **Law**, 'I said, **you are gods** '? 35 "If he **called them gods**, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),

7. Due to lack of training in philosophy of language, many well-meaning, educated, and Bible-loving pastors commit egregious exegetical errors in handling God's Word. This is especially the case with the Greek aorist tense.
8. It is a myth that the Greek is a perfect language. There is nothing that the Greek can express that cannot be expressed in the English. Remember, the reality is in reality not in the word. I once thought the Greek was a perfect language until I left the world of language, where I was locked in my mind, and moved into Realism.
9. Unlike other ambiguous Greek tenses (present, imperfect, perfect), the Greek aorist is not ambiguous. It is an explicit and ideal grammatical term. It is perfectly descriptive as *undefined*. In other words, all aorists are aoristic! Again, aorist is not ambiguous because it clearly means UNDEFINED!

10. Aorist means: no boundary, without horizon, non-specific, noncommittal, indefinite. The whole point of the aorist is to refrain from saying anything about the nature of the action. The word means “I do not define.” All standard Greek grammars are explicit on this fact; even though they go on to label it otherwise. But even then it is from the viewpoint of the writer and not the actual action. Once again, we are back in the mind.

11. Aorist has nothing to do with time or kind of action. Aorist is a timeless, boundary-less, signifier. The **aorist** is in **red**.

- Mark 1:11 and a voice came out of the heavens: "Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am **well-pleased**."
- John 13:31 When therefore he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man **glorified**, and God is **glorified** in Him;
- 1 Peter 1:24 For, "All flesh is like grass, And all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass **wITHERS**, And the flower **FALLS OFF**,

12. All of the classifications of aorist (culminative, constative, point of time, etc.) do NOT exist, not even grammatically. In other words, there are no forms of these classifications. For example:

John 12:43 for **they loved (ἠγάπησαν)** the approval of men rather than the approval of God.

- You should know that the aorist word for “loved/ἠγάπησαν” is spelled only one way. There is no spelling or accents or anything else that signifies inceptive aorist, constative aorist, culminative aorist. This should give everyone pause.

### 13. Examples of inserting exegetical fallacies to “prove” theological points:

- 1 John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you that you **may not sin**. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; (cf. Dana and Mantey and almost all commentaries)
- Romans 6:13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but **present yourselves** to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.
- Romans 12:1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, **to present your bodies** a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

## Love 31

1 Cor. 13:4-13.

1. Verses 4-7: What love is and what it is not. Love for God is the power powerful and transformative. There is nothing more powerful or life transforming.
2. Verses 8-13. Paul speaks of a time when *he* will see God as God sees him. In other words, *now* he knows in part through the Word of God; but *then* in the presence of the Lord, he will know fully. In other words, a knowledge to the full extent that a believer can know and in a way that is similar to the Lord in His infinite wisdom fully and infinitely knows him. That is a lot of knowledge, which is impossible apart from being face to face with the Lord.
3. This brings us to the issue of Heaven, which we are in the process of developing, cf., mandate: Col 3:1, *If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking **the things above, where Christ is**, seated at the right hand of God.* 3:2 Set your mind on the **things above**, not on the things that are on earth.

4. It is imperative for every believer to leave any traces of Cartesianism, reductionism, positivism, nominalism, or other mental constructs and enter into the world of Realism for correct/biblical view of Heaven. The Realist believer cannot afford to be restricted or tied down to reductionistic principles or constructs that are created and limited by the mind and naturalism and personal experience. A Cartesian believer will have hard time with Heaven, which means defaulting into a fear of death, which will only be alleviated by acts of fideism. Moreover, in reductionism one has a very flat view of God and Heaven. One cannot anticipate what one cannot imagine. If it is totally unimaginable, then why did God give so much information about Heaven? The normal Christian viewpoint of death:

Hebrews 2:14 Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 and **might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.**

1 Corinthians 15:55 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

5. A true Realist has no fear of being contradicted, not only because he is oriented to first principles (identity, contradiction, sufficient reason), but because if someone can show him that he is wrong on those first principles, he is only too happy to change. Moreover, only the Realist has a healthy philosophical basis for his biblical viewpoints.

6. Recall that Realism operates on the first principles of non-contradiction, identity, and sufficient reason. Whatever the believer accepts or rejects, he should be able to give sufficient reason based on law of identity, contradiction and sufficient reason.

7. Broadly speaking, there are three views of the eternal state.

- a. The theocentric view: Beatific vision only. Believers will literally be face-to-face with God through all of eternity, either disembodied or spiritual body. Nothing physical matters. They no longer live as humans.
- b. The anthropocentric view: Life like Adam and Eve. Believers will be rejoined to human relationships they had on earth to live on the new earth. This is like Genesis 1-2. Heaven is like a giant theme park.
- c. The Christocentric view: Beatific vision of Christ and seeing the glory of God in all of creation, cf. Esse. It will be a human Christ-centered life lived on earth with other members of the family of God. He will be engaged in very “physical” activities on earth with many duties and responsibilities. Believers will see God in all of creation, a fulness of Esse in all things.
  - What will not be in the Ultimate Heaven . .
  - What will be in the Ultimate Heaven . . .

## 8. The uniting of the Ultimate Heaven and New Earth.

Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, 4 and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

2 Peter 3:11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! 13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells...Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

Hebrews 11:9 By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; 10 for he was looking for the **city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.**

Hebrews 11:14 For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a **country** of their own. 15 And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a **better country, that is a heavenly one.** Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for **He has prepared a city for them.**

9. When thinking of Ultimate Heaven, it is helpful to note the bookends of the Bible.

Unification of Heaven and Earth  
Rev. 21:1-4

**Past  
Genesis 1-2**

**Human History  
Gen. 3-Rev. 20**

**Future: Ultimate  
Heaven and Earth  
Rev.21-22**

Original man

Original earth

God in Heaven, visiting Earth  
with man on earth

No sin or curse

No shame

No death

Unhindered worship

God's goodness known

Perfect creation

God's plan revealed

Paradise

Man's learns in purity

One Marriage

Naked in innocence

Man in ideal place

Fallen Man

Fallen Earth

God in Heaven, separate  
but with man in grace

Sin and curse

Shame

Death

Worship hampered by sin

God's goodness suppressed

Creation damaged by sin

God's plan delayed

Paradise Lost

Man learns in corruption

Many marriages

Clothed due to unrighteousness

Man wanders in fallen places

Resurrected Man

New earth

God living forever  
with man on earth

No sin, no curse

No shame

No death

Unhindered worship

God's goodness celebrated

Perfect creation

God's plan realized

Paradise regained, magnified

Man learns in wisdom, purity

One marriage (Christ and Church)

Clothed in righteousness

Man restored to ideal place

10. Overview of the two heavens. Of course, there is nothing more important in our lives than our ultimate end.

**Intermediate  
Heaven – not our  
true home**

Church Age

Rapture

Tribulation  
7 years

Millennium  
1,000 years  
Rev. 20

**Ultimate  
Heaven,  
Our True  
Home:  
New Heavens  
&  
New Earth  
Rev 21-22**

## LIFE IN THE PRESENT (INTERMEDIATE) HEAVEN

1. When believers die physically, they go immediately in the presence of the Lord.

Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. 23 But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;

Luke 23:43 And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

2 Corinthians 5:8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

Luke 16:22-31 (Abraham's bosom: Interim bodies; Abraham could see into Torments, yet this did not affect his happiness in the Lord).

## LIFE IN THE PRESENT (INTERMEDIATE) HEAVEN

2. The reference to the “sleep” of the believer is simply a euphemism for the appearance of the body on earth. The believer’s life in the present heaven is one in which he is fully conscious with an interim body with senses, memory; and he is very active and aware of what is happening on earth as he watches God’s plan move forward on earth.
  
3. In 1 Samuel 28:6-19, Samuel not only remembers what Saul had done before Samuel died, he was aware of what happened since he died. Technically, this would be Abraham’s bosom. The point is that the dead are aware of us.
  - Though God could have briefed Samuel on all things, it is more likely the prophet knew because those in the present heaven are aware of what happens on Earth as they see the plan of God from God’s perspective.
  
  - Note the physical descriptions of Samuel who had died physically.
  
  - Note Samuel has full memory of his life on earth.

## LIFE IN THE PRESENT (INTERMEDIATE) HEAVEN

### 4. Luke 9:28-33.

- Note the appearance—they are human!
- Note their knowledge of Christ's departure. Note just how aware they are of God's plan and what is happening on earth, and how God's redemptive plan was to be *accomplished* for salvation. They understood the coming cross and the Great Sacrifice.
- The term "departure" (τὴν ἔξοδον) means exodus, demonstrating grasp of theology.
- The unfolding drama of redemption of Christ and His people is of utmost concern for God and all of the saints, who share in His perspective.

5. Rev. 6:9-11: Life in the intermediate Heaven. Twenty-one observations:

- 1) When these people died on earth, they were relocated to Heaven, 9.
- 2) They have same identity and history in heaven as they had on earth (continuity), 9.
- 3) They will be remembered for their lives on earth (slain for testimony).
- 4) “They called out” means they can express themselves.
- 5) “They raise their voices” indicates that they are rational, communicative, and have affections and passions.
- 6) “They called out in a loud voice,” not voices, demonstrating unity and shared perspective.

- 7) They are fully rational, conscious of themselves, God, and the situation on earth.
- 8) They are suggesting that God intervene on earth and act on their behalf, 10.
- 9) They are free to ask God questions, which means they have an audience with God. Also means that they have much to learn.
- 10) They know what is happening on earth, 10. They know that those who have killed them have not been judged.
- 11) They have a deep sense of justice, 10. There is no passive disinterest regarding divine justice.

- 12) They remember that they were murdered, 10.
- 13) They pray for judgment on their persecutors who are still hurting others. They are interceding for those on earth.
- 14) They appreciate God's holiness.
- 15) They are distinct individuals, "each was given a white robe."
- 16) They are physical in that they are given robes. Spirits do not wear robes.
- 17) They receive answer directly from God, indicating communication in Heaven with God. Also they knew more after God answered their question. There is learning in the present heaven.

- 18) They are able to see sin and evil and live in anticipation of God destroying all evil that opposes Him. This perspective will not exist in Ultimate Heaven, when there is no longer sin or curse.
- 19) There is time in the Intermediate Heaven, “how long?” They were aware of time passing and God told them they would have to wait until certain events took place.
- 20) There is a strong familial connection between those in the interim heaven and those on earth who are called “fellow brothers and servants.”
- 21) The Lord is aware of what is happening along with the people of God as they watch the plan of God move forward.

6. Note the knowledge of believers in the intermediate Heaven regarding activity on earth.

Revelation 19:1 After these things I heard, as it were, a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; 2 because His judgments are true and righteous; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her." 3 And a second time they said, "Hallelujah! Her smoke rises up forever and ever." 4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!" 5 And a voice came from the throne, saying, "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great."

Luke 15:7 "I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. 10 "In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."