

WitnessKit 3
God And Religions

Class 3 The Logical
Funnel into Illogic, and
The Effects of
Postmodernism on Culture

A Verse to Remember:

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.)

The Importance of Thinking!

Another way to say this:

- ***Don't let the world force your thinking into its mold! Instead, be transformed by renewing your mind. That way you can demonstrate God's good and perfect and acceptable will for your life.***

So how do we renew our minds?

- By staying in God's word.

John 8:31b-32 Jesus said, “I

You abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”

Truth Matches Reality

- One of the benefits of a Biblical worldview is the ability to see truth and be confident of truth's existence.
- Truth sets free.
- Postmodernism longs for freedom, but cannot find the kind of truth that sets free.
- Relativistic truth cannot match reality consistently, and cannot set free.

Staying in God's Word

- This needs to be a scheduled habit. The Bible offers a minimum required model—Sabbath Keeping. One day per week set aside for God and rest.
- It provides a royalty model—DAILY pursuit of God through His word, including copying His word by hand to remember it.
- Royalty would be expected to have busy schedules. Busy schedules make God's word MORE important. Why? Less time to think about it. So the time must be more deliberate.

The World has a new mold for your mind.

- The new mold, or worldview, is Postmodernism.
- We want to be able to compare and contrast this mold with the transforming word of God.
- Sometimes we slide into the world's mold without even thinking about it. We must think carefully to notice God's mold, so that we can choose to stay in it, instead.

"When I write a word," Humpty

Dumpty said in a rather scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less."

"The question is," said Alice, "Whether you CAN make words mean so many different things."

"The question is," said Humpty Dumpty, "which is to be MASTER—that's all."

(From THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS by Lewis Carroll)

In Postmodernism,

The GROUP is Humpty Dumpty.
The GROUP defines the words.
The whole of reality becomes a
question of which GROUP is
MASTER.

If objective truth exists

Then Postmodernism is a lie.

If objective truth does not exist

No such thing as evidence exists either.

Everything is opinion, subjective, questionable. No truth=no facts.

- This has terrible implications for every area of life for the postmodernist.
- If no evidence exists, how does anyone convince a postmodernist to change his mind about anything?

Early Postmodern Thinking:

"I often wish ... that I could rid the world of the tyranny of facts. What are facts, but compromises? A fact merely marks the point where we have agreed to let the investigation cease."—Bliss Carmen in **THE ATLANTIC, 1906.**

Postmodern ideas are not new, but their power in the culture is new.

If everything is opinion, THEN

only opinions that truth exists can be called wrong.

And that is a self-contradictory statement. Because calling something wrong implies the existence of one objective truth—that calling everything opinion is right.

How do postmodernists handle

The self-contradictory nature of their
position?

Postmodernists Realize That Their

Position Is Self-contradictory.

- They embrace contradiction.
- **They take a “leap of faith” into illogic.**

The problem runs deeper than that...

- Postmodernists came to their position **through logic. We know that logic works in technology. Logic is real. Logic is as real as the circuits in a computer. Logic works in reality.**
- Logic needs universals. Searching for universals without a Source proved unsuccessful. Modernism denied any source by debunking the idea of God, and God's mind is the source for universals.
- So the **logic** that led to the postmodern position then must **die** because of the postmodern position. It is like a room with no doors or windows. The only direction out is up.
- We need God.

We NEED God. Making Sense of Reality demands acknowledging His existence.

- And not just any god. We need a GOOD GOD. A God who allows us real choices.
- We are back to Genesis again. A good Creator who allowed real choice on the part of human beings. Their choice against His good wishes allowed evil into the world.
- Only the answers in Genesis allow us to **LOGICALLY** believe in a **Good God** in spite of the **evil in the world**.
- Only a GOOD GOD is worthy of our trust.

God gave us logic. It works in the real world. It helps us make things.

- Logic forces modernism (without God) through the funnel into postmodernism, and postmodernism forces the person to accept illogic.
- The Genesis answer has to be the correct one. Logic has to be the way to go. Logic leads back to God.
- When there is only one way out of the abyss, take it.



Abyss of Illogic

This approach runs counter to

The universities' view of what an educated person will believe.

- Nevertheless, it is logically correct. We may be able to see that better if we examine postmodernism in specific areas.
- What does postmodernism do to art, to literature, to law, and to decision making and its corollaries
 - ▣ such as susceptibility to propaganda?

The existence of truth matters...

In the arenas under discussion.

The literary arena: How does one differentiate between fact and fiction? How does one deal with the intentions of an author if the reader constructs meaning from his own language grid?

The legal arena: How does one deal with facts and evidence in legal matters? Does postmodernism spell trouble for the rule of law?

The decision making arena: How does one decide what is the best course of action if objective truth is illusion?

We can understand the hazards of postmodern belief systems

Consequences of Postmodernism

By seeing the consequences of Postmodernism in

1. **Art**
2. **Literature**
3. **Law and**
4. **Decision making**

The Consequences of Postmodernism in Art

Art has historically been ahead of the philosophical curve. The Victorian era, with its focus on virtue, had artists who rejected all social ideas of virtue. They showed that rejection by rejecting even the hard edges of realistic drawings, to create artistic illusions of light. The universals were beginning to dissolve in the thinking of the artists long before the rest of the culture understood the problem.

In the early 20th century, the artists were beginning chance creations and abstractions, where reality itself was dissolved from their art.

Modern art was screaming

That without universals, art was meaningless. Reality was meaningless. Love was meaningless. Beauty was meaningless. Art could not express real meaning.

- People were part of the machine of the universe, without real choices. Thus, art could be as easily made by a pendulum swinging a paint can, as by a person.
- Picasso COULD paint beautifully. He could paint the real world very effectively. Instead, he painted philosophically for the most part.

Picasso said,

"We all know that Art is not truth. Art is a lie that makes us realize truth, at least the truth that is given us to understand."

As a modernist, Picasso was trying to EXTRACT the universals through his paintings by drifting away from representations of particulars. But then, the abstractions he created did not have meaning in and of themselves.

Modern Art and Postmodern Art Are Different From Each Other.

- Francis Schaeffer points out in one of his books that Picasso temporarily abandoned total abstraction *whenever he fell in love*, because he *felt some meaning in his life* at those points. He would write “*I love _____*” on his canvas at times.
- Modern art was rather similar even among different artists and schools. It was usually non-representational, abstract.
- Artists realized the viewer constructed his own meaning—a transition to postmodern thought.

Postmodern art *sometimes*

is less serious about itself than modern art.

Postmodern art has a diversity of flavors,

- from Andy Warhol laughing all the way to the bank by making prints of giant soup cans—because postmodernism **likes** pop culture—
- to political art—where art is used to “fight oppression,”
- to *chutzpah* art—where the “best” art is that which provokes the strongest audience response.

Postmodern Artists recognize

That Norman Rockwell was an artist—not just an “illustrator” as a modernist would say. He was an artist in the pop culture mode. His work tells a story, very much in keeping with postmodern ideas.

At the other extreme, postmodernists also recognize *chutzpah* artists whose purpose is to create the most GROSS audience response as art. In those cases, they think **we** are the barbarians for wanting to suppress that degradation. We are the “totalitarians” who want to impose our aesthetic sensibilities on their work (by refusing to pay for it with our tax dollars).

Postmodern Art is diverse and playful.

- Postmodern art covers a huge range of types. Almost anything can be called art.
- The good thing about this is—it creates an opening for artwork with real meaning and beauty.
- It also has openings for superficial, silly art, and, unfortunately, for degrading, depressing art.
- Having no sense of universal truths, postmodern art has no discernment beyond **style**.
- I will not go into some of the degrading materials listed in the textbook, other than to mention perhaps the most famous, and why they think it is art.

Postmodern Art Theory:

*The artist creates only **part** of the meaning,*

and his or her intentions are not particularly important. The **audience** creates the meaning from the work of art.

So in one sense, the “best art” is that which creates the “strongest meaning” for the audience, without regard to traditional measures of art such as beauty or loveliness. **Outrage** is just as good a response as awe (in postmodern eyes) —perhaps “better” because it is stronger.

Postmodern Art Theory

- Art which tweaks the nose of the dominant cultural groups for the purpose of validating outsider groups is GREAT ART in postmodern theory.
- The dominant cultural groups are “being oppressive” if they refuse to pay via taxes to have their noses tweaked. “They just don’t understand art!”
- Thus the National Endowment for the Arts can spend your tax dollars on a picture of a crucifix submerged in urine, but NOT on a picture of someone praying in front of a crucifix.

Postmodern Art Theory

- If the former is propaganda **protest artwork for the oppressed group** called homosexuals, it becomes theoretically fine art. (It fights oppression by creating oppression—humiliating religious believers at taxpayer expense.)
- It also provokes strong emotions, and THAT makes it fine art.
- It denies universals such as the Ten Commandments which require respect for God and a search for Him, so that fits the Postmodernist beliefs.
- The idea of someone praying before a crucifix is a **religious picture** and is not eligible for funding.
- The playing field is **not level**.

Postmodern Art Theory

- Art is a cultural construct according to the theories of Postmodernism. **Groups construct art** according to their closed language system of understanding reality. So art is inextricably intertwined with **group identity**.
- Art is, therefore, a useful tool for protest against oppression. So art **as propaganda** is fine art.
- When someone protests it, that makes it **even better** art that is doing its job!
- And if the “oppressors” have to pay for the art, that is **even better** in the postmodernists’ eyes.

Without a sense of universals

There can be no sense of fairness.

So postmodernism is nice in that it

- Recognizes Norman Rockwell, and has openings for very lovely or meaningful work.
- But it is **EMPHATICALLY NOT NICE** when it despises what is good and lovely and true, and trades it for ugliness and wickedness where group power struggles are involved.
- It does that because it denies the existence of transcendent truths such as “Beauty is better than ugliness. Righteousness is better than wickedness. Right and wrong exist.”

Postmodernism

- Defines right and wrong in terms of fighting oppression.
- Postmodernists can feel righteous about an insult to Christ, in the name of protesting oppression, even though they are offending the One who cares more for their souls than anyone else, the One whose righteousness is the true standard for right and wrong.
- Fighting oppression, without universals, is not an adequate base for defining right and wrong.

Is Fighting Oppression

- Appropriate for art? Some works by Goya would qualify as art in that category.
- Does art have to be beautiful? No. It can have a message that is not beautiful.
 - But there is a vast difference between fighting real oppression and tweaking noses.
 - There is a vast difference between presenting a message and just being gross for the purpose of audience reaction.
 - Postmodernism has no way to tell the difference.

Something to Pray for Regarding Art...

- Pray for talented believers to create lovely and meaningful art that will reveal God's glory and communicate truth to the artistic community.
- The need exists, and the opening exists, and many people love to create beautiful works.
- God is creative, and He gives some of us those kinds of gifts. We need to be persistent and use those talents for the best of purposes.

We can understand the hazards of postmodern belief systems

Consequences of Postmodernism

By seeing the consequences of Postmodernism in

1. Art
2. **Literature**
3. Law and
4. Decision making

The Consequences of Postmodernism on Literature

Postmodernism began as a **literary theory**.

It deteriorated into

- formula books. They sell!
- And souped-up comic books called graphic novels.
- And magical realism, where ordinary people go about their tasks oblivious to visible supernatural things going on around them. (Each person has his or her own reality.)
- And meta-fiction, where interaction between readers and writer is presented as part of the story line.

The Consequences of Postmodernism on Literature

Because postmodernists see reality as “story”

They are happy to deconstruct laws, institutions, and moral traditions just as easily as grammar, or the structures and conventions of a novel.

In doing so, they have to some degree deconstructed Literature as a field. So now, nobody knows what is “good” literature. A graphic novel/comic book is just as fine as Jane Austen’s novels.

The Consequences of Postmodernism on Literature

Dead white males, those oppressors, have nothing to say in a new postmodern world. So the great literature of the West is suspected rather than revered, since it was written by such (formerly alive) white males. Shakespeare was a consummate “bigot.”

The Consequences of Postmodernism on Literature

- The overall result is freedom to experiment BUT without any depth or discernment.
- The riches of English literature get chewed up and swallowed or spit out by deconstruction, and everyone is poorer.
- The freedom to experiment with any story may be a poor trade for the riches that are left on the deconstruction cutting room floor.

The Consequences of Postmodernism on Literature

- Literature reaches the masses by way of television. Good writers are at the top of their field.
- The last few seasons of television, much of the programming is dull and lifeless, without any real story. Reality shows and contests follow one another, but few new engaging comedies and dramas reach the airwaves.
- The comedies and dramas that air are hard to watch.

The Consequences of Postmodernism on Literature

- The new writers try more and more scandalous material, but it is actually dull and predictable and shallow.
- Old programs are refreshing by comparison to the new stuff.
- By practicing so much deconstruction, the writing field has lost some of its ability to tell a good story.

Reader Response Criticism

- Because Postmodernism focuses on the creation of meaning by the individual within a group,
- Literary Postmodernism touts **Reader Response Criticism.**
- They claim that the actual meaning in a text is created by the reader, NOT by the author. The reader creates his or her meaning from his or her own language grid.

Since authority is thought to always be oppressive in Postmodernism

- The authority of the author of a text is treated as unimportant.
- Shakespeare's intentions have nothing to do with the meaning of the texts he wrote. Rather, he is the vehicle for expressing the oppression of his age.
- So here we see the great themes in literature treated with cynicism, and lost.
- We see the beauty of the written word torn to bits and lost.
- There is a sense of impoverishment in those losses.

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Enlightenment Theists

- Tend to view the Constitution as built upon certain moral universals, sometimes called natural law. They view the Constitution as a fixed document with enumerated steps for amendment.
- They believe in persuading lawmakers to make laws compatible with overarching moral standards. Good laws are compatible with moral universals.
- They usually believe in the right to life of individuals, even before birth, and that matters such as when life begins are defined in God's mind, as Creator of life.

Modernists

- Tend to replace moral universals with arbitrary law.
- Law and custom define the national consensus about boundaries, in their view.
- Abortion on demand became legal in the modernist era, and many people allowed **legal** to define **moral**, rather than seeing morals as above legality. So legalizing abortion led to massively larger numbers of abortions per year. The conscience of the nation became less sensitive to the suffering of the unborn.
- Modernists tend to see the Constitution as arbitrary, but fixed.

Postmodernists

Do not believe in any overarching moral laws.

- Postmodernists do not see laws as fixed boundaries, but as subjects for modification by groups using power plays.
- In Postmodernism, everything is in flux.
- “Majority rule” holds no moral authority, because all majority rule is seen as oppressive.
- Minority rights are seen as holding moral authority, to get rid of oppression.

The Consequences of Postmodernism on Law

- The first consequence is well under way. The postmodernists tend to use the courts to override the voters on all kinds of issues. It is much easier to persuade a few judges than the whole electorate, and the decisions are binding on the whole.
- Postmodernists feel no responsibility to abide by decisions with which they disagree, however.
- Judges tend to be persuadable modernists so far, although that may change soon. They tend to believe in the existence of truth, and at least some universals—some degree of “natural law.”

The Consequences of Postmodernism on Law

- However, the law schools are very much aware of and teaching the use of deconstruction. The law schools are very opposed to the idea of MORAL universals.
- So the law schools are facilitating a descent into postmodern law.
- (What makes this more likely is the sense of *being on the moral high ground* that people adopt along with Postmodernism. Modernism does not have that sense, and **that sense drives change.**)

The Consequences of Postmodernism on Law

- If there are no universal principles, law is composed entirely of compromise and power plays.
- Evidence is just opinion **if** truth is a group construct. How can perjury be prevented if truth does not exist?

The Consequences of Postmodernism on Law

- Evidence faking is permissible if one's group approves. If no objective truth exists, what is wrong with juicing up the evidence? So we see a glove placed at the crime scene by an investigator, and no visible punishment for the investigator when the faking is discovered.

(The Bible gives God's opinion about evidence faking...

- Deuteronomy 19:15-21 The person trying to harm someone else through false witness in court gets the penalty he was seeking for the other person.
- Do you see how a Biblical worldview prevents injustice?
- Do you see the reciprocal nature of universals in this example?)

The Consequences of Postmodernism on Law

- Students in law school are taught to argue every side of a case, and they **must** be taught that skill, for the system to work.
- Moral universals and a belief in objective truth are necessary for a student to come to a good conclusion **after** arguing all sides.
- All sides are not equal, because facts are real.

The Consequences of Postmodernism on Law

- If students are taught postmodernism, they will not be able to come to a good conclusion or to act with integrity later in the workplace.
- Financial incentives can more easily override guilt and innocence in a world where truth does not exist.
- Group rights can override justice in a world where individual justice does not exist.
- Everyone needs a moral compass, not just law. Postmodernism says there is no compass.

The Consequences of Postmodernism on Law

- A jury that “embraces contradiction” is unlikely to reach a just decision.
- The tool of logical non-contradiction enables the truth to be found, **and truth is necessary for justice.**
- A jury that believes in group identity will not be able to differentiate group norms from actual right and wrong in the law. Or they may rule unjustly for the purpose of group statistics and group fairness.

What if the facts cannot be found with certainty?

- Justice in America was built on a standard of presumed innocence until PROVEN guilty. If the facts cannot be found with certainty, the person is acquitted.
- How does evidence faking work in such a system? It destroys the presumption of innocence. The innocent person has to prove innocence in the face of false evidence.
- Evidence faking places the execution of justice in the hands of a deceiver, and truth falls to the ground, and justice dies.

Of These 3 Views of Justice, which one matches Postmodernism?

1. Clarence Darrow: “There is no such thing as justice—in or out of court.”
2. Martin Luther King Jr.: “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”
3. Blaise Pascal: “Justice without force is powerless; force without justice is tyrannical.”

Answer: A Postmodernist View

Clarence Darrow: “There is no such thing as justice—in or out of court.”

What does Blaise Pascal's Quote say about Postmodernism?

- Blaise Pascal: “Justice without force is powerless; force without justice is tyrannical.”

The Consequences of Postmodernism on Law

- Postmodernism has no answer for tribal feuds, because it has no overarching moral universals that are binding on all individuals. This brings in more implications in law.
- “Group justice” and individual justice are not the same thing.
- Tribal feuds have no endpoint in and of themselves.

The Consequences of Postmodernism on Law

- Postmodernism has no way to counter a desire for group law, if a group wants to have its own parallel legal system.
- We see this in Europe and Canada as Muslims request Shari'a law in their neighborhoods. Never mind that Shari'a eliminates all the hard-won rights of women to be treated equally with men in family court.

The Consequences of Postmodernism on Law

- Never mind if it sets up unofficial polygamy in those neighborhoods.
- So we can see that postmodernism holds the potential to fragment the legal system.
- We see very clearly in law that we **NEED** universals to bind the system together and to establish justice in the courts.

In 1973 at a committee hearing,
Gerald Ford said,

- “Truth is the glue that holds government together. Compromise is the oil that makes governments go.”

Where can postmodernism find any glue?

Charles Colson summed it up this way:

"Nowhere is the existence of an absolute standard more vital than in politics and government. In the West, nations built sound political structures on the belief that ultimately man's laws were to be but a reflection of God's immutable, moral laws. ...

But if there is no truth—no objective standards of what is good or just and, therefore, no standard of what is unjust—then the social contract is always threatened by the whim of the moment.

Charles Colson summed it up this way:

"And tyranny, either from the unrestrained passions of the majority or from a ruthless dictator, inevitably follows."

More than one path can lead to tyranny.

Tyranny can also follow from a group that assumes supremacist notions are good and which uses violence to get its way.

This means that “Equal rights under the law” must be upheld for all individuals—not for groups as groups. Where individual rights and groups rights conflict, **INDIVIDUAL** rights must trump.

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The Consequences of Postmodernism on Decision Making

Persuasion and propaganda and a basis for reaching a decision: How does a postmodern mindset tell the difference between propaganda and persuasion?

After all, postmodernism creates propaganda-style art and calls it good.

The Consequences of Postmodernism on Decision Making

How can the individual tell what is a **fair presentation of information** and what is a **deconstructed version that twists the facts?**

If deconstruction is a proper tool in postmodern thought,

- and there are no universals to set boundaries for the results,
- how can a postmodernist tell **fair** from **unfair**?

"When postmodernists say that

- *Life is a story, they do not mean, as the Christians did, that a story can be true;*
- *they mean that truth is only a **story.**"—Veith, page 130*
- So what can persuade a postmodernist, if to him, truth is only a story?

The Consequences of Postmodernism on Decision Making

- How does someone make decisions at all if he believes truth itself is just a social construct?
- **The answer often is “by his emotions.”**
- That answer takes us back to superstition and unreasoning group action. If a person is emotionally reactive to an astrologer, for instance, who has the right to tell that person not to follow such advice?

Postmodern decisions are “by the emotions.” Is that a good idea?

- If a person feels solidarity with a rioter, what is to prevent him from rioting? If someone feels annoyed with a spouse, what is to prevent divorce?
- If a postmodernist is making a big mistake, how does someone convince him to change his mind?
- **If facts and truth don't count, what does?**

The Bible teaches us that God is on the side of truth.

- A belief system that denies the existence of truth has to be going the wrong direction, and with many unintended consequences to follow.
 - We have seen that individuals are lost in postmodernism.
 - The nation can be lost, too, if postmodern ideas take the center.

The Funnel

- Remember that **logic** forced
- Modernism into the postmodernist abyss of illogic.
- Modernism did so **because it had no source for universals, without God.**



Illogic

Remember logic.

- The only direction back to logic is UP. Go back to the Good God of the Bible.
- A Biblical worldview *has* a source for universals, and they are **the same** universals that gave us our freedoms and our *E Pluribus Unum*—out of many, One Nation.
- **If postmodernism is open to all kinds of viewpoints, shouldn't THAT viewpoint be acceptable? Shouldn't we go to the trouble to learn how to defend that viewpoint?**

An Ancient Example

- The ancient nation of Israel in the Bible fell into an idolatry based on emotion, and truth was lost, described in Isaiah 59.
- God brought the nation through some very hard times in an effort to bring individuals back to Himself. And He did restore the nation. He always loved them and He always will love them.
 - We should pay attention to these things, because they are written for our examples. These matters are important to God as well as to us.

Isaiah 59 describes a time when truth was lost.

⁴ No one calls for justice, Nor does *any* plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity. ⁵ They hatch vipers' eggs and weave the spider's web; He who eats of their eggs dies, And *from* that which is crushed a viper breaks out.

Isaiah 59 describes a time when truth was lost.

⁶ Their webs will not become garments, Nor will they cover themselves with their works; Their works *are* works of iniquity, And the act of violence *is* in their hands. ⁷ Their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts *are* thoughts of iniquity; Wasting and destruction *are* in their paths. ⁸ The way of peace they have not known, And *there is* no justice in their ways;

Isaiah 59

They have made themselves crooked paths; Whoever takes that way shall not know peace. ⁹ Therefore justice is far from us, Nor does righteousness overtake us; We look for light, but there is darkness! For brightness, *but* we walk in blackness! ¹⁰ We grope for the wall like the blind, And we grope as if *we had* no eyes; We stumble at noonday as at twilight; *We are* as dead *men* in desolate places. ¹¹ We all growl like bears, And moan sadly like doves; We look for justice, but *there is* none; For salvation, *but* it is far from us.

Isaiah 59

¹² For our transgressions are multiplied before You, And our sins testify against us; For our transgressions *are* with us, And *as for* our iniquities, we know them: ¹³ In transgressing and lying against the LORD, And departing from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. ¹⁴ Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, And equity cannot enter. ¹⁵ So truth fails, And he *who* departs from evil makes himself a prey.

Isaiah 59

Then the LORD saw *it*, and it displeased Him That *there was* no justice. ¹⁶ He saw that *there was* no man, And wondered that *there was* no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him. ¹⁷ For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak. ¹⁸ According to *their* deeds, accordingly He will repay, Fury to His adversaries, Recompense to His enemies; The coastlands He will fully repay.

Isaiah 59

- ¹⁹ So shall they fear The name of the LORD from the west,
And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the
enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will
lift up a standard against him.
- ²⁰ "The Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn
from transgression in Jacob," Says the LORD. ²¹ "As for
Me," says the LORD, "this is My covenant with them: My
Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in
your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from
the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of
your descendants' descendants," says the LORD, "from
this time and forevermore." Isaiah 59:4-21 (NKJV)

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

In 3 Sets

Homework Class 3 Set 1

- Read Genesis 11:1-9 and Acts 2:1-47. What do the gift of the Holy Spirit and the gift of communication on the Day of Pentecost imply about God's wishes regarding fragmentation into language groups?
- POSTMODERN TIMES pages 106-120
- Why does Veith say "Postmodern political art consists largely of satire and indignation?"

Homework Class 3 Set 1

- How can postmodern architecture provide “a model for a positive postmodern aesthetic?”
- How does the fact that buildings, in order to be useful, must not fall down – how does this fact fly in the face of postmodern thought?
- How does the problem with modern architecture plus the problem with postmodern architecture point to the existence of old truths?
- Summarize the major points of “Babel Revisited.”

Homework Class 3 Set 2

- What method does Proverbs 18:17 suggest for learning truth from human beings who may be biased?
- POSTMODERN TIMES pages 121-133
- How does television blur the boundaries between reality and fiction?
- What was William Faulkner attempting to do by presenting one event from numerous different points of view?

Homework Class 3 Set 2

- What is a meta-fiction?
- What is the postmodernist view of the audience? Why do they hold this particular view?
- What is “magical realism?”

Homework Class 3 Set 2

The Biblical perspective on truth

- places **truth** on the side of God
- with all that is good,
 - ▣ and **deception** on the side of evil.

If the Bible is correct, what dangers to fellowship with God are posed by blurring reality into fiction, or accepting a worldview that says *that's all that is possible?*

Homework Class 3 Set 3

- Read Luke 12:1-59. What relative weight does Jesus Christ give to material pursuits versus spiritual pursuits?
- Read Acts 18:1-3 and II Corinthians 12:11-18. Is it acceptable to pursue material well-being for the purpose of being able to pursue spiritual matters?
- Read Luke 12:54-59. Does Jesus expect people to try to understand the times they live in?

Homework Class 3 Set 3

- Read POSTMODERN TIMES pages 133-148
- Why are formula fiction books popular?
- How are they impersonal or trivial?
- What is “new journalism?” How is it dishonest?
- What is “super realism?” How does it differ from the realism of the Old Masters?

Homework Class 3 Set 3

- How does “cultural relativism” level cultures and exaggerate the differences between them?
- What does this imply about the existence of universals “below the surface?”
- How does segmentation move politics from compromise to power games?