



**The “Problem” of Evil and Suffering in the Presence of an
All-knowing, All-good, All-loving, and All-powerful God (47):
Job 35: Elihu Condemns Job’s Self-Righteousness**

<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
Foundations! (24)

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

Broad and deep understanding of BD

Jesus Christ gained a full understanding of all these doctrines; lived His life in light of them to the glory of God; and then gave all of these doctrines to church age believers,
 John 16:12-15.

Contemporary Christianity bears little to no resemblance to authentic/doctrinal and philosophical Christianity.

How do you feel about those who say (or act as if) Christians do not care enough about truth for philosophical realism?

Jesus Christ was the consummate philosophical realist.

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

Luke 2:49 Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" cf. 1 John 2:13 for baby believers knowing God the Father.

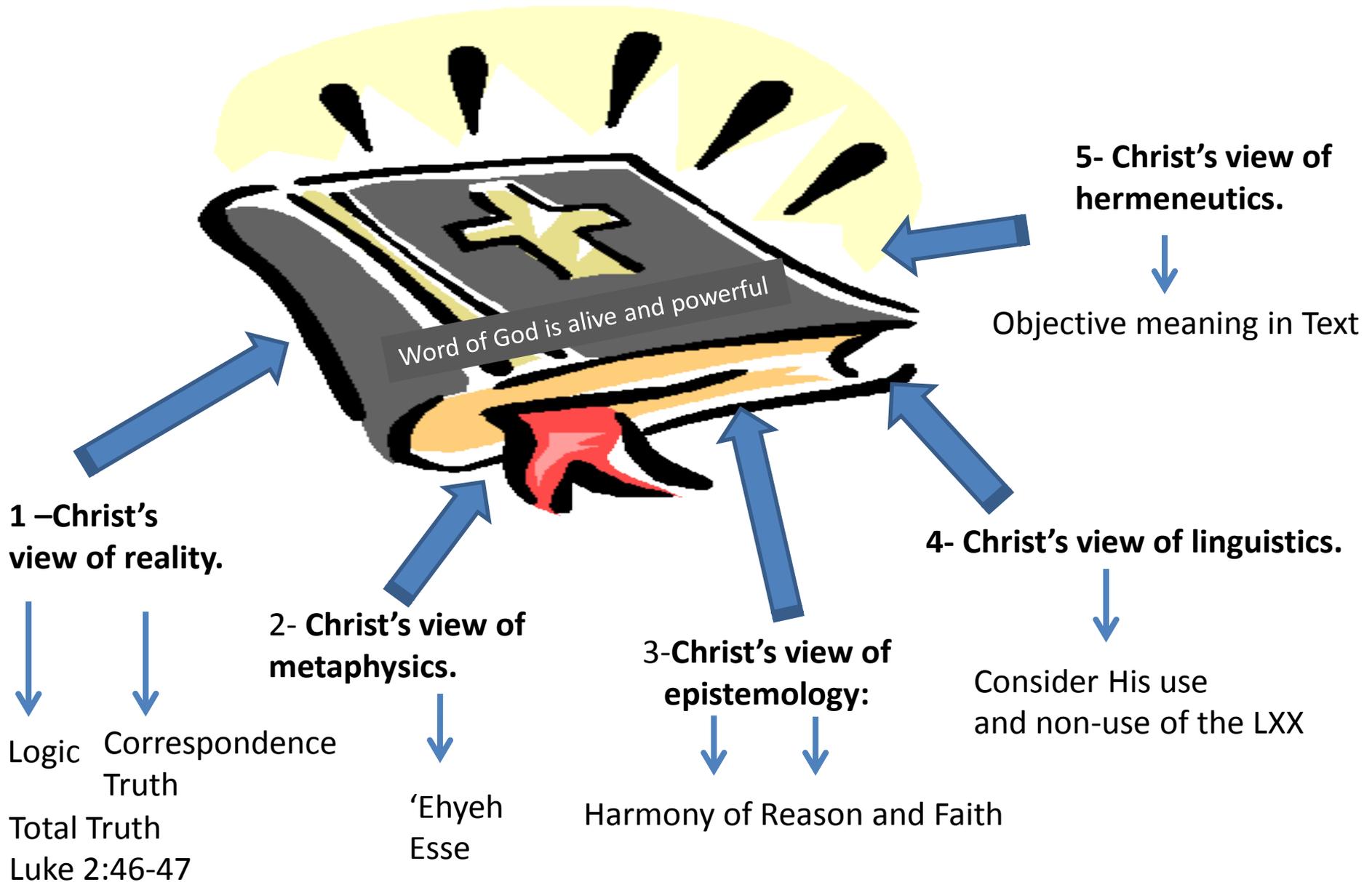
▪ Jesus Christ, 'Ehyeh, Esse, Ultimate Reality, Exod. 3:14; Jn 1:1; 8:57-58; John 17:5.
 Colossians 1:17, *And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together (συνέστηκεν).*

Young adult - Level 2- Doctrinal conceptualization -
 Systematic understanding of -- God's Word/Truth, e.g. .
 Matthew 4:4 *But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'*"

Baby believer - Level 1 -

- Limited to isolated Bible verses
- Unable to apply doctrine or divine viewpoint to *all* the issues of life
- Jesus Christ, Luke 2:40 *And the Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom (σοφία); and the grace of God was upon Him.*

Foundations (24): Philosophical foundations of Jesus Christ



Foundations: The Holy Spirit

1. It is the Holy Spirit who convicts unbelievers and confirms within the believer the reality of God and the truths of the Word of God.
2. Philosophy enables us to understand what we believe and demonstrate these truths to others. However, no amount of philosophy or external evidence can show you that you are right with God; this must come through the Holy Spirit.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness (συμμαρτυρεῖ) with our spirit that we are children of God,

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: The Holy Spirit

3. Philosophy can prove the existence of God, but only the Holy Spirit can enable you to know without a doubt the truths of Christianity and your relationship with God. The distinction and harmony of two types of knowledge of God is foundational:
 - a. Reason-demonstration knowledge, Rom. 1:20.
 - b. Faith-knowledge. Rests on the authority of God Himself.

Foundations: The Holy Spirit

4. Unbelievers may not like the fact that the Holy Spirit enables us to know with certainty the truths of Christianity. However, this is what the Bible teaches and this is, after all, God's world.

Foundations: The Holy Spirit

5. For atheists who reject the notion of inner testimony of the Holy Spirit, we have many powerful arguments that prove the existence of a God who is eternal, uncaused, creator, sustainer, with unimaginable power and intelligence (by metaphysics of the observable world). The evidence is so powerful that it leaves the unbeliever without excuse.

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.

Foundations: The Holy Spirit

6. In dealing with unbelievers who challenge the gospel, it is important to attempt to find common ground.
 - a. For unbelieving Jews, the Christian should focus on the common ground of the Old Testament, Acts 2:22, 25-31.
 - b. For various cults who claim to be Christian, the believer should focus on the common ground of New Testament, 2 Tim 4:2-4.
 - c. For all others, the Christian should focus on philosophical reasonings to show the challenger that his philosophy is flawed (Acts 14:16-17; 17:2-4; 17, 24-28; Rom. 1:20).

Foundations: Holy Spirit

7. It is helpful to understand three categories of non-theists in an effort to find common ground.
 - a. Positive atheism – *claims* to have legitimate arguments or evidential reasons that God does not exist: e.g., “I believe there is no God” because of x, y, z.
 - b. Agnosticism – *claims* no one can know for certainty: “No one can know if there is a God,” “There is no way to establish if God exists.”

Foundations: Holy Spirit

- c. Negative atheism – *no claim*, just “I don’t believe in God,” “I am not theist.” There is no claim for God or against God. It is popular but a lame. These atheists offer no arguments whatsoever. This is simply “argument” by assertion. Instead of “I believe there is no God because of x, y, z (positive atheist),” the negative atheist says “I just do not believe there is a God.”

Job 35: Elihu Condemns Job's Self-Righteousness

1. Job's inability to affect God because of God's greatness, 1-8.
2. Job's inability to influence God because of his pride, 9-16.

DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

1. The single most important, powerful, and blessed doctrinal concept any believer can grasp is God's transformative purposes in allowing the believer to suffer—as illustrated in and with Job. Note the silence of God throughout these chapters as He allows trauma to prepare Job for a total transformation.
 - a. Suffering is essential to true Christian flourishing. While we should not go looking for suffering, we *must* understand God's purposes in suffering when it comes. Let's never forget that our God is a God of joy and blessings, but that joy and blessedness is the most pronounced in suffering. Suffering is designed to bring the believer to face-to-face relationship with God in a way that nothing else can.

DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- b. Suffering is essential to God's goals in His love for us, Rom. 5:1-5; Heb. 2:10; 5:7-8; 12:5-11; James 1:2-4; 2 Cor. 12:7-10; 1 Pet. 4:13.
- c. Suffering is always designed to bring the greatest good to any believer, namely, greater closeness with God in a "face-to-face" relationship in time.

DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- d. The believer's greatest good, which is always being closer to God, cannot be gained apart from suffering.
- e. There is nothing as powerful as suffering to bring internal/psychic integration that is required for personal love for God.
- f. In God, what is gained through suffering is always worth the pain and trauma.

DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

2. The fact that the most profound of human blessings and blessedness come through suffering has been empirically verified throughout human history.
 - a. The Bible and virtually all literature, ancient and modern, places suffering before true wisdom and capacity for life.
 - b. In our own age, modern psychology provides solid and overwhelming empirical evidence on posttraumatic growth (PTG).

DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- c. The issue in any person's suffering is NOT THE SUFFERING, but a person's response to it. Suffering will either integrate you and bring you closer to God or disintegrate you and harden you and push you away from God (as evidenced by attitude to the WOG).
- d. The fractal nature of God's providence guarantees that there is no suffering that is not best for each sufferer.