

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

### T/G/B

Eschatology  
 Thanatology  
 Ecclesiology  
 Israelology  
 Dispensationalism  
 Doxology  
 Hodology  
 Soteriology  
 Hamartiology  
 Natural Law  
 Anthropology  
 Angelology  
 Pneumatology  
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The Supreme Good is love for God (Matt. 22:37-40). This is a relationship love for God that transcends everything else. It truly defines us. It is why we study the Bible. Consider the genre of poetry and how it not only communicates information to the intellect, but the whole person. Consider the vast amount of poetry in the Bible. Although poetry is generally not believed to be efficient in communicating truth, it best creates a psychological reaction to draw man into action. God appeals to the whole man, never just to his intellect.

Consider Satan, Job's friends, and Job in the context of relationship love for God.

Love for and trust in God is always personal; it goes beyond the propositions, principles, and doctrines. It is important for the believer to think of fellowship in terms of loving and moving closer to God, rather than merely propositional concepts *about* God (cf., Job 42:5-6; Abraham, David, Mary Magdalene, 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Col. 3:23; Eph. 6:7; 2 Cor. 5:9; Eph. 5:10).

Christianity is first and foremost about a relationship. To be sure, it is a relationship based on correct doctrine, but it is still a relationship with Him and not just with doctrinal concepts, Rev. 1:2-7.

Stage 3

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

- Metaphysical understanding of God.
- Virtuous love for God: Intellective, volitional, emotional love of God. Enduring fellowship.
- Life of "above all you could ever ask or imagine"

Holy Spirit



Bible Doctrine

Stage 2

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

- Nominal understanding of God.
- Through BD this believer has gained a great deal of perinoetic truth about God & the spiritual life.
- However, he continues to have some pagan views about God's *nature* due to lack of metaphysics.
- He has become more stable, but still very dependent on others for confidence in absolute truths.

Holy Spirit



Bible Doctrine

Stage 1

### 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.

# EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-43

## Concurrentism

1. Review of “grasp of existence” (1-42).
  - The importance of understanding existence as distinct from essence.
  - Grasping existence as such in the 2<sup>nd</sup> act of the mind.
  - Biblical passages that are explicit about God’s causality in all things.
  - 6 options regarding the world:
    - Physicalism
    - Agnosticism
    - Deism
    - Conservationism
    - Concurrence
    - Occasionalism
  - Objections to concurrentism (LLO#1, LLO#2, Not-One-Act Mantra).
  - Subordination issues (instrumentalism, sharing, preemption)
  - Explication of concurrentism.

## **EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-43**

### **Concurrentism**

2. Grasping existence as such enables the believer to shed a great deal of modern philosophical thinking, e.g., Kantianism, Platonism, and start thinking like a Christian about reality as such. Consider, for example, the difference it makes regarding the Faith-Rest life.
3. Modern Christians have a tendency to live like deists because they are so used to natural science explaining things in the natural world. They tend to think of the natural world as having the ability to sustain and govern itself under its own steam. They do not tend to think in terms of God sustaining everything in existence. They do not tend to think of God as the Efficient Cause of all activity.
4. There is no wisdom, which is successful living before God, apart from the biblical viewpoint of realism. You cannot begin with a pagan framework (like deism) and end up with a Christian viewpoint. The solution to an impoverished pagan mindset is not fideism; it is Realism.

## EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-43

### Concurrentism

5. Concurrentism demonstrates that not only is God the *Esse* who gives *esse* to all that is, He is inextricably deep within all that exists as the efficient Cause of all existence and all effects of all things in the universe.
  
6. Concurrentism demonstrates that God must continue to give all things existence because existence is not something that is part of the nature of any created thing. We and all things that exist have existence, but God is existence, 'Ehyeh, Yahweh. We do not have existence in virtue of our own power; we only have existence because God has chosen to give it to us.

## EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-43

### Concurrentism

7. Through concurrentism the believer can *rationally* see how God gives existence to all things every moment of every day. This enables the believer to stop thinking like an atheist or deist who has no concern or appreciation of the fact that God is personally involved in all of the little things of life.
8. With concurrentism the believer understands that God is involved in all of the large and small decisions of life. He stops worrying like the pagans who do not see God in all things (cf., Matthew 6).
9. There is a vast difference between a Christian who frantically prays for God to be in his details and the believer who knows God is in all things and is vital part of his life on every level, not just the spiritual level, and not just with reference to the big issues of life.

## EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-43

### Concurrentism

#### 10. Concurrence:

- a. Science will never be able to provide a *natural* explanation for existence
- b. God is the Higher Cause of all things, their existences and operations.
- c. God cannot bestow His independent transcendent power to create, conserve, or move any creatures (from potential to actual) on anything.
- d. Concurrence is an action. God is the Efficient cause of an action of creation, sustaining and upholding the natural powers of all things in creation.
- e. God applies His efficient cause to all things moving them from potentiality to actuality as He applies His power to the natures of all things.
- f. There is only one unitary effect produced by two agents in two different modes. The two agents constitute a single total cause that produces the effect by means of a single, undivided action.
- g. God as the Efficient Cause of all that is is far more powerful in all effects than any of the finite beings.
- h. All finite beings are radically dependent on God as transcendent cause.
- i. All natural activity is only possible by the Efficient Cause.
- j. God's concurrence accommodates itself to the nature of the creature.

## Spiritual Virtue: Christ's 8 Beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-12)

1. **μακάριοι** are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. **μακάριοι** are those **who mourn**, for they shall be comforted.
3. **μακάριοι** are the **gentle**, for they shall inherit the earth.
4. **μακάριοι** are **those who hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they shall be satisfied.
5. **μακάριοι** are the **merciful**, for they shall receive mercy.
6. **μακάριοι** are the **pure in heart**, for they shall see God.
7. **μακάριοι** are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons of God.
8. **μακάριοι** are those **who have been persecuted** for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 **μακάριοι** are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. 12 "Rejoice, and be glad, for **your reward in heaven is great**, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

❖ Note the need for a total redefinition of self.

❖ Note Christ turns what is perceived as the greatest tragedy into a door into eternal blessedness.

## Consider the **Beatitudes** in light Satan's **Beatitudes**

1. In contrast to Jesus's "**poor in spirit**," Satan says be 'like the Most High . . . Be your own god, go for the mammon' (Ez 28; Isa 14; Gen. 3; Matt. 4:1-6; 6:24).
2. In contrast to Jesus's "**mourning**," Satan says 'be complacent about and even delight in your sins' (Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Thess. 2:12; Rev. 3)
3. In contrast to Jesus's "**gentleness**," Satan says 'you do not need to submit to God or anyone, let alone think of others as more important than yourself.'
4. In contrast Jesus's "**hunger and thirst for righteousness**," Satan says 'don't be fanatical about the SL, that is not where happiness is' (Lot; Demas; Corinthians)
5. In contrast to Jesus's "**merciful**," Satan says 'do not forgive those who have treated you unjustly, they do not deserve it, happiness is in their harm.'
6. In contrast to Jesus's "**purity of heart**," Satan says 'fill your heart with lusts of the flesh and eyes and pride of life, for seeing God is not greater than lusts.
7. In contrast to Jesus's "**peacemakers**," Satan says 'better not tell others about Christ, they will think you are weird, also gossip and run others down.'
8. In contrast Jesus' "**persecuted for the sake of righteousness**," Satan says avoid all persecution. In contrast to Jesus's "**being insulted, persecuted and maligned on account of Christ**," Satan says malign those who are serious about Christ. In contrast to Jesus's "**great reward in Heaven**," Satan and unbelievers will spend eternity in Hell while Satan's cosmic Christians will suffer judgment at JSJC and loss of eternal rewards in Heaven.

## More on Blessedness in the 8 Spiritual Virtues

Blessed are those are: 1) are poor in spirit; **2) mourn, for they shall be comforted;** 3) are gentle; 4) hunger and thirst for righteousness; 5) are merciful; 6) are pure in heart; 7) are peacemakers, 8) are the persecuted.

1. Mourning is a result of recognizing our own sinfulness and bankruptcy before God. It often takes a major crisis in life that causes a brokenness of spirit before one will redefine himself. All great believers went through some major transition of redefining self before God, consider Isaiah. We all start out with the illusion that all is well with us with respect to ourselves, God, and this temporal life. When that illusion, that delusion, is shattered, there is enormous sense of mourning at such sinful complacency.
2. Examples of godly and ungodly sorrow are found in 2 Cor. 7:10-11; Matt. 26:74-75; 27:3; James 4:8-9; Psa. 6.
3. Satan and his kosmos are always opposed to mourning over human sinfulness and wickedness before God, Rom. 1:21-32; 1 Thess 4:5; 2 Thess. 2:12; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; Psa. 52:3; 2 Cor. 12:21. The kosmos always delights in evil.

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### **The gentle or meek (πραεῖς).**

1. The meek are not weak (as the rhyme might suggest). It is power used with gentleness as per a *gentle*-man. The gentle person is one who is not a bully (who often is trying to compensate for his cowardice).
2. To get to the reality of what is meek one must understand Jesus Christ as meek. One thing for certain, Jesus was not weak—He never whined, or simpered. Instead, He roared with very hard language. No one in Scripture ever talked more about Hell than Jesus did. All of His hell-fire and damnation sermons were all designed to help, not hurt. The God-man affirmed “I am meek and humble of heart,” Matt. 11:29.

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### The gentle or meek (πραεῖς).

3. The essence of gentleness/meekness is this: not to cause harm. Meekness is that aspect of selflessness which avoids harming, whether by action or inaction. It is not weakness or inferiority.
4. True meekness is submissiveness to God, not to the world or others. God is the motive for submissiveness and this is what makes meekness so powerful operationally as well as in focus. Strength is always a natural consequence of submissiveness to God. Recall how Jesus was utterly submissive to His Father.

## More on Blessedness in the 8 Spiritual Virtues

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### The gentle or meek (πραῖς)

5. Meekness is characterized by grace orientation even in the midst of hatred, injustice, and antagonism. This is the opposite of anger and self-assertion and retaliation. It is not weakness, cf. Moses and Christ. Also see Rom 12:17 and 1 Pet. 3:9; Isa. 50:6; Matt. 11:28-30.
6. As far as Satan's kosmos, it is all about pride.

## More on Blessedness in the 8 Spiritual Virtues

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### **Hungering and thirsting for righteousness**

Hunger and thirst speak of passionate desires. All supergrace believers had this attitude. This is in contrast to hungering and thirsting for the carnal, greedy, and illicit things of this world, which always leaves one unsatisfied and even disgusted of when one is full of it.

- ✓ Philippians 3:12-14.
- ✓ 1 Cor. 9:24-27.

## More on Blessedness in the 8 Spiritual Virtues

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### **Mercy**

Mercy is more than meekness. This is love and care for the needy, especially the needy who are unworthy. To be merciful is a blessing in itself.

- ✓ James 2:13 For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.
- ✓ Mat 6:15 "But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

## More on Blessedness in the 8 Spiritual Virtues

Blessed are those: 1) poor in spirit; 2) mourn; 3) gentle; 4) hunger and thirst for righteousness; 5) merciful; 6) **pure in heart**; 7) peacemakers, 8) the persecuted.

1. Purity of heart is a result of the foregoing virtues. Such purity is progressive, and as it increases so does the vision of God. The heart that sets its eyes on impurity is too carnal and distracted to see the beauty of doctrine, the spiritual life and God.
  - ✓ Heb 12:14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.
  - ✓ 1Jo 3:3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
  - ✓ Tit 1:15 To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.

## More on Blessedness in the 8 Spiritual Virtues

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### Peacemakers

Peacemakers are those who have gone through the experiences of the foregoing six virtues. The Christian peacemaker seeks to bring peace between men and God, as per reconciliation. He seeks to share the peace and grace he possesses with God to others.

- ✓ 2 Corinthians 5:18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

## More on Blessedness in the 8 Spiritual Virtues

**Blessed are the:** 1) poor in spirit; 2) mourn; 3) gentle; 4) hunger and thirst for righteousness; 5) merciful; 6) pure in heart; 7) peacemakers, 8) **the persecuted.**

### **The persecuted**, blessed?

1. What a paradox! Sounds like a contradiction! It is quite obvious that Jesus is not summoning men and women to a nice easy life. He is not offering men worldly honor; rather He is making it clear that they can expect scorn and suffering. Of course, He would be the first to feel the pain of scorn and twisted crown of thorns.
  - ✓ 2 Timothy 3:12 And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
  - ✓ John 15:20 "Remember the word that I said to you, A slave is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

## An overview of Christ's Kingdom vs. Satan's Kingdom

1. There is a form of Christ's kingdom that exists during our Church Age. While the epistles speak of a future earthly Davidic kingdom (2 Tim. 4:1; Matt. 25:1-46) and a future eternal kingdom (2 Tim. 4:18), the most common reference to kingdom is the present mystery form of the kingdom in the church age.

Colossians 1:13 For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

1 Thessalonians 2:12 so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

1 Corinthians 4:20 For the kingdom of God does not consist in words, but in power.

## Christ's Kingdom vs. Satan's Kingdom

2. Christ gave many directives for our present mystery form of kingdom in the parables.

On the use of wealth, see Luke 12:16-21; 16:1-13, 19-31. The mandates are all related to short term verses long term goals.

On faithfulness, see Luke 12:42-48. He makes it clear that privilege brings responsibility and that responsibility entails accountability.

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

On humility, see Luke 14:7-11. Christ warned against seeking preeminence for oneself. True honor is not what one confers on self.

## Christ's Kingdom vs. Satan's Kingdom

3. Satan also has a kingdom that is in active rebellion against the kingdom of God. From the time he fell, he has been entirely opposed to God's authority.

2 Corinthians 4:4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Ephesians 2:2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

## Christ's Kingdom vs. Satan's Kingdom

### 3. Characteristics of Satan's kingdom.

- Lawlessness and rebellion against the authority of God, 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.

- Darkness rather than light. This darkness refers not only to ignorance but to evil and wickedness.

Colossians 1:13 For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

## Christ's Kingdom vs. Satan's Kingdom

### 3. Characteristics of Satan's kingdom.

- Deceit and deception.

Revelation 13:14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.

- Hostility against Christians

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.