

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

John 8:32; Acts 20:27; Matt. 22:37, 38; Job 42:5-6 (PR). What does the Bible says about the church and Truth? 1 Timothy 3:15, *I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar (στῦλος) and support (ἑδραίωμα) of the truth.* Today's church? Society? I doubt that .1% of Bible-believing Christians could even define Truth! Pat answers like "Jesus" only underscores the problem. In sum, Truth is discovered by 2nd act of the mind and is always related to existence, "BE," "I AM." Existence is the most fundamental thing.

Christianity is not a series of truths in the plural, but rather truth spelled with a capital "T." Truth about total reality, not just about spiritual things.

The bone that I have to pick is not primarily with rank and file believers who have never been taught philosophical realism. My polemic is primarily against those who distort Christianity by keeping believers in the dark about the nature and structure of truth: Reality, metaphysics, epistemology, linguistics, and hermeneutics.

Outline of today's class for advancement in whole truth (1:15): 10 min of intro and **main point** of the spiritual life; 15 min of epistemology; 50 min of doctrine on mercy, guilt, shame, fragmentation.

The main point is always a loving and growing 2nd person relationship with God: *Ephesians 5:8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), 10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.*

Stage 3

Stage 3 – Christian metaphysician = life of glory!

- Metaphysical understanding of God, creation, the spiritual life, man, and Bible doctrine.
- Transcendent relationship with God rather than nominal relationship with God.

Holy Spirit



Bible Doctrine

Stage 2

Stage 2 – Christian doctrinal believer = life of doctrine!

- Still Nominal understanding of God.
- Increase in perinoetic truth about God & the spiritual life. However, still plagued with pagan philosophy in view of God's nature due to lack of metaphysics, which is due to modernism's philosophical assumptions.
- He has become more stable, but still very dependent on others for confidence in absolute truths.
- Orientation still more about words than the reality.

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.

5: Hermeneutics
4: Linguistics
3: Epistemology 15
Existence 50
2:Metaphysics 32-
Trans. 50
1: Reality
Logic 32, Truth 32

EPISTEMOLOGY: #15 - Cognition

1. Not only have Christians been kept in the dark regarding God and creation, we have been kept in the dark about cognition and related epistemological issues. Given the following, it is no wonder we live in such loony times:
 - Modern materialism: The bottom line in materialism is that “every form of materialism [or reductionism] denies the existence of the mind,” John Searle. They have quite literally lost the human mind.
 - If there is no immaterial mind, then man is but the physical firings of electrical charges. This is why there is so much angst among the materialists (cf. Daniel Dennett, Churchlands, David Stove).
 - Thus, even if materialism was true, then it is not true, for there really are no truths or arguments at all, just firings of electrical charges.
 - On the other end of the spectrum, modern Christianity runs the gamut from superstitious and religious (“spirit-man” talk) to the celebration of irrationality among liberal Christians as well as Bible believers.

EPISTEMOLOGY: #15 - Cognition

2. We, as a church, have put behind us modern deistic, atheistic, and irrational views of God-creation, and have gained a robust and *biblical* understanding of God, creation and science to the glory of God. We know need to advance in the removal all of those irrational Cartesian, Platonic, vacuous, and religious views of human cognition and epistemology so we can understand and resonate with total truth—the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help us God.
 - The philosophical self-evident nature of human cognition. We will build and defend the PR model against all comers.
 - Failure to understand human cognition robs believers of the privilege of being able to see man's magnificent immaterial mind, forms in all of creation, and recognize God's glory behind it all.
 - True views of cognition enable the believer to see and understand such things as the nature of knowledge, truth, the difference between believing and knowing, the nature of certitude, abstraction, forms, God, and how the human will can wreck or advance cognition and the spiritual life.

EPISTEMOLOGY: #15 - Cognition

3. Review of the four major views of existing “things” in the world. At first, this may be as difficult to grasp as was existence as such (and how this rock cannot exist by itself). Give it time! As with existence, the ramifications are enormous. Everyone has a philosophy about the world. Which one of these do you hold Which is biblical?
- Realism. Things really do have a metaphysical formal element, essences. The form makes the matter what it is. In PR the intellect is immaterial and it is able to pull out or abstract the forms/essences of entities.
 - Platonism. The form (e.g., catness/humanness) is a separate existence in reality existing somewhere apart from material instantiation (Plato, Augustine).
 - Conceptualism. The form (catness/humanness) is not real, just a creation of the mind to help us talk about things. Consider the problem in John Locke who asserted human rights but then denied the reality of the form of humanity.
 - Nominalism. Weakest form in that it teaches that the only things that exist are particular things. We just use words to refer to things that seem similar. No such thing as humanity either in the mind or the external world.

EPISTEMOLOGY: #15 - Cognition

4. Think of the human immaterial mind as a factory for the manufacturing of concepts and universals. The intellect is an immaterial power.
 - The immaterial mind is like a factory, in addition to the brain, for the occurrence in the human mind of conceptual thought of universals.
 - Nothing that exists physically (Fido) is ever actually a universal (dog). Anything that is embodied in matter exists as a particular, a singular thing that may also be a particular instance of this class or that.
 - Our concepts, having universality, cannot be embodied in matter. We only sense particulars, but universals exist in our minds. The brain is insufficient to create universals, though it is a necessary condition to form the phantasms/images for the mind to use for concepts.
 - The senses never reason. It is the intellect that connects the concepts, and makes inferences, and reflects on itself—watches itself. The analytical mind is different in kind to physical processes of the brain, which can only apprehend particulars. Only the intellect can produce universals and give meaning.

EPISTEMOLOGY: #15 - Cognition

5. Overview of the self-evident metaphysics of intellection.

- Sensible things in the world act on our sense organs.
- This modification of a sense organ produces a likeness of the thing according to its mode.
- This external sensation is received by our internal perception (attention).
- This external thing that makes a sensible impression terminates in a sense image (phantasm).
- The phantasm/image is present to the intellect as the go-between of senses & intellect.
- The human intellect comes to the phantasm and abstracts the form/species/essence of the phantasm as it disengages it from the material aspects.
- This form comes to exist in man in a new way. It is a prolongation of the original.
- Again, the senses give rise to a phantasm/image which is stripped of its formal element so we can have the idea of the essence/form, which is a universal stripped of all of its particulars. Then, we can take the universal and apply it to multiple instances of the same kind.
- In sum, the species is nothing but a prolongation of the action of the thing on the knowing power. The object is acting on the knowing subject and the thing comes to exist in the mind of the knower through the senses and the intellect acting all at once.
- The thing in the mind is the thing in the world, formally identical, existentially diverse. It is a prolongation. The thing I am knowing in my mind is the end process, the prolongation of the real as it impinges on the human knower.
- The end of the process is called a judgment, 2nd act of the mind, e.g., “this is a cat.”

Christ's Eightfold Concept of Blessedness

Matthew 5:3-8

- #1 **blessed** are the **οἱ πτωχοὶ in spirit**: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- #2 **blessed** are those **οἱ πενθοῦντες**: for they shall be comforted.
- #3 **blessed** are the **οἱ πραεῖς**: for they shall inherit the earth.
- #4 **blessed** are **οἱ πεινῶντες καὶ διψῶντες for righteousness**: for they shall be satisfied.
- #5 **blessed** are the **οἱ ἐλεήμονες**: for they shall receive mercy.
- #6 **blessed** are the **οἱ καθαροὶ in heart**: for they shall see God.

1. Compare and contrast with Revelation 3:15-19 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot. 16 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. 17 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, 18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see. 19 'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent.
2. Mercy is sandwiched between hungering for righteousness and pure in heart. This brings up issues not only related to forgiveness, guilt, shame, but the problems of fragmentation, self-alienation, and the need for reintegration around the Good (sanct.)

Mercy, forgiveness, guilt, and shame

#5- **μακάριοι** are the **merciful**: for they shall receive mercy.

3. Review of a few concepts (phantasms):

- Distinction between mercy, forgiveness, excuse, and justification.
- Distinction between guilt, and shame.
- Understanding how the twofold aspects of love relates the solving problems associated with guilt and shame:
 - True love includes a desire for the good of the object.
 - True love includes desire for appropriate union/relationship with the object.

4. The Christian model for forgiveness and mercy is based on God's forgiveness and mercy of believers.
- Matthew 6:12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen .' 14 "For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 "But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.
 - Colossians 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.
 - Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

- Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- Romans 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 8:39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;
- John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head, and gave up His spirit.
- 1 John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

5. Christ's lesson on the importance of those forgiven to forgive others and an overview on the importance of understanding analogous God-talk, Matt. 18:21-35.
6. Discussion of mercy, forgiveness, guilt, shame, fragmentation, and reintegration through sanctification in 2 Samuel 12:1-24; Psalm 32; 51.

