

**Theology**

Eschatology  
Thanatology  
Ecclesiology  
Israelology  
Dispensationalism  
Doxology  
Hodology  
Soteriology  
Hamartiology  
Natural Law  
Anthropology  
Angelology  
Pneumatology  
Christology  
Paterology  
Trinitarianism  
Cosmology  
Theology Proper  
Bibliology  
Natural Theology

**Philosophy**

6 Hermeneutics 1  
5 Language 155  
4 Epistemology 32  
Existence 50  
History 50  
3 Metaphysics 32  
Trans. 50  
2 Reality  
- Logic, 32  
- Truth, 32  
1 Realism – 32

**1 Corinthians 5; Classical Theism 76 – Virtue:  
The Theological Virtues of Faith and Science - 31**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Luke 10:21-28; Hab. 3:17-19; Job 42:1-6; Psa. 27:8; John 8:12; 1 John 4:12-13.**

**Outline of Bible class:**

1. Chronological reading through the NT: 1 Thess - 1 Corinthians 5.
2. The metaphysics/ontology of love: the intellect and the will (62).
3. Philosophy of hermeneutics (1).
4. Classical theism: Faith-knowledge and scientific knowledge (31).

### III-Metaphysics of Love: 63

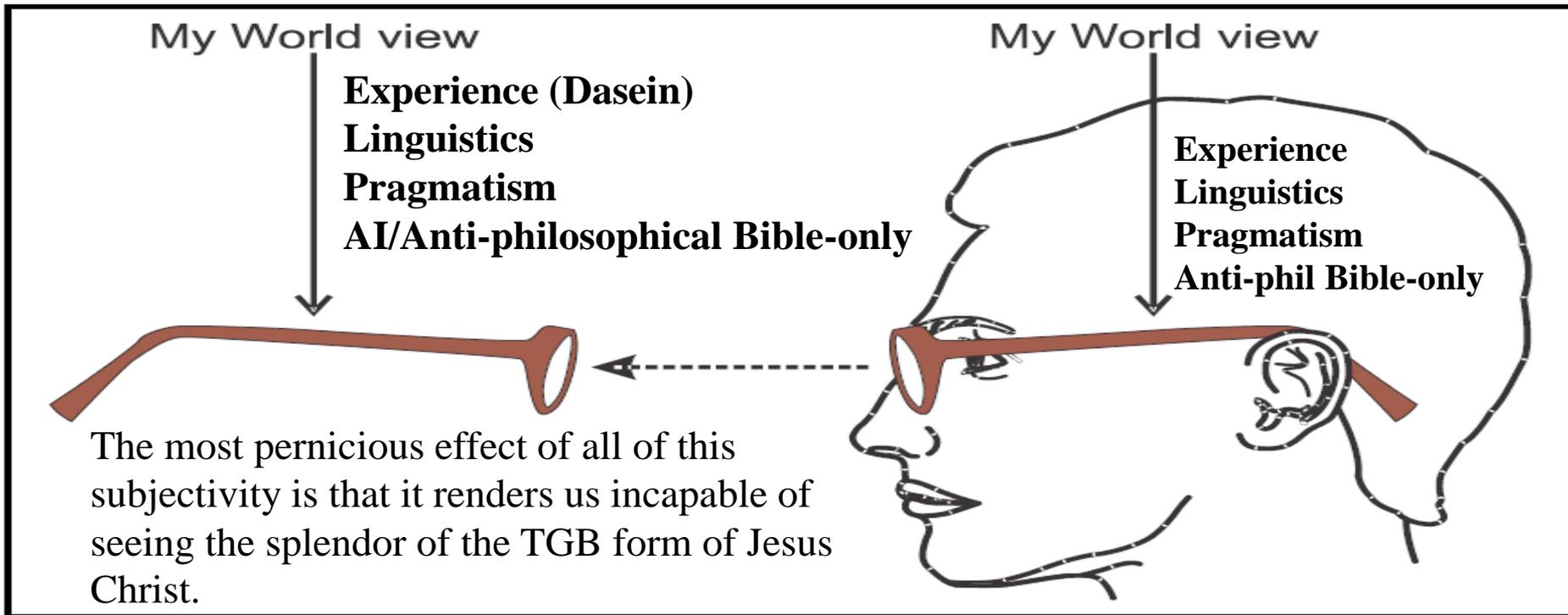
#### Intellect and Will: Loving God

- A. The human intellect and will are divinely instilled mutually interconnected natures that comprise our deepest inclinations to know and to love. However, how we exercise those divinely implanted and sustained attributes sets our natures and dispositions as to what we seek to know and love as our goods. Intellectual determinism and volitional autonomy are false. We always act according to our natures and our natures are set by previous acts. Attainment of true freedom to seek knowledge of and love for the highest good is an achievement that is only possible by the illuminating light of God provided in grace.
- B. Discussion of the nature of 2<sup>nd</sup> person relationship in the Christ-centered life (Gal 2:20; 2 Cor. 5:9, 15; Eph. 5:10; 2 Cor. 3:18; Philip. 3:8; Col. 3:1-5; John 15:1-6; 1 John 2:15-16).
- C. Discussion of 2<sup>nd</sup> person knowledge.
1. The two requirements for 2<sup>nd</sup> person knowledge of persons as such.
    - a. #1, Desire to be *personally* closer to the object of love
    - b. #2, Desire for the good of the object of love regardless of self.
  2. The insurmountable odds against believer's obtaining 2<sup>nd</sup> person love for Christ.
    - a. Fragmentation. Any desire that is not compatible with 2<sup>nd</sup> person love for JC undermines 2<sup>nd</sup> person relationship with God. Same is true in marriage.
    - b. Lack of power to totally integrate our lives around Jesus Christ.
    - c. Grace is the only solution, but this grace requires integration in the first place., thus *the* problem.

# IV-Philosophy of Hermeneutics (1)

- ✓ Introduction: Worldviews
- Dasein
- Language
- Pragmatism
- Anti-phil/Bible-only

1. Our worldview fundamentally affect our view of the Bible, God, the spiritual life, and daily decisions (e.g., social life, moral life, spiritual life, science, politics, economics, occupations, the church). Problem: how can we objectively evaluate our worldview when we have to use our worldview to evaluate our worldview? The need to break the curse of idealism in theology as well as in science.
2. Four pernicious, and often unrecognized influences among Christians in biblical interpretation: (1) Horizon/Experience (Heidegger's *Dasein*), (2) Language (Cratylus, Wittgenstein), (3) American pragmatism (Pierce, Dewey, James); (4) Anti-philosophical/intellectual Bible-only “theology” (Jennings/Dake).



## V-Classical Theism 76 – The Theological Virtue of Science and Faith (31)

- A. Biblical faith-knowledge. Review of fundamental principles of faith-knowledge
1. Biblical faith is sharing in the knowledge of one who directly knows, 1 Cor. 2:7-10.
  2. Biblical faith is always connected to knowledge.
  3. There is no Christian knowledge without faith.
  4. Biblical faith makes a profound, fundamental, and ultimate difference in man's orientation and ultimate attitude.
  5. Biblical faith is man's ultimate attitude to God's self-revelation (cf. Abraham, Joshua, Caleb, Mary, Paul, Heb. 11).
  6. In biblical faith there is an exchange between man and God where God offers Himself and His message to man and man offers self to God.
  7. Biblical faith is certain, indivisible, unified, absolute knowledge and culminates in the Incarnate Son of God.
  8. In biblical faith, the knowledge is certain, absolute, and undefeatable as long as the principle remains that brought the inner light of certainty in the first place.
  9. "Faith seeking understanding," as an expression of seeking to establish or ground faith is not biblical. Faith is the rock-solid foundation, 1 Jn 2:20-21. It is one thing to seek to know something you are already enjoy absolute certainty in. It is altogether a radically different thing to have a dark and shadowy guess that seeks rational means to transform doubt into solid faith.

- B. A closer look at the nature of biblical faith-knowledge: Mat. 16:17; John 6:64, 68-69; 8:31-32; 10:38; 12:44-45; 16:13, 30; 17:8; Acts 16:14; Rom 6:8-9; 8:16; 1 Cor 2:6-10; 2 Cor 3:18; 4:6; 4:13-14; 5:1; Philip 3:8; 1 Thess. 1:9-10; Heb. 1:1-3; 1 John 2:20, 27; 4:2, 16; 5:9-10.

**Contemporary Scientific knowledge: It is no wonder that CS is antirealistic and no longer has an agreed on definition or method. This largely due to idealism and mathematization of ontology.**

- |                          |                       |                           |                      |                              |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Epist. Relativism.    | 26. Pragmatism        | 51. Biology               | 76. Mathematics      | 101. Karl Popper             |
| 2. Idealism              | 26. Social influences | 52. Physics               | 77. Psychology.      | 102. Kuhn                    |
| 3. Empiricism            | 27. Ethics            | 53. Cognition             | 78. Rhetoric/dem     | 103. Lakatos                 |
| 4. Nominalism            | 28. Experimentalism   | 54. Analytical            | 79. Meth natural     | 104. William Wallace         |
| 5. Paradigms             | 29. Explanatory scope | 55. Constructivism        | 80. Met natural      | 105. Alan Sokal              |
| 6. Induction             | 30. IBE ("best"?)     | 56. Confirmationism       | 81. Realism          | 106. Michio Kaku             |
| 7. Humeanism             | 31. Laws of nature    | 57. Godel's theorem       | 81. Anti-Realism     | 107. Hawking                 |
| 8. Metaphysics           | 32. Causation         | 58. Feminism              | 82. Infinite options | 108. D. Berlinsky            |
| 9. Rationalism           | 33. Naturalism        | 59. Language              | 83. Darwinism        | 109. M theory                |
| 10. Critical rationalism | 34. Mechanism         | 60. Relativism            | 84. Neo-Darwin       | 110. Math morality           |
| 11. Underdetermination   | 35. Reductionism      | 61. Explanation           | 85. A priori         | 111. Bas Van Fraassen        |
| 12. Falsification        | 36. Research programs | 62. Animus to humanities  | 86. A posteriori     | 112. No Sci definition       |
| 13. Verificationism      | 37. Measurement       | 63. Platonism             | 87. Parmenides       | 113. No 1 Sci method         |
| 14. Outliers             | 38. Models            | 64. Reality/phenomenon    | 88. Heraclitus       | 114. Creation Science        |
| 15. Averages             | 39. Observation       | 65. Reality/models        | 89. Plato            | 115. Quantum insanity        |
| 16. Neo-essentialism     | 41. Determinism       | 66. POLang vs POMath      | 90. Aristotle        | 116. Inertia                 |
| 17. Instrumentalism      | 42. Predictibility    | 67. Food/nutrition claims | 91. Aquinas          | 117. Non-causality           |
| 18. Conventionalism      | 43. Demarcation       | 68. Health claims         | 92. Bacon            | 118. Possible worlds         |
| 19. Value-ladenness      | 44. Symmetry          | 69. Symbolic logic        | 93. Descartes        | 119. Subjectivity            |
| 20. Theory-ladenness     | 45. Creationism       | 70. Evidence (5 theories) | 94. Newton           | 120. Deconstructionism       |
| 21. Output               | 46. ID science        | 71. Idealization.         | 95. Galileo          | <b>121. ATE Essentialism</b> |
| 22. Positivism           | 47. Eliminativism     | 72. Function.             | 96. Imman Kant       | <b>122. C. Essentialism</b>  |
| 23. Propaganda           | 48. Reductionism      | 73. Measurement.          | 97. Ayer             | 123. Existence/Essence       |
| 24. Bayesianism          | 49. Schrodinger       | 74. Speciation            | 98. Albert Einstein  | 124. Form/Matter             |
| 25. Computer sim.        | 50. Chemistry         | 75. Economics             | 99. Heisenberg       | 125. Substance/Accidence     |

# ATE vs. Contemporary Essentialism

1  
**ATE**

2  
**Contemporary  
Essentialism**

World is filled  
with beings, like  
men, birds, trees,  
apples, water,  
squirrels, etc.  
**-philosophical**  
**-non-scientific**  
**-no inner nature**  
**-no inner structure**  
**-the whole being**  
**-being is multilayered**  
**-not univocal**

1 Essence + 9 accidents

- 1- ουσια ("essence")
- 1-ποσον ("how much") quantity
  - 2-ποιον ("of what kind") quality
  - 3-προς τι ("toward something") relation
  - 4-που ("where") location
  - 5- ποτε ("when") time
  - 6-κειστηαι ("to lie") position
  - 7-εχειν ("to have") possession
  - 8-ποιειν ("to do) action
  - 9-πασχηειν ("to undergo") passion

2  
**Quantifiable/Extension**

- **Empirical**
- **Seeks inner natures/structures**
- **No longer believes in species**
- **Man =  $10^{28}$  atoms**
- **Apple = quantities of \_\_\_\_.**
- **Water =  $H_2O$**
- **Heat = molecular action**
- **Microscopic**
- **Univocal**

**Philosophical**  
**"what it is"**

**Phenomenological**  
**"appearance" (part)**

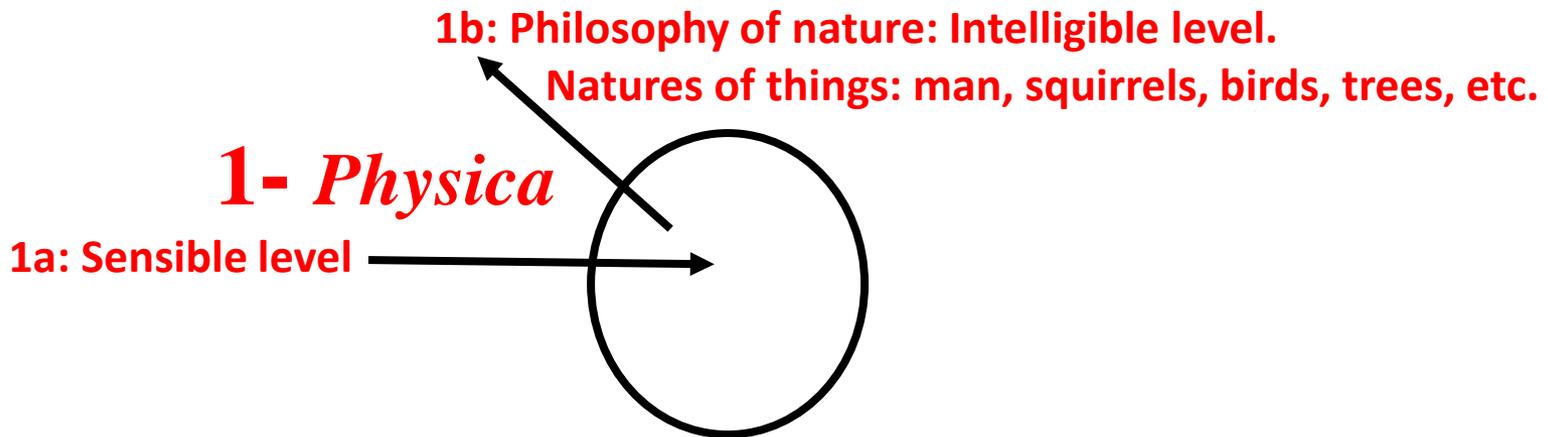
## Principles on the three degrees of knowledge

1. Realism is thoroughly realistic in every aspect—from human knowledge to extra-mental reality. To grasp AT realism is to grasp the essence of reality as such without an artificial, arbitrary, reductionistic, or positivistic human contrived systems.
2. Understanding the three degrees of knowledge uncovers reality as such in a Total Truth manner.
3. Understanding reality as such in realism (existence/essence, form/matter, substance/accidence) enables one to see God as per Romans 1:20.

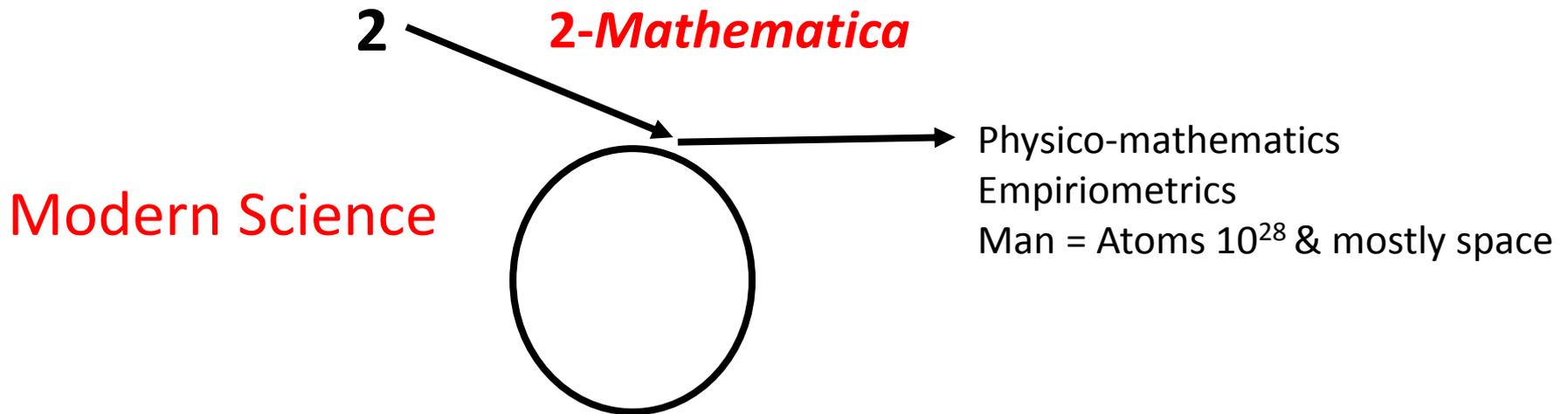
**Romans 1:20** For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

#### 4. First degree of knowledge (being, philosophy of nature)

- a. Knowledge begins with a particular (1a) and rises to universal nature (1b).
- b. The 1<sup>st</sup> degree is where essences are grasped intuitively. The first intellectual operation, abstraction, immediately yields the essence of things.
- c. This abstraction transfers us from the level of sensible and material existence to the level of objects of thought that introduces us into the order of intelligible being, or of what things are (1b).
- d. This is where we gain *quidditative* definitions of beings
- e. At this level, beings cannot be conceived of without matter.
- f. This is the great realm that the ancients called *Physica*, knowledge of sensible nature, the first degree of abstraction.
- g. The first degree needs and welcomes the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree, but never as replacement.
- h. It is philosophy of nature (1b) that determines the nature of objects.



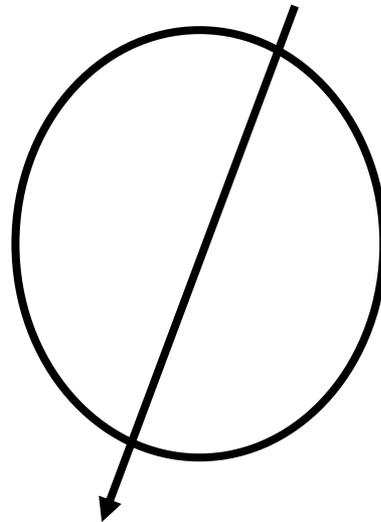
5. Second degree of knowledge (quantifiable)
  - a. This is the great area of *mathematica*, knowledge of quantity as such.
  - b. Here the mind considers objects abstracted from matter.
  - c. This degree considers nothing more than a certain accident: quantity/extension.
  - d. It leaves all else behind except the one property it abstracts.
  - e. The modern problem is that this realm of quantifiable attempts to displace philosophy of nature and metaphysics. It attempts to, for example, mathematize nature. However, the human mind cannot be satisfied with merely *mathematica*
  - f. Scientific explanations do not reveal the very being of things.
  - g. Science depends upon philosophy (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees of knowledge)



## 6. Third degree of knowledge: *Metaphysica*

- a. This is the highest degree of knowledge. It deals with first principles, logic, causation, laws, and properties that reveal essences.
- b. The focus here is on being as such and the laws that saturate beings.
- c. These objects of thought can be conceived without matter whether they never existed in matter (God and angels) or whether they existed in matter as well as in immaterial things, for example, substance, quality, act, beauty, goodness, laws.
- d. The whole domain of metaphysics is knowledge beyond sensible nature.
- e. For the ancients, it was the philosophy of nature and metaphysics that accounted for most all knowledge. They made many errors in 2<sup>nd</sup> degree knowledge.
- f. There can be no science (#2) without first principles (metaphysics).

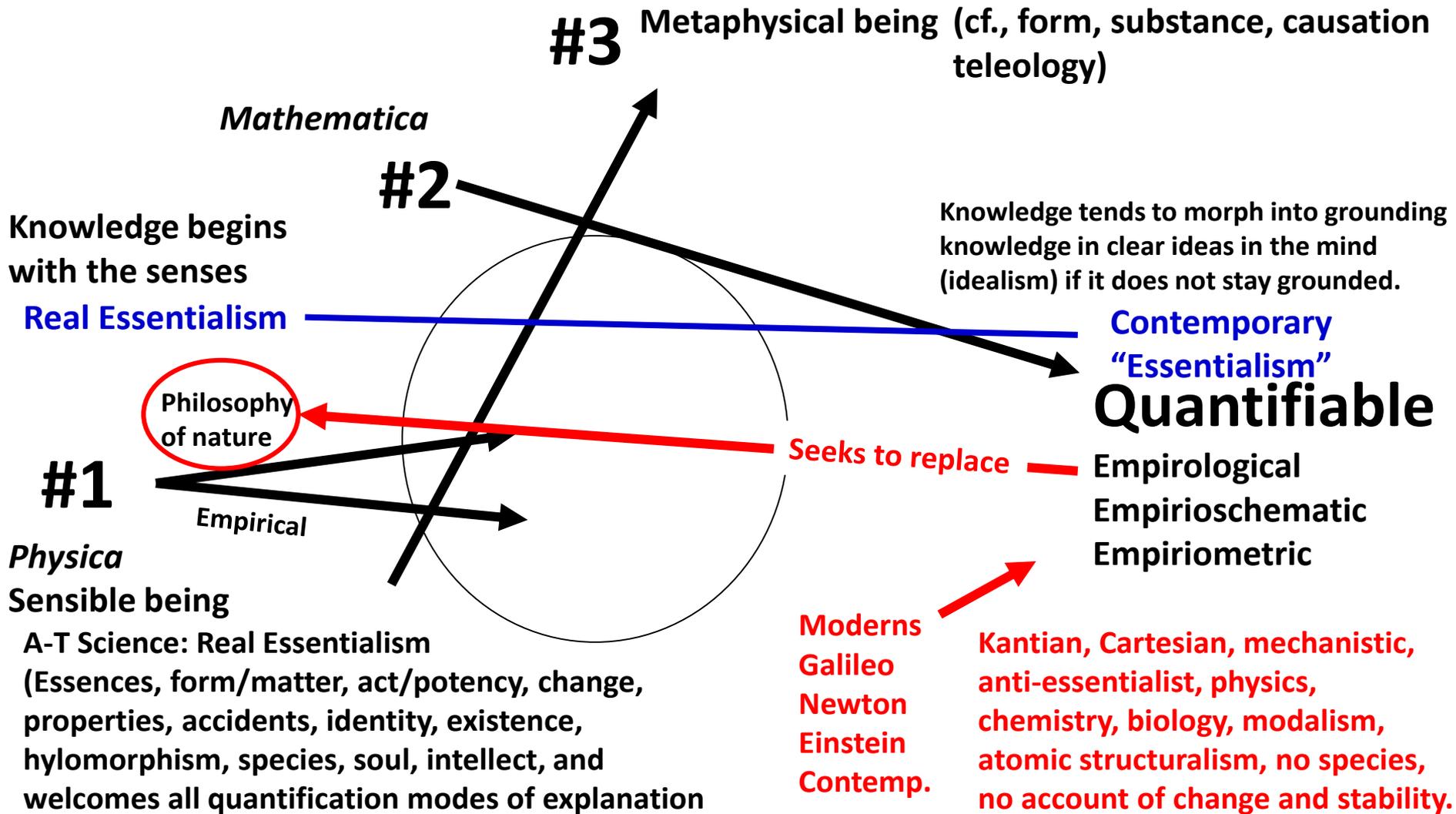
### **3- *Metaphysica***



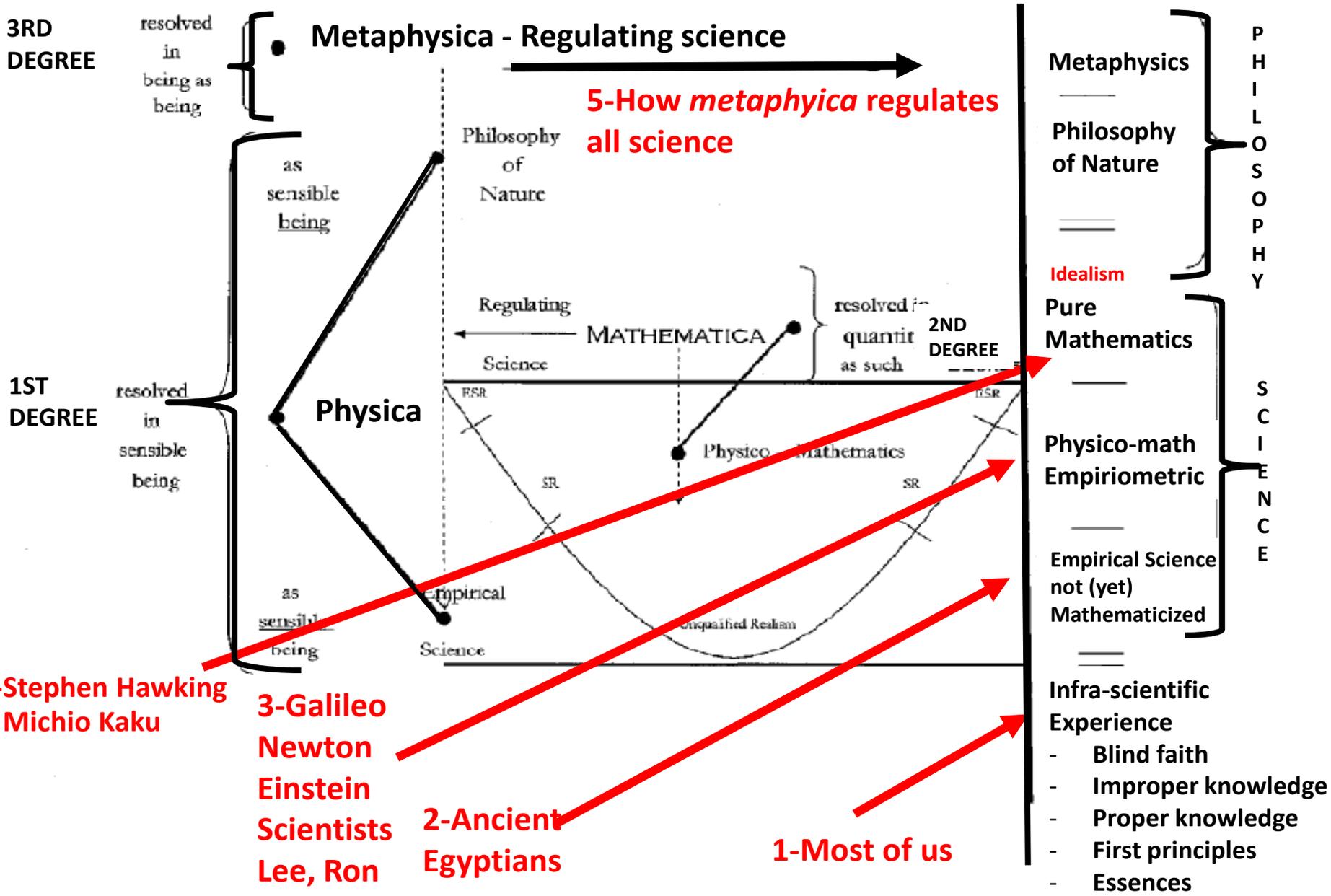
First Principles  
Existence  
Being  
Laws  
Logic  
Causation  
Properties

# Scientific knowledge according to A-A philosophical realism.

“There is a desire deep within the soul that drives man from the seen to the unseen, to philosophy & to the divine.”



# Levels of abstraction: from infra-science to metaphysics.



## Two views of science and the Bible.

1. Martin Luther (1483-1546): “There is talk of a new astrologer who wants to prove that the earth moves and goes around instead of the sky, the sun, the moon, just as if somebody were moving in a carriage or ship might hold that he was sitting still and at rest while the earth and the trees walked and moved. The fool wants to turn the whole art of astronomy upside-down. However, as Holy Scripture tells us, so did Joshua bid the sun to stand still and not the earth.” This is an example of crass literalism of 1 Chron. 16:30; Psa. 93:1; 104:5; Psa. 19:4-6; Ecc. 1:5. We are still living in the curse of Luther’s nominalism, which leads to anti-realism, anti-essentialism, and a very thin/nominal view of Christianity. Moreover, Luther was devoted to Mary as the Mother of God and her immaculate conception and perpetual virginity.
2. Galileo (1564-1642), another Christian (A-T realism), believed that God “endowed us with senses, reason, and intellect,” and intended us not to “forgo their use and by some other means to give us knowledge which we can attain by them.” He held that the laws of nature are written by the hand of God in the “language of mathematics” and that the “human mind is a work of God and one of the most excellent.” Like A-T and classical realism, his science operated according to methodological naturalism.

## More on science and degrees of knowledge.

1. Science divorced from first principles leads to the destruction of man.
2. As far as positions with regard to modern science, as I see it, there are three live options regarding science.
  - a. Scientific realism: the view that successful scientific theories are true or approximately true model of the theory-independent world.
  - b. Scientific antirealism: the view that science works—it solves problems, gives us predictions, allows us to control nature and describe observations simply—but that its success does not indicate that scientific theories are true or approximately true. Science is merely useful fiction.
  - c. A-T philosophy of science (3 degrees of knowledge). Why we need this for science and life with God. This is the only method that provides a realistic and objective view of reality, knowledge, and true science (knowledge about the world), and life with God.

3. The need for POS based on realism for society, for our children, for all scientists, for the ID movement, for creationism, and for a deep, rich and contemplative spiritual life with God.
4. Human cognition, though integrated , possesses different dimensions: breadth, length, height, depth (Eph. 3:18). We are examining its height measured in three degrees. PR not only provides a realistic account of reality but of human cognition and knowledge as such.
  - a. First Degree: *phyisca*.
  - b. Second Degree: *mathematica*
  - c. Third Degree: *metaphysica*.