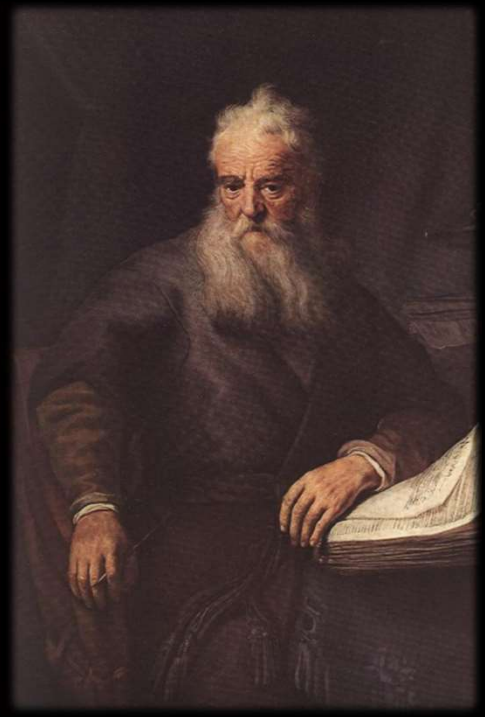


Colossians 2:8

"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

The Apostle Paul



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Philosophy or Christ?

Sermons | [Colossians 2:8-10](#) | [2141](#) | [Jul 11, 1976](#)

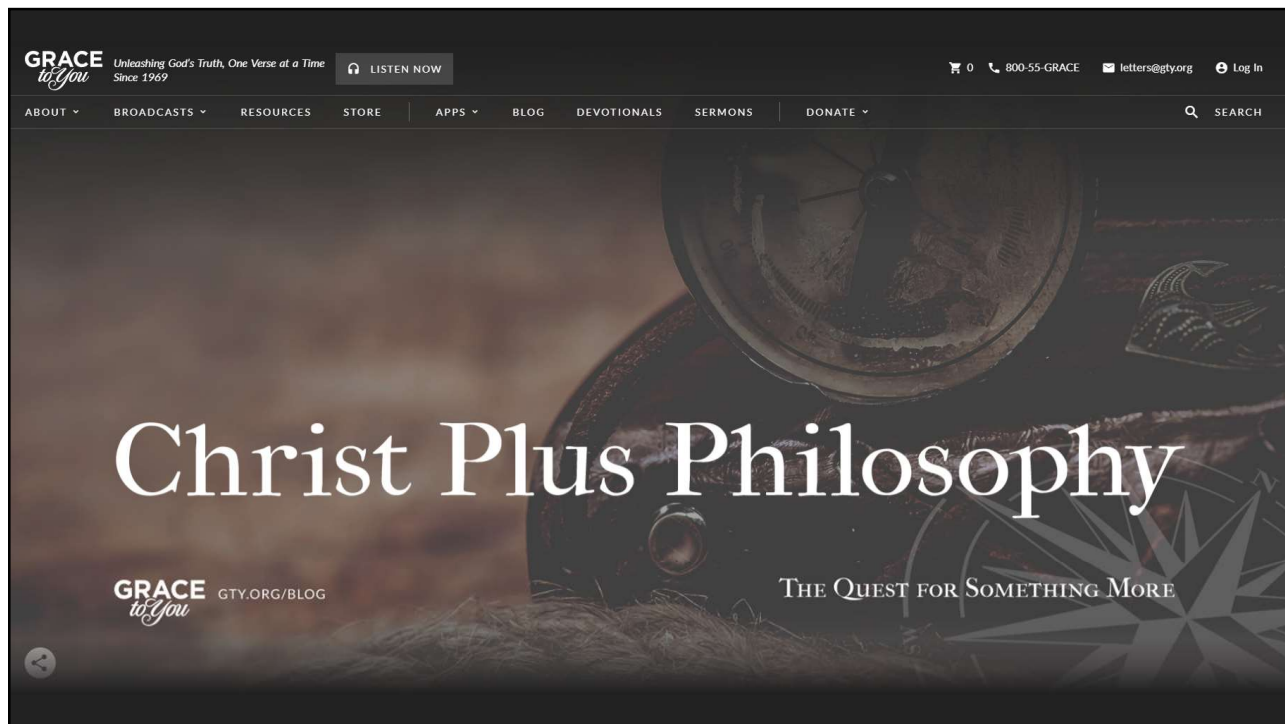
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Tonight, we're going to look at Colossians chapter 2, verses 8-10 in our study. Colossians chapter 2, verses 8-10. Really this is just the first part of a look at verses 8-15, which should be taken as a composite. You might title our discussion tonight, our study tonight, Philosophy or Christ, because really that's what Paul is dealing with in this passage. The word philosophy which appears in verse 8, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy" the word philosophy is from two Greek words phileo and sophia. Phileo means to love and sophia

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Christ Plus Philosophy

by John MacArthur | Wednesday, April 10, 2019

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Helpful

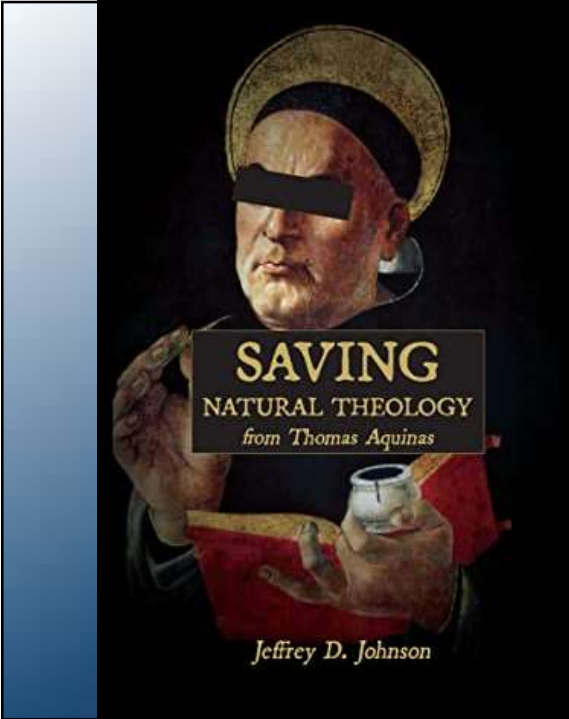
We appreciate comments that are on topic and contribute to the discussion; expressing appreciation is also welcome.

"It seemed like a good idea at the time." That's a popular postmortem for a plan that has gone horribly wrong. In fact, well-intentioned ideas are behind almost every financial shipwreck, abandoned project, and foreign policy failure that happens in this world. And yet the quest for better ideas and fool-proof philosophies continues unabated—even making incursions into the church.

Our English word "philosophy" is a transliteration of the Greek word *philosophia*, which literally means "the love of human wisdom." In its broad sense it is man's attempt to explain the nature of the universe, including the phenomena of existence, thought, ethics, behavior, aesthetics, and so on.

In Paul's time "everything that had to do with theories about God and the world and the meaning of human life was called 'philosophy' . . . not only in the pagan schools but also in the Jewish schools of the Greek cities." [1] The first-century Jewish historian Josephus adds that there were three philosophies among the Jews: the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the Essenes. [2]





Evangelical Philosophical Society

Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel

Nov. 15-17, 2022

"Saving Natural Theology from Jeffrey Johnson"

Richard G. Howe, Ph.D.

Tues. Nov. 15, 2022 @ 4:30 PM
Evangelical Philosophical Society B2
Tower Building - Mezzanine Level Gold

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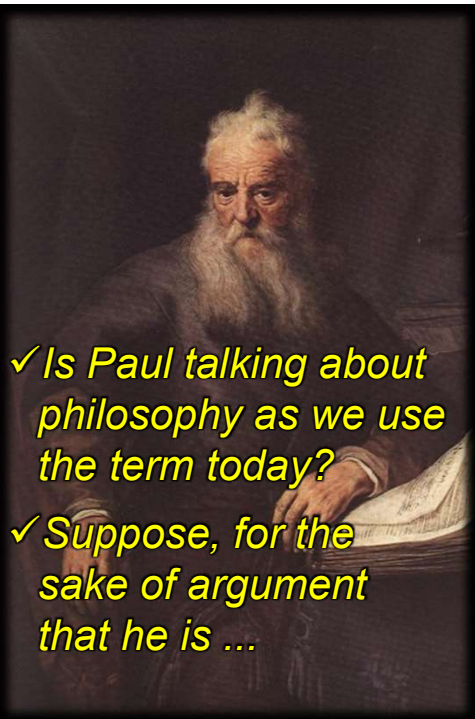
In this Issue
A Critique of N. T. Wright's Critical Realism
An Analysis of Søren Kierkegaard's Fear and Trembling
God is a Precondition for Objective Knowledge
An Augustinian Defense of an Eternal Hell
Craig G. Bartholomew "Theology, Philosophy, and Biblical Interpretation" A Review Article
Book Reviews

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☞ Colossians 2:8 ☞

"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

The Apostle Paul

- 
- ✓ *Is Paul talking about philosophy as we use the term today?*
 - ✓ *Suppose, for the sake of argument that he is ...*

"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

The Apostle Paul
Epistle to the Colossians



"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

The Apostle Paul
Epistle to the Colossians

✓ *Though infectious diseases are not to be trifled with, we are grateful that physicians learn about them in order to help us avoid getting sick or to help us get cured.*

"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

The Apostle Paul
Epistle to the Colossians

✓ *By analogy, even if Paul was warning us to avoid philosophy, we can be grateful that Christian philosophers learn about philosophy in order to help us avoid getting "sick" or to help us get "cured."*

"Good philosophy must exist, if for no other reason, because bad philosophy needs to be answered."

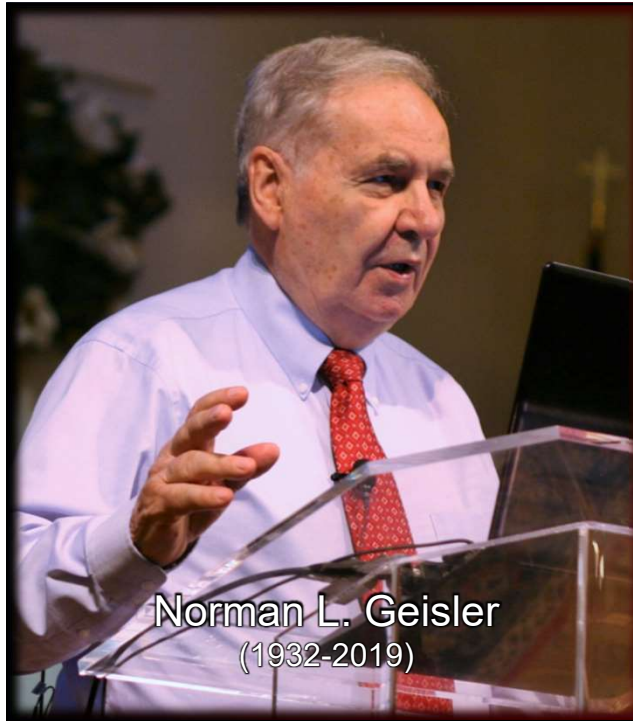
[*"Learning in War-Time"* in *The Weight of Glory: A Collection of Lewis's Most Moving Addresses* (London: Harper Collins, 2013), 59]

C. S. Lewis
(1898-1963)

"But seeing that a teacher of sacred Scripture must at times oppose the philosophers, it is necessary for him to make use of philosophy."

[Thomas Aquinas, *Commentary on the De Trinitate of Boethius*, Q. 2, art. 3.6, published as *Faith, Reason and Theology: Questions I-IV of His Commentary on the De Trinitate of Boethius*, trans. Armand Maurer (Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, 1987), p. 48]

Thomas Aquinas
(1225-1274)



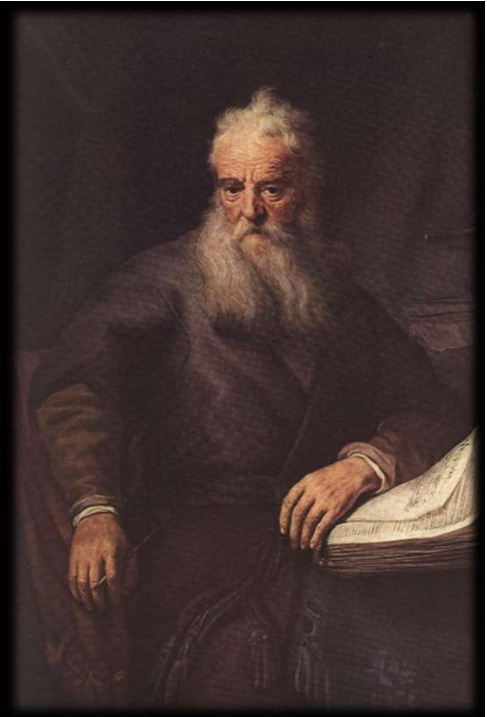
Norman L. Geisler
(1932-2019)

"We cannot properly *beware* of philosophy unless we *be aware* of philosophy."

[Norman L. Geisler, "Beware of Philosophy: A Warning to Biblical Scholars," *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 42/1 (March 1999): 3-19 (18)]

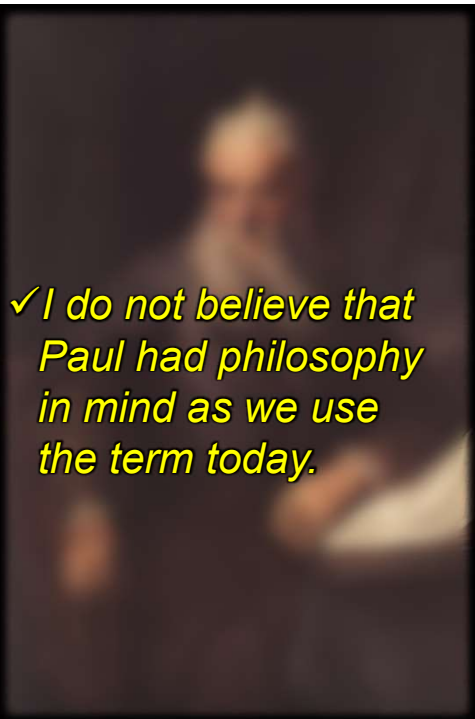
"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

The Apostle Paul
Epistle to the Colossians



**"Beware lest anyone
cheat you through
philosophy and empty
deceit, according to the
tradition of men,
according to the basic
principles of the world,
and not according to
Christ."**

The Apostle Paul
Epistle to the Colossians



✓ I do not believe that Paul had philosophy in mind as we use the term today.

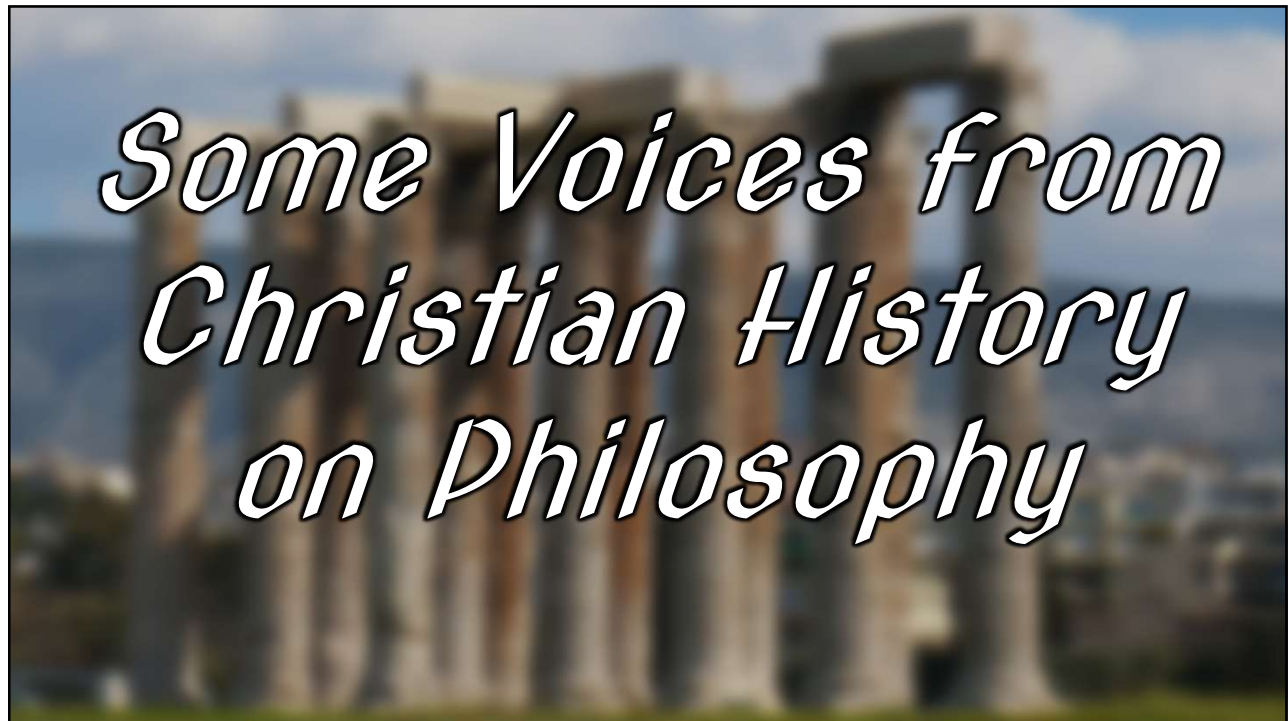
**"Beware lest anyone
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Christ."**

The Apostle Paul
Epistle to the Colossians

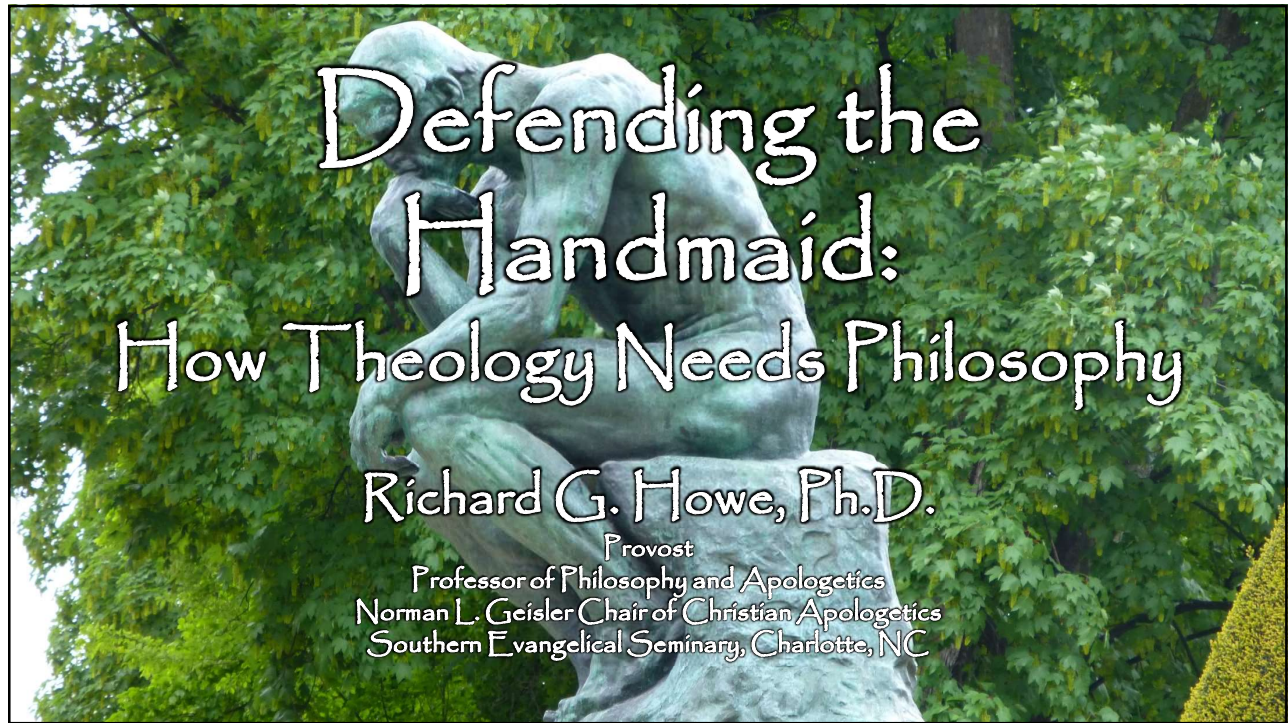
- ❑ *Another way to translate the Greek could be "the philosophy which is empty deceit."*
- ❑ *Josephus used the term 'philosophy' to refer to the doctrines of the Jewish sects.*
- ❑ *The context is a warning about an insidious legalism that threatened the Colossians' liberty in Christ.*
- ❑ *This legalism had an outward form of piety but was useless in developing an inward character of righteousness.*



OSHA Example

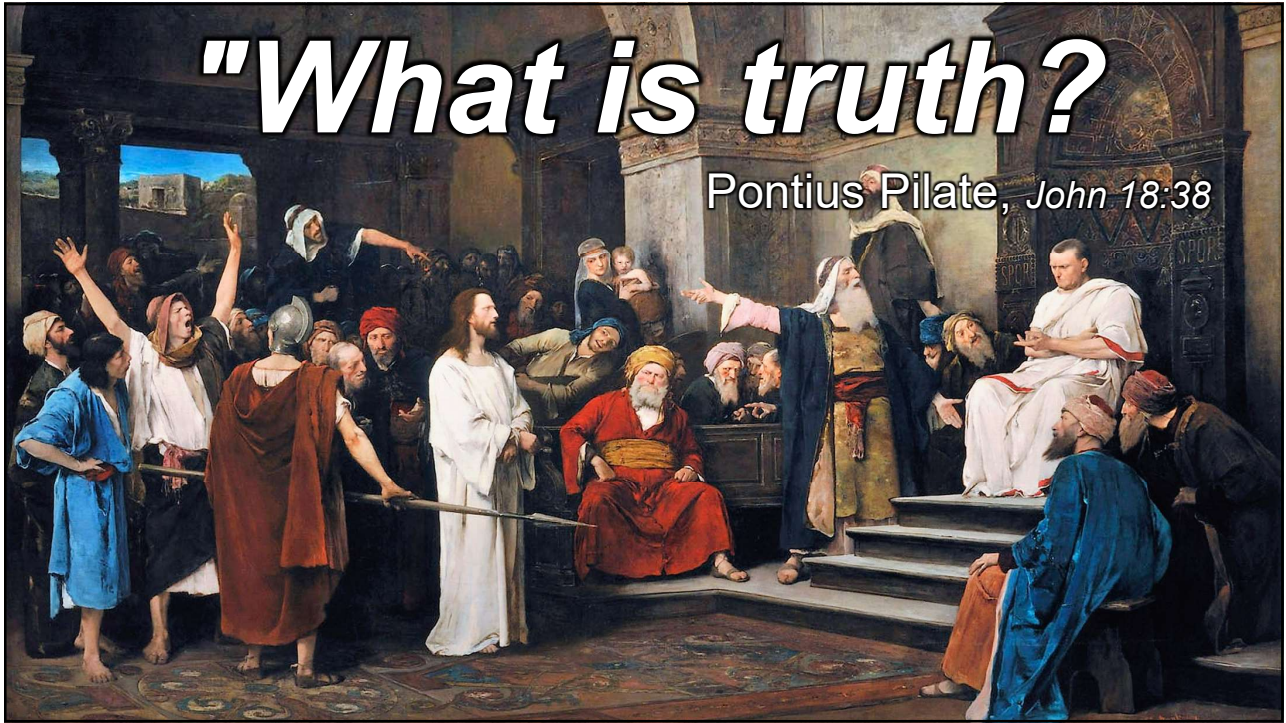


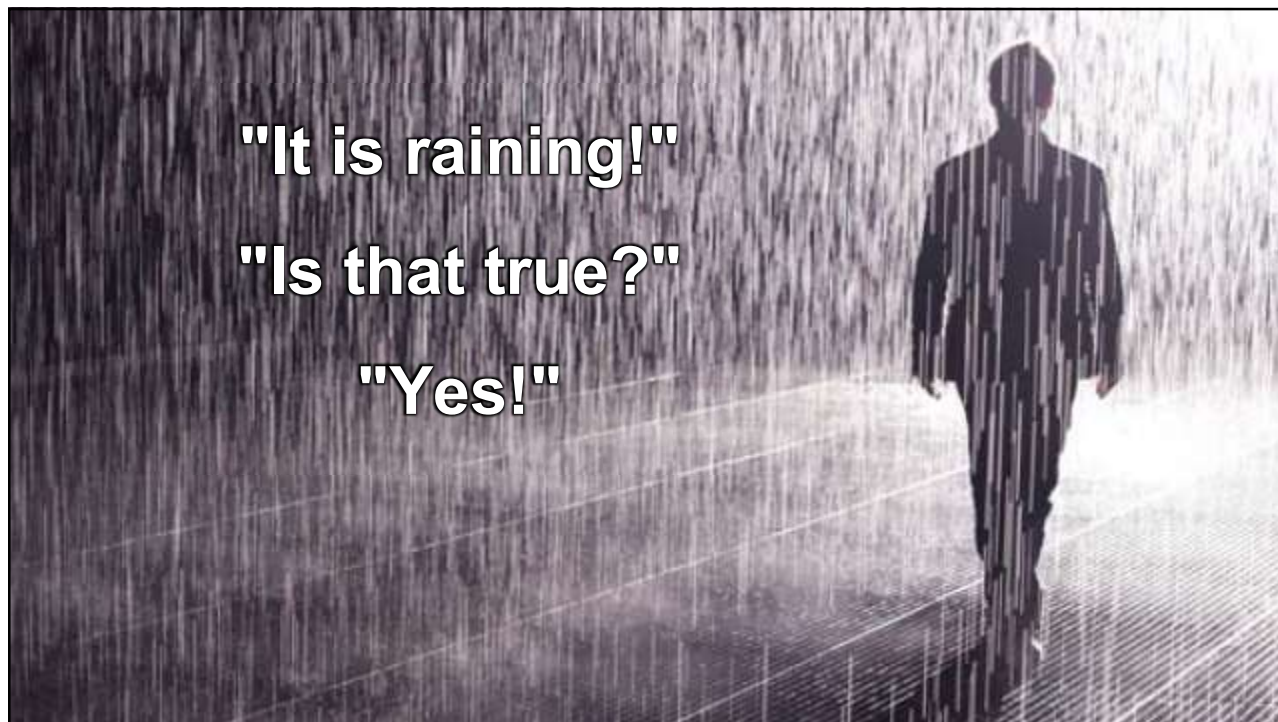
*Some Voices from
Christian History
on Philosophy*



"What is truth?"

Pontius Pilate, John 18:38

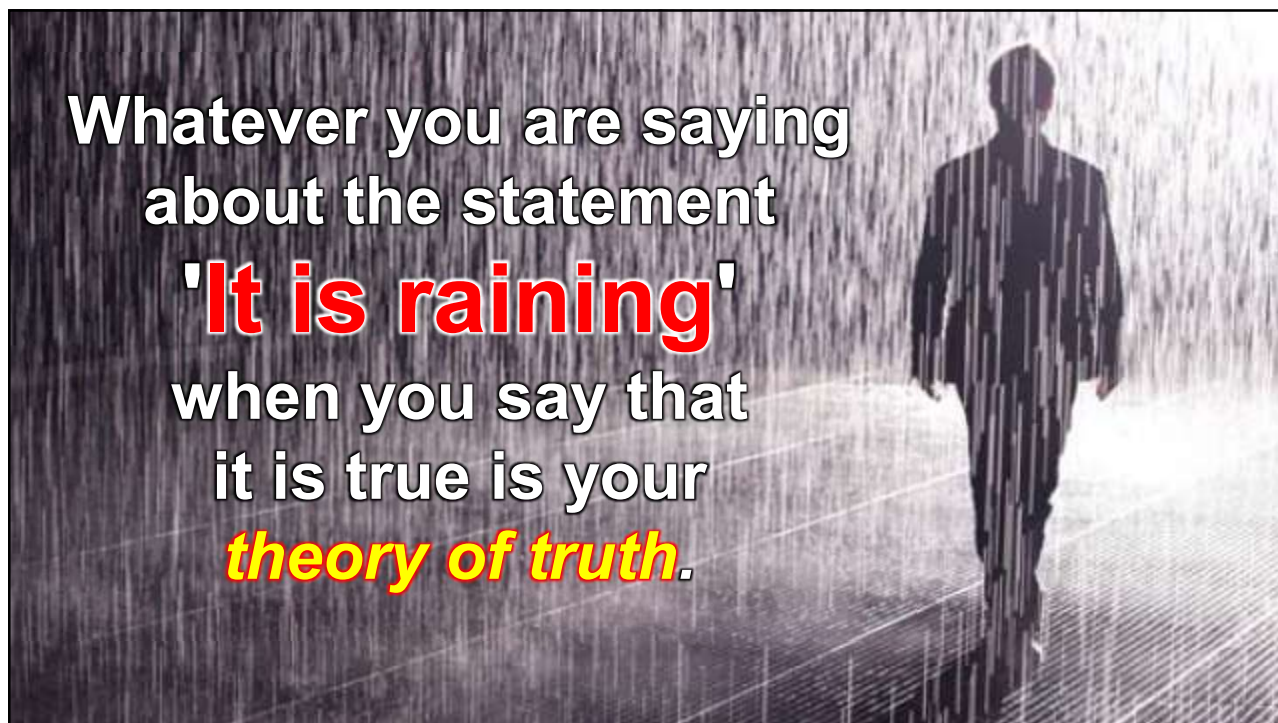




"It is raining!"

"Is that true?"

"Yes!"



Whatever you are saying
about the statement

'It is raining'

when you say that
it is true is your

theory of truth.

How you know whether it
is raining is your
test for truth.



∞ Theory of Truth ∞

how one **defines** the
terms 'true' and 'truth'
when saying that a
statement is true

∞ Test for Truth ∞

how one **discovers**
whether a statement is
true, regardless of
one's theory of truth

A yellow rectangular sign with black text that reads "CAUTION THEORIES OF TRUTH WARNING!". The sign is mounted on two metal posts in a grassy field. To the left of the sign is a dark gray panel with a list of theories of truth in red boxes. The top box is green and contains the word "Correspondence".

- Correspondence
- Coherence
- Functional
- Pragmatic
- Power

Correspondence



Correspondence

Truth is correspondence to reality.

- This says that a statement is true in as much as it corresponds to reality.
- Thus, the statement 'It is raining.'

'It is raining'

would be a true statement if it is in fact raining in reality.



'It is raining'

would be a false statement if it is in fact not raining in reality.





The TRUTH
about
TRUTH

Richard G. Howe, Ph.D.
Provost
Norman L. Geisler Chair of Christian Apologetics
Professor of Philosophy and Apologetics
Southern Evangelical Seminary

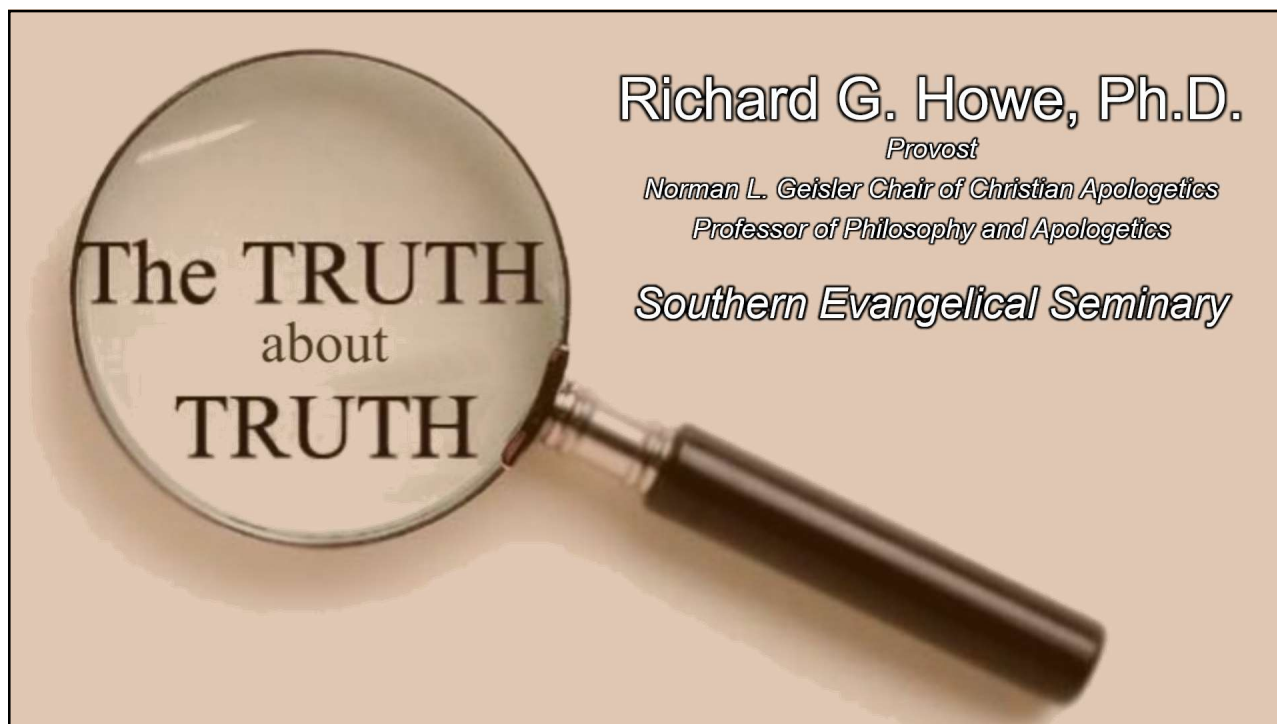


∞ The Laws of Logic ∞

- ✓ *The Law of Non-Contradiction*
- ✓ *The Law of Excluded Middle*
- ✓ *The Law of Identity*

∞ The Law of Non-Contradiction ∞

- essence ➤ A thing cannot be both 'A' and 'non-A' at the same time and in the same sense.
- existence ➤ A thing cannot both exist and not exist at the same time and in the same sense.
- truth value ➤ A statement cannot be both true and not true at the same time and in the same sense.



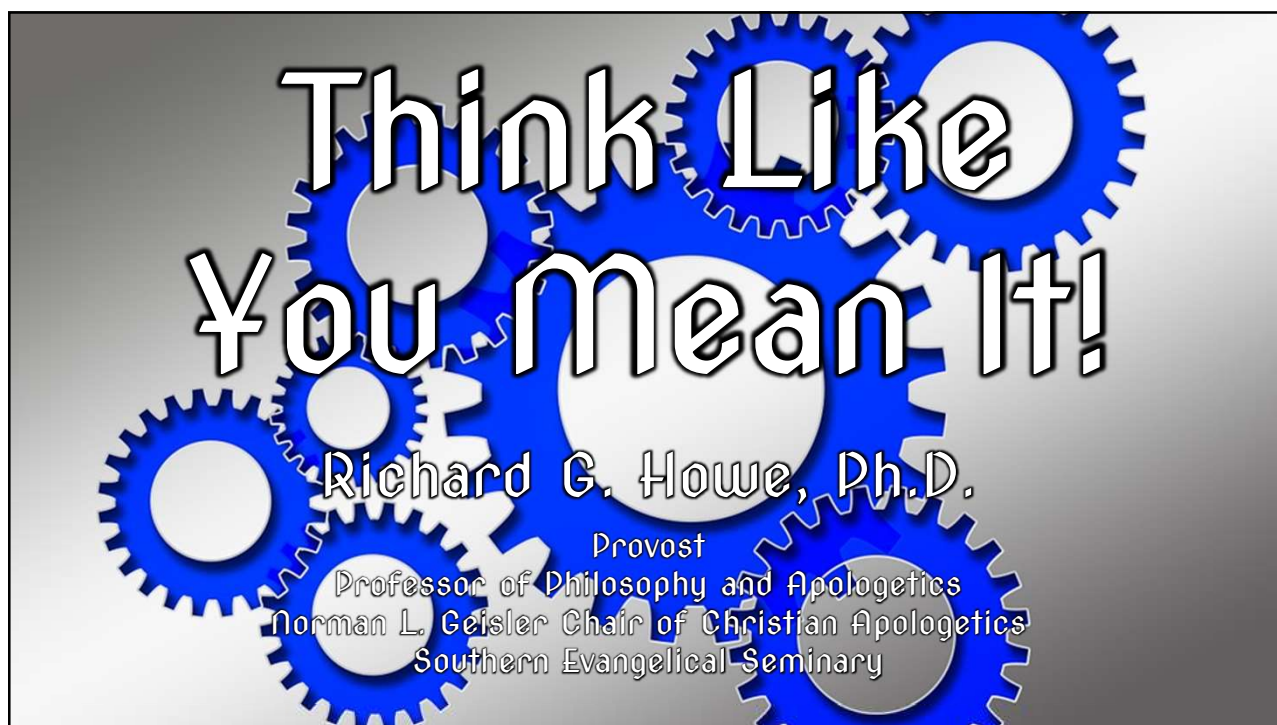
Richard G. Howe, Ph.D.

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Professor of Philosophy and Apologetics

Southern Evangelical Seminary



Think Like
You Mean It!

Richard G. Howe, Ph.D.

Provost

Professor of Philosophy and Apologetics

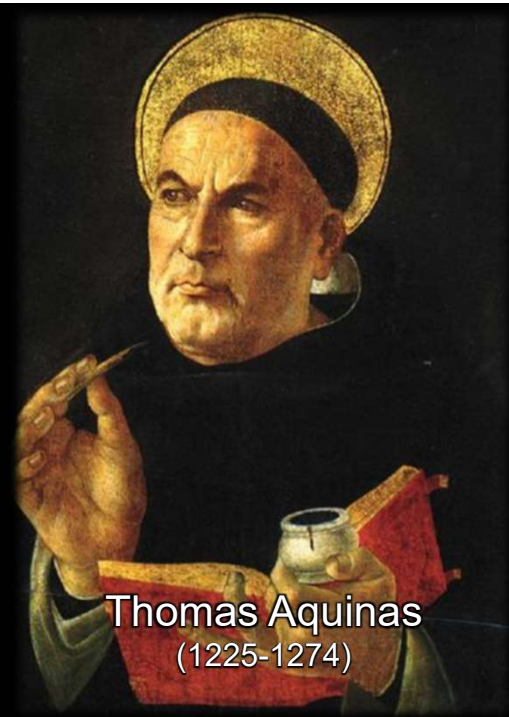
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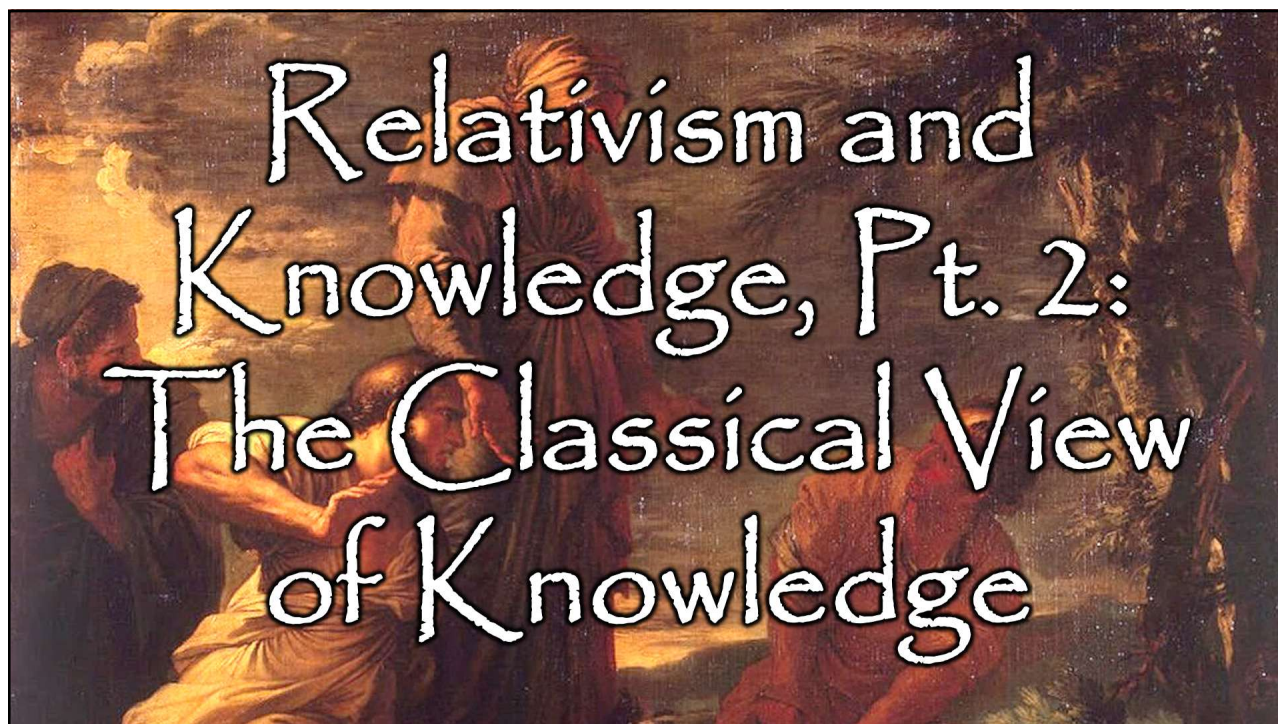


"Our knowledge, taking its start from things, proceeds in this order. First, it begins in sense; second, it is completed in the intellect."

[Thomas Aquinas, *Truth*, I, 11, trans. Mulligan, 48, in *Truth* (3 vols), vol. 1 trans. Robert W. Mulligan (Chicago: Henry Regnery, 1952); vol. 2 trans. James V. McGlynn (Chicago: Henry Regnery, 1953); vol. 3. trans. Robert W. Schmidt (Chicago: Henry Regnery, 1954). The three volumes were reprinted as *Truth* (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1994)]



Thomas Aquinas
(1225-1274)



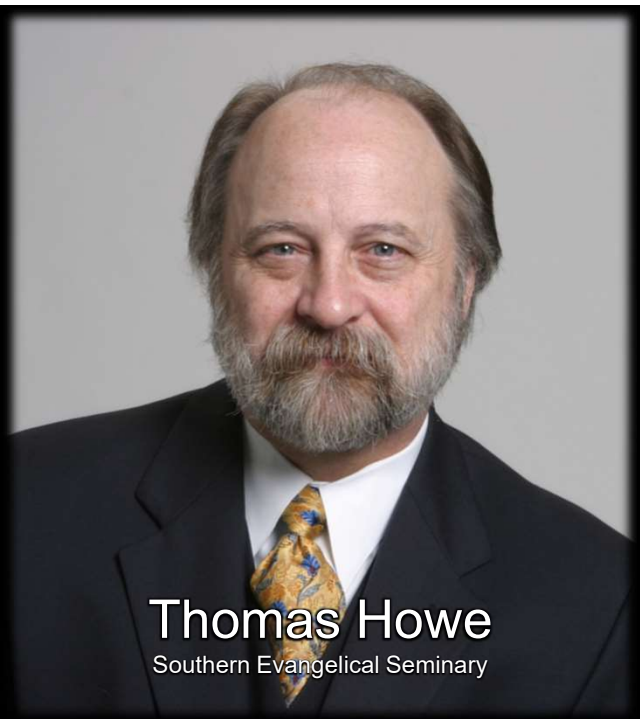
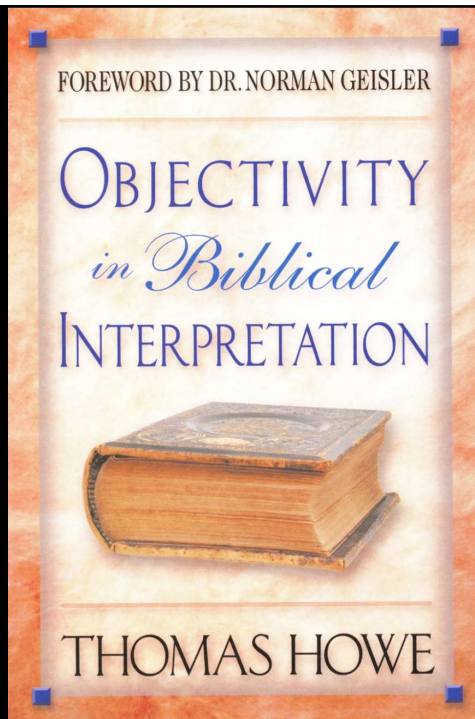
Relativism and Knowledge, Pt. 2: The Classical View of Knowledge

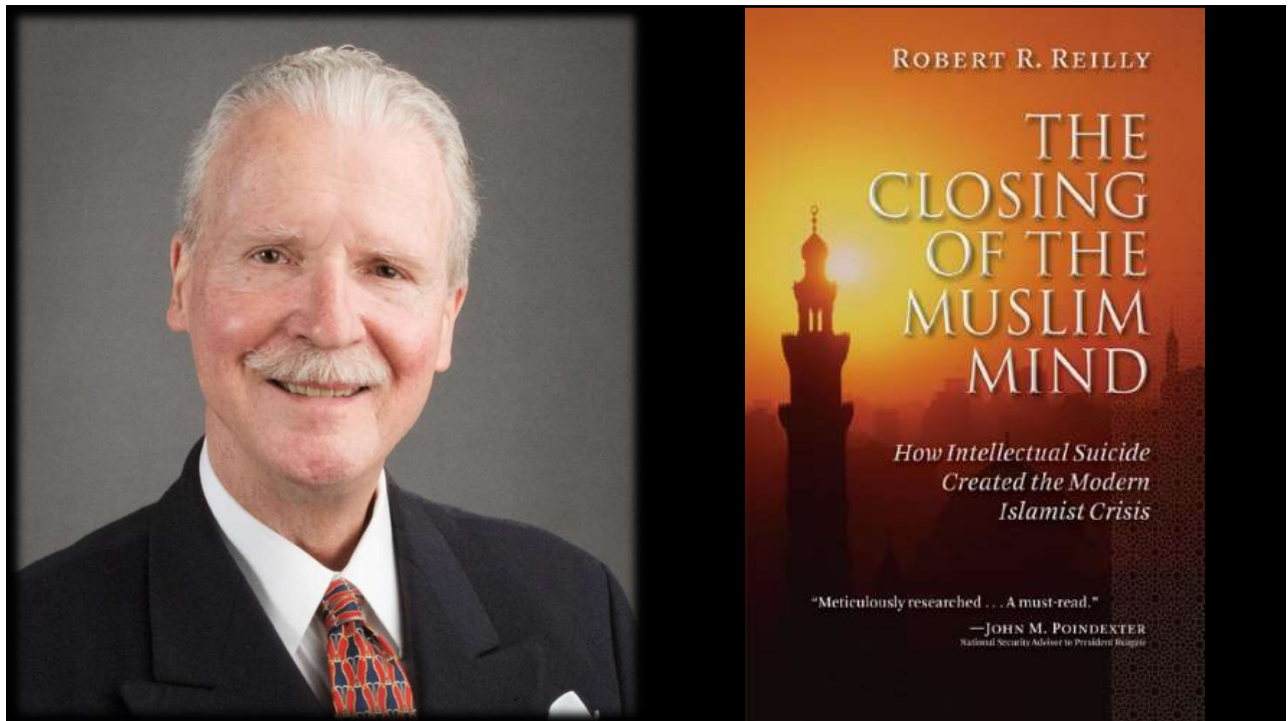


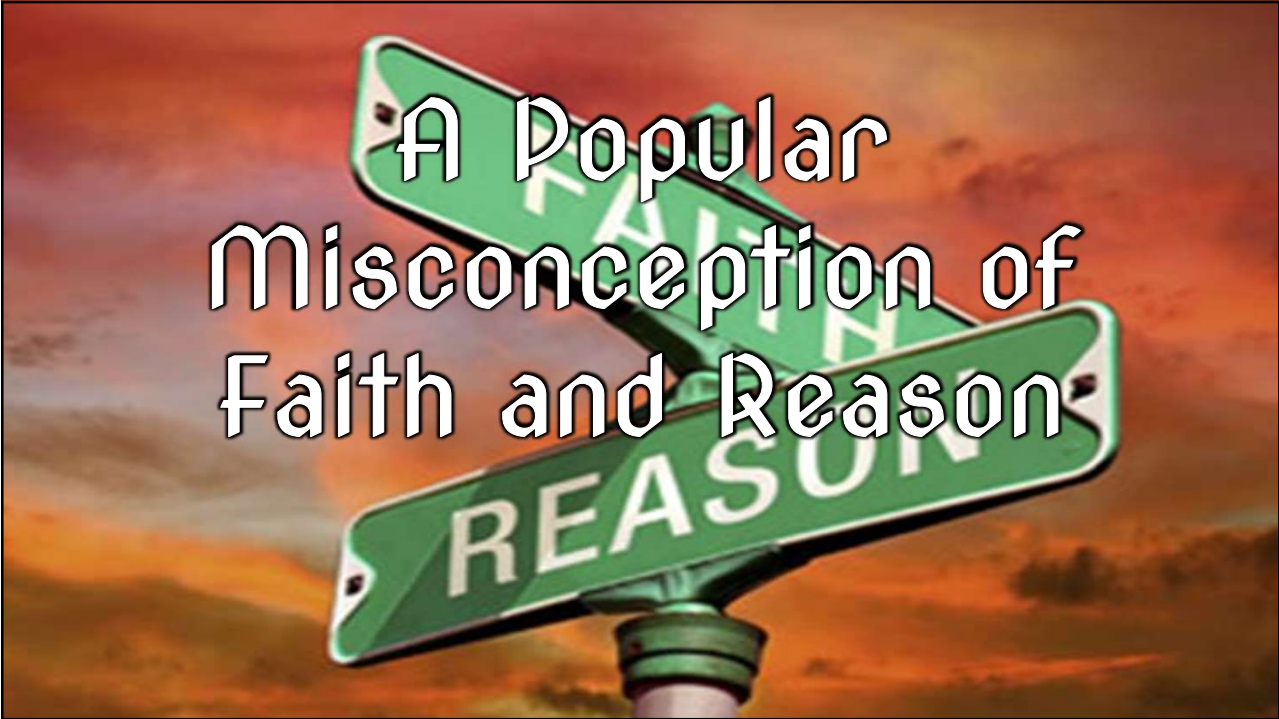
Biblical Interpretation (Hermeneutics)

**"We must get our
hermeneutics
from the Bible
otherwise we're
lost in
relativism!"**

(caller to radio talk show)







A Popular Misconception of Faith and Reason

Popular Misconception

Reason

truth
facts
outer
public
rational
thoughts
objective
science
true for all

Faith

opinion
values
inner
private
emotional
feelings
subjective
religion
true for me



The New
Atheism's
Misconception of
Faith and Reason



Other Atheists'
Misconception of
Faith and Reason



Neo-Orthodoxy's
Misconception of
Faith and Reason



Presuppositionalism's
Misconception
of Faith and Reason



Postmodernism's
Misconception of
Faith and Reason



The Classical
View of
Faith and Reason

Classical View of Faith and Reason

Reason

Believing something on the basis of demonstration.

Faith

Believing something on the basis of authority.

Classical View of Faith and Reason

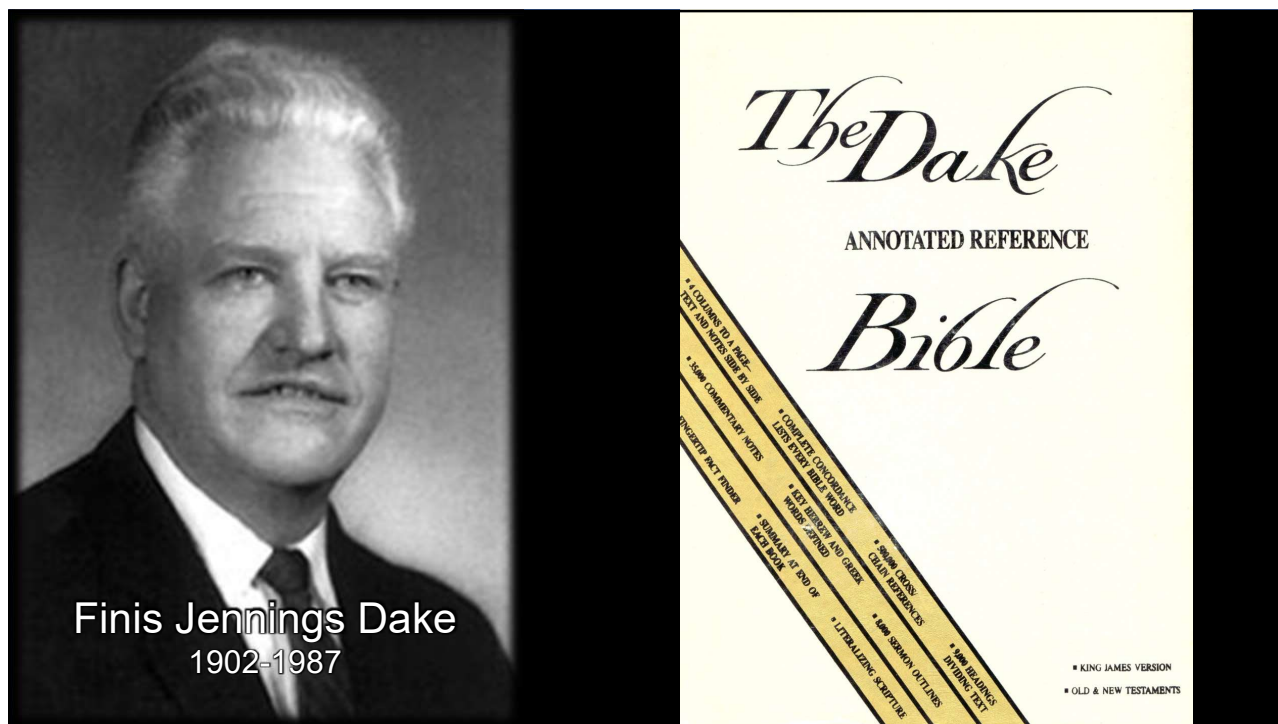
Reason

Believing something on the basis of demonstration.

Faith

*Believing something on the basis of **Divine authority.***

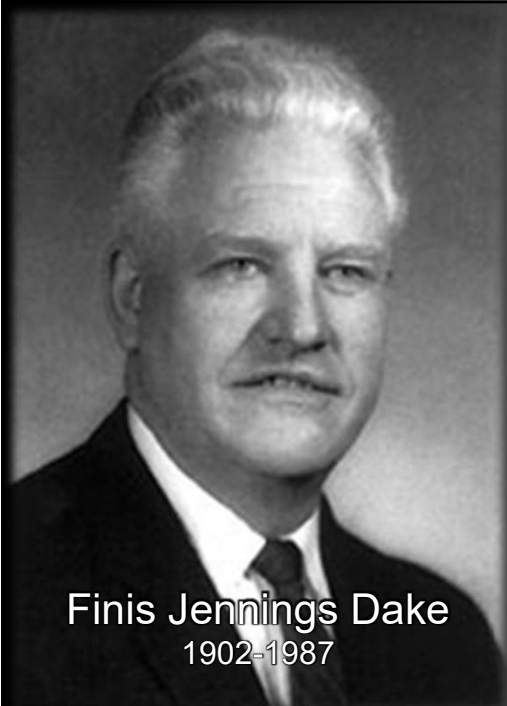




Finis Jennings Dake
 1902-1987


"God has a personal **spirit body** (Dan. 7:9-14; 10:5-19); shape (Jn. 5:37); form (Phil. 2:5-7); image and likeness of a man (Gen. 1:26; 9:6; Ezek. 1:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:7; Jas. 3:9). He has bodily parts such as, back parts (Ex. 33:23), heart (Gen. 6:6; 8:21), hands and fingers (Ps. 8:3-6; Heb. 1:10; Rev. 5:1-7), mouth (Num. 12:8), lips and tongue (Isa. 30:27), feet (Ezek. 1:27; Ex. 24:10), eyes (Ps. 11:4; 18:24; 33:18), ears (Ps. 18:6), hair, head, face, arms (Dan. 7:9-14; 10:5-19; Rev. 5:1-7; 22:4-6), and other bodily parts."

[Dake's Annotated Reference Bible. (Lawrenceville: Dake Bible Sales, 1963). NT, p. 97]



Finis Jennings Dake
1902-1987

(Dan. 7:9-14; 10:5-19) (Jn. 5:37)
 (Phil. 2:5-7)
 (Gen. 1:26; 9:6; Ezek. 1:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:7; Jas. 3:9)
 (Ex. 33:23) (Gen. 6:6; 8:21) (Ps. 8:3-6; Heb. 1:10; Rev. 5:1-7) (Num. 12:8) (Isa. 30:27)
 (Ezek. 1:27; Ex. 24:10) (Ps. 11:4; 18:24; 33:18) (Ps. 18:6)
 (Dan. 7:9-14; 10:5-19; Rev. 5:1-7; 22:4-6)

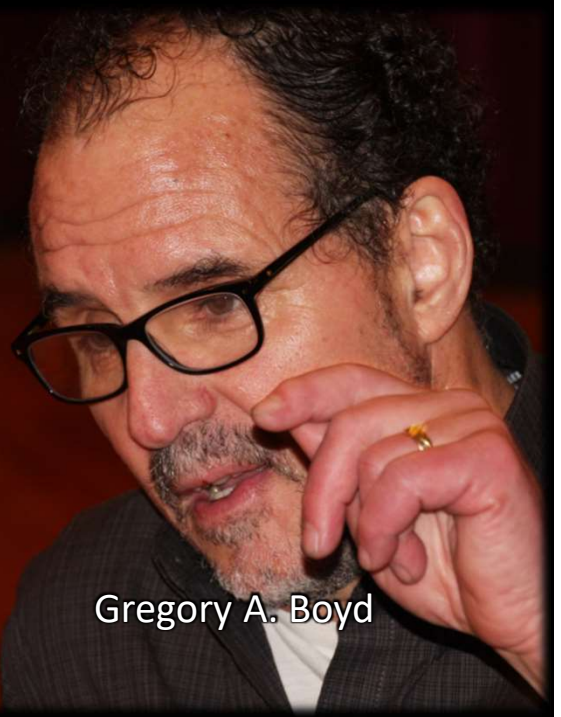


Gregory A. Boyd

PHILOSOPHIA CHRISTI

Φ X

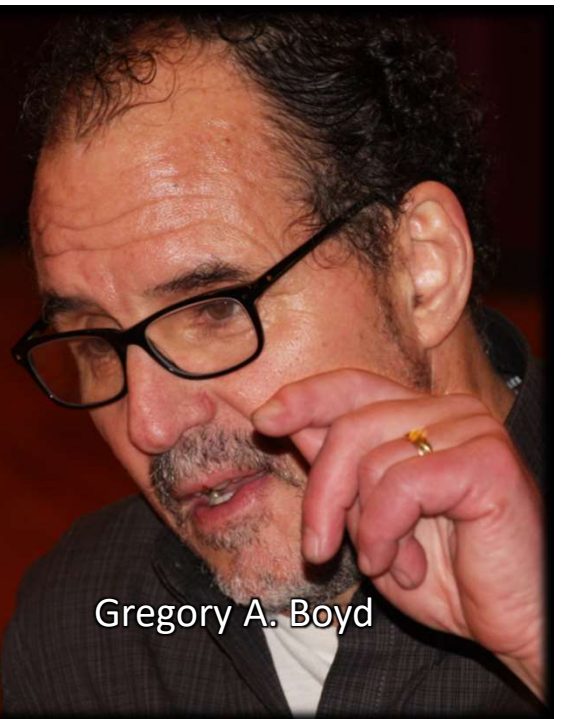
"Scripture also frequently depicts God as experiencing regret ... disappointment, frustration, and unexpected outcomes ... suggesting that the future is to this extent composed of possibilities rather than certainties."



Gregory A. Boyd

"It is, I submit, more difficult to conceive of God experiencing such things if the future is exhaustively settled in his mind than if it is in part composed of possibilities."

[Gregory A. Boyd, "Neo-Molinism and the Infinite Intelligence of God," *Philosophia Christi* 5, No.1, (2003):192]



Gregory A. Boyd

***"For since the
creation of the world
His invisible attributes
are clearly seen, **being
understood by the
things that are made,**
even His eternal
power and Godhead."***

Rom. 1:20a

