



**The “Problem” of Evil and Suffering in the Presence of an
All-knowing, All-good, All-loving, and All-powerful God (39):**

Job 28: Wisdom and Providence

<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 P.R. for objectivity (16)

- Hermeneutics
- Linguistics
- Epistemology
- Metaphysics
- Reality -Logic 32, Truth 32

This chart is my way to address the deep pathological "thinking" that is so ubiquitous in contemporary Christianity, most notably in regard to Truth and God.

Sacred Theology Book 2 (2 Tim 3:16-17)

Natural Theology Book 1 (Rom 1:18-20)

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 - Extremely powerful believer

- High abstract metaphysical understanding of BD; Esse, Evil, Good, attributes of God, natural law
- Enormous capacity for synthesis of BD and grasping of spiritual realities.
- Ability for sustained contemplation of the true nature of God, e.g., the simplicity and atemporality of God.

Young adult - Level 2- Doctrinal conceptualization

-Systematic understanding of --God's Word/Truth.

Baby believer - Level 1 -

- Limited to isolated Bible verses
- Unable to 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

1. The five basic building blocks of philosophical realism for objectivity in natural theology, biblical interpretation, and Bible doctrine.

HERMENEUTICS: What has caused Christian to stop desiring to really understand?

LINGUISTICS: What has caused Christians to be apathetic toward understanding how language works, specially with reference to God—cf. the word “God.”

EPISTEMOLOGY: What has caused Christians to become so fideistic?

METAPHYSICS: What has caused Christians to give up search for what makes up reality as evidenced by their pagan orientation to reality (e.g. Plato’s Cave, naturalism) as per their anthropathic/anthropomoric views of God?

REALITY: What has caused Christians to exchange correspondence and total truth for pragmatic, religious, fragmented, and existential truth as evidenced by disdain for logic and detachment from reality as such?

PHILOSOPHICAL REALISM FOR BIBLICAL AND DOCTRINAL OBJECTIVITY-16

2. We and our children are reaping the results of over 100 years of anti-intellectualism in Christianity; the results are not pretty: e.g., not even a pretention to obtain biblical or doctrinal objectivity; no doctrinal framework; increasing number of Christians becoming sensate, skeptics, atheists, secular humanists, liberals, and fideistic; rank ignorance of Bible doctrine and of the nature of God or man; disdain for Christian philosophy; demonic Christian TV programming. The lion share of the blame is on the pastors. The way it should be:

2 Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ

PHILOSOPHICAL REALISM FOR BIBLICAL AND DOCTRINAL OBJECTIVITY-16

3. There are two categories of objective truth
 - a. Natural revelation or scientific knowledge through which one can prove the existence of God by demonstration.

Romans 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.

PHILOSOPHICAL REALISM FOR BIBLICAL AND DOCTRINAL OBJECTIVITY-16

- b. Special revelation or faith knowledge. The most important, and when anchored in PR, the most certain. Faith revelation cannot be proved by scientific demonstration.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active 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.

PHILOSOPHICAL REALISM FOR BIBLICAL AND DOCTRINAL OBJECTIVITY-16

4. Philosophical realism—basic and advanced.
 - a. Every believer has already been fitted out for philosophical realism, it is how you navigate your everyday world. You cannot drive a car without using the basics of all five categories. You cannot even be saved apart from PR.
 - b. While it is not necessary for every believer to have an advanced understanding of the five areas of PR, he cannot accurately understand the Bible, God, or the spiritual life without the basics. The Bible assumes the believer is thus oriented, cf. Adam and Eve.

PHILOSOPHICAL REALISM FOR BIBLICAL AND DOCTRINAL OBJECTIVITY-16

- c. The essence of philosophical realism is simply thinking long and hard about God, the Bible, and reality as such—to be philosophers.
- d. Why wouldn't believers want to think long and hard about God and truth?
- e. There is no limit a person's ordered capacities.

5. Both books of revelation depend upon philosophical realism.

SPECIAL REVELATION – BY FAR THE GREATEST AND MOST IMPORTANT!

Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Trinity

Salvation

The Spiritual Life

The Holy Spirit

Eternal Security

The God-man

NATURAL REVELATION

Romans 1:20; Psalm 19:1-3

Human nature

Marriage, family

Government, Warfare

God: Monotheism, the invisible nature of God, Esse, Simplicity of God, timelessness of God,

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Your free will is the single greatest asset you possess. It determines more about your life than any other single factor.
 - a. The power of human volition exceeds Newtonian physics. Consider the power of volition in the lives of some of the world's most evil people like Susan Atkins, Tex Watson, and David Berkowitz (Son of Sam serial killer).
 - b. Because of free will, any person can reconsider the direction of their lives and avail himself of the grace of God.

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- c. Your free will determines your character and place in the eternal plan of God, Acts 17:26-27. All temporal events in time are simultaneously present to eternity. Any moment on the timeline is present to God.

Acts 17:26 and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation, 27 that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- d. Free will challenge: Jeremiah 29:13 'And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.
- e. Free will challenge: “In the Spirit, keep walking,” Gal. 5:16.
- f. Free will challenge: “Grieve not the Spirit,” Eph. 4:30.
- g. Free will challenge: “Quench not the Spirit,” 1 Thess. 5:19.

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

2. Virtue is developed through the Holy Spirit working in tandem with Bible doctrine.

Matthew 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. . . 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"

Gal 5:22-23

Ephesians 6:17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

3. Except for resistance to the HS (some pathology in PR), there is no defeater for ministry of the Holy Spirit in providing absolute confidence about God and His Word in our souls.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

1 Thessalonians 1:5 for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction (πληροφορία πολλῇ); just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

1 John 3:24 And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And we know (γινώσκομεν) by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

4. God has provided the Holy Spirit so the believer be 100% certain about His relationship with God and the truthfulness of the Word of God. All of the other arguments may be sound and reach absolute necessity, but due to man's fragmented nature, he can always second guess himself. Too many are not rational enough to realize the necessity of something like Modus Tollens. If A then B, $\neg B = \neg A$: If God does not exist (A) God then there is no morality (B), there is morality ($\neg B$), therefore there God exists ($\neg A$).
5. However not even God the Holy Spirit can give the believer absolute certainty apart from the believer living in fellowship with God and apart from orientation to the basic truths of PR—reality as such!

JOB 28

Job's Discussion of God's Wisdom and Providence