

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

Opening: Two greatest issues in life are Knowledge: John 8:32, 17:17; and Love: Luke 10:27; Matt. 6:24.

2 Parts to Bible class:

(1) 20 minutes on spiritual & philosophical foundations required for a Christian worldview and thus mature knowledge and love of God.

(2) 1 hour on metaphysics of love (James 1:2-4, 2 Peter 1:4-11; Luke 7:36-50; Matt. 26-27) and observance of communion.

Spiritual foundations: Love for the true God is inseparable from love for the Whole Truth. It is very easy to love partial truth as it is to love a partial god. It is very difficult, on the other hand, to be a true seeker of the total truth and the True God—to discover Truth and God and bow before them in humility, love, and adoration.

It is always easier to manipulate and redefine, and then choose our truth and God according to our preferences—“our loves.”

John 4:23-24 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

5: Hermeneutics
4: Linguistics
3: Epistemology 32 - Existence 50 - History 28
2: Metaphysics 32 - Trans. 50
1: Reality - Logic 32, - Truth 32

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.

Stage 3

Holy Spirit  Bible Doctrine

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.

Stage 2

Holy Spirit  Bible Doctrine

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.

Stage 1

Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview

(Epistemology: History-28-- The anti-intellectualism of Common Sense Realism

1. We have noted over the last few Bible classes how we have all inherited an instinctive/irrational Baconian-Reidian Common Sense hermeneutic (approach to the Bible and the spiritual life). Nonetheless, the ICE movement made significant advances by making the emphasis in the church Truth. However, because ICE movement was not taught metaphysics, epistemology, or linguistics, it was unable to obtain objective reality or Total Truth regarding certain key aspects of the nature of God, creation, and man. Given what we now know about Ultimate Reality, as a local church we must
 - a. ___ make the necessary adjustments to ICE for the sake of Whole Truth and Correspondence Truth and press forward (e.g., integrating Scripture and with the metaphysical reality of logic, science, man, government, philosophical psychology, and first principles of being and laws of thought).
 - b. ___ just stay with what sounds good, appeals to us, makes us feel good, is easier, and provides quick fixes to our temporal anxieties. The Whole Truth is not that important—after all nobody knows it all.

2. Anti-intellectualism (Baconian-Reidian) comes in different flavors. It exists in emotionalism as well as Rationalism. Anti-intellectualism is why the majority of Christians and churches have such an animus for philosophical realism, epistemology, logic, and correspondence truth. This distaste and distrust of science and logic is most conspicuous in the Bible college movement, which was created when Christians fled the universities after watching their children lose their faith to scientism, logical positivism, Higher Criticism, and Darwinism. The net effect was that
 - a. ___ churches that became more irrelevant as far as *real truth* about the natural world and Reality as such.
 - b. ___ churches gained more knowledge of God, accuracy with the Bible, and was enabled to defend the faith because the Bible colleges taught them metaphysics and apologetics.

3. A modern believer with no understanding of philosophical realism.
 - a. ___ will have a corrupt view of God and many essential truths of the Bible
 - b. ___ can still have an accurate view of God and many essential truths of the Bible

4. A believer with anti-intellectual influences
 - a. ___ will evaluate truth based on pragmatic and experiential effects (and thus be more prone to sensatism and thus continuous failures)
 - a. ___ will evaluate truth based on correspondence truth

5. Anti-intellectualism
 - a. ___ destroys capacity to love God
 - b. ___ enhances capacity to love God

Love 5

1. Illustration of the differences between a modern Christian with an anti-intellectual Baconian-Reidian hermeneutic/framework contrasted with a Christian who is grounded in metaphysical Realism, Total Truth.
 - a. James 1:2-4 within a modern anti-intellectual pragmatic framework.
 - b. 2 Peter 1:4-11 and metaphysical realism.
 - c. The virtue of faith and focus of love in the midst of testing, 1 Peter 1:3-11.
2. Illustration of the metaphysics of love as a virtue and as a vice in the context of Incarnate Love, the God-man, Jesus Christ, Luke 7:36-50; Matthew 26:6-27:51.
3. Celebration of Communion, 1 Cor. 11:17-34.