

T/G/B

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

By knowledge & love! Mt 22:37-39; Jn 17:3; 1 Cor. 2:7-10; John 14:23-24; Jer 31:33-34; Heb. 8:10-12.

Outline of Bible class (my former knowledge of and love for false views of God/man/creation/SL)

1. Spiritual foundations (1 slide)—more on morality, virtue, and supernatural virtue (spirituality)
2. Philosophy of language-18 (1 slide)—Cratylean epistemology vs. biblical realism.
3. Heaven-13:—The transcendent joy and hope of biblical realism from heavenly perspective.

Spiritual foundations: morality, virtue, and supernaturally infused virtue.

1. Level 1: Morality/ethics is related to adherence to external codes, like those written on tables of stone (Ex 20:2-17): e.g., the Ten Commandments: 1) no other gods before God (polytheism), 2) no graven image (idolatry), 3) no taking of the Lord’s name in vain (swearing), 4) keep the Sabbath, 5) obey parents, 6) no murder, 7) no adultery, 8) no theft, 9) no false witness, 10) no coveting. All of these commands provide the backbone for true theology, true worship, respect for God, and protection of family, property, and even protection of correspondence truth itself.
2. Level 2: Virtue/integrity refers to codes or dispositions which are written on the heart. Consider the above vertical and horizontal mandates with reference to what man can, by the habituation of moral acts, write in his own inner nature: he can have an inner desire not to steal; however, he cannot have an inner desire to only follow and respect God above all else (1, 2, 3, 10).
3. Level 3: Supernatural/infused virtue (spirituality) is the supernatural infusion of virtue, especially with regard to the vertical virtues which make it possible to have right thinking, right will (sentiments, affections, and passions), and believe the supernatural truths of the Word of God by means of supernatural source of God the Holy Spirit (Rom. 14:17; Matt. 16:13-17).
4. The need for Biblical realism for proper view of man’s intellect and affectivity: Neither the Bible nor Realism supports the view that man’s virtue is only in the intellect and that his feelings are not important. This dichotomized/Cartesian view of man is often characterized by the term “emotions,” which is but the product of atheistic materialism (David Hume, William James).
5. God makes it clear that the right development of man’s affectivity (feelings) is part of the development and perfection of man (Mat. 9:13, Rom 12:15; Eph. 4:31-32; 1 John 3:16).
 - a. Consider the affections, passions, and sentiments of David, a man after God’s heart.
 - b. Consider the affections, passions, and sentiments of Jesus Christ (Mat. 14:14).
 - c. Consider the affections, passions, and sentiments in Heaven (Luke 16:21; Rev. 19:7).

5: Hermeneutics

4: Language-19

3: Epistemology 32
 - Existence 50
 - History 50

2: Metaphysics 32
 - Trans. 50

1: Reality
 - Logic 32,
 - Truth 32

Philosophy of Language-19 (Plato's *Cratylus*)

Outline

- ✓ Introduction
- ✓ What is philosophy of language?

✓ Theories of meaning

✓ Plato (428-348 BC)

Aristotle (384-322 BC)

Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913)

Gottlob Frege (1848-1925)

Bertrand Russell (1872-1970)

Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951).

Martin Heidegger (1889-1976).

W. V. O. Quine (1908-2000).

Noam Chomsky (1928-)

Realist view of meaning.

Foundation of meaning.

Communication of meaning.

Elements of language.

Function of language

Meaningful God-talk.

Analytic Philosophy

Conclusion.

Analogy.

Metaphysical analogy.

1. Three views on the relationship between language and reality in Plato's *Cratylus* and how it effects biblical exegesis:
 - a. Cratylean naturalistic onomato epistemology: The person who follows a Cratylean onomato epistemology and metaphysics seeks to discover the true nature of things by words. We find this mindset in exegetical movements. This individual believes that he can arrive at the proper understanding of the essence of something through etymological and exegetical studies. However, this is beset many problems, especially for the biblical exegete who is dedicated to the Word of God.
 - b. Hermogenean conventional onomato epistemology is untenable as well. The person with a Hermogenean epistemology and metaphysics has little to no use for etymologizing since words are all mere conventions, created arbitrarily by different language communities. This individual cares little for the original languages of Scripture and only resonates with what fits his experience and beliefs.
 - c. Socrates's eidetic epistemology and metaphysics is the philosophical approach to biblical exegesis. The emphasis in this methodology is to examine the nature of things themselves. This mindset believes that words are insufficient to get to the essence or forms of things. They realize that words are often filled with errors created by the first name makers. This philosophical approach understand that when a child asks "what tat?" he already knows what it is and is just seeking a label for it. This leads to one of the most profound questions of philosophy: how does the child know treeness? The British empiricists answer it one way, the European continental rationalists answer it another way. Plato thought we knew it from a world before birth.
2. Consider Adam's naming of the animals and how we understand forms/essences of animals.
3. Consider philosophy of language in exegesis of **1 John 3:17**, "But whoever has this world's goods, and beholds his brother in need, and **shuts up his bowels of compassion (σπλαγχνα, splanchna)** from him, how dwells the love of God in him?" Consider the believer who
 - a. uses the Cratylean approach (exegetical) to σπλαγχνα (splanchna);
 - b. uses the Hermogenean approach (subjective) to σπλαγχνα (splanchna);
 - c. uses the eidetic/realist/philosophical (real) approach to σπλαγχνα (splanchna) . . .

THE PRESENT HEAVEN – Separated from earth → FUTURE HEAVEN:

United with earth:

What the Bible says concerning the present Heaven:

1. Note what the Bible says about what each believer will experience in the present Heaven after the physical death of his body (Luke 16:19-31; Acts 7:59; Philip 1:23; 2 Cor. 5:8; John 17:24; Rev. 6:9-11; 18:20; 19:1-5)
2. Consider how Heaven is to be the chief focus of the spiritual life Heb. 11; Mat 5:1-16; 6:19-21; Col 3:1-3; James 1:12; Philip 3.

1. Prepared: Matt 25:34
2. Pure/perfect: Matt. 6:10; 2 Pet. 3:13.
3. Christ-centered: Dan 7:14; Rev. 22.



Church Age	Rapture	Tribulation	Millennium
		7 years	1,000 years
			Rev. 20

Warnings regarding lack of eternal perspective:

1. Treasures, heart, and life before God, Mat. 6:19-21.
2. Hell: Matt 7:13, 10:28.
3. Excuses: Luke 14:18-20
4. Verdict: "Fool," Luke 12:16-34.

PRESENT HELL/TORMENTS

1. Ecc. 12:7; Luke 16:19-31; 2 Pet. 2:4.
2. Matt. 10:28; Rev. 20:11-15

FUTURE HELL

1. Rev. 20:10-15, 21:8
2. Matt. 13:40-42,
3. Matt. 25:41, 46
4. John 5:29b
5. 2 Thess. 1:9
6. Mark 8:36-37

WE LIVE IN THE IN-BETWEEN WORLD

HEAVEN-14

1. The need for biblical realism regarding Heaven. Christians need to stop spiritualizing and thus marginalizing what the Bible says about Heaven.
2. Biblical realism focuses on reality of the promises of God, which enables the believer to enter into the transcendent optimism described in the Bible. We see this most clearly in Abraham, David, Paul, the teachings of the apostles, and Jesus Christ Himself (Matt. 5:1-16, 6:19-21; Rom. 8:20-25; 2 Tim. 4:8; 1 Pet. 1:6-7, 4:13; James 1:12; Rev 2:10).
3. True Christian optimism is not to be confused with the optimism of the prosperity gospel that claims that God will spare us from suffering in the here and now. Many great saints were not spared from suffering in this life. The great issue for Christ and all the biblical writers is eternity.

HEAVEN-14

4. It is the heavenly eternal perspective that provides biblical optimism regardless of the present circumstances of life. Only with the eternal perspective can the believer enter into the Hope that the Bible celebrates. Only such Hope can radically changes one's perspective of all of life.

5. Although the heavenly perspective is all about focus and orientation to the next life and its blessedness, it provides inexhaustible transcendent blessings for this present life. It enables us to endure all things and live in the knowledge that death is the gateway to the Lord and that a new eternal life of unending joy and satisfaction in and with God awaits every believer.

HEAVEN-14

6. Do you consider yourself as an optimist or pessimist? What would be the basis for a horizontal optimism? Is that even possible? Consider the blessedness of eternal optimism and its ramifications for our temporal stay on this earth.
- **Luke 6:22** "Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and cast insults at you, and spurn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man. ²³ "Be glad in that day, and leap for joy (σκικρτάω), for behold, your reward is great in heaven
- He does not say to rejoice because things will take a better turn on earth. The joy is not related to anything that happens on this earth.
 - Note the connection between suffering and rewards.
 - Note the negative connotations of *skirtao* by Greek and modern anthropology in contrast to the positive biblical anthropology.

HEAVEN-14

7. The vertical transcendent perspective brings indescribable joy, regardless of the circumstances of life as the believer knows how it will all end. Consider some of the reasons for transcendent jubilation and exultation. Also it needs to be noted that apart from Jesus Christ and the CCL, there is no true basis for any lasting optimism.
 - a. We can rejoice that we have God's written Word filled with eternal promises backed and sealed by the death of Jesus Christ.
 - b. We can rejoice that we will, at death, move into the immediate presence of Jesus Christ, where we will behold Him, His glory, and absolute divine love.
 - c. We can rejoice that a superabundance of life awaits us all.

HEAVEN-14

- d. We can rejoice that we will live happily ever after on the New Earth for all of eternity.
- e. We can rejoice that we will behold the face of God and joyfully worship and serve Him forever and ever.
- f. We can rejoice that we will celebrate for all of eternity, with song and complete adoration, the Lord Jesus Christ and His so great work of grace salvation. For all of eternity we will celebrate the redemptive work of Christ.
- g. We can rejoice that we are the celebrated and beloved Bride of Christ.

HEAVEN-14

- h. We can rejoice that we are already seated with Christ in Heaven, Eph 2:6; Heb. 12:22-23. We are already part of the heavenly community.
- i. We can rejoice that Heaven was prepared for us in eternity past and that Christ is making a personal place for each of us.
- j. We can rejoice that God's present purpose for our lives is inseparable from His eternal purpose for our lives, e.g., "Man's chief end is glorify God and enjoy Him forever."
- k. We can rejoice that the new heaven and earth will be characterized by righteousness, 1 Pet 3:13. No longer will there be idolatry, ignorance, evil, wickedness, disease, crime. He will bring in everlasting righteousness.

HEAVEN-14

- l. We can rejoice that we are all in the new family of God, the Royal Family of God.
- m. We can rejoice that we have a new nature that enables us to enjoy the eternal perspective.
- n. We can rejoice that we will always be children of God.
- o. We can rejoice that joy and peace are our heritage. If anyone in the world ought to be happy, it should be God's people.

HEAVEN-14

- p. We can rejoice that all sin and corruption shall be done away with.
- q. We can rejoice that all of our sins will be taken away.
- r. We can rejoice that we are united with the God of all mercy.
- s. We can rejoice that we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ.
- t. We can rejoice that we are called to be light bearers of joy instead of miserable grumblers.

HEAVEN-14

- u. We can rejoice in the fact that Jesus Christ will reign forever and ever over all the earth, and all will worship him, Dan. 7:14.
- v. We can rejoice in the fact that no matter what setbacks, illnesses, failures, and sins we experience, they are all nothing compared to an eternity of blissfulness. Our pain, suffering, and unjust circumstances may not be resolved in this life, but they will in the Next, Rev. 21:4.
- w. We can rejoice that our names are written in Heaven.
- x. We can rejoice that Christ has given us a heritage of eternal optimism.
- y. We can rejoice that we will live happily ever after seeing God.
- z. We can rejoice that we have the unique opportunity to build our lives on the optimism of Christ and the Next Life.

8. More passages to ponder on what God says about death, Heaven, and Hell.

Psalm 23:1 *A Psalm of David* . The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. ³ He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me. ⁵ Thou dost prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; Thou hast anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will ~~dwell in~~ return (וְשִׁבְתִּי) to the house of the LORD forever.

Hebrews 2:14 Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

Revelation 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, 4 and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

Isaiah 25:8 He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord God will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken.

1 Corinthians 15:55 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; 57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

2 Corinthians 5:6 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord-- 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight-- 8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

2 Timothy 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; 8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing. . . . 13 When you come bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments.

Ecclesiastes 12:6 Remember Him before the silver cord is broken and the golden bowl is crushed, the pitcher by the well is shattered and the wheel at the cistern is crushed; 7 then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

Hebrews 11:16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

Colossians 3:1 If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Matthew 25:46 "And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Luke 16:24 "And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame.'

Matthew 7:13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. 14 "For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.

Matthew 3:12 "And His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.
22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'
23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'

Matthew 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;

Revelation 6:15 And the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; 16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; 17 for the great day of their wrath has come; and who is able to stand?"

Revelation 21:8 "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Revelation 20:11 And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. 14 And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

9. It is self-evident and undeniable that one cannot live the transcendent Christian life apart from the transcendent eternal perspective. In fact, apart from the eternal perspective, no one can really find or understand himself, Matt. 10:39. The eternal perspective changes everything, not only with regard to our lives, but how we view everything else.

10. Only the eternal perspective can provide incurable transcendent optimism through the living certain knowledge of living happily every after with unending happiness, beauty, glory, and gratification. Only with the eternal perspective can the believer look beyond his sickness and pain and difficult circumstances, cf. 1 Pet. 4:13.

11. The eternal perspective provides more reasons for joy than any victory on earth.

Luke 10:19 "Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall injure you. 20 "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

12. Only the eternal perspective can really destroy temporal problems such as suffering, boredom, and attitudes of insufficiency and unimportance.

13. The eternal perspective should serve as a challenge or wakeup call for both believer and unbeliever.

- Do you daily reflect on your mortality? You are dying!
- Do you realize there are only 2 destinations?
- Do you remind yourself that this world is not your home and everything in it will be burned up?
- Do you realize that your choices and actions have a direct influence on your life in the world to come?
- Do you realize that your life is being examined by Christ and will be appraised for next life?
- Do you daily reflect that your ultimate home will be the New Earth, where you will see God and serve Him as a resurrected being in a resurrected human society, where you will overflow with joy and delight in drawing close to God and studying Him and His creation?
- Are you looking forward to being with your Lord?
- Is your value related to the eternal perspective?

14. Note the transcendent eternal incentives.

2 Peter 3:11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! 13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 11:24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin; 26 considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

15. Note the eternal perspective and rewards: an overview of the various motives, incentives and the nature of the concurrent activity involved in gaining rewards, Jer. 17:9-10; Matt. 6:1-7, 16-18, 19-34, 19:21, 25:14-23; Luke 6:35, 14:12-14, 16:9-11, 19:17-19; **Rom. 14:10-12; 1 Cor. 3:12-15, 4:5, 6:3; 9:24-27; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; 5:9-11; Eph. 6:7-8; Col 3:22-24;** 1 Tim 6:6-19; 2 Tim. 2:12, 4:6-8; **Heb. 6:10-12;** James 1:12, 2:14-26; 3:13; 1 Pet. 5:1-4; 2 Pet 1:3-11, 3:10-14; 1 John 2:28; 2 John 8; Rev. 2:10, 2:23, 3:11, 21, 14:3, 19:7-8.