

1--THEOLOGY II -- LECTURE #2 GOD IS CREATED

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* Elephant--seeing the whole

* Review of presuppositions--naturalistic world view

PRACTICAL STEPS IN USING PRESUPPOSITIONS

1. Ask people to be objective to their presuppositions and follow them to their logical conclusions. You pick your room in the bldg. and force them to live with the consequences

* Everyone is prejudiced to some degree - but try to stay objective

2. Stay in one system while discussing it- Don't bounce around

* You can only look at the evidence, not absolutely prove anything
Evolution vs. Creationism- which system best fits the evidence?

3. Check for internal and external inconsistencies

* Why do people fear to die?

Example: pain is an illusion- pour hot water on him

4. Minister in the right spirit- value the person in God's image

bitterness- forgiveness

harshness-kindness

unbelief- faith

violence- self-control

fear-love

manipulation-servant hood

hostility- care

pride- humility

MORE ABOUT PRESUPPOSITIONS

John 6 The multitude gathered to hear Jesus

:5-6 John 1:45 "Philip found Nathanael and said to him,
'We have found Him of whom Moses said in the Law and also
the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph'".

Open and closed systems

A closed system will die an entropic death

Jesus sustains the open system

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* Jesus wanted to open Philip's eyes

:7-14 He wants to prove Himself to us

* A man's extremity is God's opportunity

Example: God fixed my watch in April 1981, Steve Q. gave it to me in 1975, (diver's watch).

John 9: 29-34 Simple faith of blind man vs. the pride of Pharisees

* Our world view must include both the natural and the Supernatural

The Two Realms

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Invisible - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 | 1. Visible |
| 2. Eternal- Genesis 1:1 | 2. Temp- Hebrews 1:10-12 |
| 3. Immaterial- John 4:24 | 3. Material- 2 Peter 3:8-13 |
| 4. Heavenly- 1 Corinthians 15:42-49 | 4. Earthly- John 3:12 |
| 5. Supernatural | 5. Natural |
| 6. All things are possible
Luke. 18:27 | 6. Limitations |

* The Bible shows a view of reality where there is both a natural and supernatural realm.

Today the scientific community recognizes the existence of another realm - psychic. And it will become more preeminent in the years to come.

In the post scientific area that we now live in clearly believes in and investigates the other world, but it does so not in a Biblical framework. Psychic and impersonal forces have replaced a personal force of evil.

Star Wars - "may the force be with you."

Examples:

- * 2 Kings 6:18-19
- Exodus 17:8-16
- Exodus 24:9-11
- Hebrews 12:1
- Luke 9:28-36
- John 1:51

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Acts 7:54-60

Acts 23:1-10

2 Corinthians 12:1-4

Christian as a mechanic

Change oil

Tune-up-

Minor repairs

Overhauls- complete rebuilding of personality

* God wants us to be equipped to tune race cars

FIRST ABSOLUTE OF WONDER

3 Absolutes of Wonder: The nature of God and reality

These absolutes of wonder are fundamental statements of the truth which God has chosen to reveal about Himself and His creation. Although we cannot prove or go beyond these statements, the logical evidence of nature, logical reasoning and the revelation of the scriptures all agree to the one fact that these fundamental principles are true. As we understand them we can compartmentalize all things we can observe into one of these areas. (Romans 1:16-20)

Wonder vs. Contradiction

Wonder: Things about God Himself that no matter how long you think about it, it will blow your mind; and will continue to do so in a billion years.

Contradiction: Light is darkness and darkness is light

1 Peter 1:10-12

* Angels don't get bored with God

* No law of diminishing returns- Satan's game

* Heroin example

* Heaven- an infinite book example

God is an intelligent God, creating an intelligent universe

Psalms 40:5 Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us (Your thoughts toward us) no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare." There is none to compare with Thee

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3 Absolutes of wonder

1. Statements about what God is like
2. These cannot be proven but must be accepted
3. The scripture asks us to believe them

#1 -- GOD IS UNCREATED

Metaphysics - nature of reality

The system of principles underlying a particular study which is composed of ontology and cosmology

Ontology- study related to the nature of being or existence

Cosmology- study of the universe as an orderly system of origins, structure, and space-time relationships

"STUFF"

God's stuff is different than all the other stuff in the universe

Chalk stuff

Chair stuff

Air stuff

Universe stuff

God's stuff had no beginning

Example: a child having difficulty in understanding that numbers have no end

Being

Eternal

Genesis 1:1 * What is the nature of reality- God

* He is the eternal reference point!

Taking a trip back in time: 50 years ago

100 years ago

500 years ago

1000 " "

Adam

Creation

Angels- created beings

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God-> He spoke His thoughts into existence! Matter resembles

* Picture God planning- Job 38:1-7 angels were in awe of God

God is the first cause of the universe!

- * Philosopher's wonder what was the beginning
Where did God come from? He didn't -- He's always been here!

Psalms 90:2 "Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God."

<-----> God

Profound difference between us and God

-----> Man

Mormon -- you will become a god, New Age--the god within

HAVING THE PROPER STARTING POINT

This image has been corrupted and lost

God's vital Fatherhood is seen to be the controlling and ultimate factor which determines all His activities

Where is our starting point?

- A- With the Father - (God's eternal Fatherhood)
- B- With the Creation- Genesis 1:1 (God as sovereign emphasis)
- C- With man- Genesis 1:28 (Governmental emphasis)
- D- With the Fall of man- (redemptive emphasis)
(man-centered emphasis)

Questions To Consider

1. Why is God the eternal reference point?
2. What did God do before the creation of angels, the creation of the universe, and man?
3. If man had not sinned, what would have happened? What would have been Jesus' role as the eternal Son?
4. What is God's eternal purpose for humankind?
5. Why does God have the right to rule man?

Isaiah 40:28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

Isaiah 43:10 "You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.

Isaiah 44:6 "This is what the LORD says-- Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.

* God is the A and the Z

Isaiah 48:12-16

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Revelation 4:8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

Colossians 1:15-17

* God's word holds atoms together

* men rebel against God even though He holds the bodies together

John 1:1-3

* If we are Christians, then we must believe what God has said about Himself

* False religions have two traps

1. Elevate man to divinity - Mormon

2. Lower God to the level of man- Humanism- man is center
Atheism

Two parallel lines

<-----> God is eternal
-----> People have a beginning

God the Father is uncreated and eternal

Jesus the son is uncreated and eternal

Holy Spirit is uncreated and eternal

* Cults deny that Jesus is uncreated:

Mormon, JW, The Way, Moonies, Christian Science

1 John 4:1-3 test the spirits!

SCRIPTURES SHOWING THAT CHRIST IS GOD

Philippians 2:9-11 Lord = kurios= absolute ruler

Exodus 20:3-5 only God can be worshipped

Revelation 22:8-9 angels refuse worship

Acts 10:25-26 don't worship me I'm just a man

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John 5:18 making himself equal with God

* Meeting with The Way, during testimony they laughed at the cross, afterwards, showed young man this verse, he saw it, leader got very angry, showed his colors, threw us out the door rudely

John 5:39-40 The Old Testament bears witness of Christ

Isaiah 6:1,5 Cross-reference to John 12:37-41

Jesus is Jehovah the King

Isaiah 7:14 Cross-reference to Matthew 1:23

Emmanuel is God with us

Isaiah 9:6 His name will be Mighty God

Isaiah 8:13-14 Cross-reference to 1 Peter 2:7-8

Jesus is the rock of offense

Micah 5:2 The ruler of Israel whose going forth is forever

Isaiah 45:18-23 Cross-reference to Philippians 2:10-11

Revelation 22:13 Cross-reference to Isaiah 48:12

Revelation 1:8,17

John 1:1-3 John 20 has definite articles in the Greek

John 20:28 Thomas calls Jesus, "My Lord and my God"

John 10:29-33 I and the Father are one. The east would have welcomed Jesus saying it in their pantheistic world view.

Hebrews 1:1-3, 8 The Son is addressed as O God

John 3:1-25 Woman caught in adultery

:12-23 God's stuff has no beginning => He is uncreated

◆ God speaking has more weight than a human

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Incarnation - uncreated God creates the universe, later takes on human form and enters the creation in a real human body, the only one He'll ever have.

:24 I AM

Exodus 3:1-6

:13 Moses asks a stupid question:
Who shall I say sent me?

* To what does the eternal uncreated God compare Himself?

* Infinite concept to a finite mind

:14 God's answer

Hebrew YHWH- unspoken for many centuries
(Take name in vain)

"I will be what I will be"

"I will be what I am"

To others, "He is who He is"

God says, "stick around and you'll find out"

:24-31 significance of the eternal word

:51-58 "You are looking at God"

John. 5:18 For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.