

*WitnessKit 3*

*God and Worldviews*

*Class 10*

How Can We Know What Is  
Communication from God?  
Why Is It Right in God's Sight  
to Fight Evil?

From *The God Who  
Is There*

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# A Verse to Read and Apply:

Romans 12:2 “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

(We renew our minds through reading God’s word regularly.)

This verse tells us that different worldviews affect the way we think, and we must make deliberate choices to keep our thinking correct before God. Then we can find His best plan for our lives.)

# Amos 8:11

**“Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord GOD, “when I will send a famine on the land, not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, but rather for hearing the words of the LORD. And people will stagger from sea to sea and from the north even to the east; they will go to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, but they will not find it.”**

# There can be a famine for God's word

When people have **believed ideas that prevent them from considering it**. Our modern world is in that situation now.

- The idea that miracles cannot happen prevents people from considering God's word.
- The idea that educated people believe in evolution prevents them from considering God's word.
- The idea that “religion only represents an emotional help” prevents people from considering God's word.

# The Divided Field of Knowledge



- Belief in the divided field of knowledge prevents them from considering God's word.

When people are in famine for God's word, they wander from one possibility to another for soul satisfaction, and they cannot find it.

We see some of that "wandering" in the search for pleasure.

# I Thessalonians 5:21

“Examine everything carefully. Hold fast to that which is good.”

# “Examine everything carefully; Hold fast to that which is good.”

1 Thessalonians 5:21 is a command, not a suggestion. Our thinking matters to God. So let's review logic and God.

In our last class we discussed the need for God to be infinite, in order to be our Source for universals and for logic to be workable in the real world.

- William Lane Craig hosts videos on the web discussing these sorts of ideas—ideas such as the Kalam argument we covered in the second WitnessKit. He is a good scholar to follow. His books and study videos are highly recommended.

# Recommended author William Lane Craig...

- One of his conclusions is that only an immaterial being could be infinite. Material objects cannot be infinite and cannot exist in infinite series. Physical implies “limited.” Because God is immaterial Spirit, He can be infinite. Because God is self-existent always, He can be infinite, without a starting point in time.
- Logic needs the Infinite-Personal God of the Bible: The infinite God who has Mind. This is one of the truths that says the Bible is from Him, because this truth matches reality in this sphere of thinking.



# God's Infinite Spirit

- God's Infinite Spirit is different from ours because He is Infinite. Our human spirits are finite, created by Him, and different from His infinite Spirit.
- Our human spirits are like His in another way—in being immaterial. He created us in His image which is immaterial. We live in our physical bodies, but we are not identical to our physical bodies. The Bible compares our physical bodies to tents (2 Corinthians 5) which are temporary. Yet “to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.”
- Because God is Spirit, He is everywhere at once. His Omnipresence is one facet of His Infinite Nature.

# Another Important Idea:



- We want to discuss some other important ideas in today's class. One is called "the scandal of the cross." The cross was a cruel instrument of execution by a tyrannical state. It is a shocking idea that the Son of God would die there.
- Without the REAL resurrection from the dead, the idea would be nothing but a scandal.

# The Scandal of the Cross

Existentialist Christians sometimes talk about  
“The scandal of the cross.”

Because they reject the ideas in Genesis about God as Creator, and the world as different from the way He created it, they think the evil in the world is just *the way things are*. They take a *blind leap of faith* to believe God is *good*. They sometimes see the cross as God’s making some other innocent person die, which is a scandalous idea.

# How does the Bible look at this issue?

The Bible teaches that God is good and He made the world good. It became fallen when people, in free choice, turned away from Him. Turning away from God who is Good brings evil into a situation. Because Jesus truly is *God with us*, fully human and fully God, when He accepted the command to lay down His life for us, it was not some OTHER person God required to die. Rather, it was Himself, making the ultimate sacrifice so that we could be set free from evil. It was His own blood shed for us—Acts 20:28.

# Can we understand this?

- No. Not fully. But we CAN understand it enough to appreciate it.
- The complexity of God who is Triune is necessary and sufficient to uphold the total goodness of God.
- When the Bible says God is unchanging, it means His GOOD CHARACTER never changes.
- The Bible's own explanation is the only way any of this could make sense.

# The Bible's Answers

- The idea of the Trinity is scattered through the pages of the Bible, and it is an idea that answers foundational questions. It is an idea we would not have made up ourselves, because it is such a difficult idea to understand.
- The Bible's answers to many huge questions are scattered over its pages throughout its 1500 years of writing. It is as though God anticipated the questions and prepared the answers little by little so we would search for them.

# The Biblical View



It was the Judge, Himself, who died in the place of the accused, taking the penalty in his place. Jesus Christ will be the Judge, and He will be perfectly fair as Judge, having successfully lived through all the temptations humans experience, and even the difficulty of death itself—Acts 17:31, Hebrews 4:15-16, Hebrews 2:9-18. He is perfectly fair now as our High Priest, interceding for us in heaven, for the same reasons.

# Hebrews 2:18

**18** For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted. (NKJV)



# “The Scandal of the Cross”

## The Biblical View, according to Schaeffer

The real scandal of the cross is that no matter how clearly and faithfully the gospel is presented, some will turn away from it, because of rebellion—  
not wanting God to be the King of their life. They will disrespect Christ’s suffering in their place.

## The Existentialist Christian View

Disregarding the explanation from Genesis, IF there is a God He is probably deterministic and unknowable. So “the scandal of the cross” is to believe God is good without evidence. They see the cross as mere evidence of suffering.

# The Existentialist Christians

See the cross as mere evidence of suffering in this world, and they see our trust in Christ as irrational, because we believe He really did die to take away our sins. We believe He really did rise from the dead, victorious over death and hell. We believe He truly is able to give us His righteousness in place of our sins, and to give us eternal life in place of death. We believe it matters that this happened.

Their assumptions pre-set their conclusions

# Our Response to The Scandal of the Cross

- Even though He is often rejected, we choose Him.
- Hebrews 13:12-14 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. **Hence, let us go to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach.** For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come.

# The Largest Division Within



Christianity is no longer the Catholic/ Protestant division. Rather, it is the Biblical/ Existentialist division. That division can be present in any congregation. One unfortunate part of this division is that it is hidden by rhetoric. We must search to understand other Christians in order to really BE the church.

# A Good God would be on the side

- Of truth. Not only that, a Good God would be on the side of FINDABLE truth. Truth that is totally hidden is useless.
- Our God is Good!
- He has given us truth that we can find.
- Even though the whole idea goes against the spirit of our age, we can actually KNOW things about God.
- We have to search to find, and if we search with all our hearts, we WILL find. He promised.

# The Cross of Christ

Is SHOCKING.

- It is so shocking, it forces us to search for answers about it. It does not allow us to ignore it.
- If we search with all our hearts, willing to follow the truth, willing for God to be the King of our lives, we will be able to find the truth about it.

# We can reasonably search for

## Factors That Bring Reason to the Search for God

Communication from God because of these factors:

1. Communication from God--as a possibility--is logically consistent with a Personal Beginning, but would not be consistent with an impersonal beginning.
2. The Personal God can communicate in ways we can test by reason.
3. The Bible meets realistic tests for communication from God.
4. The consequences of an impersonal beginning do not match the reality of human experience.

# Communication from God--as a possibility--

-is logically consistent with a Personal Beginning, but would not be consistent with an impersonal beginning.

An impersonal beginning, if assumed, makes communication from God a nonsense idea, unless one believes a mind emerges from the matter of the universe. This is a concept of God that would not be helpful in terms of understanding good and evil, and in terms of giving life meaning. Such a *panentheistic* idea of God does not meet our deepest longings for purpose, and would be expected to be capricious and alien.



# Communication from God--as a possibility--

A Personal Beginning for the universe, on the other hand, would have to be extremely intelligent, extremely powerful, extremely wise. Our longings for purpose and for interaction with such a Being would make sense if and only if He gave us those longings because HE wants to interact with us as well. Otherwise, those longings are just an irrational aberration within a meaningless universe.

Yet we know that those longings represent our better nature. THAT is not irrational.

# Communication from God--as a possibility--

If God exists, then communication **is** a possibility AND our longings to find Him have a reasonable explanation and a hope for fulfillment. That we know those longings to be part of our better nature is a match with a Good God who has been alive from eternity past.

SO God's existence is coherent with important things we know about ourselves, and if those things have meaning, then communication from God (who is Good) is a reasonable possibility.

# The longing for meaning in our lives

- This longing for meaning in our lives is a good longing.
- It is a longing that leads us toward the God who is GOOD.
- We should embrace the longing and set aside time for God—and He is pleased with that!


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The Personal God can communicate in ways we can test by reason.



The other worldviews gave modern humanity a divided field of knowledge, with science and history given status as procurers of knowledge, and theology as a guardian of the emotional realm without real knowledge.

The Biblical view, on the other hand, has a unified field of knowledge, meaning we can know truth—facts—about the physical world and **ALSO** about the spiritual realm.

# The Personal God can communicate in ways we can test by reason.

- We can know these facts because God's mind is orderly and HE made an organized universe that works by physical laws.
- Job 38:33 asks, "Do you know the ordinances of the heavens, or fix their rule over the earth?"
- God revealed the existence of physical laws governing His universe a VERY LONG TIME AGO.
- An impersonal beginning for the universe has laws but no lawgiver—so the laws themselves are unexpected in a chance universe.

# The Personal God can communicate in ways we can test by reason.

- We can know spiritual realities because we have souls that know such things, and because God is able to communicate in ways that we can examine using reason.
- The Biblical explanation is that God created us in His image. He is Spirit / Mind / Wisdom / LOGOS. We have minds that know things because He made us that way.

# What does reason demand

- From God to demonstrate real communication? This is not an impertinent question.
- God gave reason, so how did He plan ahead for reason to help us find His truth?



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# The Bible meets realistic tests for communication from God.

It is composed of prose biographies and histories. Startling points of agreement match other historic accounts and archaeological finds even for matters that took place thousands of years ago. He set His book in reality.

Startling bits of modern science intrude on its poetry. The first WitnessKit discussed some of these items.

# The Bible meets realistic tests for communication from God.



The Bible does not have the feel of epics and legends. It is made up of ordinary people's biographies, including embarrassments and humiliations. It is FOR ordinary people.

If, as it says, ordinary people are created in God's image, then a book about and for ordinary people makes perfect sense as being from God.

# The Bible meets realistic tests for communication from God.

- It was written over a period of about 1500 years by authors from many different walks of life. It covers many controversial topics. When it speaks about them, new information unfolds in consistent agreement with prior information. It covers events that took place in many different cultural settings, thousands of years ago, yet it still speaks to modern ears. It has universality.

# The Bible meets realistic tests for communication from God.

- It tells us things we know about ourselves from the inside. We know that we struggle with right and wrong, with knowing how to do the right thing. The Bible recognizes that struggle and gives helpful directions for success.
- It upholds the highest moral standards, yet is realistically and lovingly accepting of persons who cannot attain them.

# The Bible meets realistic tests for communication from God.

- When it deals with miracles, it often does so with multiple witnesses. The resurrection of Jesus Christ—500+ witnesses—I Corinthians 15.
- The miracle birth of Jesus: First, a miracle (that everybody could tell was a miracle in the birth of John the Baptist to elderly parents) was used ***to establish Elizabeth's testimony*** about Mary.

# The Bible meets realistic tests for communication from God.

- Then other witnesses were brought in—multiple shepherds who talked to angels, Magi who traveled long distances, an elderly man and woman of exemplary character who served in the temple and recognized the Infant Jesus as Messiah.
- The giving of the LAW—possibly 3 million witnesses watching the smoking mountain—Exodus 20.

# The Bible meets realistic tests for communication from God.

- A God who really exists can use miracle as an affirmation of communication from Him. The Bible treats miracles that way, implicitly.
- Other ancient books treat miracles as expected, ordinary events but the Bible always recognizes their unusual nature and Source.
- Example: The healing of the lame man to demonstrate that Jesus could forgive sins. They could see the healing. They had reason to believe Jesus' statement about forgiveness.



# The Bible meets realistic tests for communication from God.

- Miracles are not nonsense, but rather are a tool for knowing something is a word from God.
- Sometimes He even instructed people to ask for a sign, and sometimes He was upset if they refused.
- (He requires purity of heart if we ask for that sort of confirmation—and of course it is up to Him whether to answer.)

# The Bible meets realistic tests for communication from God.

- Of course, if you are accustomed to reading in the modernist skeptical way, the miracles in the Bible take some getting used to.
- Think of each one as a merciful indicator from God to let people KNOW He was speaking.
- We don't really have a right to deny Him that communication tool just because it is out of style in modern thought.

# Big Miracles Reveal Consistency

- The miracle of the death and resurrection of Christ was consistent with the Beginning and Middle of the Bible.
- Genesis 3 says “The Seed-of-the-Woman’s heel will be bruised and He will crush the serpent’s head.” Jesus’ heel was injured by the nails. Genesis Chapter 3 that discusses the reason for death gives hints about Messiah’s future victory over it, and even hints about the Virgin Birth. Think about how many different consistencies show up in that one prophecy.
- Psalm 22 describes the suffering of the cross, long before it was invented as an execution method.

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The consequences of an impersonal beginning do not match

the reality of human experience. The impersonal beginning leads directly to the divided field of knowledge, which has no soul satisfaction at all. The impersonal beginning makes the soul illusion, and makes all the most important things in life also illusion.

# The consequences of an impersonal beginning do not match reality.

- The Biblical view lets us know that those most important things, like love, are real. They proceed from the character of the God who really is there. Their seeming importance is a match with reality.

# The consequences of an impersonal beginning do not match

- the reality of human experience.
- The God of the Bible is both infinite and Personal. We are finite, like the remainder of His creation. But in the realm of Personality, we are in His sphere, because He made us that way. We are of special concern to Him because He made us in His image.

## The New Theology, or Existentialist Christianity, or Neo-Orthodoxy tries to split the difference.

- It tries to hold on to religious emotional fulfillment while accepting an impersonal beginning to the universe, or a facsimile, BUT where God does not communicate in words to us and where miracles do not occur.
- This does not work—it is not the real thing. Clearly, Biblical Christianity is different from the divided field of knowledge.



# What is the “Human Dilemma?”

**Humans feel bad about themselves and want to feel better.** Humans carry BOTH a sense of right and wrong AND a sense of failure to keep the right. Humans develop various ways to cope with this.

Existentialism defines the dilemma one way, and the Bible defines it another way. Which is correct?

# We should consider the Bible when we evaluate the human dilemma because:

## Characteristics of a Biblical View of the Dilemma of Humanity

1. The Biblical view is realistic.
2. The Biblical view is optimistic.
3. The Biblical view is coherent with what we know about good and evil.
4. The Biblical view matches what we know about making choices.
5. The Biblical view brings us closer to God.

# The view of the divided field of knowledge

- The divided field of knowledge describes humanity as a collection of small, finite, helpless, pre-programmed beings who are not adequate to meet the challenges of existence, and so fall into destructive situations.
- People have a built-in sense of “ought,” but find objective right and wrong standards illusive. They see the world and want to believe in God, but cannot see evidence that He is Good. Their view of faith is BLIND faith.

# The view of the divided field of knowledge

- The view of guilt in the divided field of knowledge is a helpless view. Human responsibility is downplayed because of the view that we are pre-programmed. The accuracy of guilt feelings are always questionable, not thought to correspond to reality, since moral standards are subjective.
- In addition, people are considered “locked-in” to their programming, and unable to change.

# The Biblical view is realistic.

- The Biblical view says we are not pre-programmed and we are not helpless. We are limited, but we can access communication and help from Someone who is not limited. Our sense of right and wrong is proper in this world because right and wrong are objectively real. The field of knowledge is not divided. We do not have to make an irrational leap of faith to have meaning.

# The Biblical view is realistic.

The world is fallen, but has not always been that way.

The evidence for God's goodness can be found beyond the fallen world and sensory perception,

- ▣ because He has explained some true things to us in His word, and
- ▣ because He has given us true moral universals that work, and
- ▣ because He came here Himself and communicated with us, in the Person of His Son.

# The Biblical view is realistic.

- He allows a fallen world to continue to exist, in part because our human choices are interwoven in that world, and our choices are real. Human choices create many of the counter-examples that lead us to question His goodness.
- This view of faith is realistic faith.
- The view of guilt is that it can be objectively real if God's objective universals have been broken.
- There is a way out of objective guilt, through repentance and the atonement.

# The Biblical view is realistic.

- Because objective moral standards exist, and because guilt includes intentionality as well as action, real guilt can be sorted out from imaginary guilt.
- It is possible to be relieved of both kinds of guilt, because the standards are real, and God has provided a way out even if there is a failure on a human's part.



# The Biblical view is realistic.

- It is even possible to find relief from being manipulated by someone who tries to use guilt feelings to dominate another person.
- All these difficult issues can be sorted out and freedom from guilt is possible.
- God, being a GOOD GOD, wants us to be free from guilt.
- He wants to transform our lives with His goodness.

# We should respect the Bible's

## Characteristics of a Biblical View of the Dilemma of Humanity

Evaluation of the dilemma of humanity because of these characteristics.

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# The Biblical view is optimistic.

It sees change as possible for anyone willing to seek God's help on His terms. There are no hopeless cases.

When there is life there is hope for improvement.

The Biblical view is optimistic for an eternal future, for those who are willing to seek God with all their hearts and souls and minds and strength.

Death is not the end.

# The Biblical view is optimistic.

- Injustice does not prevail in eternity—even if it seems to prevail in this life. There will be a judgment for every person.
- Job complains in chapter 21 that justice often is not obvious in this life, but he follows that with chapter 24:19-20 where justice **is** met in eternity.

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# The Biblical view is coherent with what we know about good and evil.

- We know with every fiber of our being that good and evil exist. The divided field of knowledge says that such knowledge is mere subjectivity in an indifferent universe. The Bible says that such knowledge is a match with reality. The Bible gives us standards for evaluating good and evil.

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# The Biblical view matches what we know about making choices.

- The divided field of knowledge says our choices are pre-programmed by our genes, chemistry, and environment. Our choices are illusion, and they ultimately do not matter.
- The Bible says our choices are real and they ALL matter. In fact, every choice will eventually be judged.



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# The Biblical view brings us closer to God.

- The Bible has a solution to the problem of evil in this world, and it is a solution that lasts for eternity. We have to repent of sins and accept the atonement God provided through the infinite atoning sacrifice of His Son. He demonstrated that eternal life is the result by raising His Son from the dead. Our choice about this is a real choice and it matters. He wants us to become members of His family by faith—and it is a step of faith rather than a leap of faith.

# Faith

- *“It is a step into the light, not a leap in the dark.”*—  
Josh McDowell
- We tell God (in prayer) the most certain wishes of our heart, for His forgiveness as we repent of our sins. We ask Him to cover our sins with the blood atonement of His Messiah, Jesus.
- We ask Him to send His Holy Spirit to be in our life, so that we become citizens of His kingdom and receive His guidance and power for doing right.
- We thank Him for the eternal life He purchased for us through the death and burial and resurrection of Jesus. We trust Him with our lives and future.

# The Human Dilemma

- The human dilemma was expressed by Albert Camus' *La Peste (The Plague)*. The dilemma of *La Peste* or THE PLAGUE by Albert Camus was this. A plague came to the city of Oran at the beginning of WWII. The **doctor** fought the plague. The **priest** said the plague was God's will and he refused to fight.
- *Who was right?*

# We can escape the dilemma

Escaping  
the  
dilemma  
of

*La Peste*

Of Camus' *La Peste* by understanding a Biblical view of earth's fallen state and God's goodness.

1. God's will is not determinism.
2. God hates evil.
3. God EXPECTS us to hate evil, too.
4. God helps us fight evil.

# God's will is not determinism.

The dilemma of *La Peste* or THE PLAGUE by Albert Camus was whether to fight evil, if evil is God's will.

If God's will is **determinism**, the choice is between fighting the evil of the plague while fighting God's will, or allowing the evil of the plague while accepting God's will. In either choice, evil and good are mixed together.

# God's will is not determinism.

The Biblical answer is that God's will is not determinism. God's will has both a directive nature and a permissive nature. His permissive will allows real human choices for real good and for real evil.

Schaeffer gives the example of Christ at Lazarus' tomb. Jesus was angry over the terribleness of death, and He fought death by raising Lazarus back to life.

# God's will is not determinism.

Christ fought death the most total way possible, by taking it for us, in our place, to rescue us from death eternally. He came back to life because death could not hold Him in its power. He is the only One who could defeat death. He is on the side of life.



# God's will is not determinism.

Every command from God in the Bible is testimony to the reality of human choice, and the responsibility we have to choose well. Every sin a person commits goes against God's good and perfect and acceptable will. God allows sin. God does not cause sin. God's directive will takes sin into account, because He has foreknowledge of all that potentially could occur and of what actually will occur. He limits damage by the good actions of His people.

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# God hates evil.

Psalm 45:6-7, speaking of Messiah, “Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever. Thou hast loved righteousness and hated wickedness; Therefore God, Thy God, hast anointed Thee with the oil of joy above Thy fellows.”

Psalm 11:5 “The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked, and the one who loves violence, His soul hates.” The rest of that Psalm helps define good and evil.

# God hates evil.

Psalm 5:4 “For Thou art not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; no evil dwells with Thee.”

Ezekiel 18:23, 32-- “Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked,” declares the Lord GOD, “rather than that he should turn from his ways and live?” ... “For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies,” declares the Lord GOD. “Therefore, repent and live.”

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# God EXPECTS us to hate evil, too.

- Psalm 97:10 “Hate evil, you who love the LORD, who preserves the souls of His godly ones; He delivers them from the hand of the wicked.”
- Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride, and arrogance, and the evil way and the perverted mouth, I hate.”
- Amos 5:14-15 “Seek good and not evil, that you may live. ...Hate evil, love good, and establish justice in the gate.”

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# God helps us fight evil.

- We are dependent upon God to rescue us from evil and to enable us to fight evil. He asked Job, in chapter 40 verses 6-14, whether Job can accomplish ultimate justice in the earth, and the obvious answer is NO. Job's own right hand could not save him. He had to depend on God.



# God helps us fight evil.

- The necessity for human responsiveness to God's direction is seen in Romans 10:1-15. The ultimate evil is eternal death, and the way out has been provided by Christ. Yet someone must go and tell people, and how can he go if he is not sent?
- There is a responsibility to go, and there is a responsibility to send. God's people must respond to His direction.

# God helps us fight evil.

- Everyone who has been rescued from death and hell by the atoning blood of Christ HAS A CALLING.
- God gives spiritual gifts, and they include “weapons for warfare”—according to II Corinthians 10:3-5—“divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God,...

# God helps us fight evil.

...and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”

- Why is that important? Because Christ is GOOD, and all that is GOOD comes from God. We are to love GOOD.

# Promises From the Good Shepherd, Ezekiel 34:11-31

Thus says the LORD God,  
“I Myself  
Will search for My sheep.  
I will deliver them  
From all the places  
Where they were scattered  
On a cloudy, gloomy day.

# Promises From the Good Shepherd, Ezekiel 34:11-31

I will bring them out.

I will gather them.

I will bring them home.

I will feed them--

in good pasture

by streams of water.

I will lead them to rest....

# Promises From the Good Shepherd, Ezekiel 34:11-31

I will seek the lost.

I will bring back the scattered.

I will bandage the broken.

I will strengthen the sick.

I will feed the wicked--with judgment.

I will remove the trampers who cause harm.

My flock will no longer be in danger.

My Son will be their Shepherd.

I will make them a blessing.

I am with them and they are Mine.

# Homework

3 sets

# Homework Class10 Set 1

- Read Ezekiel 34:1-31. In this passage, God uses the metaphor that He is the Shepherd of His people, and that religious leaders among them are the rams and male goats of the flock whom the flock follow. He speaks a word of judgment against leaders when they tread down the pastures so that the rest of the flock cannot eat, and when they muddy the waters so that the rest of the flock cannot drink, and when they push and shove the other sheep to scatter them. What did God say He would do about that situation?



# Homework Class10 Set 1

- What application might this passage have for religious leaders who try to eliminate the content from Christianity?
- Read Chapter Two of Section Three of THE GOD WHO IS THERE -- “Verifiable Facts and Knowing.”
- In this chapter, Francis Schaeffer uses the word “Verifiable” to include the concept of falsification as well as verification. If something is demonstrated to be factually false, it is falsified and is verifiably untrue.

# Homework Class10 Set 1

- In the physical sciences, it is common to hear that concepts can only be falsified and never verified. The concept of falsification in the sciences is very narrow, requiring experimental coherence of results over many trials to establish a law.
- That law is not considered to be verified because infinite numbers of experiments would be required to establish it as exhaustively true. It may hold true for ordinary applications, and then new factors may be discovered that tweak the law for more in-depth analyses.

# Homework Class10 Set 1

- In historical research, verification is possible within limits of reasonable doubt. If divergent and independent sources confirm a fact, it can be considered to be verified.
- For example, a controversy which arose over an apparent contradiction in two places in the Scriptures was cleared up by archaeology, verifying both statements found in different books.

# Homework Class10 Set 1

- In **First Samuel 31:10**, the Scriptures report that Saul's weapons were placed in the temple of Ashtaroth (a plural word for Canaanite gods) in the city of Beth-Shan. In **I Chronicles 10:10** the Scriptures report that his armor was placed in the house of "their gods," and his head fastened in the house of Dagon—a specific Philistine god. Archaeology recently verified both accounts by revealing that the temple in this place had separate rooms for the Ashtaroth and for Dagon. Does this prove exhaustively that both accounts actually happened as written? No. But it does demonstrate beyond a reasonable doubt that both were true, and that claiming that they were contradictory was false.

# Homework Class10 Set 1

- For historical statements to be true, they do not have to be identical. They can be supplementary. However, they cannot be impossible according to the basic rules of logic.
- In this case, it was easy to see how the statements were supplemental after the design of the pagan temple was discovered, but difficult to see the consistency before that discovery. It took more faith to trust the documents before the discovery than after, but the logical consistency was there all along.

# Homework Class10 Set 1

- To demonstrate that communication from God is verifiable, one must demonstrate that it is possible first, and then that it is self-consistent.
- Francis Schaeffer explains why the assumption of an open system universe, with a Personal beginning, makes communication possible.
- Self Consistency becomes a test for religious texts. The Bible passes that test. The Bible has a vast number of words and they are amazingly self-consistency over the range of the Scriptures. They are also rooted in history, with archaeological point confirmation, including inscriptions that match New Testament detail.

# Homework Class10 Set 1

- The Dead Sea Scrolls are coherent with modern manuscripts of the Old Testament -- all of these things add up to self-consistency. The degree of exact variation in words can be measured. There may be a few areas that remain puzzling, but the vast amount of evidence is coherent.
- A third arena for testing is universality: whether the Bible holds principles that apply worldwide, to all cultures at all times. The results of missionary endeavors worldwide over the last 2000 years are a match.

# Homework Class10 Set 1

- Workability: The consensus built on a Biblical view of moral universals, starting about 225 years ago, gave us a freedom in the West that the rest of the world envies. One of the evidences God listed for His existence was that His laws were good laws, which worked in practice.

Read Deuteronomy Chapter 4 verses 1-14.

- A modern example was reported in a PBS documentary, that verifies the truth of His good laws, including the dietary laws. The huge flu pandemic in the early 1900s that killed many people in Europe and the United States was tracked, in a bit of medicinal sleuthing, to the refuse of pigs.



# Homework Class10 Set 1

- These pigs were kept as a food supply (on the trotters so to speak) for soldiers during World War I. As infected soldiers returned home around the world, they carried the flu infection with them.
- The Old Testament dietary laws exclude pork, and thus would keep the environment clean of that disease source. Pig intestines are used as a culture medium for viruses in scientific research. If the dietary laws had been obeyed in the trenches of World War I, the flu pandemic might have killed far fewer people.

# Homework Class10 Set 1

- The moral breakdown in the West is occurring as the culture abandons the Bible. That moral breakdown also verifies the Scriptures as communication from God. Without that communication, people misuse the freedoms that were effective for creating a good society based on God's good laws. When people believed the Bible, and made an honest effort to practice its principles, they did not have to be held in check by curfews and huge numbers of jail cells.
- With a Personal beginning— God who created people's minds and gave them capacity for human language – is the idea of communication from God absurd?

# Homework Class10 Set 1

Why is the fact that God set the Bible in history important to this discussion?

- Why does believing in a Personal beginning who can communicate in words with us eliminate the need for an irrational leap of faith?
- Explain the difference between true communication and exhaustive communication.
- Why does the new theology of irrational faith fail to “give an adequate framework for ascertaining facts and knowledge?”

# Homework Class10 Set 1

- Schaeffer has a diagram that shows God above people, but not divided from people in the realm of personality. People are with God, but divided from plants, animals, and machines by their intrinsic personality. On the other side of the diagram, God is alone in the category of infinite, divided from people as well as animals, plants, and machines, which are finite. What does this diagram tell us that people can learn about God?
- What is the only limitation on personality if God is both infinite and personal?

# Homework Class10 Set 1

- How does this understanding change the ant analogy?
- One of the difficulties of the irrational leap methodology is the difficulty in defining love. If one assumes that the only reality is molecules in motion plus time and chance, love becomes an irrational concept.
- In the Christian belief system, love is a character issue that is founded upon God's goodness. Love is real. Love has many different facets, depending upon the way individuals are related to each other. Altruistic love is a requirement for my neighbor. Everybody is my neighbor.

# Homework Class10 Set 1

- (Even my enemy is my neighbor, so I am required to have altruistic concern for him. Sometimes that concern is vastly interested in his repentance from the thing that made him my enemy.)
- Altruistic love is not the same as “being nice.” The degree of concern and responsibility to act in altruistic ways becomes more important the closer the circle of friendship and kinship is.
- God set boundaries on expression of sexual love. It is to be expressed within marriage, with the intention of staying married. Commitment is the framework for true love, and marriage is the commitment God requires.

# Homework Class10 Set 1

- Because God made us with the capacity to love others, we can understand something of others' concern for each other. We have an understanding of love that reaches beyond the boundaries of our own mind and heart. We also can and must love God.
- God's law promotes the freedom to love.
- Appropriate boundaries secure freedom.
- According to Matthew 24:12, the converse is also true. In paraphrase, "when lawlessness is increased, the love of many will grow cold."

# Homework Class10 Set 1

- A corollary of that larger truth is that promiscuity kills love, because promiscuity is lawless. The law of faithfulness is a law of love.
- The type of promiscuity that searches for the future marriage partner through a thrill-seeking dating life beforehand is self-defeating. We have the idea that the rules of the past were stifling and legalistic and judgmental, and sometimes they were. But their framework of faithfulness was nurturing toward true love.



# Homework Class10 Set 1

- Nihilism can come out of the lack of love in lawlessness. Nihilists want to smash things.
- Love is real. Love matters. Make it a priority.
- What do Christianity and the new theology have in common?

# Homework Class10 Set 2

- Read I Corinthians 13:1-14:3. List in two columns what love is and what love is not.
- Love is: Love is not:
- How important is love?
- What does 14:3 imply about putting truth into words? How does this relate to love?
- Read Section Three, Chapter Three in THE GOD WHO IS THERE -- “The Dilemma of Man.” This chapter is the key to understanding that truth is better than “what seems nice” when considering religion.

# Homework Class10 Set 2

- We live in a world where sometimes suffering appears overwhelming.
- The irrational leap of faith approach to religion gives no answer to the cries of those who suffer.
- In the first place, that approach has no moral universals, and no real way to determine what is right and what is wrong, what is just and what is unjust.

# Homework Class10 Set 2

- It tends to view people as not responsible for their decisions, but as pre-programmed by their genes and their environment to do whatever they do.
- What is becomes what is right because it is viewed as inevitable.
- The conclusion to that direction of religion is that if God exists, out in the indifferent universe or beyond it, He must be to blame for all the suffering.

# Homework Class10 Set 2

- In that frame of reference, to believe that God is good would be an irrational belief, and the atonement for sins would be meaningless if everyone is programmed to make the decisions they make. The concept of sin would be meaningless. Everything good would be meaningless as well.
- **So even though the approach seems nice, tolerant, and intelligent, it actually creates all kinds of difficulties.** If a person can only believe God is good by an irrational leap, that is a desperately miserable kind of faith.

# Homework Class10 Set 2

- How could such a faith strengthen the person who is suffering, when the one thing that makes suffering bearable is finding meaning in it?
- The Christian-mysticism theorists who have adopted that approach tend to use the cross as a symbol for human suffering, but not as meaning anything beyond that. What did Schaeffer say they gave as the cause of humankind's problem?

# Homework Class10 Set 2

- What is the Biblical explanation of the cause, and what does it say about God's goodness?
- The sin problem: what is the difference between true moral guilt and guilt feelings?
- Is it possible for human beings to solve the sin problem by their own efforts?
- What constraints are on God in providing a way to solve the sin problem?
- In the portion of the chapter called "The Scandal of the Cross," what did Schaeffer say occurs when a person receives the forgiveness of his sins by accepting Jesus Christ as Savior?

# Homework Class10 Set 3

- Read Romans 8:1-39.
- What are some of the privileges that belong to those whose sins are forgiven?
- Read Section Three Chapter 4 in THE GOD WHO IS THERE --"God's Answer to Man's Dilemma."
- What are the facts that make moral absolutes exist?
- Schaeffer says God can know about things that are not actualized. He knew about Eve before He created her. Romans 8:29 says He foreknew about each of us as well, before He created us.



# Homework Class10 Set 3

- This agrees with Psalm 139. Why does Schaeffer say we are important, even when we sin?
- What are the four important facts of the Biblical answer to the human dilemma?
- Because of these facts, we are able to define right and wrong and to evaluate levels of wrong for the purpose of fighting evil. Because of these facts, we can fight evil optimistically, with compassion, and can even hold out forgiveness to enemies.

# Homework Class10 Set 3

- We can hate evil and hate the sins that an enemy commits without hating the enemy. We can approach justice with a desire for the enemy to repent and be transformed -- to have his mind renewed. Psalm 7:9 says, “O let the evil of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous.”
- There is an important difference between seeking justice for the purpose of destroying an evil person, and seeking justice for the purpose of giving him motivation and opportunity to repent. The worse the evil, the stronger the motivation he needs. His evil has to be stopped for the sake of the innocent. That is one very important side of justice. The other side is the potential for his transformation.

# Homework Class10 Set 3

- If he never repents, he will still face justice in eternity. The one fighting evil is not responsible for the outcome of repenting or not repenting, but he will seek justice in the will of God if he desires that the evil one repent as well as be stopped. This does not reduce the responsibility to protect the innocent – so justice demands that the wicked be stopped.
- Such repentance is rare. That makes it all the more amazing when it occurs.

# Homework Class10 Set 3

- We do not need visible success at motivating repentance to be assured that justice will eventually triumph. God's side is going to win.
- His justice will prevail, either through repentance and grace given by the infinite suffering of Christ, or through eternal punishment of evil for those who never repent.
- You have to choose repentance and faith. You will be encouraged when you experience your own transformation.
- The transformation of enemies is not too difficult for God, even though rare.

# Homework Class10 Set 3

- Biblical faith is transformational faith. Because God really does send His Holy Spirit into a person's life, He makes real changes in that life.
- He does several things—like guiding the person toward truth, making the conscience more accurate, giving help for choosing right.
- He guides people into “the good life” in His sight, and willingly helps set the course of the future for the person's good and the good of those around him.

# Homework Class10 Set 3

- The record of the New Testament is that the Holy Spirit changed the lives of the Apostles so completely that they and their followers changed the world.
- The Holy Spirit strengthened them for good, so that literally nothing but death itself deterred them.
- God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His Holy Spirit is available for our lives today.

# Romans 12:2

- “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”