

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; 2 Cor 5:1-10.

3 Parts to Bible Class.

Part I: Spiritual foundations: The need to understand the nature of virtue and maturity.

Part II: Philosophical foundations: The need to understand how language maps on reality.

Part III: Doctrinal development: The need to understand our stewardship with God's money.

Part I: Spiritual foundations: Mature/virtuous Christians vs. Immature/vice-ridden Christians.

1. There are two categories of believers in 1 Cor. 2:6-3:4:
 - a. #1: "We do speak wisdom among those who are mature/perfected/τελείους" (1 Cor. 2:6).
 - b. #2: "I could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ" (1 Cor. 3:1).
2. Christians are NOT mature based on the *amount* of doctrine or even sporadic application of doctrine. Maturity has to do with the perfecting of a nature, which is what virtue is on both natural and supernatural levels. Moreover, the key locus of virtue is the will. Intrinsically, the will is far more important than knowledge, cf., a judge who knows the law but applies it unrighteously.
3. The only way to develop virtue is by doing. If you want to be more ____, then do it. If you do not want to be a __ person, then stop. Again, this is true on a natural level as well as a supernatural level—concurrency works on both levels. It is the actions that habituate the character.
4. Christians who have habituated vice into their lives, like jealousy, remain immature babies in character regardless of how much doctrine they know. Again, they are infantile. Maturity and immaturity are all about one's character. In sum, we are what we do.
5. Note the perniciousness of jealousy, which is but a disordered/evil/malevolent will:

James 3:13 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

Prayer & the SL: The need for divine concurrence to perfect/mature our Christian nature.

5: Hermeneutics

4: Language-53

3: Epistemology 32
 - Existence 50
 - History 50

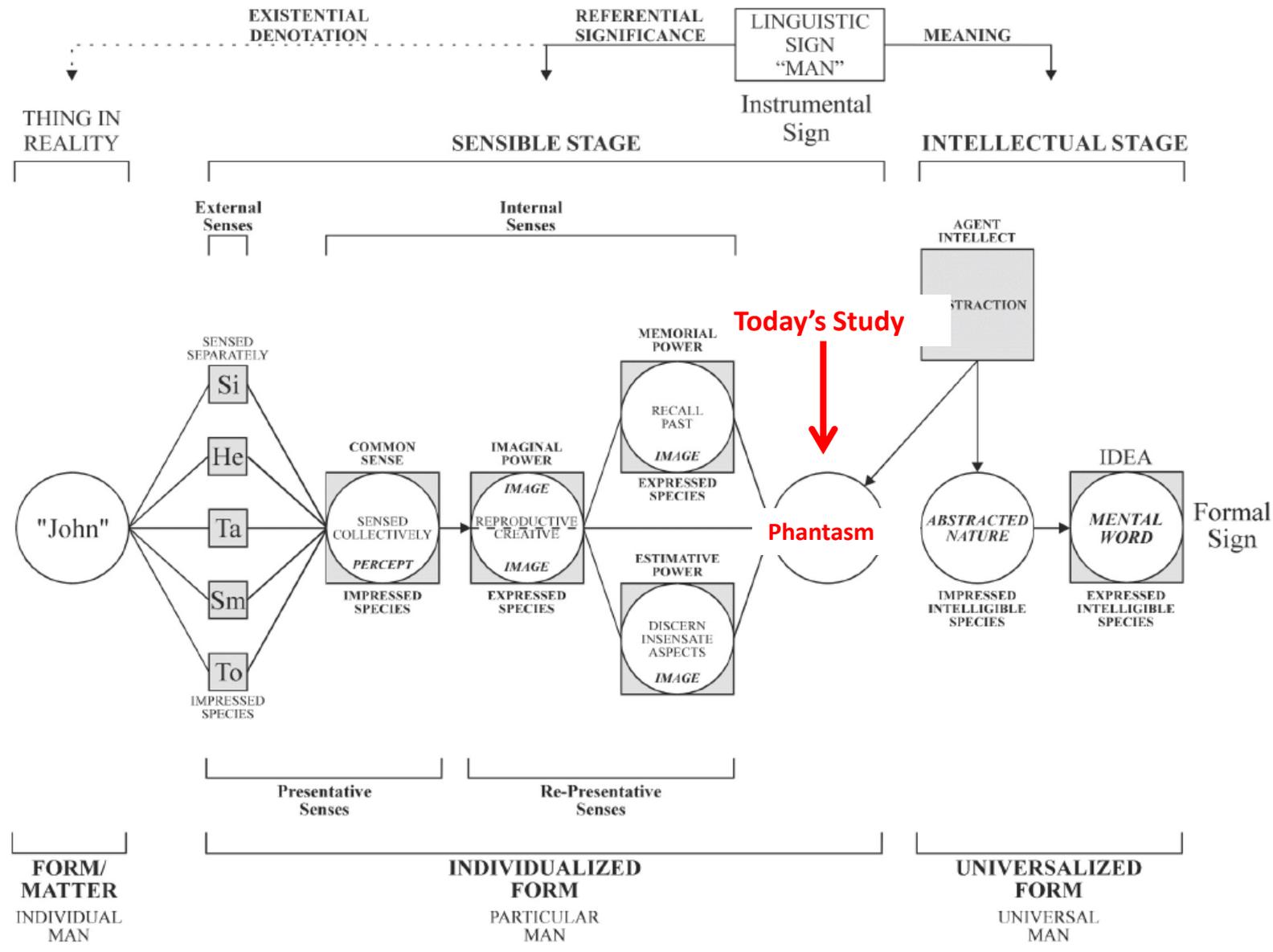
2: Metaphysics 32
 - Trans. 50

1: Reality
 - Logic 32,
 - Truth 32

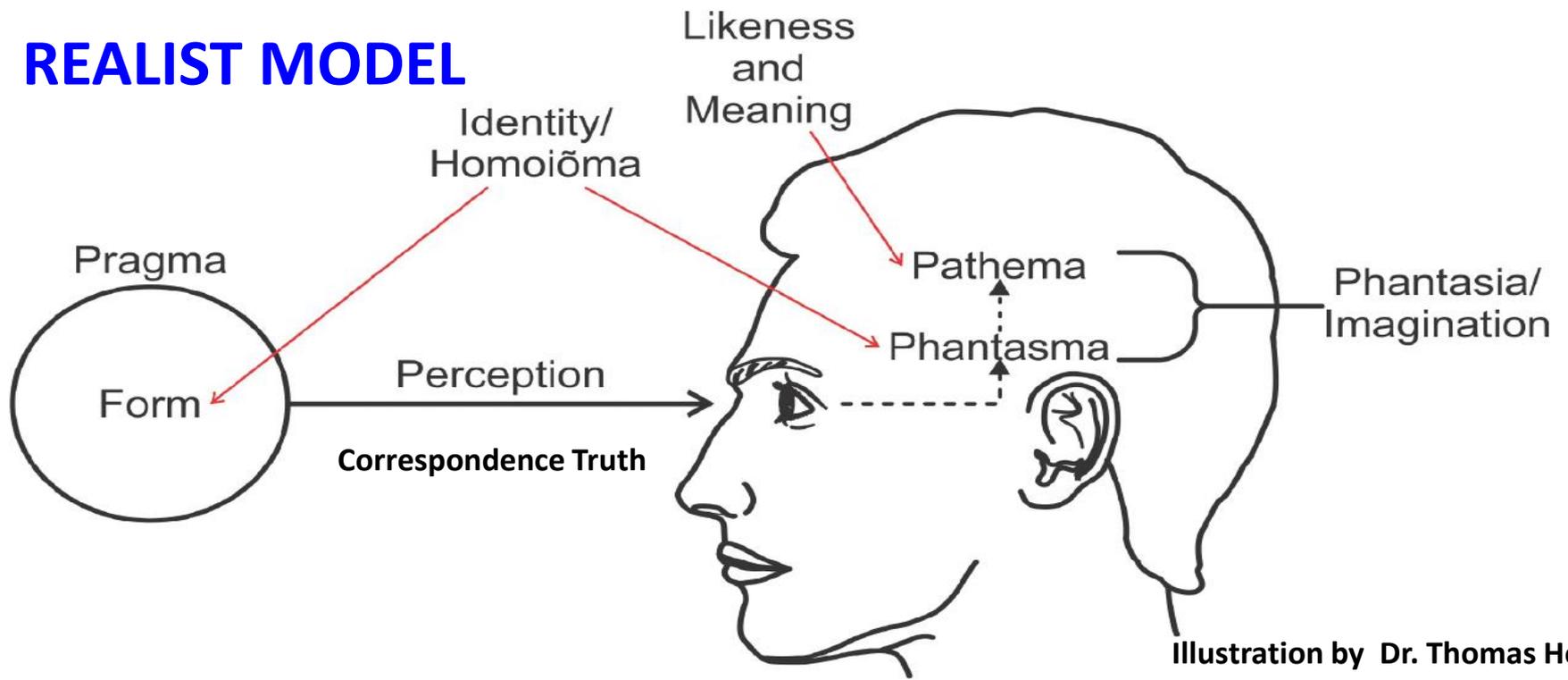
Philosophy of Language (53): REALISM

- 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.

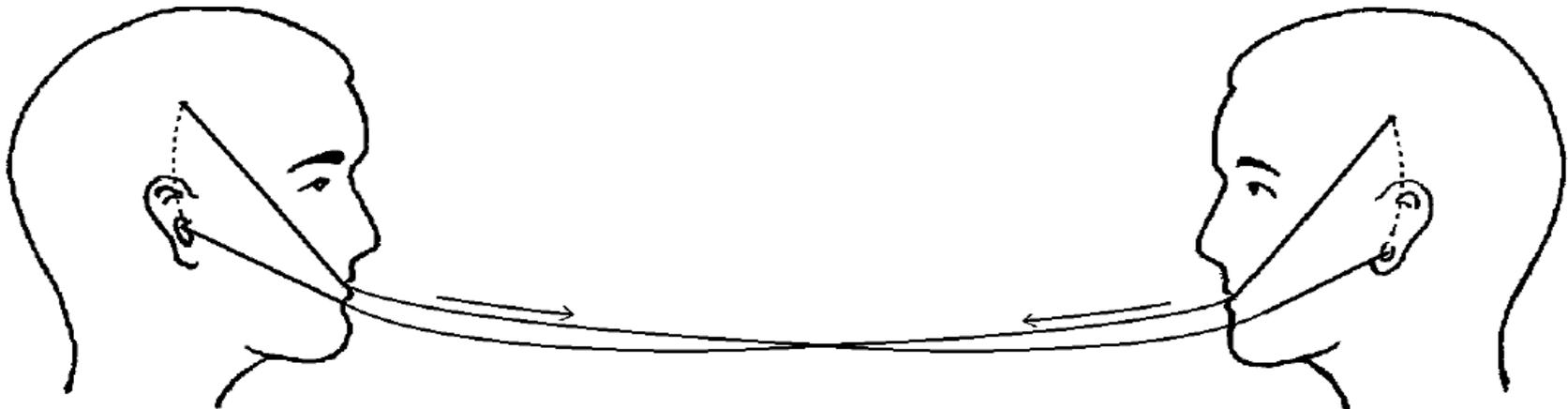
Chart by Dr. Thomas Howe



REALIST MODEL



NON-REALIST MODEL: Saussure's diagram



The Phantasm

1. Review of process: The thing (*pragmata*) in the world impinges on man's empirical receptors creating a phantasm. The thing in the world and the phantasm are the same for all (cf., "image" of horse). The phantasm is the object of knowledge, not a concept or idea. Man does not come "pre-loaded."
2. The distinction between real language and linguistics: real language deals directly with external objects. Linguistics primarily deal in two areas: 1) ideas about the words and 2) the various organs used to make sounds. It is possible to have great capacity in real language (strong *phantasm*) and not so great in speech. Real language is the realm of metaphysics that overlays and uses the various organs. There is nothing wrong with linguistics per se. However, by nature it is positivistic, relativistic, and reductionistic—limited to material. The only problem is the tying of understanding to various language communities.

3. The process: The act of external sensation sets off the act of internal sensation or perception. External sensations are synthesized, worked over, refined, and stored in memory, and referred to in other sensations. The most central function of perception is the synthesizing of external sensations so that man perceives the sensible object *as a whole*.
4. The act of perception terminates in a highly refined sensorial image, which is the expression of the whole sensorial-perceptive process. This image is technically called the phantasm (image).

5. The phantasm can be audial, visual, tactual, kinesthetic, and the like. It captures the riches contained in the sensorial life of a human being. The phantasm expresses the thing as perceived.
6. The form/essence of the thing is present in the phantasm, but present in a material manner. It must be disengaged from these material conditions before it can activate the intellect, a nonmaterial potency. The active intellect abstracts the form from its material instantiation.
7. The active intellect can be compared to an actor who is given a script, which is the phantasm.

8. Phantasms are needed to complete the process of understanding. In order for the intellect to grasp any object it must reflect on the phantasm. The nature of a horse, for example, cannot be known until it is known as existing in some particular object, the phantasm.
9. Phantasms are needed to recall the process of understanding. We bring out the phantasm that was previously presented to our intellect. We are aware of searching our memories. The ability to orchestrate the phantasms varies from man to man. It depends on the strength and suppleness of sensibilities.
10. Phantasms are needed to deepen the process of understanding. The stronger and more powerful the action, the more is the thing present in the phantasm in its nature and being, and the more capable is the phantasm of presenting the nature of the thing to the intellect.

**Salvation by faith alone
in Christ alone**

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.

Acts 16:31 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household."

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,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.



Temporary Heaven

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



Eternal Heaven/Earth

Rev. 21-22



Judgment for rejection of Christ

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him.

1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

Temporary Hell

Luke 16:19-31



Eternal Hell

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



Principles on money and the spiritual life.

1. Caveat: to enter and advance into the Whole Truth, the Total Truth, of the Word of God requires a great deal of courage, fortitude, commitment to and love for the Truth as such. This is most notably true if one enters into the teachings of the Word of God on finances. It is very easy to ignore, reject, and twist what the Word of God says because of the activity of religious hucksters—those Christian mountebanks. However, we must remember that the issue is God's Word. We must take our cue, not from the world around us, but from God's Word:

Isaiah 55:11 So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it.

2. The bottom line throughout all of the various passages in the Word of God on our finances is that we are held accountable for how we manage our money—which all belongs to God. We will all face God regarding how we used our finances at the JSJC and the results will extend through all of eternity. Moreover, no one will be able to tell God that he did not know—even (if the pastor did not teach him for the last 20 years)—for God’s lessons on our stewardship of money fill the Bible, especially the gospels. God has recorded everything we need to know about His investment priorities. We are God’s money managers and our accountability extends through eternity. Hence, this is of utmost importance.

3. In our study of the eternal perspective, we have noted how explicit the Lord is regarding money and how our use of money is a test of our character, values, and stewardship. He is who faithful in the big things is also in the small things, and vice-versa. In sum, it is all about managing God's money.

Luke 16:9 "And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the mammon of unrighteousness; that when it fails, they may receive you into the eternal dwellings. ¹⁰ "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. ¹¹ "If therefore you have not been faithful in the *use of* unrighteous mammon, who will entrust the true *riches* to you? ¹² "And if you have not been faithful in *the use of* that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³ "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

4. The issue is faithfulness, not how much we have. If we are unfaithful with a few dollars, we would be unfaithfulness with a million dollars. It is not a matter of what we have, it is what we do with what you have. If we are untrustworthy regarding earthly wealth, then why should He trust us with heavenly wealth? What we do with a little time, money, and talent tells God a lot about our treasures and will also will effect our kingdom operation.

Luke 16:10 "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. ¹¹ "If therefore you have not been faithful in the *use of* unrighteous mammon, who will entrust the true *riches* to you? ¹² "And if you have not been faithful in *the use of* that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³ "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

5. Ownership: it all belongs to God, even our own life and bodies—we are simply His stewards. So, when we give to the poor, needy, missionaries, bible translators, etc, , we are simply giving God’s money to do God’s work. It is all about God’s ownership. To grasp this is to change your mind regarding our acquisitions as well as losses—e.g., “that was God’s house, not mine, that burned down” (Wesley). God’s owns us by creation and by regeneration. This extends to our entire lives, including our bodies.

1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

Psalms 24:1 *A Psalm of David* . The earth is the LORD's, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.

Deuteronomy 10:14 "Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it.

Leviticus 25:23 'The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are *but* aliens and sojourners with Me.

1 Chronicles 29:11 "Thine, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Thine is the dominion, O LORD, and Thou dost exalt Thyself as head over all. ¹² "Both riches and honor *come* from Thee, and Thou dost rule over all, and in Thy hand is power and might; and it lies in Thy hand to make great, and to strengthen everyone.

Job 41:11 "Who has given to Me that I should repay *him*? *Whatever* is under the whole heaven is Mine.

Psalms 50:10 "For every beast of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills. ¹¹ "I know every bird of the mountains, And everything that moves in the field is Mine. ¹² "If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all it contains.

Haggai 2:8 'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' declares the LORD of hosts.

6. God has assigned to each believer management responsibilities over His assets. One day we will stand before God and given an account of how we managed His money.

Luke 16:10 "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. ¹¹ "If therefore you have not been faithful in the *use of* unrighteous mammon, who will entrust the true *riches* to you?"

1 Timothy 6:18 *Instruct them* to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

Matthew 6:19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹ for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

1 Corinthians 3:11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is *to be* revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴ If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.

Romans 14:12 So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

7. God loves a believer who is cheerful about giving. Consider the virtue, trust, gratitude, priorities, and grace orientation perfected in the mature thinking Christian.

2 Corinthians 9:7 Let each one *do* just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

Acts 2:42 And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together, and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they *began* selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. ⁴⁶ And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

8. The blessedness of the virtue of generosity in giving rather than taking. The below verse is not found anywhere in the Gospels. What does the fact that this “proverb” has extensive parallels in pagan (Plutarch, Thucydides, Seneca) and Jewish (Sirach) literature tell us? This was the consummate attitude of Jesus Christ.

Acts 20:35 "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Acts 20:33 "I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes. ³⁴ "You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my *own* needs and to the men who were with me.

9. Note the implications in God's call to help others.

James 1:26 If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his *own* heart, this man's religion is worthless. ²⁷ This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Matthew 10:42 "And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you he shall not lose his reward."

Hebrews 6:10 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.

10. Note the harsh language regarding living for money and using it to exploit others. Note the greed and injustice rampant today in modern forms of capitalism, which will destroy our nation. Aristotle's view, at least with regard to the need for integrity, is far superior to the Hobbesian view.

James 5:1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. ² Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure! ⁴ Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, *and* which has been withheld by you, cries out *against you*; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. ⁵ You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

11. Who is rich toward God?

Mark 12:41 And He sat down opposite the treasury, and *began* observing how the multitude were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large sums. ⁴² And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent. ⁴³ And calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; ⁴⁴ for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on.

Luke 12:18 "And he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years *to come*; take your ease, eat, drink *and* be merry.'" ²⁰ "But God said to him, 'You fool! This *very* night your soul is required of you; and *now* who will own what you have prepared?' ²¹ "So is the man who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

12. Note the characteristics of a mature, a perfected Christian nature re: wealth of the world vs. wealth in Christ?

Philippians 3:4-8, although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. 7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ,

13. Note the benefits of giving.

1 Timothy 6:18 *Instruct them* to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

Philippians 4:17 Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.

Luke 12:33 "Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves purses which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near, nor moth destroys.

14. It really is all about managing God's resources—money, time, resources, gifts, talents—it all belongs to Him and it is to Him that we give an account.

Proverbs 19:17 He who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD,
And He will repay him for his good deed.

Matthew 10:42 "And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you he shall not lose his reward."

Hebrews 6:10 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.

15. More on faithfulness and rewards.

Matthew 25:21 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.'

2 Peter 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; ¹¹ for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

1 Corinthians 3:15 If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.

James 1:12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

1 Corinthians 9:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. ²⁵ And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

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.

1 Peter 5:1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, ² shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of* God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; ³ nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Revelation 3:11 'I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, in order that no one take your crown.

2 John 1:8 Watch yourselves, that you might not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.