

Opening passage: Habakkuk 3:17-19

CrossAnz



**The “Problem” of Evil and Suffering in the Presence of an All-knowing, All-good, All-loving, and All-powerful God (42):  
Job 31: Job Declares His Innocence Before 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

This chart is my way of addressing the pathological/anti-intellectual problems that are virtually ubiquitous in contemporary Christianity.

This pathology is in rationality/philosophy, Bible Doctrine, and the spiritual life

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

**Prolegomena**  
P.R. for objectivity (19)  
**Foundations!**

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

**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**

**PR (19): Foundations for a Christian worldview . Must a “messed up” believer go to a psychologist before he can *then* benefit from BD?**

**Believer A – Healthy/Grounded in PR**

**Believer B – Pathologically anti-intellectual**

<p><b>5- HERMENEUTICS:</b> Objective biblical interpretation</p>	<p>5-Pathologically anti-intellectual: Subjective, mystical, existential and emotional interpretation of the Bible.</p>
<p><b>4 – Linguistics</b> – understands language, uses words as tools to get to reality.</p>	<p>4-Pathologically anti-intellectual: sensate, controlled by sound of words, words mean what they want them to mean.</p>
<p><b>3 – Epistemology:</b> personal understanding of why he believes what he believes</p>	<p>3-Pathologically anti-intellectual: fideistic, must trust others</p>
<p><b>2 – Metaphysics:</b> understands the attributes of God, a Moral Realist (not conventionalist)</p>	<p>2- Pathologically anti-intellectual: Vacuous and blasphemous views of attributes of God, a conventionalist.</p>
<p><b>1 – Reality:</b> rational, seeker of CT, oriented to Total Truth; grounded in ultimate reality of Esse/‘Ehyeh.</p>	<p>1- Pathologically anti-intellectual: irrational, pragmatic, coherent, fragmented, and existential orientations to “truth,” no confidence in obtaining objective truth.</p>

Prior to believers, i.e. pastors and seminarians preparing for the ministry, fleeing from Princeton (late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries), the Word of God was considered connected with historical reality. Ergo, natural theology and philosophy were integral parts of understanding and defending the Word of God and Total Truth.



Consider how anti-philosophical and anti-intellectual we have become since the founding of our nation:

- ✓ The typical education at the founding of our nation began in what we would call the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade—at about age eight. Students who actually went to school were required to learn Latin and Greek grammar and, later, to read the Latin historians Tacitus and Livy, the Greek historians Herodotus and Thucydides. They were expected to know the language well enough to translate from the original into English and back again to the original in another grammatical tense. Classical Education stressed the seven liberal arts: Latin, logic, rhetoric (the “trivium”), as well as arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music (the “quadrivium”).

Consider how anti-philosophical and anti-intellectual we have become since the founding of our nation:

- ✓ When Alexander Hamilton entered King's College (now Columbia University) in 1773, he was expected to have a mastery of Greek and Latin grammar, be able to read three orations from Cicero and Virgil's Aeneid in the original Latin, and be able to translate the first ten chapters of the Gospel of John from Greek into Latin.

Consider how anti-philosophical and anti-intellectual we have become since the founding of our nation:

- ✓ When James Madison applied at the College of New Jersey (now Princeton), he was expected to be able to “write Latin prose, translate Virgil, Cicero, and the Greek gospels and [to have] a commensurate knowledge of Latin and Greek grammar.”

Consider how anti-philosophical and anti-intellectual we have become since the founding of our nation:

✓ Several of the founders, including Adams, attended Harvard. The sole academic requirements for admission to Harvard University in the 1640s were as follows: “When any scholar is able to read Cicero or such like classical Latin author ex tempore and make and speak true Latin in verse and prose decline perfectly the paradigms of nouns and verbs in the Greek tongue, then may he be admitted into the college, nor shall any claim admission before such qualification.”

❖ No ACT or SAT scores. No application essays. No affirmative action. Just Latin and Greek.

Consider how anti-philosophical and anti-intellectual we have become since the founding of our nation:

- ✓ Students were also expected in these early years, according to the Harvard College Laws, to be able to translate the Old and New Testaments from the original Greek and Hebrew into Latin.

Modern pathology in contemporary Christianity, 100+ years in the making

## Bible World

Fideism

Existentialism



Religious feelings

Guilt, sin

God, the Other

However, inability to have sustained thoughts about God and truth

## THE GREAT DIVIDE OF ANTI-INTELLECTUALISM

## “Real” World



Mammonism—temporal life issues more important than Christian worldview.

American pathology: lack of commitment to Jesus Christ.

Great fear of death

# **Modern pathology among atheists: scienticism/materialism: Anti-intellectual, anti-philosophical, matter-only world**

**No epistemological basis (EB) for absolutes**

**No EB basis for universals**

**No EB basis for total truth**

**No EB basis for love**

**No EB for meaning**

**No EB basis for right  
or wrong**

**No EB basis for evil**



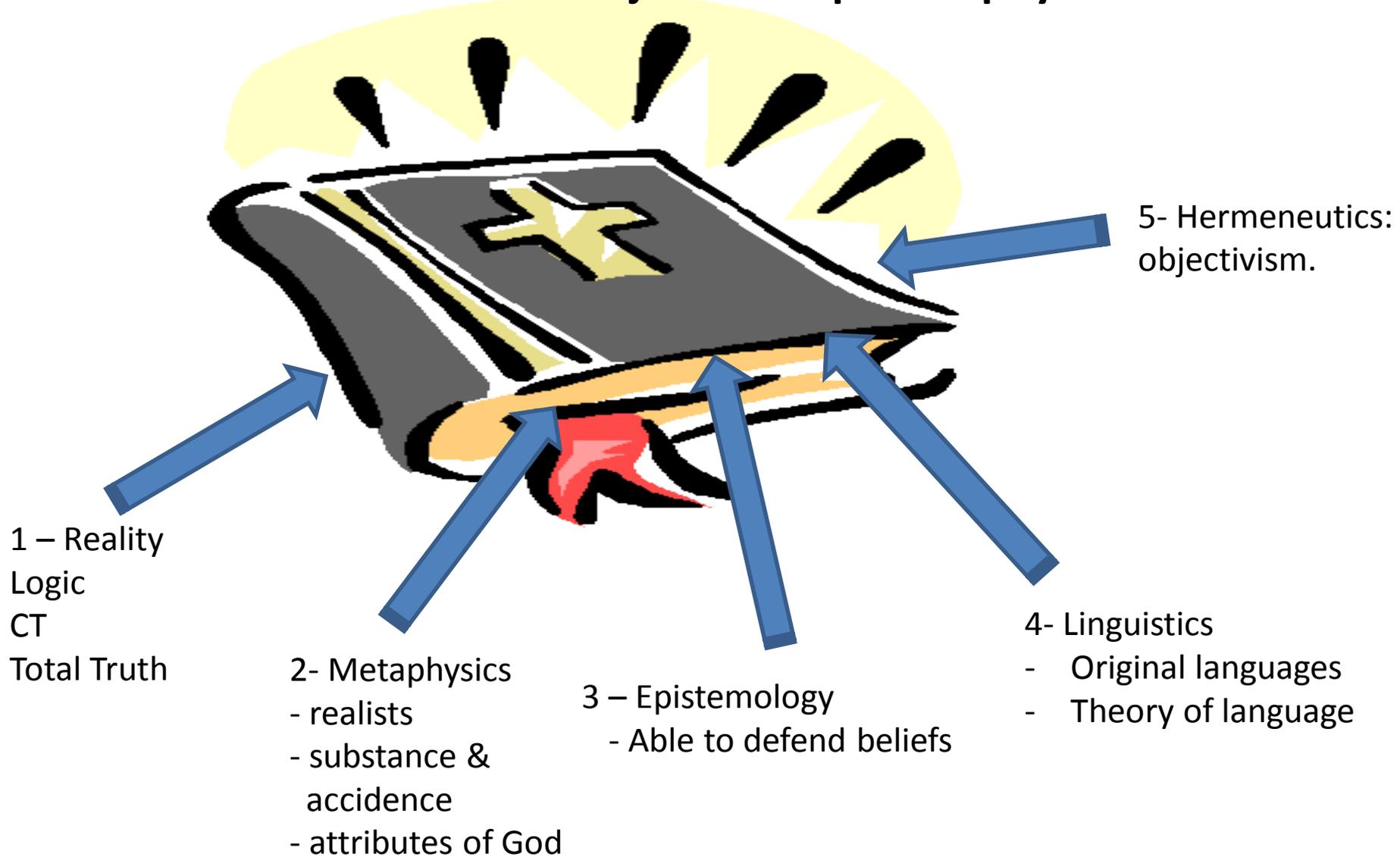
**Everything is judged  
by the here and now**

**Everything is by convention**

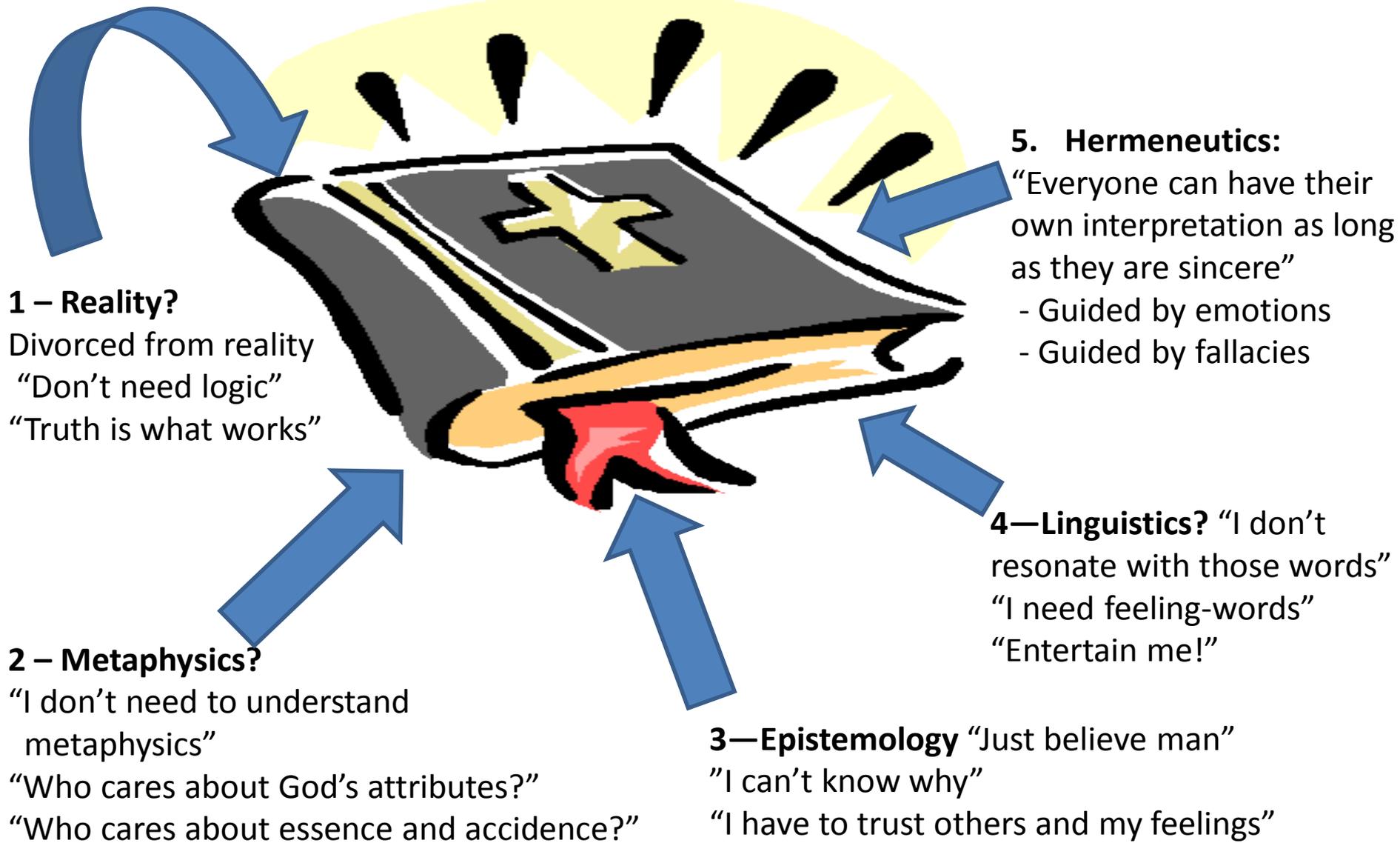
**Though they cannot account  
for justice and meaning of  
life, they often protest  
against injustices.**

**They steal from Christian  
worldview just to live as a  
human being.**

# Before the rejection of philosophy



# The Pathology of Today's Anti-intellectual Christianity



There has always been a remnant of philosophical Christians from the beginning of the church age (cf. Apostle Paul, orthodox councils), and of late there has been a return to philosophical realism and the results have been nothing short of miraculous (even the prominent atheists are redefining atheism). However, there is still a lot of work to do among the rank and file of God's people.

## The History Book of the Universe



# Spiritual Life Foundations: the Holy Spirit

1. Aside from the rational and empirical evidences for Christianity, God in His grace provides the self-authenticating ministry of the Holy Spirit for absolute assurance of spiritual certainties for both the unbeliever and the believer.

John 16:8-11 [for unbeliever] "And He, when He comes, will convict the world (ἐλέγξει τὸν κόσμον) 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; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

Galatians 4:6 [believer] And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

# Foundations: Holy Spirit

2. It is the Holy Spirit who gives believers absolute certainty of the truths of Christianity.

Rom 8:15-16. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

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

1 John 4:13 By this we know (γινώσκομεν) that we abide in Him and He in us, (ὅτι) because He has given us of His Spirit.

## Foundations: Holy Spirit

3. The question arises: “Why do we need philosophical realism if the assurance comes from the HS and not from human arguments or any evidence?” If ultimately knowing Christianity to be true is by the inner witness of the HS, why do we need the evidence?
  - a. There is a crucial distinction between knowing something to be true versus understanding its truths and showing it to be true.
  - b. Without the evidence how can you show a non-circular argument and be different than Mormons and Muslims?

## Foundations: Holy Spirit

- c. It is one thing to be convinced of the reality of God and salvation, it is quite another thing to be rational in understanding God, BD, and Christianity. It is one thing to know, but another to understand.
- d. Just knowing Christianity to be true, in and of itself, does not keep us from being irrational (cf. all of the denominations who know that Christ is real but who are irrational in their views).
- e. Failure to grow in *understanding* will result in mysticism, heresy, and/or the frying of one's 2<sup>nd</sup> order doctrinal/godly volition as the ministry of the HS is grieved and quenched in ignorance, sin, carnality, and blasphemy.

## **Job 31: Job Declares His Innocence**

- 1. Job declares his innocence in his personal life, 1-12.**
- 2. Job declares his innocence toward his neighbors, 13-23.**
- 3. Job declares his innocence before God, 24-28.**
- 4. Job declares his innocence toward his enemies, 29-34.**
- 5. Job declares his innocence before God, 35-37.**
- 6. Job declares his innocence toward his workers, 38-40.**

**It is one thing to be righteous, even the most righteous person on the planet, it is quite another thing to enter into a second-person relationship with God. This is what Job lacked, and what God is *always* after! This is, in fact, a blessing!**

# DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

1. It is crucial to understand that the purpose of all suffering is to get the believer into a second-person relationship with God.
  - a. It is not about the fairness or unfairness of your suffering. Job thought THE ISSUE was his righteousness.
  - b. It is not about your comfort level.
  - c. It is not about what you think is important.

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- d. It is not about your 1<sup>st</sup> order volition.
- e. It is all about your 2<sup>nd</sup> order volition.
- f. As long as a person's 2<sup>nd</sup> order volition is not edified by BD and DV, there is absolutely no hope in discovering God or His purposes for his life—not even in suffering.
- g. As long as a person's 2<sup>nd</sup> order volition is fried due to negative volition, there is no hope

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- h. It is one thing for a believer to struggle with 1<sup>st</sup> order volitional issues, it is another to have contrary-to-God 2<sup>nd</sup> order volition.
  
- i. God honors human free will and grants complete freedom to all 2<sup>nd</sup> order desires. To destroy free will is to destroy humanity. God's omnipotence cannot override freedom anymore than He can make a rock too heavy for Him to pick up.