

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW APOLOGETICS – Lessons 4

GOD AND HIS WORD ARE THE NECESSARY FOUNDATION FOR TRUTH & HUMAN KNOWLEDGE (Knowledge pre-supposes truth) (a few scriptures on this below)

-- God's Word is true by virtue of the "Impossibility of the contrary"

-- Example: All things can be proven the same way. This is false. **Genuine "proof" for any particular thing ALWAYS depends upon the NATURE of that thing?** (The proof that one has a box of crackers in the pantry requires different proof than a math theorem, or a generally-held biological fact, or that the God of the Bible is true God, etc. ... **proving a thing must correspond to the nature of that thing.**)

-- Example - *"There is no such thing as absolute truth"* / essentially the same thing as saying, *"Man is the measure of all things"* (but it is self-evidently, demonstrably false)

-- Example - *"All religious views are true"* (but it is self-evidently, demonstrably false)

-- Example - *"All roads lead to salvation, or heaven"* (but it is self-evidently, demonstrably false)

ORIGIN OF HUMAN BEINGS & HUMAN KNOWLEDGE / MIND / RATIONAL THINKING ARE NECESSARILY ROOTED IN THE TRIUNE GOD OF SCRIPTURE

Job 12:7-13 - *"But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind. Does not the ear test words as the tongue tastes food? Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding? "To God belong wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are his.*

Job 35:10-11 - *'Where is God my Maker, who gives songs in the night, who teaches more to us than to the beasts of the earth and makes us wiser than the birds of the air?'*

Matthew 4:3-4 – *"The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

Isaiah 28:24-26 – *"When a farmer plows for planting, does he plow continually? Does he keep on breaking up and harrowing the soil? When he has leveled the surface, does he not sow caraway and scatter cumin? Does he not plant wheat in its place, barley in its plot, and spelt in its field? His God instructs him and teaches him the right way."*

Proverbs 1:7 - *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline."*

Colossians 2:2-3 – *"My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."*

Point #1) Biblical view:

-- **God created the first man in his own image, in his likeness (an image-bearer of God, our Creator).**

-- **Creation & Genesis 2:7** - *“Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”* ... (this is the origin of the human mind/soul, logic, etc.)

-- Human Beings were created to be IMAGE-BEARERS of GOD (& reflectors of His Glory)

-- God endowed man with attributes that could be communicated to a finite, living creature. life-breath, mind-ability to verbally communicate and reason, exercise will, make choices, possess emotions-feelings, possess talents, etc.

-- God created man, as a creature, BODY & SOUL/SPIRIT. There is both a material component and immaterial component within human beings ... and yet there is a sense in which no distinction should be made between these two components, as they are meant to be joined together. The Body and Soul were intended by God in Creation to be linked together. The state of death, in which the body and soul/spirit are separated, is a temporary state of being. As Christians, we look forward to the future Resurrection of those who have died in Christ, that they will be restored to a state of physical and mental perfection in new glorified bodies.

-- Human beings are fallen, sinful creatures. The sinful condition of human beings affects how we reason, including what we choose to reason upon. The sinful condition affects our emotions, which has a significant impact upon what we even desire to reason about, especially in our relationship to God.

-- Humans are still, even in their fallen state of sin, image bearers of God. Human beings are the “special creation” of God, and unlike all other creatures or animals.

-- Humans are special creatures, created directly by the hand of God, and not evolved from plants or animals.

-- **Human beings have the ability to think, reason and communicate at a very special, interactive level, with God and other human beings.** (Isaiah 1:18 – *“Come, let us reason together...”* ... Proverbs 23:7 – *“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...”*)

-- **What is mind (in biblical terms)?**

-- **What is logic / reasoning (in biblical terms)?**

-- **Human beings, as image-bearers of God, are capable of both possessing knowledge and knowing truth revealed to them by God.**

-- **Human beings, as fallen creatures, are capable of suppressing God’s truth, in unrighteousness, in alignment with the fallen aspects of their moral nature.**

God Himself, and His Revelation to Mankind, is the foundation for all human knowledge / (i.e., “knowing”)

-- **Human beings are God’s Special Creation, and God has equipped human beings to acquire, possess and implement Knowledge**

- The Bible teaches that ALL true knowledge comes to us human beings from God, our Creator and Sustainer. (As seen in the preceding Scriptures above.)
- The Biblical story (biblical revelation) provides a basis for truth ... INCLUDING **“OUR ABILITY TO KNOW”** it. Meaning, a metaphysical basis for knowing ... possessing knowledge ... epistemology ... In other words, **God gave us what we need within our minds and bodies what we need in order “to know”** (acquire, possess and implement knowledge).

True, accurate human knowledge is dependent upon both God's Natural & Special Revelation

- There are **2 ways God's Revelation of knowledge & truth are communicated** to human beings: Natural Revelation & Special Revelation ... the 2 work together.
- Natural Revelation (the Creation that we creatures are a part of) allows us to interact with God's world and also His Special Revelation (His Word) ... both are needed and interactive, one with the other ... but God's Word (as Special Revelation) is our chief interpreter of the Natural Revelation
- If true human knowledge is dependent upon God, through both His natural and special revelation, then rejecting His Word will lead to foolishness BECAUSE the non-Christian's attempts to explain the natural world will be defective / incoherent. (Psalm 14:1 - The "fool" says there is no God.)
- For any human knowledge to be genuine human knowledge, the knowledge has to be "true" ... and to be "true" that knowledge must reflect the truthful reality that is revealed in/ thru both His Special Revelation (His Word) and His God's Natural Revelation.
- God's Revelation provides us, as God's creatures, with a true picture of reality and a **SOLID, SURE BASIS FOR TRUTH**. His Word, His Special Revelation, is a foundational requirement in order to know Truth. Thus we can say, "Thy Word is truth" (Jn 17:17)
- **Human knowledge only has a secure basis if its foundations are rooted in God**, who alone exists as the truthful, transcendent source of our knowledge
- Truth Exists in God ...**
- From a biblical perspective, what is this thing that is called "truth"?
- **John 14:6** - Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me."
- According to this scripture, truth is embodied within the being of God. And if that is so, then mankind's knowledge of truth comes from God.

-- God's knowledge is Comprehensive ... God is the “Infinite Knower”

- God's knowledge is Original (within Himself, in His own Being), Infinite (limitless in its scope) & Independent (of any other source outside of himself). All knowledge is comes from God; God doesn't depend upon anything else apart from Himself in order to have knowledge).
- All human knowledge is dependent upon God. As creatures of God, all true knowledge that human beings possess is derived from God.
- As creatures, all human knowledge is limited and finite. Only God's knowledge is exhaustive and infinite.

Truth is rooted in God's Special & General Revelation to human beings

- God's Word provides the ultimate foundation for truth and can be relied upon when it comes to knowing any truths that it reveals that are outside the scope of our ability to directly experience or witness such truths. (I.e., creation, miracles, etc.)
- Truth is whatever God knows and whatever degree that we are genuinely understanding what God knows, and reveals to us. Such is the degree to which we are "apprehend truth."
- Human beings, as image bearers of God and reflectors of God image, are designed and intended to think God's thoughts (to some extent, at some level) and act in accordance with those thoughts ... (true thoughts exist within God, mankind then has true thoughts) ... right theology (orthodoxy) leads to right behavior (orthopraxy)
- Truth then, for us, is having a degree of actual understanding of Reality so that we "think God's thoughts, AFTER HIM." (Van Til)

HOW CAN WORLDVIEWS BE TRUTH-TESTED?

Non-Christian worldviews will reveal themselves to be false.

Proverbs 26:4-5 - Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will be like him yourself.

Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes.

- (Answer the fool, do not answer the fool) / Compare and contrast the biblical view against non-biblical views / The Bible will stand upon its own truth & non-biblical views will undermine themselves (show themselves to be false)

These verses from Proverbs are an example of a poetic form of word usage called "antithetical parallelism," where something is stated, and then the opposite of it is stated in order to contrast 2 differing thoughts.

Examples from the Bible of Proverbs 26:4-5 demonstrated:

(Matthew 12:24-27) – Jesus casting out demons

(Matthew 15:1-6) – Jesus' disciples not bound by tradition of the elders

(Acts 17:23) – Paul's sermon in Athens

TRUTH-TESTING WORLDVIEWS

-- Allow every worldview to speak for itself / allow worldviews to present their own claims about reality, then do an internal critique of each worldview

- Worldviews are faith-views, each one is a web or network of inter-connected beliefs
- All beliefs should be examined / truth-tested
- If the Bible is TRUE then it follows that ALL other worldviews are FALSE (this is "anti-thesis")
- If the Bible is true then non-biblical views will "disqualify themselves," as they demonstrate their own untruthfulness.
- Can worldviews that are incoherent, *in themselves*, with internal contradictions and other logical problems, be said to be "true"? They cannot.
- Non-Christian views will reveal themselves to be FALSE BY THEIR OWN CLAIMS.

-- Non-biblical worldviews are filled with: **Arbitrariness. Inconsistency. Contradictions. General incoherence. And they sometimes even outright embrace / brag about / tout their incoherence & illogic.**

The 3 main questions that must ALWAYS BE ASKED regarding the beliefs to be evaluated during a “worldview discussion” (i.e., when you’re “defending the faith”):

-- 1) **What is the belief (truth-claim) / "What do you believe?"**

-- 2) **What is the authority of the belief / "By what authority do you believe this? / WHO says this ... WHO teaches this ... WHO told you that?"**

-- 3) **What is the rational justification for believing this? / Is there a rational justification for the belief? / "How do you know this belief is true?" / “How do you know for sure that what so-and-so said is true?”**

THE BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW IS SELF-EVIDENCING. FALSE WORDVIEWS, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE SELF-UNDERMINING (THEY REVEAL THEMSELVES TO BE FALSE)

-- Fallen human beings, in their idolatry, create / have created, an abundance of idols in order to try and explain reality (however they define it) and attain salvation (however they define it)... by adopting one of a plethora of non-biblical worldviews: atheism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, etc.

-- If the Bible is true, then it's depiction of God, man and the world is correct? Right? If the Bible is true then it will correctly and accurately depict reality, which sinners WILL reject

-- Sinners will reject God's Word, His revelation. By doing so, they are going to be embracing FALSEHOODS and LIES about reality.

-- Such falsehood will reveal itself.

-- False views of reality will become evident and fall on their own ... by their own false claims!

-- **The closer to the Biblical view one holds, the closer to reality they will be - the further one strays from the biblical view of reality the farther from reality their understanding will be ... and the more incoherent it will be.**

KEY INTELLECTUAL SINS OF UNBELIEVERS

--Regarding “LAW OF LOGIC,” ... A Lengthy Quote from Greg Bahnsen’s “*ALWAYS READY: Directions for Defending the Faith,*” pp.144-146

-- ***“The 2 great sins of any philosophy are: 1) Arbitrariness ... & ... 2) Inconsistency”***

(Quote from Greg Bahnsen)

CERTAIN LOGICAL ERRORS HELD BY THOSE PROFESSING NON-BIBLICAL WORLDVIEWS

... to be discussed in this class include:

- 1) **Unargued philosophical bias** -- For example, an atheist says, “*The only true realities that can be truly know to exist are matter & energy.*”) ... For example, a naturalistic atheist

simply assumes this to be true; and he/she simply assumes this should be obvious to everyone, including Christians.

- 2) **Holding to beliefs from a Source / Authority that doesn't qualify as a valid authority for those beliefs** -- For example, an atheist says, "Scientists tell us the only things that can be known to exist are matter and energy." ... Nobody can claim to know this (have they interviewed ALL scientists?) And even if ALL scientists said this, they could only assume this belief is true because they have never investigated ALL of the Realities that may exist given their own personal finite knowledge and limited experiences.
- 3) **Holding to certain beliefs that are in conflict with other professed beliefs within the worldview** -- For example, an atheist maintains a belief in BOTH "*Naturalism*" and "*Laws of Logic*" Naturalism is the idea that only matter & energy exist. Laws of logic, however, are non-material, or immaterial realities. Is a "law of logic" either matter or energy? Can a law of logic be demonstrably shown to exist at some point in space?