

WitnessKit 3

God and Worldviews

Class 12

How Do We Apply the Gospel?
What Are Purposes of Christian
Apologetics?
What Is Pre-evangelism?

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Is There*

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A Verse to Read Together

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.)

Many people have accepted a set of beliefs that are incompatible.

Yet they have never thought about the inconsistency of their beliefs, or they may think it is impossible to have consistent beliefs.

They may not be able to grasp the seriousness of their situation.

Schaeffer held group discussions with many who held mixed beliefs. He and his family had a resort ministry near the Swiss ski slopes. They held afternoon teas and had open house for people who wanted to discuss big ideas.

When Dr. Schaeffer brought someone to his point of tension,

He called it “Taking the roof off.” He would bring them to an understanding of the full implications of their beliefs. Without God, all of us are lost. He showed them their lostness.

He was able to do that because he really cared about them. They were able to tell that he cared. He understood their difficulty, because he had gone through it.

Francis Schaeffer clearly recognized

That when he showed individuals their point of tension, he was showing them the darkness of their belief system, and making them feel worse.

He recognized that **if** the individual **then** rejected the Gospel, he would be worse off than before.

Why did he think it was **worth that risk** to show them their point of tension?

Schaeffer thought it was worth the risk

Because the Gospel really is true.

People are eternal beings, with a destination for eternity. People **NEED** the LORD more than anything else. They have to realize the problems with their own beliefs before they can realize their need of a Savior.

If you were passing by a house, and you could see two things—someone eating dinner by the window, and a fire on the roof—would you stand by and say nothing

because the person eating dinner

would be upset to be told his roof was on fire?

Once a person has realized the inconsistency of his own position

He is ready to hear the Biblical alternative. Then the question becomes, what exactly does he need to hear?

How can we communicate the gospel in terms he will understand? How can we start far enough back to deal with his assumptions? How can we show him better assumptions?

Also, do we ***actually love him*** if we do not empathize with his struggles? Can we see the serious difficulties of his position, and can we let him know that we care about helping him find his way out to the light?

One of the purposes of these studies

- Is to understand other points of view in enough depth to recognize and empathize with their struggles.
- If we do not understand that much, the other person may not be able to tell that we care about him.
- The other person may react to our message of salvation from sins as a message of condemnation rather than a message of freedom.

Once he reaches the point of really understanding his need of God,

- Then the elements that he needs to know for salvation are the same as for everyone.
- People start from different places and have to be brought from where they are to the point of understanding their need of salvation.
- Then the message is very similar for everyone.

Dr. Schaeffer said,

- “Often it takes much more time
- to press him towards the logical conclusion of his position
 - ▣ than it does, later,
 - take to give him the answer.”

When we have spent the time to understand his concerns, then we are ready to consider what information he needs to find real freedom in Christ, and to make the turn away from an unproductive worldview.

Once he has made that turn, then



We also need to understand how to give the answer that leads to freedom. It is NOT a matter of *changing the answer* to make it more pleasing to modern ears. It is a matter of making the truth clear, and clearing away confusion.

We need to understand the elements of

Elements of the Gospel

Applying the Gospel in the modern and postmodern era:

God really is there.

Humans are alienated from God because God is completely good and people are not.

Faith matters—not by virtue of its own strength—but by virtue of the price Jesus Christ paid on the cross, and by virtue of the power of the resurrection.

God really is there.

The gospel begins with “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” We must make clear that God exists, and has always existed. We must make clear that God is completely good. We must make clear that God is REAL. We can know true things about Him through His word.

God really is there.

When we witness, we usually take for granted that people believe God is real. We need to start that far back and give reasons for believing He is real.

Doubts about His reality are a huge barrier to faith in present times.

We need to let them know that it is possible to know He is real—that it is not just opinion—and that reasons exist to believe.

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Humans are alienated from God because God is completely good and people are not.

I believe everyone senses that alienation, sometimes without any way to describe it. God's perfect goodness is exactly what we need—because He is the Source of all that is good. Yet His perfect goodness is a source of pain to us, because we know that we are not in His category. We sin. We mess up. We fail. We feel that failure. And we cannot fix it.

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but by virtue of the price Jesus Christ paid on the cross, and by virtue of the power of the resurrection.

Ephesians chapter 2 mentions that faith—as our part in salvation—is ultimately an expression of God’s impartiality. Nobody is allowed to boast, because the way of salvation is not an achievement. It is a gift, open and fair to everyone—received by faith.

Real faith is based on content. The amount of faith is not the important thing. The Person we have faith in is the One who is important. What He did for us on the cross is the key.

God hates evil. He hated it so much, He was willing to die to conquer it.

God hates the wrongs that we have done, and He wants us to hate them, too.

He wants us to hate them enough to seek His help in getting rid of them.

Psalm 103:6-14 says that is exactly what He wants to do. Verse 12 says, “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

If we have Messiah in the center of our lives,

We will have one of His characteristics. It is described in Psalm 45:7 “Thou hast loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore, God, Thy God, has anointed Thee with the oil of joy above Thy fellows.”

His Holy Spirit in our lives will enable us to love righteousness and to hate wickedness. He gives the oil of joy as a gift to follow—and it is not a gift we manufacture for ourselves.

God wants us to ask the same question the Philippian Jailer asked.

“What must I do to be saved?”

The answer Paul gave the jailer was **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your house.”**

Later the jailer took them to his home to wash their wounds, and they spoke to his family, and they all believed and were saved.

Saving faith in Jesus Christ works

Because of what Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross. “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.’

—in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” –Galatians 3:13-14

The curse of the Law was our inadequacy to keep it.

The blessing of Abraham...

Was that God counted Abraham's faith as righteousness. God counts our faith as righteousness when we place our sins on Jesus' cross, and believe in Him.

The blessing of Abraham extends to the whole world through Messiah—Isaiah 49:5-7.

Colossians 2:14 says Jesus “cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”

One of the Names of Messiah

Is The LORD our Righteousness, according to Jeremiah 23:6. Our righteousness depends entirely upon His. Psalm 41:6-8 says that because Messiah lives forever, we are able to live forever.

Faith matters—not by virtue of its own strength—but His power.

- II Corinthians 3:17 Where the Spirit of the LORD is, there is liberty.
- That liberty includes transformation from the inside. Next verse... “But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”

Once a Person Exercises Saving Faith...



He needs to begin to place Jesus Messiah at the center of his thinking. He can do some things that will strengthen his faith, and it is a good thing if these become habits.

We need a daily renewal of the mind, according to Romans 12:1-3, and a daily presentation of ourselves to God as His living sacrifice—meaning we place His good purposes ahead of our own. We conform our life to His mold instead of the world's mold. We serve His plan and His perfect goodness rather than ourselves.

Once a Person Exercises Saving Faith...



That way, we can avoid being conformed to a world that has drifted away from Him, and we can find His good and perfect and acceptable will for our lives.

This represents real freedom because His plan is the best possible plan for our abundant life—John 10:10. His plan for us is fruitfulness—spiritual productivity that matters for eternity. John chapter 15 elaborates. Read it in full.

Once a Person Exercises Saving Faith...



Everything matters to God and matters for eternity. A cup of water matters to Him if given in His name. He wants to make every detail of our lives meaningful for eternity—for ourselves and for others.

Routines and habits are part of our lives, reducing the number of detailed decisions we must make. The Bible suggests some habits that carry spiritual growth with them, that we can incorporate in our routine.

We should help new believers

4 things
that
help us
grow in
faith

To **grow** in faith by encouraging them to do four things:

1. Regular individual Bible reading
2. Regular times of prayer
3. Talking often with others about God
4. Regular attendance at a Bible-believing church.

Regular individual Bible reading

This is more important than any other activity. This is the way to listen directly to God. He speaks through His word. He speaks through the biographies of ordinary people who chose to serve Him. They are our examples. Some are good examples, and some are not so good—and we can learn from both—what to do and what to avoid.

We have to engage our minds to hear His message through His word. He gave us our minds. They are a great help. Set aside regular daily time for this.

Regular times of prayer

This is available to us 24/7. God is always listening. He wants us to pray without ceasing. He wants our minds to be in constant communication with Him. If we spend time in His word, we will know more about the things He cares about, and we can talk to Him about those things.

Regular times of prayer

Two things are in this world that the Bible tells us last forever: God's word, and people. Those are the most important things on this earth to pay attention to and to care about. We should spend time praying about eternal, important things.

However, nothing is trivial with God. If we give a cup of cold water in His name, that has a reward—Matthew 10:42.

Regular times of prayer

A day is as 1000 years with God and 1000 years as a day—II Peter 3:9. He can accomplish 1000 years worth of good through our lives even in just one day, if we are willing to follow His principles—so every day of our life matters—even when we are suffering. (from a seminar by Joni Erickson Tada.)

Prayer is one of the least trivial things we can do.

Talking often with others about God

We should begin to try to talk to other people about spiritual matters, and about God and His goodness. This is not a common past-time in the modern world—one more reason for us to get involved in it.

If you have recently become a believer, you should especially try to reach out to your friends with the message of salvation. You will be a lifeline for them.

Regular attendance at a Bible believing church.

This one is tremendously important, and sometimes equally difficult. It is worth the time to search for such a church.

The size of a church is less important than the size of its heart. It is tremendously important to find a church where loving truth and loving God and loving people are the norms.

We have to be patient with people about this as well—they are just as human we are. They all matter to God.

What if there are no Bible believing churches in your area?

- That is a very good reason to host a prayer group in your home or a public location and read the Bible aloud together. Jesus said, “Where two or three are gathered in My name, there I am in their midst.” Matthew 18:19-20.
- The early Christians were scattered by persecution, and everywhere they went, they proclaimed the word—Acts 8:4.
- God calls men and women into specific kinds of church work, but He calls us ALL to speak about His goodness and His truth and to pray.

Today's world

- Today's world is becoming very much like the world of the early church. Persecution increases in many locations. Vastly different worldviews confuse the thinking of many. We need to be flexible like the early church and respond appropriately to conditions. Study the New Testament to understand the flexibility as well as the structure. God will guide your thinking as you pay attention to His word.

We can fulfill the purpose of this course by...

Purposes of Christian Apologetics

Meeting the purposes of Christian Apologetics:

1. The Defense of the Faith and
2. The Communication of the Message of Salvation in a Manner That Can Be Understood in This Generation
3. Solving The Postmodernist Sin Problem

The Defense of the Faith

The defense of the faith is an attempt to understand the questions that are raised to challenge the validity of the faith, and to answer them carefully.

It does not mean being argumentative or defensive in a negative sense.

It means to address the concerns of other people regarding the faith in a positive way.

The Defense of the Faith

This is not optional.

It requires study and hard work.

We have treated it as though it is optional, and have simply allowed the modernist and postmodernist worldviews to take over all the influential positions in our society.

We are supposed to be salt and light in our world. We have to defend the faith against the world's attacks, and it WILL always be under attack.

The Defense of the Faith

It is a calling—Philippians 1:1-8,16. The people who have this calling among us will always be on the firing line. The world does not fight fair. We owe them our prayers and moral support. We owe them the effort to understand what they are saying.

If we do not, as the people of God, encourage the defense of the faith, we can lose our influence in bringing others to salvation and we can even lose the next generation in the church. They may believe the attackers, or may become the existentialist form of believers.

The Defense of the Faith

The Bible has predictions about the future, including the eternal future of human beings. One of the predictions is a time of “falling away from the faith,” which leads toward terrible suffering in the world and the rise of false and evil world leadership.

The Defense of the Faith

Near the end of predicted events, these factors create a devastating world situation. 2

Thessalonians 2 discusses this. We should be highly motivated toward defending the faith to preserve it from each generation to the next generation.

There is a natural accumulated stability when people strive to live good lives, and there is a natural accumulated instability when people live badly. These factors are enhanced by God's protective shield when people strive toward the right—Proverbs 2:7-8.

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Purpose #2: The Communication of the Message of Salvation

in a Manner That Can Be Understood in This Generation.

We need apologetics in order to develop new and fresh ways of saying the timeless truths.

Every generation faces new barriers to faith.

We need apologetics as an ongoing discipline to bring down the current barriers, and the new barriers as well.

Purpose #2: The Communication of the Message of Salvation

Modernism ruled western cultures and Marxism and Islam ruled the east when Dr. Schaeffer wrote.

Postmodernism was a beginning crack in the foundations of Modernism at that point.

Now Postmodernism is a full-blown anti-philosophy that affects academia and politics and journalism to an unprecedented degree.

We need new and fresh approaches to bring Postmodernists to faith—and WITHOUT watering down the truth.

Purpose #2: The Communication of the Message of Salvation

Postmodernists are actually farther away from truth than the Modernists—because Postmodernists have let truth itself fall to the ground.

They have to be brought back to the validity of reason and the existence of truth. Then they can understand reasons to believe the Bible is actually true—and true communication from God.

Purpose #2: The Communication of the Message of Salvation

Modernists had to realize that truths were possible outside the material realm.

Postmodernists need to understand that truths are possible in both realms.

Dr. Schaeffer's apologetic methods are a great help. We need more.

Instead, the church has wobbled over to experience as the only way of knowing, and has allowed subjectivity to replace objectivity. In the process of avoiding argument, the church has lost the high ground.

Purpose #2: The Communication of the Message of Salvation

Everyone still NEEDS God. Their eternity depends upon finding the true and living God.

Experience is a wonderful way to know the truths of the Bible. Experience follows rational belief and life application.

If we cut off access to rational belief by failing to defend truth, experience cannot follow.

So we need to communicate BOTH KINDS OF REASONS to believe—rational AND experiential.

We can fulfill the purpose of this course by...

Purposes of Christian Apologetics

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Purpose #3: Solving the Postmodernist Sin Problem

Postmodernists accept only two ideas as defined evils: marginalizing a group such as women, ethnic minorities, or sexual minorities or religious minorities; and harming the environment or failing to try to save it.

The evangelical church is seen as being on the wrong side of these issues, and therefore on the side of wrong. For that reason, **postmodernists often reject the Bible believing church as a source of ethical understanding.**

The Postmodernist Sin Problem

Is an **enormous barrier** preventing postmodernists from finding God, because it blocks communication from the people who know the pathway to God, and it calls them evil. The first part of solving the problem is to step back from the immediate perception to emphasize that God views all **individuals** as equal before Him. The Bible is the sourcebook for human worth. He demonstrated how much we matter to Him. Everyone matters.

The Postmodernist Sin Problem

The Bible is also a sourcebook for proper care for God's creation, as His stewards, and that does not mean panicking about the current environmental fads. The discussion in **THE CASE FOR A CREATOR** about the feedback mechanisms in the earth's heat balance may be a help. Here is a brief review.

God has revealed His care for the earth.

His earth is balanced for the survival of living things.

- The perfect size for life
- A finely tuned heat balance
- A rugged surface
- Plate tectonics and the carbon dioxide balance
- Plate tectonics and the cosmic ray shield

The Perfect Size for Life, With a Rugged Surface

- If larger, the rugged surface would be flattened by gravity.
- That would turn earth into “water world,” since enough volume of water exists in the oceans to cover the entire surface if flat.

Around 1000 BC, God inspired the Psalmist to say it this way: Psalm 104:6b-9

- “Thou didst cover it with the deep as with a garment; The waters were standing above the mountains. At Thy rebuke they fled; At the sound of Thy thunder, they hurried away. The mountains rose; The valleys sank down to the place which Thou didst establish for them. Thou didst set a boundary that they may not pass over; that they may not return to cover the earth.”

The Perfect Size for Life, With a Rugged Surface

- If smaller, the atmosphere would be a different combination of gases, less favorable to mammalian life.
- Not too big, not too small, **JUST RIGHT!**

The Perfect Size for Life, With a Rugged Surface

AND Just right for the heat balance—The surface exposed to space

- where heat is lost
- is just the right size to match all the heat sources where heat is added.

A finely tuned heat balance

- The heat lost to space equals
 - ▣ the heat added from sunlight
 - ▣ plus the internal heating due to nuclear decay at the core,
 - ▣ plus the heat generated by the motion of tectonic plates.

A marvelous feedback mechanism fine tunes the heat balance.

- Albedo is the degree of reflectivity added up from the oceans, the ice caps, and the deserts.
- When the ocean surface gets warm, more algae grows in the ocean.
 - ▣ The algae produce carbon disulfide.
 - ▣ Carbon disulfide produces cloud cover.
 - ▣ Less sunlight reaches the oceans.
 - ▣ The oceans cool.

Plate tectonics and the carbon dioxide balance

The motion of tectonic plates on the earth cycles limestone back under the mantle of the earth.

- The limestone is made of calcium, carbon dioxide, and oxygen.
- The heat under the mantle causes the limestone to decompose, and volcanoes release the gases.
- Plants need the carbon dioxide to live, and they recycle it. It stays in balance.

Plate tectonics and the cosmic ray shield

- The earth's magnetic field shields the earth from cosmic radiation and solar wind particles, which are damaging to living cells.
- *The magnetic field is caused by convection currents in the earth's iron core.*
- The convection currents are kept in motion by plate tectonics.


All these factors say our planet is **VERY SPECIAL.**

- They add up to design in very unexpected ways. Factors are kept in balance that would cause runaway temperatures or other life threatening problems if out of balance.
- **Yet the mechanisms which balance each factor are not connected to the factor that they balance.**
- Design implies Mind.

Can we memorize that information?

- Maybe not. But...
- A good gift for a postmodernist is *The Case for a Creator*. The section about God's care for His creation is good to recommend to that individual, because it is really cool. It meets a need in his life.

Because God's existence and goodness are proclaimed by the balance built into the earth's systems...



We have a responsibility to seek His opinion about good and evil, right and wrong. We have very good reasons to study the Bible as a sourcebook for His opinions. We have to recognize that He is wiser than we are.

His views of right and wrong are more helpful than our speculations.

We can present the message of salvation in a way that can be understood

Elements of Pre-evangelism

if we consider the elements of pre-evangelism thoughtfully:

Truth must stand as real before conversion is possible.

True Spirituality accepts a unified field of knowledge.

God really exists and we can know about Him, by using our minds.

Truth must stand before conversion.

Here we need to understand where our friends ARE. Are they Modernists? Are they Postmodernists? Are they some other “ist” such as Hedonist? Or Nihilist? What was their thinking process that brought them to their present location? Can we see a point where they took a wrong turn, and show them the way back to the path? Are they open to a book or video as a gift? Is it clear which one would help the most?

Truth must stand before conversion.

Here is where the homework answers are a help, as well. When we take the time to mull over the ideas and write a short answer, that process may help us discuss these issues with a friend. The process of forming answers in practice in the workbook can translate into a short conversational answer.

That is the real test of this course—when God opens up an opportunity to talk to a friend.

True Spirituality accepts a unified field of knowledge

This is almost a novel idea in today's world, because the divided field of knowledge is so taken for granted. Yet is it very important. As Schaeffer said, "No one can become a Christian unless he understands what Christianity is saying." Most people have barriers that prevent them from understanding. The divided field of knowledge is such a barrier.

True Spirituality accepts a unified field of knowledge

One way to find out things is to ask direct questions. It is possible to draw a diagram of the divided field of knowledge, and ask your friend if he thinks that is how the world is. Does he think rationality is only true for the world of science and not for religion? Why does he think that?

Also, all of us enjoy being with a good listener who asks good questions and lets us present a thoughtful answer. **It is important to let our friends think out loud to us, and to be a good listener for that purpose.**

True Spirituality accepts a unified field of knowledge

It is really VERY GOOD NEWS that the field of knowledge is NOT divided. It is very good news that it is possible to KNOW things about God. He has given us numerous ways to find out. In and of itself, that is a lovely thing. He gave us physical laws for governing the universe, so that the universe itself “makes sense.” He gave us minds to comprehend reality.

True Spirituality accepts a unified field of knowledge

He gave us a book with truths we can check for accuracy, set in history, and with outside validation from history and archaeology.

We can check it for internal accuracy. We can check it for copyist accuracy. AND IT ALL CHECKS OUT!!!! The differences are trivial, and the consistencies are huge.

It tells us everything we need to know to be able to find God and to find the solution to our most basic dilemmas.

And we don't have to park our minds at the door.

True Spirituality accepts a unified field of knowledge



True Spirituality accepts a unified field of knowledge

After we collect evidence, the Next Step is
examination of various
forms of evidence, and

Rule out Other Explanations of Reality:
Modernism, Postmodernism, Other
Religious Worldviews

True Spirituality accepts a unified field of knowledge

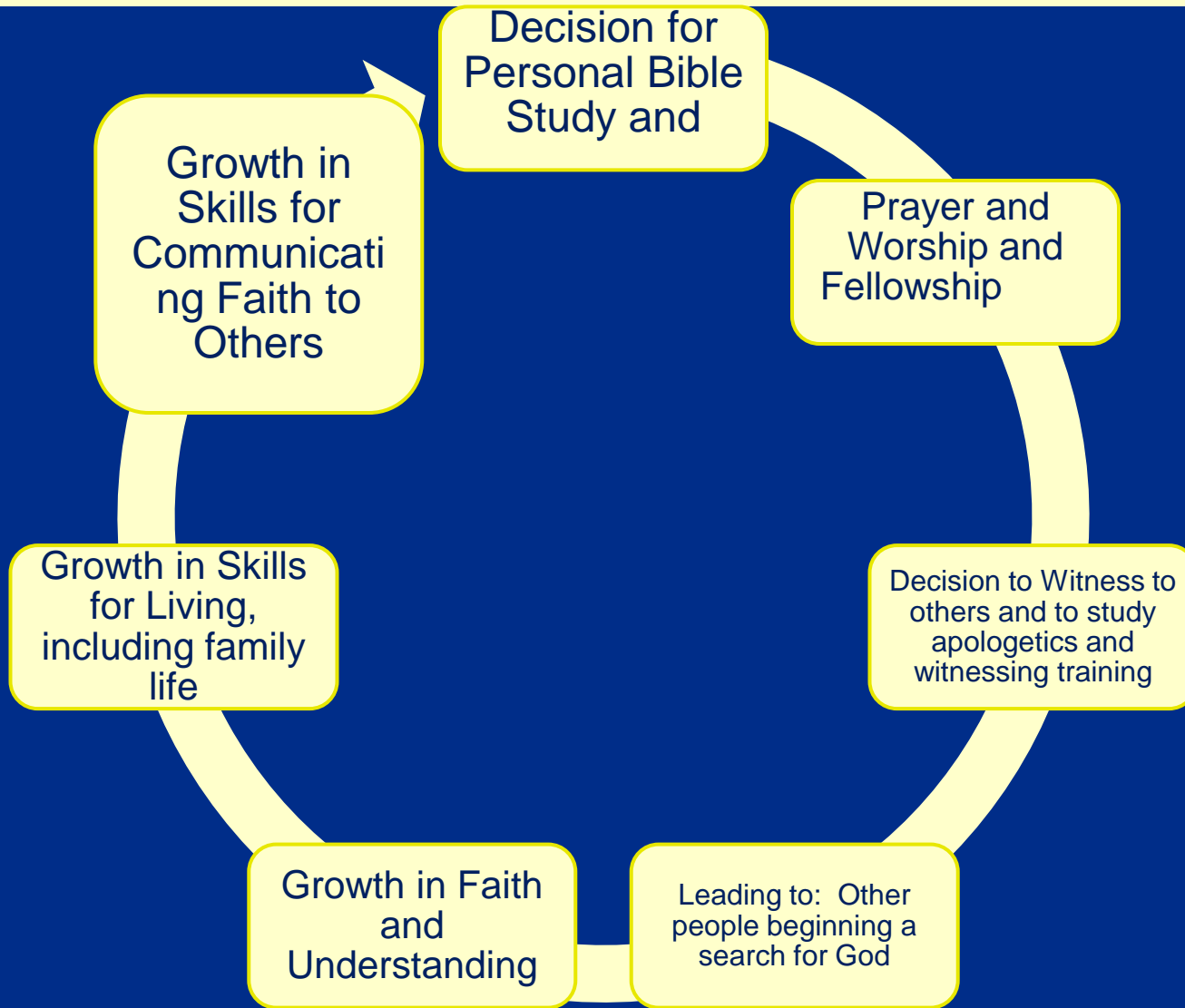
Then we Come to a Conclusion about the Truth of the Plan of Salvation:

- Repentance
- Atonement
- Trust

Then the decision for

- Whole-Hearted Commitment
- Salvation from Sins
- Eternal Life

True Spirituality accepts a unified field of knowledge



God really exists and we can know about Him, by using our minds.

It is possible, with diligent searching, to KNOW that God exists, and to KNOW that He is GOOD. We can know those important matters because God wants us to know, and He gave us a Bible to let us know. Can we know them airtight 100% without a shadow of a doubt? Ah, that is the question I am brave enough to answer YES, and almost nobody else will say that. There comes a point when it is very obvious that the Bible's answers are correct.

God really exists and we can know about Him, by using our minds.

At that point, it is impossible not to believe the facts. But that is only the surface of the problem. The core of the problem is that we are afraid to commit. We are afraid it will cost us something. And it will. But it does not cost what we think, ahead of time, that it will cost.

God really exists and we can know about Him, by using our minds.

We think ahead of time something like, “If I place my life in God’s hands, He will make me do what I do not want to do, like BE NICE ALL THE TIME, or NEVER have any fun, or never get to make my own decisions, or be a drudge and never complain, or go to India and work with lepers.”

God really exists and we can know about Him, by using our minds.

What it really costs is something that seems impossible from the outside. It costs forgetting about ourselves and doing the next good thing that brings—as a surprise side effect—real fulfillment. Sometimes the next good thing is big, and sometimes it is very small. And sometimes it is really fun. And sometimes it is really hard. And God's Holy Spirit supplies the power.

So: What can we do to get the message out?

Can we begin to set up venues for discussion?

Can we think of the practical next step?

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 Lesson 12 Day 1

- Read Colossians 4:2-18.
- What are we to devote ourselves to? With what attitude?
- What are some things to pray for?
- What are goals for witnessing?
- Paul gives various comments about friends and co-workers. What are some of the gracious words he uses to describe them?

Homework Lesson 12 Day 1

- Read Section Four Chapter Three in THE GOD WHO IS THERE -- “Applying the Gospel.”
- For whom is pre-evangelism necessary?
- What are some of the pitfalls of pre-evangelism?
- Which is likely to take more time, pre-evangelism or evangelism?

Homework Lesson 12 Day 1

- Once the individual has realized the gospel is true, and once he is willing to hear how to overcome his guilt, what point does Schaeffer make about actual evangelism?
- What does Schaeffer say is the true basis for faith?
- What are the four crucial aspects of saving faith?
- What are the four disciplines that will help you fulfill your calling as a Christian?

Homework Lesson 12 Day 2

- Read Proverbs 22: 12-29. Proverbs is organized in a way that seems disorganized. Topics are posted seemingly at random, but follow repeated themes. This is a book of wisdom, intended for the next generation as they reach adolescence. It is not so much a book of promises as a book of probabilities about the way the world works and the kinds of people one will encounter in everyday life.
- In verse 12, what attitude does God have toward true knowledge?

Homework Lesson 12 Day 2

- In verse 17 and 18, what is required on our part to have true knowledge?
- In verses 20-21, what are God's purposes for true knowledge?
- Verses 16 and 22-23 are about God's attitude toward human oppression. Describe His attitude.
- Which two groups of people are we urged to avoid in verses 24 through 27?

Homework Lesson 12 Day 2

- What is verse 28 telling us to avoid?
- What is likely to happen to the individual who is skilled in his work?
- Read Section Five Chapter One in THE GOD WHO IS THERE -- “Commending the Christian Faith to Our Generation.”
- What are the two purposes of Christian apologetics and how do they compare to the three purposes of learning true knowledge in Proverbs 22: 20-21? Why does Schaeffer see a special urgency to communicate apologetics to young people of high school and college age?

Homework Lesson 12 Day 2

- Read John 20:30-31. Why did the apostle John document in his gospel certain of the signs that Jesus did?
- What three things did Schaeffer say were important about the order in these verses?
- If it were not so, God would be acting against His own character if He judged anyone for failing to believe in Him and for choosing the wrong belief system. If He gave no reasons to believe, how could he fault an idolater for making a different choice?

Homework Lesson 12 Day 2

- Because He has given reasons, both in the world around us and in His word, and because He also has given us minds to understand, we are responsible to search for truth and to believe truth. He has a right to judge if we refuse to love truth and if we refuse the search and if we choose based on our own convenience instead of truth.
- Romans 2 tells His bases for judging. How important does this make the search for truth? How important does it make the human conscience? How important does it make human knowledge?

Homework Lesson 12 Day 3

- Read John 3:12-21 and II Thessalonians 2:1-12.
- What does loving truth have to do with eternal salvation as opposed to a destiny of doom?
- Verse 10 of II Thessalonians 2 implies that love of the truth is a gift which we can accept or refuse. Who gives that gift?
- We perceive truth by using our minds. Our emotions are part of the equation, but an emotional attraction to an idea is not a sufficient reason to believe it. Our minds must have reasons to believe as well.

Homework Lesson 12 Day 3

- To believe what is false without searching for truth is a serious mistake. In verse 3 of II Thessalonians chapter 2, the word apostasy refers to nominal Christians who will also fall away, into believing in the ultimate false messiah, because they do not love the truth.
- This brings up the question of who is a real Christian as opposed to a nominal Christian? The key to finding a real Christian is finding someone who has been transformed by the power of Christ in the reality of who he is and in the reality of Who Christ is. Christ sends His Holy Spirit into our hearts to change us - to make us a new creation conformed to His image, not conformed to the world's image of what a person should be.

Homework Lesson 12 Day 3

- That transformation will change our thinking -- not just our momentary feelings.
- We have already in this course discussed the important steps to that transformation: Seeking God with all the heart; loving truth; searching for the truth about Jesus; understanding why He died to pay for our sins; believing that He is indeed infinite God and completely Human and the only One who could pay for all sins for all time. Repenting of our sins and seeking His forgiveness on the basis of the huge price He paid on our behalf. Receiving His Lordship over our lives and receiving His Holy Spirit into our lives.

Homework Lesson 12 Day 3

- He then transforms us by the continuing process of renewing of our minds, as we are fully committed to live for Him -- according to Romans 12:1-2. The mind is fully engaged in the process.
- We must fully trust Him with our present lives and our eternal future. It is a joy to trust Him because He is worthy of our complete confidence, forever. Many people who think they are Christians may be only part way through the process of finding out what is required—a reason to continue to seek truth and examine your heart and be patient with other people.

Homework Lesson 12 Day 3

- There is a moment of transformation that involves prayer, of calling on the Lord to ask for the gifts of forgiveness and eternal life and transformation that He offers. The other elements listed above need to be present as well in the understanding of the one who is praying.
- God sees the heart, and the thoughts and the intentions of the heart are open to Him, so He understands the prayer and all the thoughts behind it. It is a step of asking to belong to Him instead of ourselves, of asking to be in perfect accord with the purpose He has for our lives, trusting Him because he is completely good.

Homework Lesson 12 Day 3

- Read Section Five Chapter Two in THE GOD WHO IS THERE -- “The Importance of Truth.”
- Describe what you think Schaeffer means when he says, “Truth stands before conversion.”
- Schaeffer believes the Bible is true. He says that truth is farther back than the Bible. What does he mean?
- Schaeffer relates the first commandment, both in Deuteronomy and in Jesus’ teaching, as the commandment that tells us our purpose in life. What is that purpose?