



(Opening Passage: Proverbs 4:5-13)

**The “Problem” of Evil and Suffering in the Presence of an All-knowing, All-good, All-loving, and All-powerful God (40):**  
**Job 29: Job recalls his pre-affliction blessedness in the providence of God**  
<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 (17)

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

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

This chart is my way of addressing the pathological problems that are virtually ubiquitous in contemporary Christianity. The concepts in this chart provide the only cure for these maladies. Christianity is not a game. It does not honor God to be ignorant about Him. The spiritual life requires serious thinking.

## 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

The five basics of philosophical realism for objectivity with illustrations of the crisis of pathological/anti-intellectual thinking in contemporary Christians (that has been 100 years in the making). The lion's share of blame is on pastors & seminaries.

**HERMENEUTICS:** Consider the extent of pathological thinking in Christians with regard to hermeneutics: 1) weird subjective interpretations, 2) lack of understanding of the difference between what the Bible says/means and its applications; 3) heuristics guided by pushing existential buttons of believers and unbelievers; 4) heuristics *totally* guided by other pastors and “Christian” TV. Note the pathology among Christians in the lack of ability to have sustained thought on Truth. They are given pabulum and a focus on personal needs. However, they are not taught to think Truth!

**LINGUISTICS:** Consider the extent of pathological thinking in Christians with regard to linguistics: 1) Failure to grasp how language works, specially with reference to God—cf. the word “God”; 2) controlled by language, turned on by power words and off by non-emotive words; and 3) horrendous at word studies.

**EPISTEMOLOGY:** Consider the extent of pathological thinking in Christians regarding epistemology: 1) their epistemologies rests on another person (a protestant pope of sorts); 2) their views of salvation and the spiritual life are validated by what others are doing; 3) do not care to know why; 4) lack of ability to give reasons for the faith—fideistic; 5) no development of natural law; and 6) easily captured by some new idea that “fits.”

**METAPHYSICS:** Consider the extent of pathological thinking in Christians in metaphysics: 1) not even aware of the concept; 2) resultant pagan orientation to reality (e.g., naturalism and conventionalism); and 3) empty and blasphemous views of the attributes of God (e.g., Dake). It ought not be this way! How is it that a believer with one semester of philosophy of religion knows more about the attributes of God than a believer with 40 years of BD?

**REALITY:** Consider the extent of pathological thinking in Christians with regard to Truth: 1) the exchange of correspondence truth (CT) for existential and coherence “truths”; 2) the lack of serious pursuit of CT regardless of the costs and where it leads; 3) motivated and convinced by emotional and existential “truths”; 4) determine “truth” by their circumstances as believers give up BD and think it is OK/truth since they are doing fine; 5) disdain for logic, the basic tool for navigating reality as such. Consider the grave situation of a believer who studies the Bible all of the time, but does so with a coherence view of Truth—or of a believer who listens to accurate BD, but has a faulty view of truth.

# WE HAVE TWO BOOKS OF REVELATION OF GOD

## SPECIAL REVELATION – THE BIBLE 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 – SENSE PERCEPTION

Romans 1:20; Psalm 19:1-3

Human nature (basic telos)  
Marriage, family  
Government, Warfare

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

(Special Revelation completes natural revelation, so the Christian has a distinct advantage of both).

# THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

## THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. It is the Holy Spirit who enables the unbeliever to grasp the God that he already knows through natural revelation.

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen (καθοραΐται), being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

John 16:8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me

# THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

## THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

2. It is the Holy Spirit who provides the believer absolute inner assurance of God of which there is no defeater. Hence, the importance of life under the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness (συμμαρτυρεῖ) 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

3. 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 reach absolutely 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. Furthermore, there is a distinction between what you know and what you can show.

## **JOB 29**

### **Job 29: Job recalls his pre-affliction blessedness in providence of God**

- 1. Job's pre-affliction blessedness/glory, 1-6.**
- 2. Job's pre-affliction social blessings, 7-11.**
- 3. Job's pre-affliction care for the needy, 12-17.**
- 4. Job's pre-affliction confidence in the continuance of God's blessings, 18-20.**
- 5. Job's pre-affliction wisdom and comfort for others, 21-25.**

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

1. God is always in control and His providence always operates in love: a love for the betterment of others and a love that seeks to draw others to Himself.
  - a. The world in which we live—with every single circumstance of our lives— is the very best it could possibly be given three factors:
    1. Factor #1: God’s desire to make us better.
    2. Factor #2: God’s desire to bring us closer to Him.
    3. Factor #3: God’s granting of free will.
    4. Given these three facts each believer can have absolute confidence, security, and a sense of direction on his journey with the Lord.

# DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- b. Although others may benefit from our sufferings and trials, the primary beneficiary is the person who is suffering.
  - 1. What happened to Job's children was not for Job. This would be a wrongheaded way of doing theodicy.
  - 2. What happened to Job's wife was not for Job.
  - 3. What happened to Job was not for Satan.

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- c. God allows evil and suffering in believer's life because it is the only way He can get a certain kind of incomparable new greatness and closeness in that believer (cf. Job, Samson, and Mary of Bethany).
- d. Hence, suffering is required for certain kind of spiritual flourishing. There is simply no other way to get to certain kind of greatness and interpersonal closeness to God.
- e. To grasp the purpose of suffering is to open up inexhaustible riches of *plenary* love for God.

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- f. God is justified in allowing human beings to endure suffering because through their suffering and only by means of it, God gives to each something that the sufferers are willing to trade their suffering to receive, once they understand the nature of what they are being given.