

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
- Natural Theology

Psalm 73:24: the continuity and rewards in the Kingdom in Matthew 19:29.

Preparation for Bible Class. Apart from the realism of Total Truth, consider the intractable problems one faces in properly understanding fellowship/forgiveness of 1 Jn 1:9. Consider, for example,

- a. failure at level of three universal laws of logic: clarity of terms, a true premise, and valid form;
- b. failure at the level of metaphysics: *Esse*, human nature, sin, language (forgiveness, confession);
- c. failure at the level of epistemology/sufficient reason (cf., the 4 references of “confession” in NT).

3 Parts to Bible Class.

Part I: Philosophical foundations for the spiritual life and Bible study: philosophical or CS+I (American)?

Part II: Philosophy of language: destruction of reality by making the idea the object of knowledge.

Part III: Development of Bible doctrine: EP on salvation and damnation. .

Part I: Philosophical foundation for Bible study and the spiritual life.

1. For our purposes all philosophical movements can be roughly divided into two categories: Platonic and non-philosophical (CS+I). Only in Platonism is truth objective and concrete as rocks.
2. All true philosophy is but a footnote to Plato (Alfred North Whitehead). All subsequent differences among the various schools is metaphysical address for their forms/essences.
3. American philosophy (CS +I) is not a rational philosophy at all. It is purely subjective in that its grounding is in the instincts of a herd mentality guided by particulars--senses rule the mind.
4. The Word of God and the Lord Jesus Christ has far more in common with Platonic philosophy than He has with American philosophy (subjective, nominalistic, positivistic, nihilistic).
5. Consider the Realism of Plato: a) a virtuous man seeks wisdom; b) man’s *summum bonum* is knowing God; c) ultimate knowledge/wisdom is knowing God; d) no man could be happy who did not recognize Divine operation in the world; e) “God is the measure of all things;” f) “he who would be near God, must as far as possible be like Him ...the temperate man is the friend of God, for he is like Him; g) worship & virtue = happiness; h) virtue itself is not external to happiness, but is integral to it; i) man’s good is the condition of his soul primarily, and it is only the truly virtuous man who is a truly good man and a truly happy man; j) evil cannot really make a man evil.
6. Exposing anti-Christian myth #4: “the Middle/Dark Ages suppressed growth of science.”

5: Hermeneutics

4: Language-49

3: Epistemology 32
- Existence 50
- History 50

2:Metaphysics 32
- Trans. 50

1: Reality
- Logic 32,
- Truth 32

Outline

- ✓ Introduction
- ✓ What is philosophy of language?
- ✓ Theories of meaning
- ✓ Plato (428-348 BC)
- Cratylus
- ✓ Aristotle (384-322 BC)

Modern theories of meaning

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.

Part II: Philosophy of Language-49 Aristotle (*phantasm*)

1. The unmitigated disasters of modern philosophy and philosophy of language are direct results of abandonment of realism—leading to nominalism, positivism, nihilism and the destruction of Western Civilization as well as sound biblical exegesis and basic understanding of God, reality, virtue, morality, logic, and universals.
2. The error in cognition/language was first made by Descartes, but it is best expressed by Locke in *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*:

Before I proceed on to what I have thought on this subject, I must here Beg pardon of my reader for the frequent use of the word *idea*, which he will find in the following treatise. It being the term which, I think, serves best to stand for whatsoever is the *object* of the understanding when a man thinks, I have used it to express whatever is meant by *phantasm* I presume it will be easily granted me that there are such *ideas* in men's minds.
3. It is evident that Locke went to school at Oxford with tutors who were scholastics as evidenced by use of *phantasm* (“image,” not “fantasy”). However, either he was a poor student (or had poor scholars) as evident from the fact that he makes *ideas* something private and not identical with the ideas in another man's mind. What each of us directly apprehends, says Locke, are always and only our ideas. This leads to absolute disaster—both philosophically and biblically.

Warnings:
Matt 6:19-34
Rev. 14:13
2 Cor 5:10
Rev. 19:8



EP: eternal blessedness

Matthew 5:19 "Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 19:29 "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, shall receive many times as much, and shall inherit eternal life. ³⁰ "But many *who are* first will be last; and *the* last, first.

Temporary Heaven

John 17:24; Philip 1:21-23; 2 Cor. 5:8; Rev. 1-19



Temporary Hell

Luke 16:19-31



Eternal Heaven/Earth

Rev. 21-22

EP: eternal damnation

Matthew 16:26 "For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Matthew 13:41 "The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, ⁴² and will cast them into the furnace of fire; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Revelation 20:12 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.

Eternal Hell

Rev. 20:11-15; Matt 10:28-30



Heaven 43: The EP on Heaven and Hell

1. One of the most exciting and blessed things a believer can do to immediately raise himself up to a whole new level is to see his life in terms of the divine drama of human history with all of its wondrous eternal implications. And we get to choose our own character! Consider your life and the elements that make a good drama, a good redemptive history.
 - Interesting characters (at least from the viewpoint of the readers).
 - Significant conflict.
 - The hindrance of desires.
 - Satisfying resolution.
 - Avoidance of predictability.
 - Development of characters.
 - The higher the stakes, the better the story.

2. Consider the various dimensions of His story.

- How boring and nihilistic life would be without conflict.
- How the greatest characters would never be developed or revealed apart from evil and suffering.
- How God is the Perfect Author of the story.
- How the beginning and end tie it all together.
- How we will view our lives so differently a hundred years from now.
- How we can enter into the EP now.

2 Corinthians 4:17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

- The nature of our future cast party.
- The billions and billions of years of happiness and blessedness that would be impossible apart from the “short tragedies” of this life.
- Consider the eternal ramifications of each of the 6 hours on the Cross.
- Consider the eternal scars on the wrists and feet of our Lord.
- Who has suffered more than anyone in human history, by His own choice? The Innocent One chose to pay the greatest price for sin and evil. He experienced it all, poverty, pain, rejection, and shame throughout His life, from birth to death.

3. There are two disparate eternal endings in the divine drama of human history. Although there are many issues, the bottom line is accepting or rejecting God's grace (Rev. 22:17). Those who accept God's grace by faith alone in Christ alone will enter Heaven, with or without rewards, those who reject God's grace will suffer agony in Hell for all of eternity. There are no second chances, no do-overs, for the believer or unbeliever.
 - a. Heaven and eternal consequences: Mt. 5:12; 6:19-20; Lk 6:20-24; 14:12-14; Rom. 8:17-18; 1 Cor. 3:12-15; 9:24-27; 2 Cor. 4:17-18; 5:9-11; 1 Pt 4:12-13; Rev. 22:12.
 - b. Hell and eternal consequences: Matt. 11:21-24; Jn. 5:28-29; 8:21-24; Rom. 2:5-11; Jude 7; Rev. 9:20-21; 16:9-11; 20:12; 21:8.

4. Christ's so-great salvation. What ineffable good news! We are justified by faith and will never face the wrath of God for our sins.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. ¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Romans 4:5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

5. Salvation is so much more than forgiveness of sins. There are four aspects to Christ's grand work on the Cross, which alone is the basis for our eternal security and *subsequent* acts of forgiveness. (The unbeliever can never be forgiven because he has never received these salvific benefits.)
- a. Work #1: Propitiation = temple image. To propitiate somebody is to appease his anger. God propitiated His Father's righteous wrath on sin.

Romans 3:24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a **propitiation** in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;

1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the **propitiation** for our sins.

- b. Work #2: redemption = Market place image. This basically means to buy. While propitiation focuses on the wrath of God that was placated on the Cross, redemption focus on the plight of sinners from which they were purchased by the Cross. The price is the death of God's Son.

Galatians 4:4 But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, ⁵ in order that He might **redeem** those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

1 Peter 1:18 knowing that you were not **redeemed** with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ.

Revelation 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst **purchase** for God with Thy blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

- c. Work #3: Justification = Law court image. This is bestowing on the believer a righteous standing before God. This is a legal declaration, not a moral transformation.

Isaiah 53:11 As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see *it* and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will **justify** the many, As He will bear their iniquities.

Romans 3:24 But they are **justified** freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 4:5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who **justifies** the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness,

Romans 5:18 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted **justification** of life to all men.

Romans 8:33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who **justifies**;

- d. Work #4: Reconciliation = Family. This is the most personal. The basic idea here is to restore a relationship.

Romans 5:1 Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

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,¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

6. Having rejected God's offer of grace by rejection of Jesus Christ, the only means of salvation, the unbeliever will suffer in and for his "works/deeds" for all of eternity in the Lake of Fire.

Revelation 20:12 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 (κατὰ τὰ ἔργα αὐτῶν)**.
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. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

7. A careful look at *all* of the passages on God's judgment on the unbeliever, both in time and in eternity, indicates that this judgment is not described in terms of **good** works. In other words, they are never viewed as **good** in any way.

Revelation 9:20 And the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, **did not repent of the works of their hands**, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; ²¹ and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.

1 John 3:12 not as Cain, *who* was of the evil one, and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because **his deeds** (τὰ ἔργα αὐτοῦ) were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or **evil**.

Matthew 12:35 "The good man out of *his* good treasure brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of *his* evil treasure brings forth what is **evil**.³⁶
"And I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment.³⁷ "For by your words you shall be justified, and **by your words you shall be condemned.**"

8. We need to understand that while sin should never be the issue or focus when giving the gospel to someone—Jesus Christ and eternal life is the issue—sin can be a major and fatal issue in that sins are the very reason the unbeliever will not accept the gospel of Jesus Christ. Perhaps, we can do better by saying that past sins are never an issue.

Romans 1:18 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who suppress the truth in unrighteousness...*** 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. ²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them.

2 Thessalonians 2:10 because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, ¹² in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. ¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ "And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil.

9. When Jesus speaks those in danger of Hell, He oftentimes makes sin very much an issue. However, these sins are not past sins, but present sins that become a stumbling block to receiving His grace.
- ✓ **Matthew 5:21-22** "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' 22" But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever shall say to his brother, 'Raca,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever shall say, 'You fool,' shall be guilty *enough to go* into the fiery hell.
 - ✓ **Matthew 18:8** "And if your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the eternal fire.

✓ **Matthew 5:27** "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; ²⁸ but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart. ²⁹ "And if your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out, and throw it from you; for it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ "And if your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off, and throw it from you; for it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to go into hell.

10. God categorizes those whom He casts into eternal fire as those who are wicked and have transgressed against Him.

Isaiah 66:22 "For just as the new heavens and the new earth Which I make will endure before Me," declares the LORD, "So your offspring and your name will endure. ²³ "And it shall be from new moon to new moon And from sabbath to sabbath, All mankind will come to bow down before Me," says the LORD. ²⁴ "Then they shall go forth and look On the corpses of the men Who have **transgressed against Me**. For their worm shall not die, And their fire shall not be quenched; And they shall be an abhorrence to all mankind."

Matthew 13:49 "So it will be at the end of the age; the angels shall come forth, and take out the **wicked** from among the righteous, ⁵⁰ and will cast them into the furnace of fire; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

11. Just as there are degrees of happiness in Heaven, there appears to be degrees of suffering in Hell.

Matthew 11:21-24 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² "Nevertheless I say to you, it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in *the* day of judgment, than for you. ²³ "And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You shall descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. ²⁴ "Nevertheless I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in *the* day of judgment, than for you."

12. The deeds that are mentioned in connection with the resurrection of judgment are explicitly called evil.

John 5:28 "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, ²⁹ and shall come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment.

13. The fact that unbelievers die in their sins and are forever in a state of sin indicates that their sins have never been forgiven—even though Christ bore them all.

John 8:21 He said therefore again to them, "I go away, and you shall seek Me, and shall die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come." ²⁴ "I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am *He*, you shall die in your sins."

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."

14. Those who reject the gospel suffer the penalty of divine retribution.

2 Thessalonians 1:6 For after all it is *only* just for God to **repay with affliction those who afflict you,** ⁷ and *to give* relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, ⁸ dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ And these will pay the **penalty** of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

15. The works that the unbeliever are judged in time and eternity are explicitly categorized as evil and sinful—unbelievers are never said to be judged for their **good** works.

Romans 2:3 And do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment upon those who practice such things and do the same *yourself*, that you will escape the judgment of God? ⁴ Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? ⁵ But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶ **who will render to every man according to his deeds:** ⁷ **to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life;** ⁸ **but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.** ⁹ **There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek,** ¹⁰ **but glory and honor and peace to every man who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.** ¹¹ For there is no partiality with God.

Jude 1:7 Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in **gross immorality** and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example, in **undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.**

Revelation 9:20 And the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; ²¹ and **they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.**

Revelation 14:9 And another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone **worships the beast and his image**, and receives a mark on his forehead or upon his hand, ¹⁰ he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ "**And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; and they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.**"

16. There will come a time when we will all praise God for His true and righteous judgments. We should never apologize for God's judgments on those who reject His grace. While we should not make sin and Hell the main issue, any attempt to hide or conceal truth about divine judgment and Hell is more motivated by our zeitgeist (CS + I) than the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word. Finally, a small view of sin can only produce a small view of the Savior as well as negative attitude toward divine judgment.

Revelation 19:1 After these things I heard, as it were, a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; ² because His judgments are true and righteous; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her." ³ And a second time they said, "Hallelujah! Her smoke rises up forever and ever."