

Opening Passages

**ACTS 17:28; ROM. 11:36; 1 COR 8:6;
COL 1:16-17; HEB. 1:3; 2:10; REV. 4:11**

God is in all things but not *spatially*. He is the immanent and transcendent causal ground of the continued being and existence of all things. He is not part of things, but He is the cause of the existence of all things. Analogously, when the Bible teaches that God the Holy Spirit is inside all Church Age believers, it is speaking of Him being the causal ground for the being/existence/dynamics of the spiritual power needed for the spiritual life.

**The “Problem” of Evil and Suffering in the Presence of an All-knowing, All-good, All-loving, and All-powerful God (65):
Job 38: God and Creation-11 (‘Ehyeh and Metaphysics 8)**

<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

Acts 17:28 - "for in Him we live and move and exist (ἔσμεν)."

This is the most profound statement in the Word of God about metaphysics, ultimate reality. Yet, Paul is quoting Epimenides.

We have three issues in all of philosophical, scientific, and metaphysical history:

- Essence
- Motion
- Existence

P.R. - 32

- Hermeneutics
- Linguistics
- Epistemology
- Metaphysics -7
- History-3
- Reality -Logic 32, Truth 32

Stage 3 - Metaphysical, profound understanding of God and Reality.

Stage 3 - Metaphysics

- Advanced understanding of metaphysics.
- Lives a life of worship of transcendent and immanent Son of God who gives existence to all things.
- This believer is able to have the most profound love of God for who He is.

Stage 2- Basic grasp of metaphysics.

Stage 2 - Metaphysics

- Understands the fundamentals of metaphysics and thus escapism the irrational mindsets of Descartes- Mill.
- Moves out of fideism and rank modern empiricism (atomism).

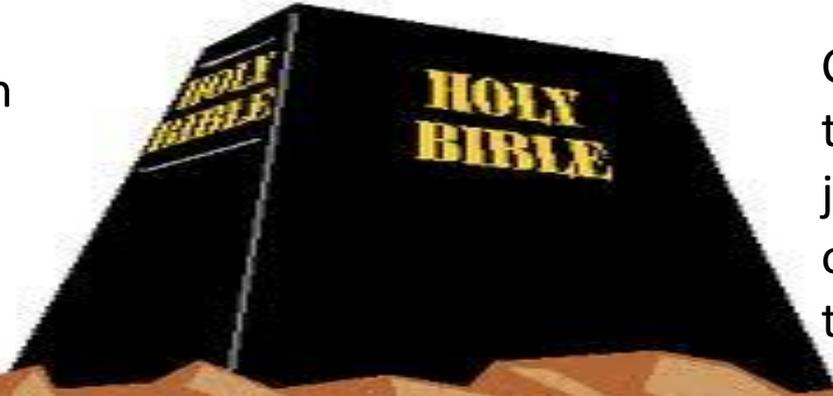
Stage 1- Unaware of metaphysics

Stage 1 - Metaphysics

- Blind to metaphysical realities.
- Possesses a modern metaphysical mindset of atheists.
- Fideistic and agnostic.

Philosophical Foundations for Biblical Objectivity

Nearly every Christian today attempts to understand God through his pagan deistic worldview.



Correspondence truth takes one on a wonderful journey of discovery of objective Truth of God and the POG

5- Hermeneutics – how do we understand that which is?

4- Linguistics – how is that which is communicated?

3- Epistemology –how do I know that which is?

2- Metaphysics – what is that which is?

(History of Metaphysics 3, Metaphysics 7)

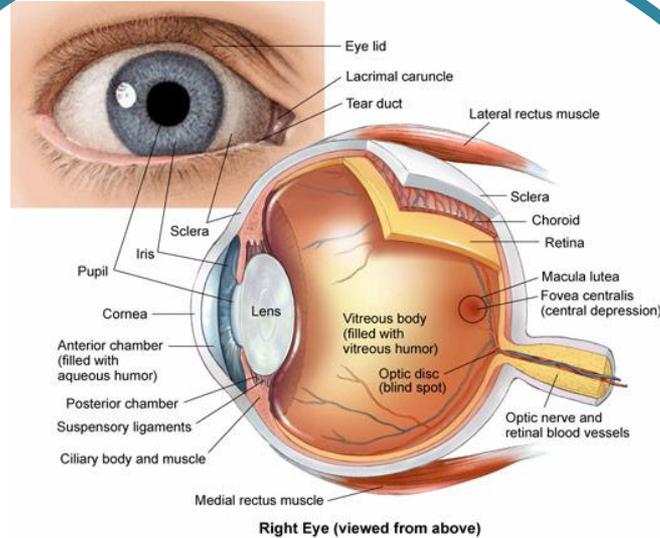
1- Reality – that which is (Logic 32, Truth 32)

PR 32

Foundations: Metaphysics (History-3)

1. Review of 4 foundational causes of things. Modernity rejects formal and final causation. Note the amazing *form* of the human eye:

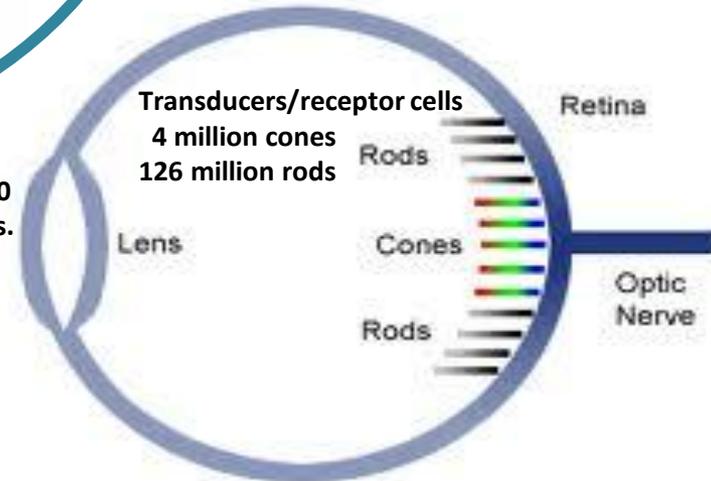
Eye picks up electro-magnetic radiation wave- lengths 360-760 millimicrons (thousandths of a millionth of a meter): from cornea to lens to retina (part of nervous system) to transducers to electrical language.



Sight

- Converts stimuli to electrical language
- Able to distinguish about 200 colors and hues.

Exquisite design of 130 million rods and cones. with 1 million optic nerve fibers.



Foundations: Metaphysics (History-3)

2. The four causes work intimately together. Does an eye make sense apart from final cause? Does final cause make sense apart from efficient cause? While science has been hailed as the catalyst to unbelief in the modern world, even among Christians, it is in science where we find some of the most compelling evidence for God's existence.

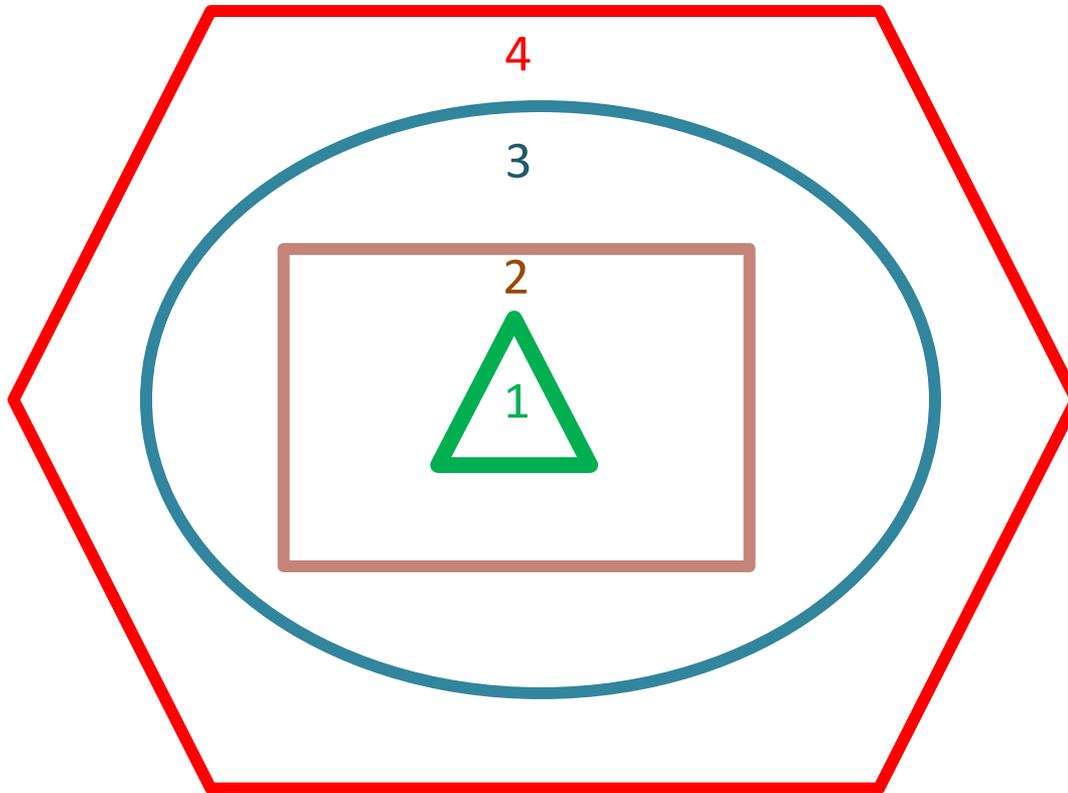
1- Agent

2-Matter

3-Form

4-End

1 works on 2
to make 3 for
4.



Foundations: Metaphysics (History-3)

3. There is no more important question in all of life than Being, ultimate reality, Ex 3:14; Acts 17:28.
 - a. How does culture view ultimate reality? Unity or diversity?
 - b. What is the relationship between the one and the many?
 - c. As a Christian, how do you view ultimate reality?

Foundations: Metaphysics (History-3)

4. It is in metaphysics that Satan has done the most damage to the thinking of modern Christians. There are so many brothers and sisters in Christ who possess a pagan views of God and are totally unable to respond to the modern critics of theism and Christianity.

Foundations: Metaphysics (History-3)

5. Almost every modern Christian is deistic at least when it comes to the inorganic matter. Hardly any Christian has a robust understanding of metaphysics which alone enables the believer to see God sustaining all things. This includes pastors and seminary professors. The darkness is truly staggering.

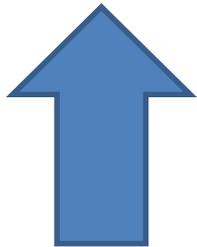
Foundations: Metaphysics (History-3)

6. Nothing less than a robust understanding of metaphysics can fix this problem. The choice is metaphysics or Fideism. Virtually all Christian minds stand with Kant on his side of the wall separating him from Paul and Romans 1:20. We will correct this serious deficiency with two interconnected studies.
 - a. The history of metaphysics from Thales to present.
 - b. The science of metaphysics.

History of Metaphysics 32

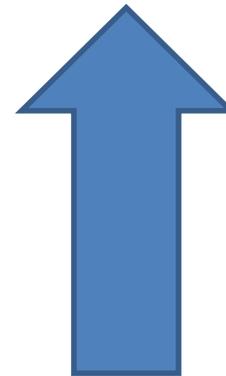
Metaphysics 32

To understand metaphysics is to understand more about God and reality than 99% of Christians including pastors and seminary professors. This is a real opportunity to move into whole new realities that are impossible to grasp apart from understanding metaphysics.



- 3-Thales – 1st philosopher
- 2-Kant's Wall
- 1-Overview

History of Metaphysics 3



- 7-Satan's attack on metaphysics
- 6-Integration of 4 causes
- 5-Act of existence = "to be"
- 4-Act and Potency
- 3- Four causes
- 2-Being *qua* being
- 1-Introduction

Metaphysics 7

Foundations: Metaphysics (History-3)

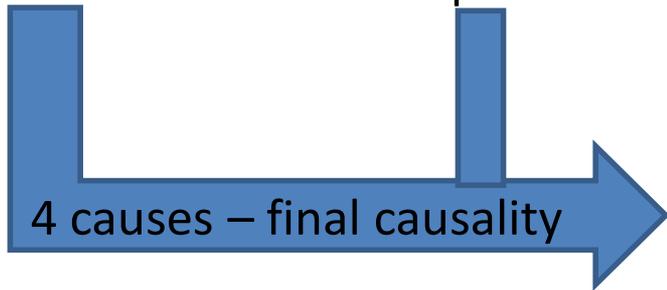
	Ancient	Medieval Scholastics	Modern Descent of the Moderns	Contemporary Period Aristotle's Revenge
Pre-Socratics	Thales (water)	Augustine	<p>Dominated by rejection of final causation for mechanical view: All that really exists are primary qualities of size, shape, motion, mass, and number</p> <p>Copernicus</p> <p>Galileo</p> <p>Bacon</p> <p>Hobbs</p> <p>Descartes</p> <p>Spinoza</p> <p>Leibniz</p> <p>Newton</p> <p>Locke</p> <p>Berkely</p> <p>Hume</p> <p>Kant</p> <p>Hegel</p> <p>Marx</p> <p>Kierkegaard</p> <p>Nietzsche</p> <p>Comte, Bentham, Mill</p>	<p>Living in Kant's Shadow</p> <p>Practically every Christian</p> <p>Charles Peirce</p> <p>William James</p> <p>John Dewey</p> <p>Bertrand Russell</p> <p>Ludwig Wittgenstein</p> <p>John Austin</p> <p>Edmund Husserl</p> <p>Martin Heidegger</p> <p>Jean-Paul Sartre</p> <p>Quine</p> <p>Thomas Kuhn</p> <p>Foucault</p> <p>Derrida</p> <p>Richard Rorty</p>
	Anaximenes	Aquinas		
	Anaximander			
	Heraclitus			
	Parmenides			
	Socrates			
	Plato			
	Aristotle			

Foundations: Metaphysics (History-3)

Ancient Medievals Descent of the Moderns Aristotle's Revenge

Aristotle

Aquinas



Rejection of metaphysics
All of reality is size, shape, motion,
mass, and number.



Shift to
Scientism
- Copernicus
- Galileo
Rejection of 4
causes

Deism, atheism
agnosticism



Rejection of final
cause
Immoral
Irrational
Current chaos
Current nonsense
Agnosticism
Anti-philosophical
No confidence
about knowing
if there is a God
Very Kantian
All is subjective that
is not mechanical

Metaphysics of God (Esse, 'Ehyeh).
Certainty regarding God, Rom 1:20
Necessity of God for reality as such

No conflict between science and
Christianity—the conflict is in
metaphysical presuppositions.

Foundations: Metaphysics (History-3)

7. The first ancient philosopher was Thales (624-545 B.C.). He was the first to predict the solar eclipse because he recognized there had to be an ultimate unity or order in all the diversity of creation (the one and the many).
 - ✓ He was on a search for the *arche* or essence and telos of the universe. How does John 1:1 begin.
 - ✓ Metaphysics is what is beyond the world of physics, things, and forces.

Foundations: Metaphysics (History-3)

8. For Thales the ultimate reality was water.
 - a. It explained the ontology or being.
 - b. It explained the relationship of solids, liquids, or gases.
 - c. It explained motion: Water appeared to be hylozoistic.



On May 25th 585 BC the first philosopher was born by predicting a solar eclipse



The Battle of the Eclipse took place at the Halys River in Turkey between the Medes and the Lydians. The final conflict of a five-year war, the battle ended abruptly due to a total solar eclipse; the eclipse was perceived as an omen, indicating that the gods wanted the fighting to stop.

Foundations: Metaphysics (History-3)

Thales of Miletus (Θαλῆς ὁ Μιλήσιος) in Ionia



Foundations: Metaphysics (History-3)

Paul's 3rd missionary journey was from Assos to Miletus



'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-8

1. Understanding 'Ehyeh's nature, Exodus 3:1-16. Why is it that 'Ehyeh is the only one who can say "I am who I am"? At least three aspects of Ehyeh is revealed in Exodus 3.
 - a. *Esse's* holiness, Exod. 3:5.
 - b. *Esse's* love, Exod. 3:7-9. Why didn't the Israelites draw close to God through their wanderings in the desert? Did they not have a sincere desire (Exod. 15:12, 20-24; 19:8; 24:3, 7; 32:1-8). The strongest warnings for believers in the NT is not growing spiritually in understanding God. To remain a spiritual baby is to guarantee failure. What is the greatest issue in your life? Jer. 9:23-24.
 - c. *Esse's* nature, Exod. 3:14-15. This is what Paul had in mind in Acts 17:26-28. Paul knew Jesus was 'Ehyeh!

'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-8

2. Other attributes of 'Ehyeh that are ignored and grossly misunderstood in contemporary Christian. This is why even Bible scholars are left scratching their heads at Job 38-39. In the simplicity of God we see that He is

- ✓ Good and perfect (Mark 10:18)
- ✓ Infinite (Psa. 147:5)
- ✓ Omnipresent (Psa. 139)
- ✓ Immutable (James 1:17)
- ✓ Holy (Isa. 6:3; 1 Chron. 13:7-11)
- ✓ Timeless (2 Pet. 3:8; Isa. 46:10)
- ✓ Impassible (Mal. 3:6)
- ✓ Omnipotent; God is His omnipotence
- ✓ Omniscient; God is His omniscience
- ✓ Just (Gen. 18:25; Isa 30:18; Rom. 3:21-26)
- ✓ Love (1 John 4:8; Rom. 5:8)