

**Theology**

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

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**December 13, 2017**

**Opening Prayer.**

**A. Life with God—by 2<sup>nd</sup> person proper knowledge and proper love**

1. Loving God (Matt 22:37-40; Acts 13:22; Psalm 27:1-8).
2. Following Jesus Christ (Rom. 13:14; John 8:33-36).
3. Whole Truth/Total Truth orientation, (Acts 20:27; Jn 8:31-32; Psa 73:24-25).

**B. Through the Bible, verse by verse, Ephesians 2:8-10**

- Saved by grace through faith for good works (8 principles).

**C. Bible Doctrine: Wisdom-12, Prov. 1:20-2:10.**

- Wisdom's call (13 principles).

**D. Philosophical Foundations: Hermeneutics: Natural Law 42, Rom 2:14-15.**

- Natural law and government (9 principles).

## 12-13-17

### A. Life in, with, and before God—by proper knowledge and proper love.

1. Loving God and others, Matt 22:37-40; Acts 13:22; Psa 27:1-8.
2. Following Jesus Christ, Rom. 13:14; John 8:33-36.
3. Whole Truth/Total Truth orientation, Acts 20:27; John 8:31-32; Psa. 73:24-25.

### B. Through the Bible, Eph. 2:8-10.

1. Our so-great salvation provides for our single greatest need.
2. The beauty of God's grace.
3. Faith is the only requirement for salvation.
4. Good works are consequences of salvation, not the causes of salvation.
5. We are a product of God's work, not our own—we are what we are because of Christ.
6. "Salvation" includes so much more than deliverance from Hell.
7. We are created in Christ Jesus unto good works.
8. God has designed a specific and perfect plan in the timeless past for every believer complete with every single circumstance as the field for those works.

### C. Bible Doctrine: Wisdom-11, Prov. 1:20-2:10.

1. Wisdom is the chief intellectual virtue that perfects the intellect by bringing the highest energies of the mind on the highest causes and most profound and complete truths (Whole Truth/Total Truth).
2. Wisdom is far above mere science and knowledge.
3. Lady Wisdom shouts out her truths everywhere we look—from creation, Natural Law, and the supernatural Word of God, 1:1, 2:6.
4. Lady Wisdom gives man instruction, insight, rebuke, and transcendent blessedness.
5. Lady Wisdom brings with her the Divine Spirit who provides the inner disposition to be quick to love, hear, and understand Truth.
6. However, the mass of humanity simply ignores her.
7. Simply by doing nothing when God speaks is enough to bring self-destruction.
8. Note the terrible retribution and hopeless reality of the calamitous consequences of "too late."
9. Since Wisdom is always connected to love for the good, true wisdom always loves God, the Ultimate Good.
10. Folly is the vice that is most antithetical to the virtue of wisdom.
11. The great evil of wisdom is evil because evil undermines and destroys both speculative knowledge and practical knowledge.
12. It is extremely difficult to recover from evil of a twisted intellect and will.
13. The only alternative to the suicide of folly is in heeding Lady Wisdom's call, which enables one to receive her promise of safe dwelling with no fear of evil, 23

### D. Philosophical Foundations: Hermeneutics—Natural law 42 (Rom. 2:14-15)

1. The nature of natural law lies in the ontology and teleology of human nature.
2. That which defines law is reason and intelligence because there is an established order actualized by Esse (Pure Act).

3. Natural law and government. 3 metaphysical options on the relationship between the citizen and government—*e pluribus unum*.
  - a. Individualism. In individualism, the focus is on the individual to the exclusion of the good of the whole. The emphasis is on each part, the goal of govern is each part. This leads to chaos and the strong and influential running the show for themselves. This coupled with materialism will destroy the nation through its own utilitarianism. Try that in a marriage or family. Secular conservatives tend to move in this direction.
  - b. Collectivism. In collectivism the focus is on the whole to the exclusion of the value of each part. This leads to communism and totalitarianism. Secular liberals tend to move in this direction.
  - c. Personalism. This refers to the inherent value and nature of each human being. Man is a social being and government is designed to recognize and protect the value of inherent rights of man.
4. The conflict between the three orientations is always a matter of values.
  - a. In individualism one sees as a first and foremost the most absolute principle of man being free to do as he wishes.
  - b. In collectivism one sees as first and foremost the most absolute principle the social body.
  - c. In personalism one sees first and foremost spiritual dignity of each person working in concert for the good of each and society. In personalism there is both the right and the duty for the common good.
5. These 3 groups inevitably will accuse each other of ignoring certain essential rights of the human being and society.
6. Both individualism and collectivism lead to utilitarianism, destruction of human rights, and eventually totalitarianism.
7. Utilitarianism and consequentialism destroy both personalism and the common good for each.
8. Personalism must be the 1<sup>st</sup> fundamental principle of any government.
9. Historical look at natural law vs. voluntarism.
  - a. Greeks: Antigone and the Stoics.
  - b. Middle Ages: Thomas Aquinas vs. William of Ockham.
  - c. Industrialism and imperialism (1400-): Feudalism, mercantilism, capitalism, imperialism.
  - d. American Revolution and Founding: mixed bag of natural law and voluntarism.
  - e. French Revolution. Attempt at natural law and rights without God.
  - f. American Civil War. Bible voluntarism with a vengeance.
  - g. The Bolshevik Revolution and the USSR, 1917.
  - h. Contemporary America: Mixed bag of natural law, voluntarism, utilitarianism, and materialism. We have come a long way and all of our major successes has been due to natural law.