



**The Problem of Evil and Suffering in the Presence of an
All-knowing, All-good, All-loving, and All-powerful God (34):
Job 22: Providence and Suffering
<http://www.fbcweb.org/sermons.html>)**

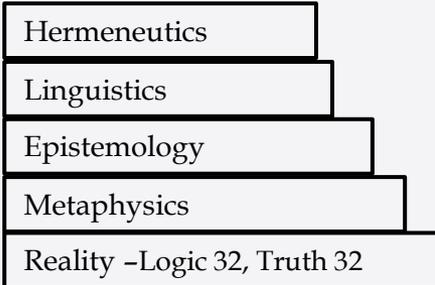
Philosophical/Theological/Doctrinal & Spiritual Edification

Bible Doctrines

- Eschatology
- Thanatology
- Ecclesiology
- Israelology
- Dispensationalism
- Doxology
- Hodology
- Soteriology
- Hamartiology
- Natural Law
- Anthropology
- Angelology
- Pneumatology
- Christology
- Paterology
- Trinitarianism
- Cosmology
- Theology Proper
- Bibliology
- Prolegomena for objectivity (Philosophical Realism) - 11

The right side of the chart represents how the three levels thoroughly transform the believer into a new person.

Left side of the chart represents all of the doctrines the healthy believer desires to learn. If you have no 2nd order desire to understand these doctrines, you are not interested in Christian Truth as such.



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 - Don III

- 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 - Don II

- Thinks in terms of Bible doctrine that is undergirded by several biblical passages

Baby & meaning of life - Level 1 - Don I

- 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 Truth due to human viewpoint background

PHILOSOPHICAL REALISM FOR OBJECTIVITY IN BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION & BIBLE DOCTRINE (11)

HERMENEUTICS: How do we understand what is communicated? Meaning and understanding; the meaning is in the Text, not in the author's mind. **Apart from understanding how meaning is in the biblical text and not *dependent* upon the biblical author's mind, there can be no valid confidence in obtaining objectivity in biblical interpretation.**

LINGUISTICS: How do we communicate that we know? Elements of language (instrumental sign; conventional sign, formal sign); external vs. internal Word; from Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic, and Greek to English. **Apart from understanding how language works, there can be no valid confidence in obtaining objectivity in biblical interpretation or Bible doctrine (confer TDNT).**

EPISTEMOLOGY: How do we know that which is? Sense cognition (external senses, internal senses). Intellectual cognition (illumination, abstraction, the thought). **Apart from understanding how we connect with reality, there can be no valid confidence in obtaining objectivity in biblical interpretation or Bible doctrine.**

METAPHYSICS: What is that which is? Act and potency. The nature of existence: form and matter, e.g., acorn to acorn tree: Something's identity; something's essence; the reality of substances; substance and accident (the ten categories of being). **Apart from understanding the true nature of things, there can be no valid confidence in obtaining objectivity in biblical interpretation or Bible doctrine (e.g., anthropopathisms, anthropomorphisms, figures of speech, esse, Esse, biblical cosmology).**

REALITY: That which is. All essences have one thing in common: they exist; identity; correspondence truth vs. the curse of functional, pragmatic, coherence, and existential views of truth. The undeniable laws of logic are the laws of reality and being as such. Christianity is not an irrational mystery. **Apart from understanding of the rules of reality (as per logic and correspondence truth there can be no valid confidence in obtaining objectivity in biblical interpretation or Bible doctrine.**

PHILOSOPHICAL REALISM OBJECTIVITY IN BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION & BIBLE DOCTRINE (11)

1. One of the greatest systems ever designed for biblical interpretation is known by the acronym I.C.E. (Isagogics, Categories, and Exegesis).
2. However, apart from being anchored in philosophical realism (e.g. reality, metaphysics, epistemology, hermeneutics), I.C.E. cannot deliver true objectivity. I.C.E. cannot serve as a transcendent presupposition.
3. There is something very frightening about the vulnerability of a believer who places his trust in a pastor, pope, or priest who is not grounded in philosophical realism and I.C.E.

4. Isagogics—it is acknowledged by virtually every history scholars and philosophers of history that it is impossible to obtain objectivity regarding ancient history and culture. All selections are theory laden. There is no historical understanding that is not a-historical/transcendental (can't go back, subject's and object's historical situatedness). While isagogics can aid, it can never serve as transcendent presupposition—a starting point or Archimedean point. If the *meaning* of the Bible cannot be understood apart from isagogics, then biblical objectivity is impossible. It is important to make the distinction between the meaning and illumination of a passage, cf. Dt. 14:21; Rev. 3:15.

5. Categories—it is manifestly obvious that many theological systems have complete and coherent categories of doctrines (Dakism, Calvinism, Arminianism). If categories are not anchored in P.R., then we can kiss any notion of biblical objectivity goodbye.

6. Exegesis—exegetical studies that are not anchored in P.R. (e.g., philosophy of language) are extremely arbitrary. If exegesis is arbitrary, then we can kiss any notion of biblical objectivity goodbye.

7. I.C.E. must be anchored in philosophical realism to obtain biblical objectivity = P.R.I.C.E. Interpretation must be grounded in Reality (as per the laws of reality/logic), Metaphysics (the nature of reality), Epistemology (how the mind extracts reality from matter and form), Linguistics (how language works), Hermeneutics (meaning and the Text).

8. P.R. not only tethers I.C.E. to reality for obtaining biblical objectivity, it also opens God's first book of revelation, natural revelation, with its many common grace truths—which truths can even clearly see into the very unseen nature of God, Rom. 1:20:

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

9. God has given man two levels of truth: natural revelation (e.g., visible word of act and potency, law of morality written on the heart of man, Rom. 2:14-15), and supernatural revelation. The believer who ignores either book does so at his own peril.

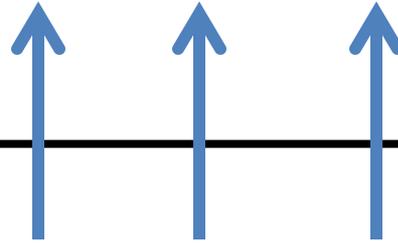
10. When we aver that natural revelation (e.g. laws of logic) comes before God and the Bible, we are speaking epistemologically. E.g., we are saying that such things as logic comes first in the order of knowing, not in the order of being. The map comes before the city that we are trying to get to, but the city must exist first. Without logic there is no coherent understanding of God or development of doctrine.

11. It is an error to think that just because certain doctrines provide the believer with greater existential pleasure that that truth is more important than other truths in the Bible. Our feelings do not place value on truth.

P. R. I. C. E.



I. C. E.



PHILOSOPHICAL REALISM – P.R.
IS THE ONLY SYSTEM THAT OBTAINS OBJECTIVITY

BOOK #2: THE BIBLE

GOD'S SUPERNATURAL REVELATION

The Inspired Word of God

The 66 Books of the Bible

Truths that cannot be obtained by natural means: e.g., Grace, Trinity, FHS, SL

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

BOOK #1: THE BOOK OF NATURE

Natural Revelation

Gained by sense-perception

Natural Theology (esse to Esse)

Truth available to the whole human race

“Laws of Nature and of Nature's God”

Common grace revelation for all men through sense perception

Universals, laws of logic, ethics, government, family

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

Galatians 5:16-17 But I say, in the Spirit be walking, and you will not (οὐ μὴ) bring to completion the desire of the flesh (ἐπιθυμίαν σαρκὸς). 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition (ἀντίκειται) to one another, so that you may not do (1st order volition) the things that you please (2nd order desire).

- ✓ Any questions on 1st and 2nd order desires?

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

Galatians 5:19-21 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, lasciviousness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit (rewards in) the kingdom of God.

- ✓ Any questions on temptation, sin, and freedom?
- ✓ Any questions on anger, frustration, disappointment, or discouragement not *necessarily* being sinful?
- ✓ The Galatian list and the other list.
- ✓ Every believer should be aware that sin and carnality always corrupt the soul and relationship with God.
- ✓ A word about inheriting “rewards” in the kingdom.

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, 23 meekness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

- ✓ The incredible power of the Holy Spirit to bring about internal integration and produce spiritual life in the believer.
- ✓ The incredible power of the Holy Spirit to bring the reality and absolute inner conviction in the life of the believer; a conviction that is not attainable by any other means and for which there is no defeater.

JOB 22

Eliphaz's Third Speech

1. Eliphaz declares that God does not care about Job, 1-4.
2. Eliphaz indicts Job for his sins, 5-11.
3. Eliphaz points to Job's defiance of God, 12-20.

DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

1. Job's friends (and many other believers) have a wrong view of the way providence operates. They suppose that providence assigns adversities in this life *only* as a punishment for sins and earthly prosperity *only* as a reward for virtue.
2. If it is *only* in this life that human beings are rewarded by God for good deeds and punished for bad, as Eliphaz was endeavoring to establish, it follows that the ultimate goal for human beings is in this life. Fundamentally, this is the pagan worldview.

DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

3. One of the greatest problems today is that many believers are so caught up in their temporal lives that they regularly suppress truths regarding their own inevitable deaths and the next life. It is irrational for any believer to fear death. The believer who lives in fear of death is precluded from really enjoying their present life. Passages on believers' attitudes toward death:

Psalm 23:5 Thou dost prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; Thou hast anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Hebrews 2:14-15 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 [fear of] death [to get them to adopt his policy of KD], that is, the devil; 15 and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; 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.

Psalm 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD Is the death of His godly ones.