

BEING CONFIDENT IN THE FAITH



Theology Series: Epistemology
By Aaron S. Copeland

Can We Trust Our Knowledge?

- How can we know our beliefs are true?
- Should we trust our:
 - Gut instinct or common sense?
 - Senses of see, hear, taste, touch and smell to perceive the world around us?
 - Experience or tradition?
 - Sense of idealism?
- What is truth?
 - Is truth relative or absolute?
 - Does the end justify the means?
 - Who sets the standard to determine truth?
- Where does the search for truth even start?

Can We Trust Our Knowledge?

- What we believe will determine, for the most part, what we do
 - In other words, our ethics will determine our morality
 - Ethics or “Oughtness”
 - Ethics is what we ought or ought not to do
 - Morality
 - What we actually do
- What happens when ethics has no objective standard?
- How do we gain correct knowledge so that what we do is rooted in truth?

Epistemology: Definition

- Epistemology

- Definition (*Epi* + *Stem* + *Logy*): Discussion of what we stand upon (knowledge).

- Epi-* = upon

- Stem* = stand

- Logia* = to speak or discuss

- Children's Song (Revised)

- The B-I-B-L-E,

- Yes, that's the book for me.

- I stand upon the Word of God,

- Epistemology.

- BIBLE!

Epistemology: Definition

- Epistemology

- Definition (*Epi + Stem + Logy*): Discussion of what we stand upon (knowledge).

- Epi-* = upon

- Stem* = stand

- Logia* = to speak or discuss

- How can we verify propositions by believers and unbelievers? (Acts 17:10-12)

- What does the Bible assume to be true in order for it to make sense?

- The Bible is inspired— moved along by the Holy Spirit

- The Bible is inerrant— without error

- The Bible is infallible— without fault or weakness

- The Bible is sufficient— The Scriptures contain nothing less and nothing more than everything we need to live out our faith

- How important is this? (2 Tim. 3:14-17; 1 Pet. 3:15-16)

Epistemology: The Purpose

Why Bother with this stuff?? We seek to be transformed into thinking and acting like Christ.

- *Sh'ma Yisrael*: Deuteronomy 6:4-7

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: ⁵ And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might [Jesus says “mind” in Matt 22:37]. ⁶ And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thy heart: ⁷ And you shall teach them diligently unto thy children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up.

In other words, there is no higher activity of the mind than the pursuit of the knowledge of God

- The foundation required for obtaining knowledge: Proverbs 1:7

⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

- Obtaining knowledge transforms us only as we think soberly: Romans 12:2-3

² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

³ For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Epistemology: Caution

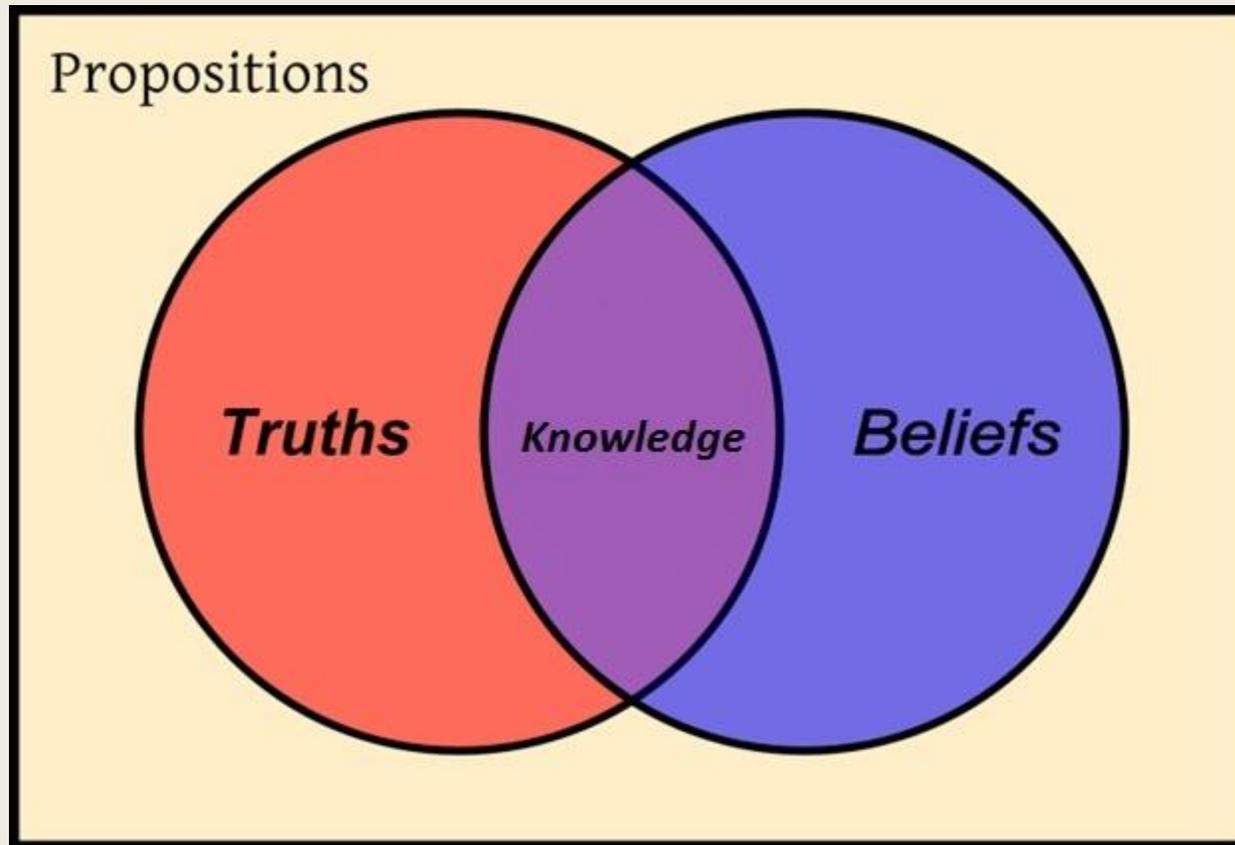
- **Caution!!**

- Epistemology is a tool used to glean truth from the Scriptures and the world around us.
- Good theology, while rooted in the Scriptures draws upon history, philosophy and science as tools for our understanding. This is allowed since God reveals Himself to us both in the Scriptures (special revelation) and in the world around us (general revelation).
- The Bible is not a textbook on epistemology! Let's keep the goal in mind; which is how we can obtain knowledge in keeping with the Word of God and the reality of the world around us...

In order to be transformed to think and act like Christ

Epistemology: Obtaining Knowledge

- Knowledge
 - Definition: A belief in a true proposition



Epistemology: Obtaining Knowledge

- Truth: Definition

- Definition: Truth is that which corresponds to reality relating the subject with the object and is coherent in its logic of the parts and its logic as a whole.
 - Correspondence: Truth relates the subject with the object (truth is objective about reality)
 - Coherence: Truth is logical in its flow of parts and as a whole

Example: Atheist attempt at disproving the deity of Jesus

Proposition 1: God cannot die.

Proposition 2: Jesus died.

Proposition 3: Therefore, Jesus is not God

- Is the argument coherent (logical in each part and as a whole)?
 - The logic is perfectly fine. ∴ It is coherent
- Does the argument have correspondence (properly relate the subject with the object)?
 - The dual nature of Jesus, as being both fully God and fully man, is neglected.
 - ∴ The subject, Jesus, does not correspond to the argument's object, God
 - ∴ The argument is false because it lacks correspondence.

Epistemology: Obtaining Knowledge

- Truth: “What is Truth?”

- Jesus is the “way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6)

- John 18:33-38a

33 Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

34 “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

35 “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

36 Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

37 “You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

38 “What is truth?” retorted Pilate.

Epistemology: Obtaining Knowledge

- Truth: What it Is
 - Truth is rooted in the eternal God who's all powerful and unchangeable (Jn 17:17).
 - Truth is far more than facts. It's not just something we act upon. It acts upon us. We can't change the truth, but the truth can change us. It sanctifies (sets us apart) from the falsehoods woven into our sin natures.
 - As Christ the living Word is truth, so his written word is truth. Though heaven and earth will pass away, God's truth never will.
 - Truth is reality. It's the way things really are. What seems to be and what really is are often not the same.
 - God has written His truth on human hearts, in the conscience (Romans 2:15)

Epistemology: Obtaining Knowledge

- Truth: What it Is
 - Truth is far more than a moral guide. Jesus declared, “I am the way, the truth and the life; no man comes to the Father but by Me” (John 14:6).
 - He didn’t say He would show the truth or teach the truth or model the truth.
 - He is the truth. Truth personified. He is the source of all truth, the embodiment of truth and therefore the reference point for evaluating all truth-claims.
 - Truth leads to transformation.

“For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” 3 John 3:3-4

Epistemology: Obtaining Knowledge

- Truth: What it Isn't

- Truth is not relative

- Relativism: Esthetics, ethics, and standards of reasoning are relative to a given framework of assessment (such as cultural norms or individual standards).
 - Relativism was founded by the ancient Greek Sophists around 550 BC. The famous Sophist, Protagoras said:

“Man is the measure of all things: of things which are, that they are, and of things which are not, that they are not.”

“What is true for you is true for you, and what is true for me is true for me”

- Examples:

- Ugliness of contemporary art and architecture
 - Obvious moral wrongs are acceptable due to a difference in culture

Epistemology: Obtaining Knowledge

- Truth: What it Isn't
 - Truth is not pragmatic
 - Pragmatism: A truth claim is true if and only if it is useful (works satisfactorily), and all unpractical ideas are to be rejected.
 - Pragmatism was developed in the USA by Charles Peirce around 1870.
 - It emphasizes human experience rather than representing people and nature with facts.
 - The ends justify the means.
 - Examples:
 - The argument for embryonic stem cell research from aborted babies is pragmatic
 - Political problems are usually approached pragmatically rather than ideologically

Epistemology: Obtaining Knowledge

- Truth: Sources and Application

- Five sources of truth (Dt 32:4; Jn 14:6; 14:17; 17:17; Rm 1:18-20)

- Father (Deut. 32:4)
- Jesus (John 14:6)
- Holy Spirit (John 14:17)
- Scriptures (John 17:17): Special Revelation
- Creation (Rom. 1:18-20): General Revelation

- We are made in the image of God, *imago Dei* (Gen 1:27)

- This allows us to learn God's truths
- Endowed with reason, basic reliability of our senses, a sense of being, a conscience (sense of ethics), language, and esthetics (beauty in art, music, etc.)

- Christians are commanded to:

- Walk in truth (3 Jn 1:3)
- Love the truth and believe the truth (2 Thess 2:10-12)
- Speak the truth in love (Eph 4:32)

- How important is truth? (2 Tim. 3:14-17; 1 Pet. 3:15-16)

Epistemology: Obtaining Knowledge

- Knowledge without Faith

- Knowledge + Lack of Faith or Trust = Knowledge with Disobedience of the Law
 - Where lack of faith ~ Disobedience (Hebrews 3:15-19; 4:2)
 - Many self-proclaimed Christians are unstable souls due to living in contradiction (disobedience) with the knowledge they have.
 - They are double minded and full of doubt (Jas 4:8)
 - They are tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine (Eph 4:14)
 - They are easily deceived by false teachers (2 Pet 2:14; 3:16)
 - Marked by traits of acting out of passion, no forethought, strongly influenced by others, constantly fluctuating, having a divided allegiance, and are not dependable
 - Their knowledge is useless because they have rejected it (Hosea 4:6)
 - Notice that rejection of knowledge leads to disobeying God's laws (v. 6 cf 7)
 - Rejection of knowledge is equivalent to unfaithfulness, prostitution, and adultery (v. 12)
 - Rejection of knowledge leads to increasing lack of blessings (v. 10), lack of relationship with God (v. 12c), lack understanding (v. 11), and ends in destruction (v. 14g)

Epistemology: Obtaining Knowledge

- Knowledge with Faith

- Knowledge + Faith = Knowledge with obedience of the Law

- Where faith ~ Obedience (Hebrews 4:3 cf. 4:2)

- Christian maturity is marked by stability

- They are rooted and grounded in their commitment to Christ. They are faithful whenever some major or minor problem confronts them

- » Grounded in love (Eph 3:17)

- » Love for God is 1st and foremost (Matt 22:37)

- Faith begets the application of knowledge, which is obedience, in our lives (Colossians 1:9-10)

- The disciple's path is knowledge + obedience (Isaiah 35:8-10)

Knowledge + Obedience -> Increased Faith -> Gladness and Joy

- Eph. 4:17-32 compare verse 23 with Romans 12:1-2

<http://www.truthmagazine.com/archives/volume24/TM024238.html>

“Does it really matter how many die or how much money we spend in opening closed doors if we really believe that missions are warfare and that the King's glory is at stake?” – Samuel Zwemer, missionary to the Muslims 1876-1952

The *School of Athens* by— Raphael (AD 1510)

THE STARTING POINT OF TRUTH

Where in all of creation is the starting point of truth?

Epistemology: The Starting Point of Truth

- Where should the search for ultimate truth and meaning begin?
 - The ancient Greek philosophers up to the philosophers of the present day are consumed with how to know truth. Their investigations have seemingly searched the entirety of the universe and of the human mind.
 - Plato regarded truth as something transcending nature itself to be regarded in the rational reasoning of the human mind
 - Aristotle thought truth was not transcendent of nature. It is all around in nature us and can be discovered through our senses and through our experiences.

Epistemology: The Starting Point of Truth

Where should the search for ultimate truth and meaning begin?

Plato (427-347 BC)

- Rationalist (based on reason)
- This painting of Plato, by Raphael, is a portrait of Leonardo da Vinci
- A pupil of Socrates, Plato taught Aristotle
- Holds copy of *Timaeus*
- Gestures upward to the spiritual realm of the eternal forms
- Plato's attire of red and white was painted to represent fire and air—or the transcendent truth realm of forms



Aristotle (384-322 BC)

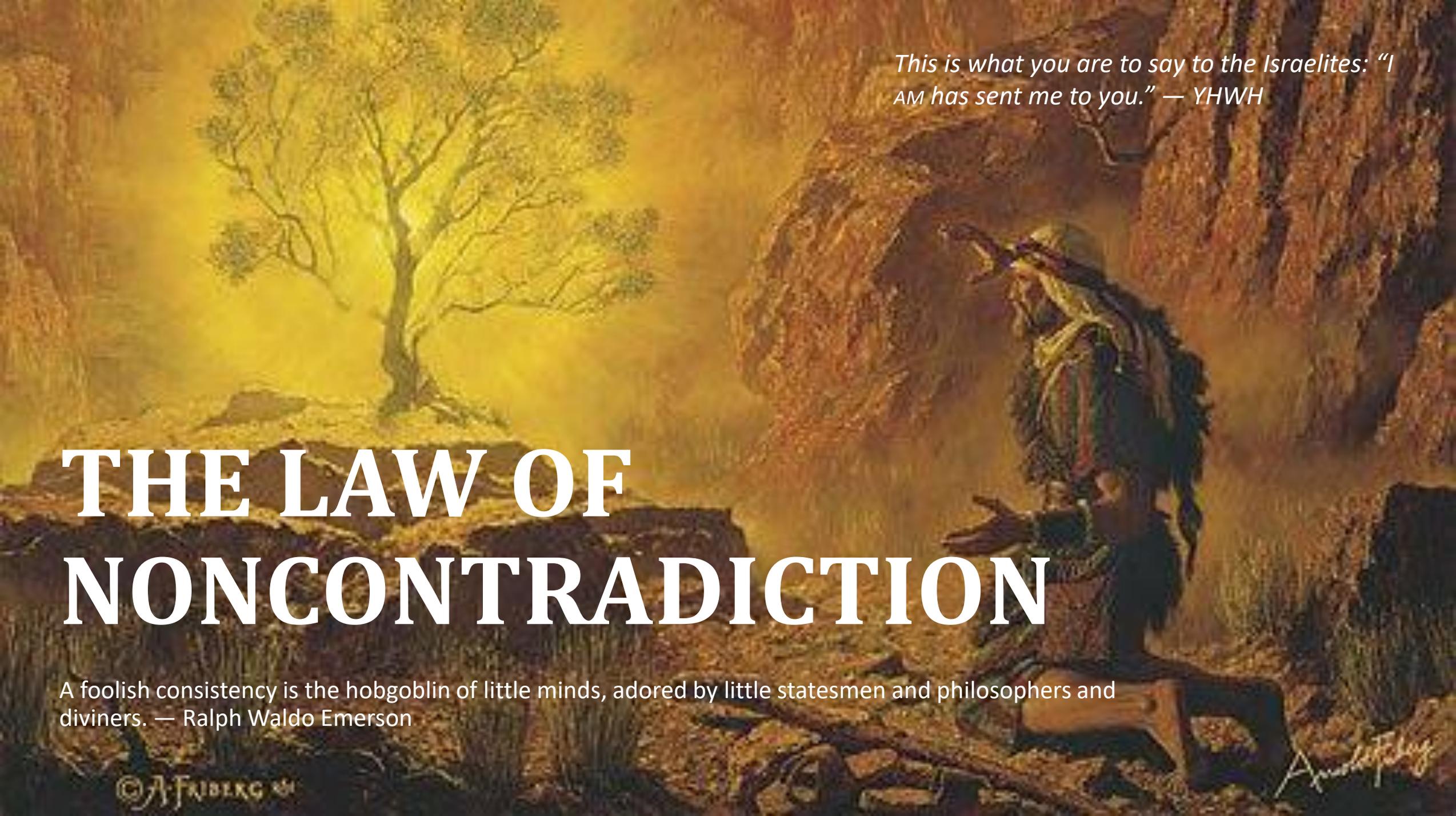
- Empiricist (based on experience)
- He taught Alexander the Great
- Holds his copy of *Nicomachean Ethics*
- Stretches his hand downward to gesture the worldliness, and concreteness, of his contributions to philosophy
- Aristotle's attire of blue and brown was painted to represent water and earth—or the empirical truth of nature found through our senses

Epistemology: The Starting Point of Truth

- Two Presuppositions for Obtaining Knowledge
 - How can we verify or falsify propositions (truth claims)?
 - Rationalism: Thinking about things using logic and reason
 - Developed by Plato
 - Our reasoning allows us to consider God and His Character
 - Mathematics depends on logic and reason
 - Uses logic of deduction (general to specific)
 - Empiricism: Experiencing things using our senses (hear, see, taste, touch, smell)
 - Developed by Aristotle
 - Our senses allows us to interact with God's creation and His Magnificence
 - Scientific Method depends on empirical evidence or data
 - » Experimentation consists of what can be sensed or experienced in observation, testing, and repetition
 - » Empiricism is the core presupposition behind all of science
 - Uses logic of induction (specific to general)

Epistemology: Four Principles

- 4 principles required for knowledge
 1. The Law of Noncontradiction
 2. The Law of Causality
 3. The basic reliability of sense perception
 4. The analogical use of language
- The Bible presupposes these principles in communicating truth to those that would listen.
 - Since the Bible is God's Word, these presuppositions are found in God Himself.
 - Since we are made in the *imago Dei*, these presuppositions are endowed to us as well. In other words God made us reasonable, sensing, and with the ability to communicate so we can understand Him.
 - Contributions of John Stuart Mill, Karl Marx, Jean-Paul Sartre, Albert Camus, and Walter Kaufmann



This is what you are to say to the Israelites: “I AM has sent me to you.” — YHWH

THE LAW OF NONCONTRADICTION

A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and diviners. — Ralph Waldo Emerson

Epistemology: Noncontradiction

- The Law of Noncontradiction

- Defined: *A* cannot be *A* and non-*A* at the same time and in the same sense, or relationship.
- The Bible (Gen. 2:16-17 vs. 3:4-5)

- Violations from other belief systems

- All religions lead to God

Allen Bloom's *Closing of the American Mind* regarding our education system:

There is one thing a professor can be absolutely certain of: almost every student entering the university believes, or says he believes, that truth is relative... The relativity of truth is not a theoretical insight but a moral postulate, the condition of a free society, or so they see it... Relativism is necessary to openness; and this is the virtue, the only virtue, which all primary education for more than fifty years has dedicated itself to inculcating.

- Islam does not ascribe to the law of noncontradiction

- Quran: Islam's doctrine of abrogation (Surah 2:106)
- Allah: Deception is a trait of Allah (Surah 8:30)

- Ourselves: As Christians, what contradictions in our own lives are we willing to live with to serve our own interests rather than serving our Lord and Master?

Epistemology: Noncontradiction

- The Law of Noncontradiction

A cannot be A and non-A at the same time and in the same sense or relationship

- Application:

- God's Revelation

- General Revelation (Creation): Will not contradict itself
- Special Revelation (Scriptures): Will not contradict itself
- All Revelation: Special and general revelation will not contradict each other

- The Church

- Noncontradiction guards against pluralism and untruths
- Noncontradiction maintains order within the assembly
- Contradiction leads to failure. This local church will fail someday, but we can delay it.

- The Christian

- Needs to continually reflect on and examine his/her life while constantly rooting out areas of contradiction to God's truth's.
- Needs to recognize when contradictions occur with other people (believers and unbelievers).

Epistemology: Noncontradiction

- The Law of Noncontradiction

A cannot be A and non-A at the same time and in the same sense or relationship

- Paradox: Something that seems to be a contradiction at first glance

Para- means “to come along side of”

Examples: parable, paralegal, paramedic, para-church organization

-Dox (Grk. *Dokein*) means “to seem, to think, to appear”

Example: Gnosticism/Doscetism (2 John 1:7)

- Purpose for Paradox: Primarily for teaching in order that the audience is forced to think deeply about simple concepts (Proverbs 1:5-6)
- Examples of paradoxes used in Scriptures
 - Lose life to find life (Matt. 10:39)
 - Die to live (kernel of wheat in Jn. 12:24)
 - God’s power made strong in weakness (2 Cor. 12:9-10)
 - Become a servant to become great (Matt. 20:26)
 - First will be last and the last will be first (Mk. 10:31)
 - The Savior who didn’t save Himself (Lk 23:36-37)
 - Free from all men I make myself a slave to all (1 Cor. 9:19-23)

Epistemology: Noncontradiction

- **The Law of Noncontradiction**

A cannot be A and non-A at the same time and in the same sense or relationship

- **Paradox: Something that seems to be a contradiction at first glance**

Examples of paradoxes used in theology

- Election vs Free Will
- The Trinity: The father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three in persons and one in essence.
- The Hypostatic Union of Christ where Jesus is simultaneously fully God and fully man.

The Nature of Paradox by Fred Faller

Imagine a tight wire suspended between two pillars. Out in the middle, an aerialist is performing for a large crowd seated below. The tension of the wire, pulled in opposite directions by the pillars allows him to be there, in the middle. If either pillar were to be removed, there could be no performance. If the artist were to perform on top of either pillar and never cross the wire, we would have to wonder why the other pillar was there and what was the point of the wire. His performance would lack inspiration because his being in the middle of the wire is what inspires us. It is dangerous in the middle. It is tricky, uncomfortable and unsafe at best. We watch and say to ourselves, "You wouldn't catch me out there; maybe I'd be on top of one of the pillars, but even that looks intimidating to me."

The paradox can be seen as similar to the scenario above: Two pillars of truth, pulling in opposite directions with great tension and with the fullness of real truth hanging in the middle. To embrace this fullness means that we cannot cling to either pillar. We must venture out to the middle. It will never be comfortable; it will always be hard to explain and will invariably look foolish and dangerous to pillar huggers! But it is only when we get to the middle and stay there that we understand the real truth.

Epistemology: Noncontradiction

- The Law of Noncontradiction

A cannot be A and non-A at the same time and in the same sense or relationship

- Hidden Mystery: Something not fully understood or that baffles or eludes understanding.
 - Purpose of hidden mystery in the Scriptures: God is compelling the worshipper with awe towards Him but remaining ultimately beyond the grasp of human reason and imagination (Col. 2:2-3)
 - Many aspects of God's infinite and eternal nature and God's wise works are mysteries to us
 - Mystery is not a contradiction
 - Mystery in theology is resolved in God's eternal realm
 - Mystery in the sciences is resolved through progressive knowledge
- Revealed Mystery: The Scriptures speak of mystery as that which has been revealed
 - Hidden but now revealed: Through the identity of Jesus
 - Hidden but now revealed: Through the gospel of Jesus
 - "The OT is the NT concealed, and the NT is the OT revealed." ~ Augustine & Lk. 24:44
 - Mystery is identical with the "gospel" (1 Cor. 2:1; Eph. 6:19; 1 Tim. 3:9)

Epistemology: Noncontradiction

- The Law of Noncontradiction

A cannot be A and non-A at the same time and in the same sense or relationship

- Examples of Hidden Mysteries Combined with Paradoxes in Doctrine:

- Trinity: God is one in essence and three in persons

- Heresy #1: Trinity as water (Modalism / Sabellianism)

- Jesus is the Father and is the Holy Spirit depending on what role He is in at the time
- Upholds God being one in essence at the expense of God as three persons
- Heresy contradicts Matt. 3:13-17; Luke 4:1

- Heresy #2: Trinity as an egg (Partialism)

- The three persons together are 100% God, but individually, each one is not 100% God
- Upholds the oneness and three persons of God at the expense of His one essence
- Heresy contradicts Deut. 6:4

- Heresy #3: Tri-theism heresy sees each member of the Trinity as having distinct natures

- Upholds the three persons of God at the expense of His oneness
- Heresy contradicts Deut. 6:4

Epistemology: Noncontradiction

- The Law of Noncontradiction

A cannot be A and non-A at the same time and in the same sense or relationship

- Examples of Hidden Mysteries Combined with Paradoxes in Doctrine (continued):

- Hypostatic Union of Christ: Jesus is one in person and two in nature

- Council of Nicaea (AD 325) vs. Arianism Heresy: Jesus is fully God
- Council of Chalcedon (AD 451) vs. Docetism Heresy: Jesus is fully Man

Epistemology: Causality

Law of Causality The Uncaused Causer

Epistemology: Causality

- The Law of Causality
 - Defined: Every effect must have a cause.
Note: this does not say that *everything* must have a cause, but every *effect*...
- Implications of the Law of Causality:
 - The Law of Causality is dependent on time—a before and after
 - Nothing that came into being can come from nothing
 - A cause cannot give what it itself does not possess
 - A cause must have as much perfection, or being, as its effects
 - Everything which has a beginning must have a cause
 - For any cause and effect, given the same conditions, the same things will happen.
- Bible (Gen. 1:1; Heb. 3:4)
 - God is the first cause. He is the uncaused cause.
 - God had no beginning (Ecclesiastes 3) and therefore is not an effect and does not have a cause.

Epistemology: Causality

- The Law of Causality

Every effect must have a cause

- Man's Wisdom in Science vs. Causality

- Spontaneous Generation vs. Louis Pasteur's Cause and Effect (1859)
- Newtonian Physics vs. Einstein's Relativity (wrt Gravity)
- Quantum Mechanics vs. Cause and Effect
- Chaos Theory vs. Cause and Effect
- Chance vs. Cause and Effect

Epistemology: Causality

- The Law of Causality

Every effect must have a cause

- Man's Wisdom in Science vs. Causality (continued)

- Macro Evolution vs. The account of Genesis

- Quotes:

- Robert Jastrow, former director of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies at NASA

The Universe, and everything that has happened in it since the beginning of time, are a grand effect without a known cause. An effect without a known cause? That is not the world of science; it is a world of witchcraft, of wild events, and the whims of demons—a medieval world that science has tried to banish. As scientists, what are we to make of this picture? I do not know. I would only like to present the evidence for the statement that the Universe, and man himself, originated in a moment when time began.

- Albert Einstein

Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

- Denial of the Ultimate Cause leads to Moral Decay of a Society

- Romans 1:15-32

- Deuteronomy 32:1-25

- Psalm 115

Epistemology: Sense Perception

The Basic Reliability of Sense Perception

Epistemology: Sense Perception

- The Law of Causality & Basic Reliability of the Senses
 - Modern Philosophy
 - David Hume (empiricist): Hume's example of billiards
 - Humans have knowledge of only things they directly experience.
 - But our sense perceptions are limited, and given our limited knowledge of unseen causes, we will sometimes lack sufficient ground to be sure that certain events share causal relationships.
 - Hume was very skeptical of everything that involved our sense perceptions (natural sciences); yet he thought that reason is the slave of our desires.

Epistemology: Sense Perception

- The Law of Causality & Basic Reliability of the Senses
 - Modern Philosophy
 - Two Reactions to Hume’s Philosophy Against Causality and Sense Perceptions
 - Other atheistic, modern philosophers attempted to use Hume’s argument to demolish the Law of Causality and replace it with chance in order to deny the existence of God.
 - » Hume’s Reply: Chance is a synonym for ignorance – that we appeal to “chance” as the “cause” made up of things we don’t understand.
 - » Chance does not exist, but only roughly characterizes relationships between causes and effects in limited fashion.
 - » Examples of lack of understanding
 - Illnesses vs. Viruses
 - Spontaneous Generation vs. Egg Laying Flies
 - Quantum Mechanics vs. The not yet understood states of existence
 - Addressing skepticism towards sense perception
 - » Our senses do not give an exhaustive understanding of reality, but they are the only link we have between our minds and the world, and they are basically reliable.
 - God’s invisible providence (Acts 17:28)
 - As everything in this world starts on a foundation of basic axiomatic truths, nothing can be proved 100%. Yet Christians can persuade using a preponderance of evidence to prove their case.
 - » The Bible and science relies upon reliability of the senses (2 Peter 1:16-18)

The Analogical Use of Language

Epistemology: Language

- The Analogical Use of Language
 - The Errant Law of Verification (Logical Positivism)
 - The law states that “Language can only have objective meaning if it can be verified.”
 - Note: yet the law of verification itself cannot be verified; therefore, the law has no meaning!
 - Law of Verification vs. God Talk
 - The law also states that “Any talk of something that can’t be proven is personal, subjective, and emotional speech...and therefore meaningless!” Here is how they try to prove their point:
 - Christianity says that God is transcendent (Isaiah 55:8-9; Job 11:7-9; Romans 11:33-36)
 - Because God is transcendent, He cannot be proven...therefore:
 - » The statement, “God is good,” has no meaning
 - » That’s true for you but not for me (in other words, anything to do with God is subjective)
 - » Therefore, God is dead (or entirely meaningless)!

Epistemology: Language

- The Analogical Use of Language

- The solution is because God is not only transcendent, but immanent, we can know Him

- He is immanent by revealing himself and caring for His creation

- General Revelation (Psalm 19:1-4; Romans 1:20)

- Special Revelation (Hebrews 1:1-2; John 14:9; 20:31)

- Constant care of the world (Job 38-39)

- We can know what God reveals about Himself through analogy

- Man was created in the image of God (Gen 1:26-27)

- The endowments of the image of God include body and spirit.

- » God is Spirit (John 4:24)

- » Reason, will, creativity, our senses

- Because we were created in the image of God, even though we are limited, through analogy with our image of God, we can understand some of God's infinite attributes such as:

- » Omnipotence

- » Omniscience

- » Omnipresence

- » Omni-just

- » Omni-loving: God is good!

Epistemology: Conclusion

- Conclusion
 - Where does truth come from?
 - God (Deut. 32:4)
 - Jesus (John 14:6)
 - Holy Spirit (John 14:17). Guides believers in truth (John 16:12-15)
 - Scriptures (John 17:17)
 - Creation (Rom. 1:18-20)
 - How are believers designed to receive God's truths?
 - We are made in the image of God, *imago Dei* (Gen 1:27)
 - We are body (having reason, will, senses) and spirit (alive and guided by God)
 - What 4 properties are fundamental to having knowledge (belief in truth)?
 - The law of noncontradiction
 - The law of causality
 - Basic reliability of the senses
 - The analogical use of language

Epistemology: Quiz (Part 1 of 3)

Define the following:

1. Define the following:
 - a. Epistemology
 - b. Presupposition
 - c. Proposition
 - d. Truth
 - e. Knowledge
2. What sources does truth come from?
3. What are the 2 presuppositions of knowledge?
4. Define the 4 principles of epistemology?
 - a. The Law of Noncontradiction
 - b. The Law of Causality
 - c. The basic reliability of sense perception
 - d. The Analogical use of language

Epistemology: Quiz (Part 2 of 3)

Consider your life in relationship to truth:

5. What must accompany knowledge? What is the end result of this?
6. What does knowledge by itself amount to?
7. Knowledge allows us to be transformed so we _____ and _____ more like Jesus.
8. How do the 4 principles of epistemology relate to God and His nature?
9. Compare various characteristics about how truth is described in American culture today with what you have learned in this class.
10. Is truth relative or absolute (why or why not)?
11. Does the end justify the means?

Epistemology: Quiz (Part 2 of 3)

Final Question:

What various parts of your life contradicts truth? (remember: Knowledge + Disobedience = Unbelief)

- a. Repent (turn) from the contradiction
- b. Confess the contradiction to Jesus
- c. Trust in Jesus to take care of whatever difficulty exists in order to live a noncontradictory life
- d. Remember: Knowledge + Obedience = Belief (faith) → Gladness and Joy