

Bible Doctrines (The True-Good-Beautiful)

T/G/B

- Eschatology
- Thanatology
- Ecclesiology
- Israelology
- Dispensationalism
- Doxology
- Hodology
- Soteriology
- Hamartiology
- Natural Law
- Anthropology
- Angelology
- Pneumatology
- Christology
- Paterology
- Trinitarianism
- Cosmology
- Theology Proper
- Bibliology

P.R. - 32

Hermeneutics
Linguistics
Epistemology 9 Existence 48
Metaphysics -32 Trans. 50
Reality –Logic 32, Truth 32

Jn 15:13. The goal of human life and the reason we study the Scriptures is to develop the capacity to love God with all of our hearts, souls, mind, and strength, Matt. 22:37-39. Nothing short of personal love for God gives us true capacity for life and magnificently solves all problems of life as illustrated in Job 42:5-6.

This love is a relationship with God that transcends all that we are and do (2 Cor. 5:6-9; Col. 1:10; 1 Thess. 4:1; Eph. 5:10). It defines us. It is one thing to do something because it is right; quite another to do something because of love and desire to please Christ. Christianity is all about the relationship. The thing we have to fight against more than anything in our culture is complacency regarding God, spirituality, and even morality. There is a general distaste for any true zeal or dedication to the Lord in society and among believers.

It does not matter where we start. God is happy to take you were you are, but He is not happy to leave you there. There are three stages of understanding reality as such that must accompany growth in Bible doctrine. Our greatest enemy is not so much error as it is a partial truth, as illustrated by Job and his three friends.

The need for the unhindered ministry of the Holy Spirit includes not only the need for confession for restoration to fellowship but repentance to make new beginnings.

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-48

Concurrentism: God's Efficient Causation

1. Without metaphysics, man becomes an idiot, a moron, lost in metaphysical despair regarding reality as he cuts off parts (attributes) of beings and then proceeds to restrict his understanding of total Reality/Existence to those attributes of beings.
 - a. It is crucial to see all of reality, not just slices: mathematical sciences which only deals with quantity; physical sciences which only deal with motion; biological sciences which deals forms of physical life.
 - b. All of these are simply ways of being, of quantity, motion, and physical life. To cut off a part of being and to investigate the attributes of this part is perfectly legitimate—it is how science grows.
 - c. However, to invest any conceivable part of being with the attributes of being itself or to investigate the whole from the point of view of any one of its parts, is to end up in hopeless contradictions, both for the unbeliever and the believer.
 - d. The only cure of the metaphysical disease of skepticism and agnosticism is philosophical realism, the philosophy of the Bible. The only thing dumber than man living in denial of his mortality and God is a believer who lives in doubt and skepticism. There is no excuse.

EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-48

Concurrentism: God's Efficient Causation

2. Consider, for a moment, how the metaphysical impoverishment of modernity has caused modern man to be an absolute moron, blind as bat, to God in creation.

Matthew 6:28 "And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, 29 yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these.

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.

EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-48

Concurrentism: God's Efficient Causation

3. The Being and Action of God.

- All actions can be traced their efficient causality in God
- God is unlike all other things. He is *Esse*, existence. All other things are composed of existence and essence.
- God is the source of existence in all things not only at original creation but at each instant of their continued existence, from molecules to man.
- There is no question, therefore, of whether God acts in the world: if God did not act, the world would simply not exist.
- In the continued existence of all things, His governance comes into play in conjunction with the nature of things.

EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-48

Concurrentism: God's Efficient Causation

- Creation belongs to God alone, but creatures also share in the work of government.
- Since God's being is one, His action cannot be distinct from His being but must be one with it. This is unlike creatures since the action of no creature is the same as its being (the quacking of a duck is not the same as the existence of the duck).
- God's action cannot be in competition with that of creatures since it is the very source of their existence and action.
- God makes all causes be causes.

EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-48

Concurrentism: God's Efficient Causation

4. Divine transcendence and immanence

- As the cause of being, God both transcends all of creation and is immanently present in it. As the source of creaturely existence, God must transcend the creaturely mode of being.
- Creatures have existence by participation , and their being distinct from their essence. God is subsistent being itself. Yet, as the source of creaturely existence, God must also be immanently present in creation.
- For nothing is more intimate to any being than its own existence, and God is present to each creature as the transcendent source of its being. God truly is in all things, and innermost.

EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-48

Concurrentism: God's Efficient Causation

5. The “causal link.”

- Since God's action cannot be separated from His being, there really is no “connecting link” between God and His actions in creatures (in contrast to, e.g., a surgeon with a scalpel or sutures. To posit a connection would reduce God's actions to level of other causes. Divine action is immediate, yet not in such a way as to replace the created agents at work.
- God empowers each thing to exist and thereby empowers each to act.
- God's relation to creation cannot arise from the property of quantity since God is not a material being. It arises from God's action. And God's action is one with His being. God is substantially present to all of creation. This is in contrast to our action on things and each other which is incidentally related. God's substance is intimately related to each creature.

Hungering for Righteousness and the Eternal Perspective

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.

- ❖ Consider the challenge this would have been to the crowds. I wonder how many walked away because they did not care to take the time to understand in contrast to those with true positive volition in those who decided to follow Christ to find out what life with God is all about.
- ❖ The crucial need to advance to the fourth spiritual virtue.

Hungering for Righteousness and the Eternal Perspective

#4 - **μακάριοι** are **those who hunger and thirst for righteousness**: for they shall be satisfied.

❖ Man is not self-sufficient. His soul always craves meaning, purpose, and fulfillment. The only question is, What does he consciously crave?

✓ 1 Cor. 9:23-10:14.

✓ Augustine's test.

Hungering for Righteousness and the Eternal Perspective

- ❖ **Consider the long-term focus that is required for the Christian way of life.**
- ❖ It is impossible to live for God, Christ, or the spiritual life, without proper orientation to the heavenly treasures. The idea that the spiritual life is mainly for temporal blessings is false and demonic. Such an idea goes against the entire word of God. It is orientation to the transcendent future, that gives us true capacity and power to break the satanic curses of secularism, hedonism, pragmatism, scientism, humanism, religionism, gnosticism, nihilism, Laodecianism, etc. The idea that Bible doctrine and the spiritual life is mainly for human comfort, human success and human happiness is not biblical.
 - Matthew 5:12; 6:19-24;
 - 1 Cor. 15:19.
 - Philippians 1:21-24;
 - Luke 12:13-31;
 - Hebrews 11:8-10; Genesis 17:1; 25:8;
 - Psalm 23; 42:1-4; 63:1-8; 73:25.

Hungering for Righteousness and the Eternal Perspective

Virtue #4: **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they shall be filled;**

1. To hunger and thirst for righteousness is to hunger and thirst for its Source, God, and for possession of Him for that righteousness. This has nothing to do with human righteousness.
2. No man seeks God or His righteousness that has not gone through the beatitude states of poverty, humility, and meekness; also see Paul in Philip. 3.
3. God guarantees fulfillment for any and all those who hunger and thirst for Him and His righteousness, Jer. 29:13.

Jeremiah 29:13 'And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Modernity's spiritual disease of spiritual complacency

1. Both contemporary society and Christianity is plagued with the moral and spiritual disease of sloth, that lack of moral and spiritual hunger and thirst for righteousness. It is what sets our modern world apart from all other cultures in human history.
2. What is most conspicuous about spiritual and moral lukewarmness is the lack of passion for what is right and for sanctity. Serious believers, believers with zeal, are not only mocked by society, they are mocked by fellow lukewarm believers.

Modernity's spiritual disease of spiritual complacency

3. Moral and spiritual sloth is always accompanied by illicit hungers for the stuff of the kosmos, cf. 1 Cor. 10. It is amazing how much hunger and energy man can muster for earthly ambitions and entertainment to fill his emptiness, yet so little time and thought for God and the things of God.
4. What makes spiritual apathy so wicked is that it is a sin against directly against loving God and the things of God, cf. Judas, Demas. The problem is that God is not viewed as a treasure at all. He is not viewed as worthy of attention and effort. Rather than loving God, the person actually loves the world, 1 John 2:15-16, which means finding meaning, purpose, and value in the evil world rather than in God Himself and His grace. In spiritual apathy the person identifies himself with things of the world rather than God because they look more valuable.

Modernity's spiritual disease of spiritual complacency

5. Christ's diagnosis and prognosis of the disease of spiritual lukewarmness, which is but lack of zeal for God and the things of God, Rev. 3:14-22.
 - a. All it takes is a little negligence before God, in any area, before complacency begins to grow throughout the life, like a malignant cancer, until it has eaten all of the spiritual life out of a believer.
 - b. Note how the Lord addresses the affections. In lukewarmness the believer has lost any warm feelings for the Lord. There is very little warmth of personal affection for Jesus Christ in spiritual apathy.
 - c. One of the most dangerous things about the spiritual disease of lukewarmness is that the person who has it is totally unconscious of his problem.

Modernity's spiritual disease of spiritual complacency

- d. Spiritual lukewarmness is contagious, especially in our material-driven world of commercialism, like Laodicea. All the believer has to do is look around at the lack of dedication to the Lord and think he is doing just OK, fine, in fact. All he has to do is see how zeal for the Lord is “uncool” to find it distasteful.
- e. The spiritual disease of lukewarmness is much more difficult to cure than problems related to spiritual coldness, just like it is easier to move someone from immortality to morality than from amorality to morality.

Modernity's spiritual disease of spiritual complacency

- f. Note Christ's prescription for the spiritual disease lukewarmness.
- "Be zealous" (ζήλευε). This is only possible by increasing grasp of spiritual truths—any zeal apart from this will lead to hypocrisy. There is no place for ignorant emotions, a warmth without light.
 - "*Therefore, and repent*" (μετανόησον). Note the connection with the first virtue in the Beatitudes. There must be a true change of mind, a concerted effort to break with the past and make a new beginning.
 - "Buy from Me eye salve." The need to open one's eyes to see the facts of Reality. The problem of spiritual blindness among believers.
 - "Buy from Me white garments." Put off the old man. This points to the importance of staying clothed with the spiritual life.
 - "Buy from Me gold." See the true wealth in God.

More on 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.

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 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.

Purity of heart

This 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 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.

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 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.