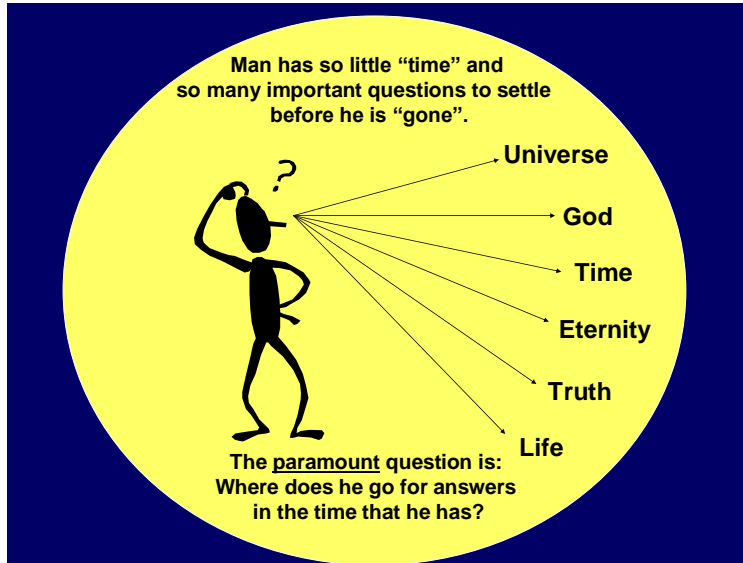


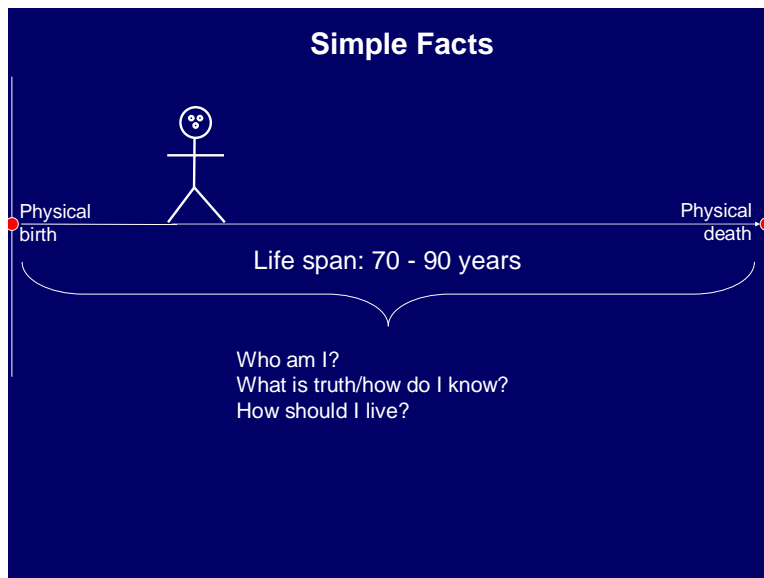
Biblical Framework Part 1 Review

Introduction to a Biblical Framework

Why this course?



Our life span is somewhere normally in the range of 70 -90 years. During this time we must find answers to many basic questions: Where did I come from? Is there a God? Is there life after death? Is there is a heaven? Is there a hell?

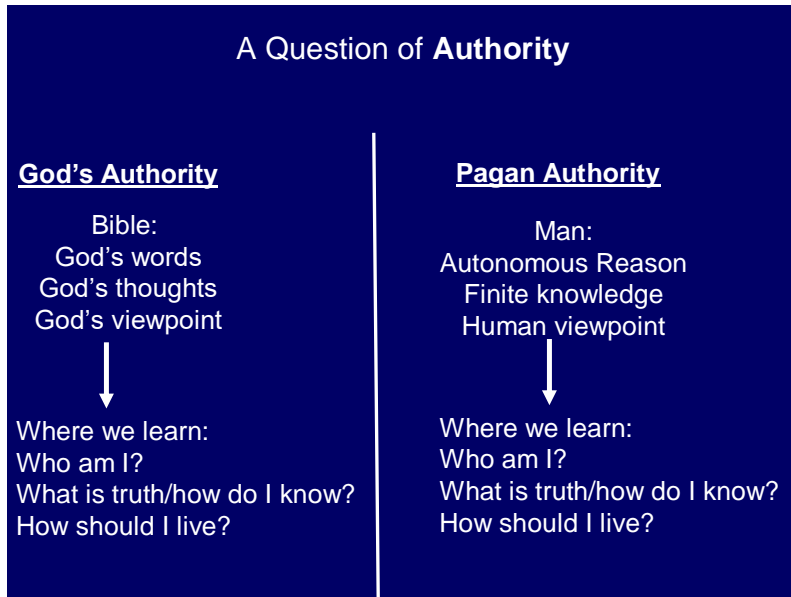


Who am I? What is truth and how do I know? How should I live?

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Authority – two views.

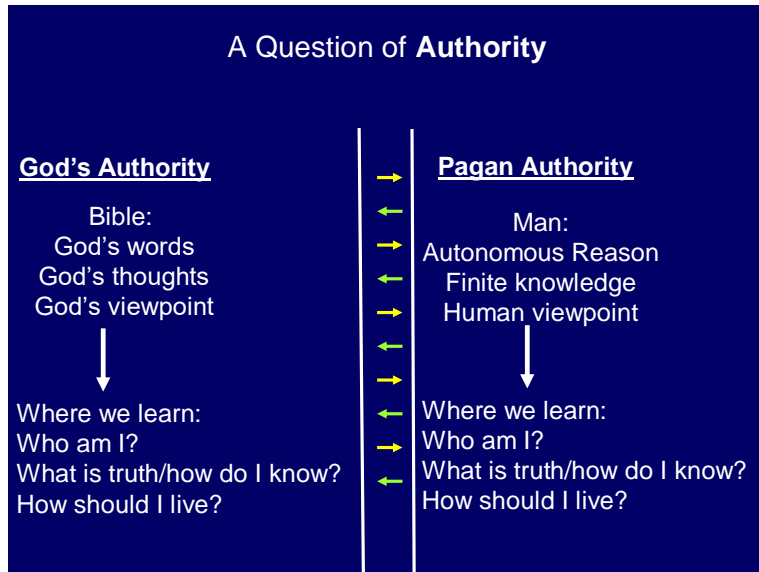
There are only two fundamental views in this world, both dealing with idea of **authority**; the Authority of Scripture or pagan authority. By “pagan” I mean the person denying God’s existence, living his life only on the human level, and burying the truths of Scripture. We will talk about this a little later.



Theology, Philosophy, Science, History, Literature, and your own reasoning, base themselves on one or the other authority.

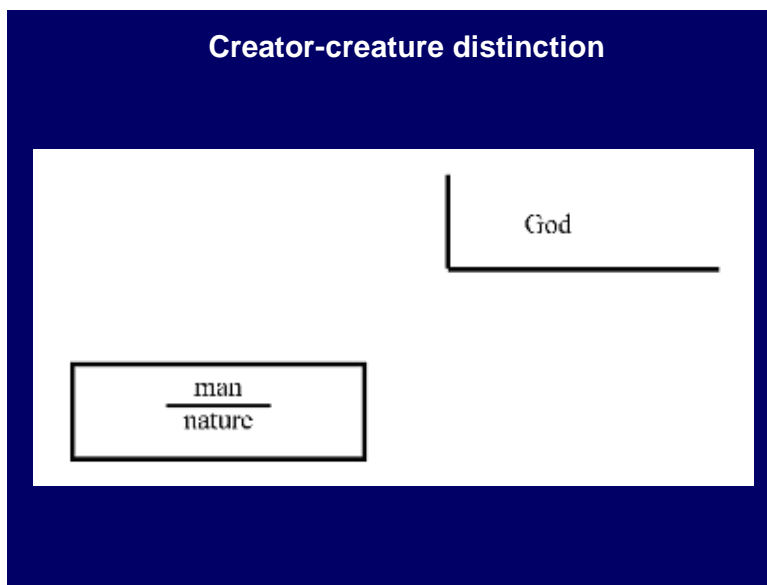
We find that we will either choose one or the other at various times of our lives. We struggle, at times, with our conscience, trying to choose the better of two goods, or the lesser of two evils. We strive to make the “right” choice. The question is; **on what authority** do we base these decisions - God’s Authority or Pagan Authority? We have to make a decision, and most of us try to please both sides.

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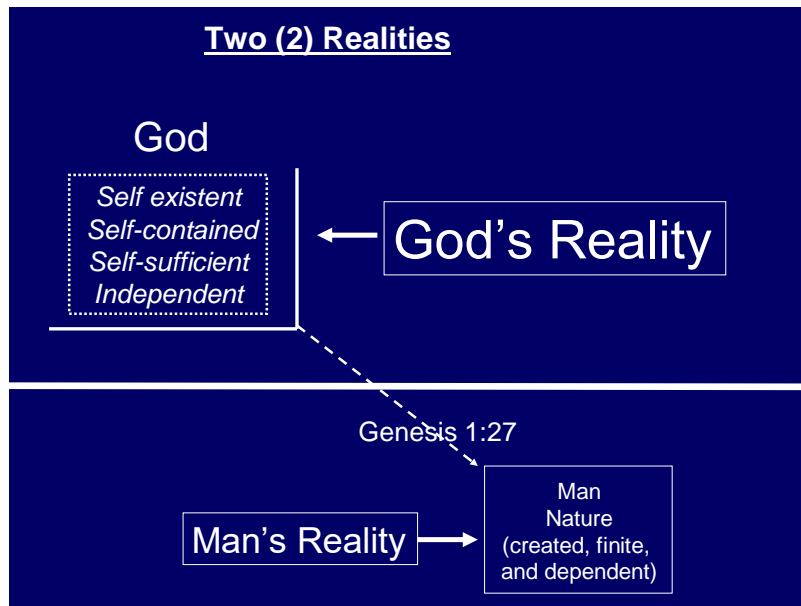
And that's where we get ourselves into trouble. We cannot please both sides. Matthew 6:24 and Luke 16:13 tell us:

“No one (or no servant) can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other...”. The truth is: We have to determine and develop our alliance. This is part of our spiritual maturing process – reading, studying the Bible, taking in doctrine and applying it in our lives.



Biblical Framework Part 1 Review

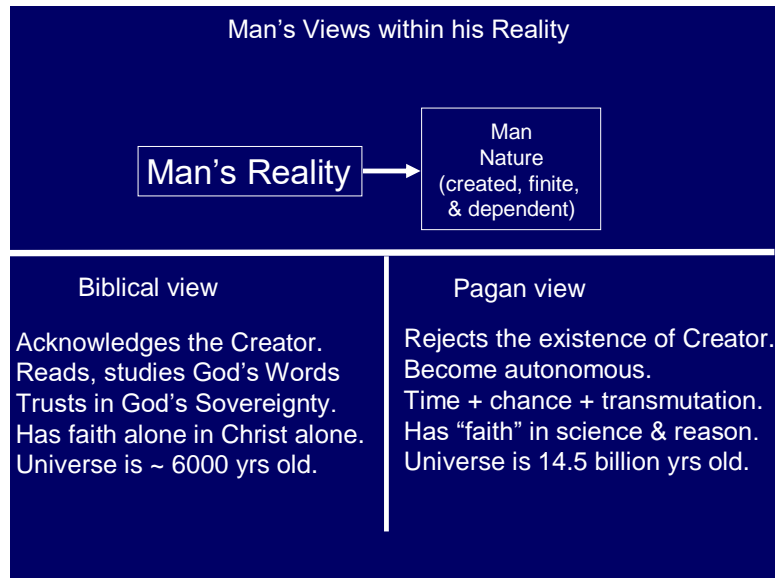
So, what are we suppose to do? The first thing to do is to recognize and acknowledge the **Creator-creature distinction** - That God is God not because we grant Him that honor. He is the “**I AM who I AM**” – independent of creation, always existing, from eternity to eternity. Secondly, recognize that the Creator-creature distinction has two realities – **God’s Reality and man’s reality**.



God’s Reality is that He is self-existent, self-contained, self-sufficient, independent of, and outside His creation. In other words, God does not need an outside source to validate Himself; the implication being that God had no need to create mankind.

Man’s reality is that he is created, finite, dependent, and subject to death.

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We have two views within man's reality.

1. The Bible view, where the believer acknowledges the Creator, reads and studies the Word of God, trusts in God's Sovereignty, has "faith alone in Christ alone", and believes the universe is ~ 6000 yrs old.

2. The Pagan view, where man rejects the existence of a Creator, claims to be autonomous, believes that time + chance + transmutation brought him into existence, has "faith" in science & reason, and believes that the universe is 14.5 billion yrs old and counting.

The Bible View expounded.

If the Bible is truly the Word of God, that is, God's revelation to man, we **MUST** find out what God has to say about His creation - how it came about, and how man (Adam) came to be, how Eve came to be, the Fall event - the seriousness of the disobedience of Adam, the promise of a redeemer, and how all that plays out in history - the complete opposite of the human reasoning of evolution! It is God showing us history from His Viewpoint – from beginning to the end. The way it really happened and the wonderful plan He has for mankind, summed up in John 3:16. God has placed (imputed) to His Unique Son, whose man name is Jesus, all of mankind's sins, from Adam to the last man, and He paid the penalty of our sins. It was a substitutionary sacrifice – the Sinless for the sinful, the Pure for the impure, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). This is the Good News! Jesus, the God-Man, has satisfied God for all the disobedience of all men against a holy God; and thus man is now "savable". Sin is no longer the issue. Jesus Christ is the issue. It is now "faith alone in Christ alone" that saves! He is the One that paid the penalty for sin so that we can once again have a relationship with our Creator! This is why we prepare ourselves with a course like this one, so that we will be better prepared Biblically to communicate the Gospel more clearly within a framework that, one, understands

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where the unbelieving mind is coming from and, two, present Biblical events and doctrines that the pagan mind cannot assimilate into their human viewpoint unbelief systems.

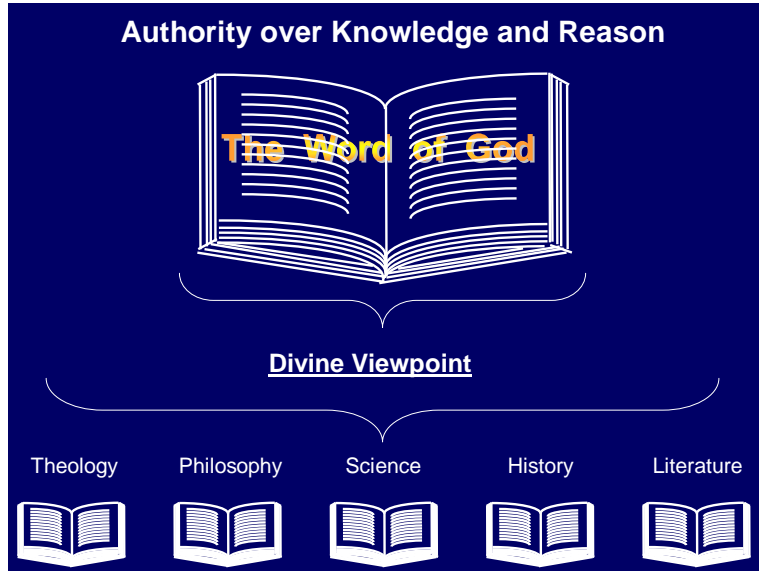
The Pagan View expounded.

Of course, the **counterfeit** to this is the collective pagan mind that places man as supreme authority, with his accomplishments, great writings, deep thoughts, and, being autonomous (self law), proclaiming that there is nothing that can't be accomplished if we just "pull together", brother with brother. "We can fix global warming, bring about world peace, and bring starvation to an end, because man is advancing, with more knowledge, better genetics, we are evolving to the point where man can live forever!" This is Humanism (or Paganism) at its very best. But they're suppressing the truth of the knowledge of their Creator. Rom. 1:18-20

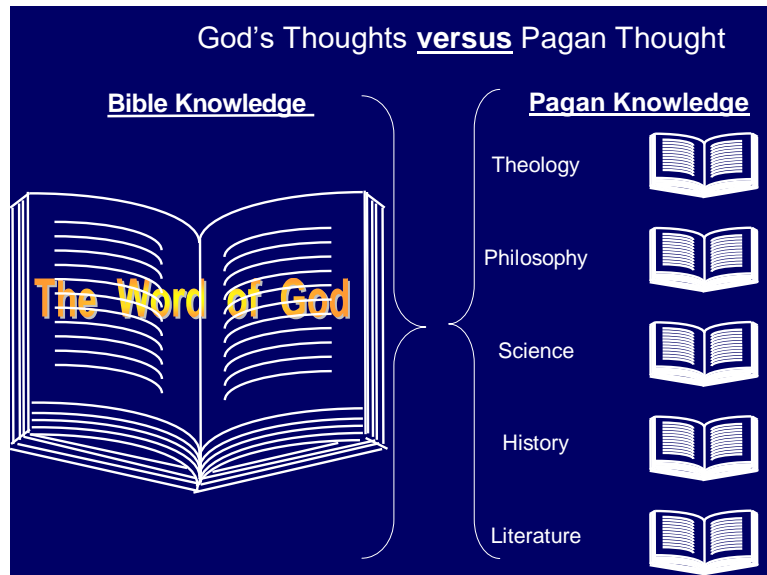
These, then, are the two viewpoints – God's viewpoint, given to us in the Bible; and Pagan viewpoint, obliterating the "God" idea and lifting Man to the supreme position of authority. Which of the two are we most acquainted with? Pagan viewpoint, of course. That's what we are taught in our schools, in literature, science, history, biology, political science, ethics, or philosophy of religion – it all deals with that which comes from the mind of man. If the subject is "God", it will be dealt with as God being an "amplified man", bigger than we are, but not big enough that we can't comprehend Him. Thus, men can make God in his (man's) image to understand and control (manipulate) Him. This is man's revelation to man as to how good he can become. That's what we hear in the workplace, at the coffee shop, on TV and talk radio. When we pick up a magazine, read an editorial, read a novel, or go to the movies, we are confronted with human viewpoint, human viewpoint, and more human viewpoint. It's everywhere we go! This is why it's a MUST to come to the Scriptures to find out how deep mankind has buried the truths that were given to Adam and Eve and handed down to their descendants – the truths of Genesis.

Biblical Thought.

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At one time, not too long ago, Biblical Theology was considered the Queen of the Sciences. At that time, everything taught was to be aligned with God's Word. The courses derived their substance from Biblical thought.



Biblical Framework Part 1 Review

In these days, the Bible has been demoted, misinterpreted, or ignored. Biblical Truth has been laid aside, and in its place finite “Autonomous Man” has arisen to dominate the educational scene, film industry, and media of all kinds.

New believers in Christ have been let down, left as unfed babies by religious men who should know better. I’m talking about teachers who do not feed the flock from the Bible – the Word of God – so that new believers can be taught to understand what it means to be a “new creature” in Christ; to walk by faith and not by sight, to trust God because He is trustworthy. Instead, they are lead through a mix of religious and worldly philosophies in harmony with today’s political correctness, all spoken of in religious vocabulary; where truth is relative, moral boundaries are fuzzy, and the doctrines derived from such a mixture are humanistic viewpoints. The new believers find themselves in a human viewpoint church, rather than a Biblically-led assembly of fellow believers studying God’s word diligently, learning doctrine and applying it to their lives. You hear phrases like, “Yes, I believe the Bible, I just don’t take it seriously”; or, “I believe the Bible, but I don’t believe it literally!”, or, “The Bible is supposed to a supplement to your own reasoning and research”, or, “The Bible is like a guideline for behavior”.

Without God’s revelation and instruction, all we have is “every man *doing* whatever is right in his own eyes” *Deut 12:8*

The Importance of God’s Revelation.

Biblical Framework Part 1 Review

The Basis of Knowledge			
	SYSTEM	STARTING POINT	METHOD
Autonomous Systems Of Perception	RATIONALISM	Innate ideas Faith in human ability.	Independent use of logic & reason
	EMPIRICISM	Sense perceptions External experience; Scientific method; Faith in human ability	Independent use of logic & reason
	MYSTICISM	Inner, private experience; intuition Faith in human ability	Independent, Nonlogical, nonrational, nonverifiable.
Divine Viewpoint	REVELATION	Objective revelation of God	Dependent use of logic and reason

Robby Dean

We all obtain human “knowledge” through Rationalism, Empiricism, and/or Mysticism. These are all within the capability of our human minds, our human senses, or our human experiences. Whether it is through:

- (1), independent use of logic and reason from innate ideas;
- (2), independent use of logic and reason from sense perceptions, external experience, or scientific method; or
- (3), Inner, private experience, or intuition – those things that go beyond logic and reason.

These are the things we consider trustworthy in the realm of perception and knowing. This is faith in human ability, what we will call Human Viewpoint (**HVP**) or the world’s viewpoint.

However, there is another avenue of knowledge called *God’s revelation*. This knowledge is outside of human knowledge, coming to us from the One who created the heavens and the earth, Whose thoughts are higher than our thoughts; from the One who is eternal and the source of all knowledge. This is what we will call Divine Viewpoint (**DVP**) or Biblical viewpoint.

The pagan mindset, or sinful nature, began when Adam ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, when he tried to become his own moral authority. We all inherit Adam’s sinful nature at conception.

So, when you come right down to it, what is the difference between the Pagan and the Believer?

Biblical Framework Part 1 Review

Science and Religion.

So it is that science and religion part company – again, a question of authority.

Modern Compartmentalization	
What science says about itself and how it views "religion":	
<u>Science</u>	<u>Religion</u>
Fact	Fiction
Real	Unreal
Knowledge	Belief
Brain	Heart
Secular	Sacred
Seen	Unseen
Rational	Irrational
Truth	Fantasy
Practical	Impractical
Evolutionism	Creationism
Public	Private

Science has become a kind of an authoritarian deity that must be given obedience, and so we need to look at how Science views Religion – as weak, subjective, non-rational, full of fairy-tales and supposed truths, all non verifiable. It is the realm of the “spiritual”. It’s “whatever comforts you”. From the human viewpoint, the Bible, then, is a fairytale, a bunch of nice stories for children – entertaining, but still “fairytale stories”; the snake that speaks in the garden, the apple in the tree, the big flood, Noah’s Ark, animals two-by-two, and all that.

However, these are the claims of those who themselves live in imaginary castles and desire to live irresponsibly.

Divine Viewpoint.

Open your Bibles to Romans 1:18. “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in (or by) unrighteousness” In other words, if man can suppress the knowledge that God exists - often enough and long enough – by distancing himself from his Creator, man will make the world a safe place in which to sin, because he is a “victim” – it’s not his fault! The Human Viewpoint, or worldly system, will not admit to, in fact cannot admit to, or submit to, a Creator God. As soon as they admit that there is a God, then they are responsible. They must answer to a Being outside of themselves! And, to hold their position, they don’t want you to believe in God either! They will go to great lengths to diminish, humiliate, scoff, and put down those who do. How do we know they are “suppressing the truth”? Let’s read on in Romans 1:19-20 “..because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power

Biblical Framework Part 1 Review

and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.” They can deny, but they will be held responsible. They will have no defense before the Divine Judge.

What must be kept in mind is that we “moderns” have been so indoctrinated by our educational system, with our “authority” figures using revisionism tactics, the distortion of truth by half-truths, that we have a difficult time remembering who we are as Christians. We become less capable of defining our beliefs (much less defending them), so that the pagan ideas of superstition, chance, “what goes around, comes around” types of philosophies to which we are exposed everyday, overtake our beliefs and we fall victim to these man-made philosophies. We absorb through osmosis. We read our horoscopes daily and live our lives as a cork in turbulent water, hoping that tomorrow will be better than today, and that, someday, somehow, we will be good enough to get to “heaven” (if there is a heaven). We haven’t been given enough spiritual truth in our denominational churches because they have replaced Bible truth with their own traditions from 16th and 17th century beliefs. That’s why a Biblical Framework course is important. It will help us look at the world from God’s Viewpoint (DVP) rather than the Human or worldly Viewpoint (HVP). It will help us uncover the “buried” truths of origins. Remember Romans 1:18ff, men suppressing the truth in unrighteousness.

History and Consequences.

At the time of the Great Awakening in America in the 1740s - 1750s, the emphasis was on personal religious experience, and most Christians removed the Bible from the center stage of public life.

Religion became intensely personal,

fostering a deep sense of spiritual guilt and redemption, encouraging introspection and a commitment to a new standard of personal morality.

This kind of introspection and subjectivism gradually placed religion in special “category”, which the world accepted and used to the point of great contrast, along with man’ reason, which was also on center stage. This combination eventually led to the compartmentalism we find today.

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The world system has managed to convince people that one day (or ½ day) a week belongs to God – the rest of the week belongs to me, my work, my ambitions, my education, etc., and, so we compartmentalize the pieces of our lives. Your faith is no bigger than that little compartment, and eventually you operate just like the world in all the other areas of life and they overwhelm the religious one. The world strategically enveloped you because you don’t have the correct frame of reference. This is also where you find the “Sunday morning is for God” syndrome. Sunday afternoon is for football, and Monday through Saturday is for work and personal stuff, while evenings are reserved for our favorite TV shows, or more football.

One of the biggest events in this country happened between 1900 and 1925, and that is, every major denomination went liberal. Every single one of them, schools were lost, libraries were lost, and denominations were lost. You’ll never hear it mentioned in a history course of the 20th century.

In Liberal Christianity or liberal theology, the Bible is not considered a collection of factual statements but that it instead “documents” the human authors' beliefs and feelings about God *at the time of its writing*—within an historic/cultural context. So, liberal Christian theologians do not claim to discover “truth propositions” but rather create religious models and concepts that reflect the class, gender, social, and political contexts from which they emerge.

Liberalism, then, focuses on the “rights of the individual”, believing that it is within human ability to make things better. It has become all-inclusive – the brotherhood of mankind, with a motto like, “Open doors, open hearts, open minds”. Truth is relative, and there are “many ways” to God, and everyone is welcome to believe their way.

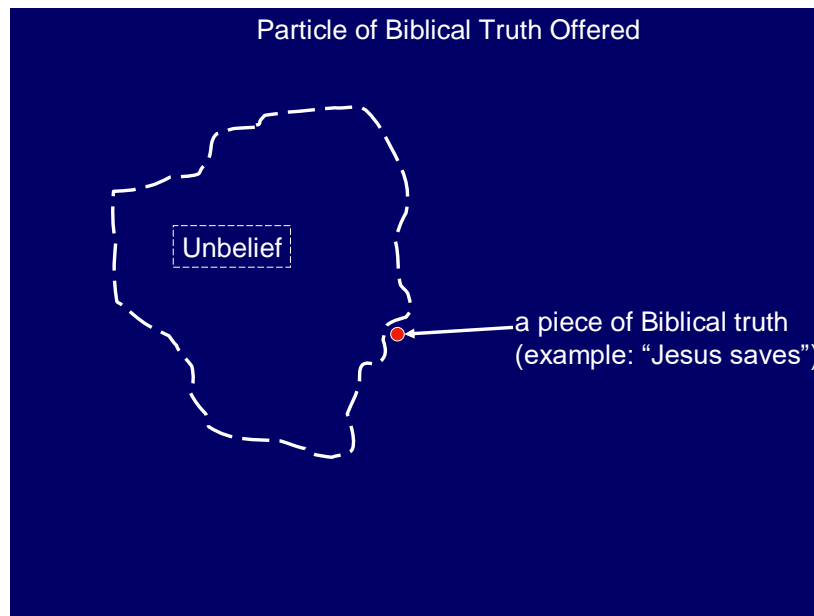
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The word "liberal" in liberal Christianity refers to the manner of thought and belief associated with the philosophical and religious paradigms developed during the Age of Enlightenment, when reason was set forth as the primary source and basis of authority.

We currently live in an age where we are bombarded with distraction and information, with entertainment at the touch of a button, and the "information highway" at a mouse click. Never before in history have we been in this situation. These are the means used by the worldly system to crowd God out of our lives – to fill our minds with attractions, distractions, and man-made trivia that fills our minds with music, news, and fanciful "what ifs" to make our lives "worthwhile" day by day.

The Pagan Mind and Apologetics.

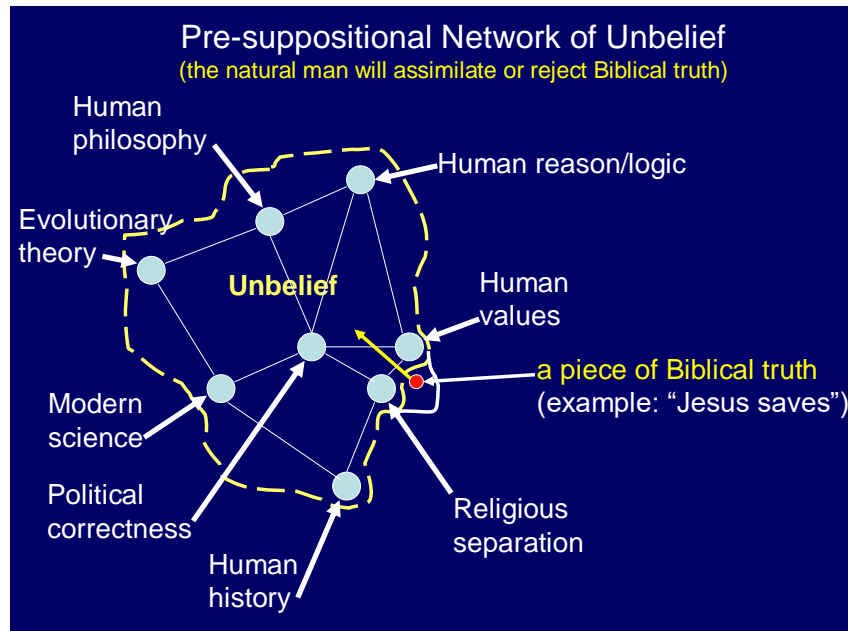
The Bible has the only truthful answers for the stability we so desperately need.



However, our biblical training has been so shallow that we only have fragments of Scripture or doctrine to hold on to, and so what this believer offers as an explanation is quickly absorbed, dissolved and dismissed in the modern pagan's mind. The argument that "Jesus saves" isn't going to be enough.

The Human Viewpoint, or pagan framework, overwhelms us and destroys our ability to walk by faith. So, let's take a look at what we're up against. This will help us understand the need for a Framework Series.

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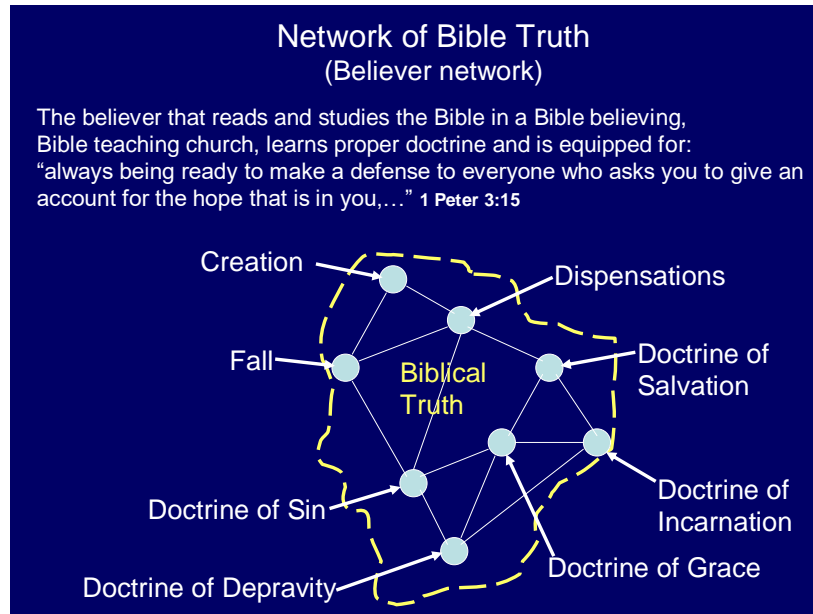


The pre-suppositional network of unbelief is made up of many human systems: human philosophy, human reason, human values, religious separation, human history involving evolutionary theory, modern science, political correctness, diversity, individual rights, and on and on.

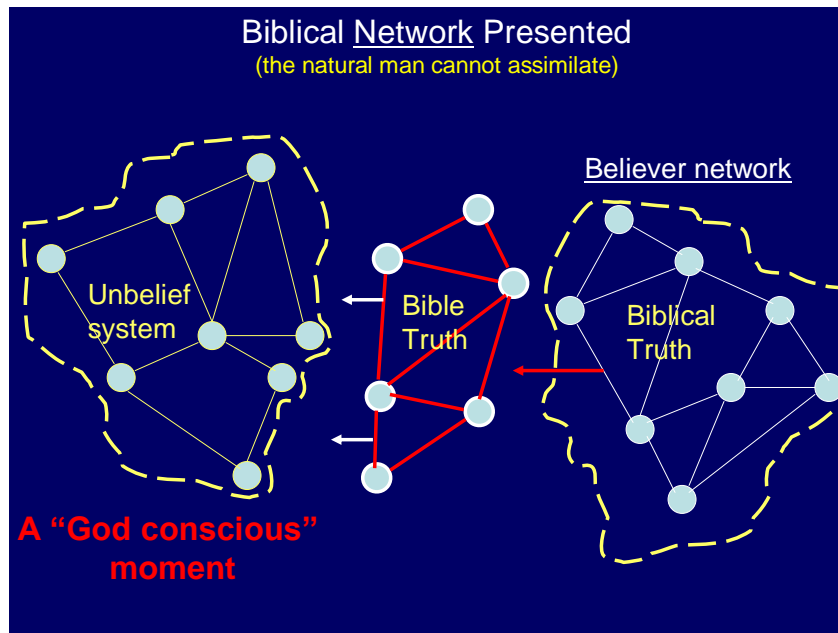
We believers have no framework from which to be ready to give a defense (or apologetic) for the hope that is in us (as believers) as 1 Peter 3:15 expects of us.

In other words, we don't understand the Bible enough to present more than one truth at a time in a discussion with others who don't believe (a matter of apologetics), or with new believers (a matter of discipleship).

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In studying the Framework Series, we begin to “connect the dots” and the Bible begins to take on cohesiveness, or an interrelatedness, that the Holy Spirit can use to recall to our minds, when He sends someone to us with a question or concern.



It uses Biblical events and the doctrines coming out of them to allow us to feed the Pagan mind with a “network” of related truths that the unbelieving mind cannot handle, and, therefore will not be able to

Biblical Framework Part 1 Review

absorb into his unbelieving pagan system of thinking! The person may walk away calling you a “Bible thumping fundamentalist” (with expletives included), they may admit to you that they will have to go away and thoughtfully consider these truths, or they may just walk away mumbling to themselves. In any case, they have been confronted with Biblical truth and had a “God conscious” moment.

Romans 12:2 tells us “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,” and Ephesians 4:22ff says, “.... in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

How do we put off the old and put on the new? We “renew our mind” by filling the mind with Biblical thought (Divine Viewpoint), and dismantling our deceived human thinking – one truth at a time. This is how we become maturing believers, isn’t it? We don’t receive an infusion of “Bible knowledge”. We read the Bible and ask questions. We attend a Bible teaching church to learn. We put our faith alone in the Cross-work of Christ alone for justification, and then we “grow” by reading, studying, applying Biblical doctrine little by little.

The Bible is referred to as “the Word of God”. If this is true, shouldn’t we be paying attention to the words, ideas, events, and doctrines that flow forth from this “revelation” from God? It means that God has communicated to mankind important truths. This Book is the only book that talks about a personal sovereign God. The Koran doesn’t. The Hindu books don’t. The Buddhist books don’t. If men do not hold the Bible in high esteem as the inspired and inerrant Word of God and fail to handle it properly (interpretation and doctrine application), then they will turn to other sources as their authority like human reason alone, science, church tradition, mysticism, or experiences for what they believe and practice.

What is included in the course?

We want to work out the rationale for trusting God’s word. We can’t make ourselves believe. We have to be convinced. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. We have to understand before we believe. We want to look at the Bible as an entire framework that addresses every area of life so that it encircles our every circumstance so we can walk by faith. What we’re really talking about here is reversing deception.

First, we’re going to stress The Historicity of the Biblical Events - that these events occurred in history just as the Bible says they did.

Second, The Interrelatedness of the Bible, how the doctrines taught in the historic events relate to one another like a web-work.

Third, The Apologetic Strategy of the Bible, where we see how the message of the Bible is a coherent message that God has given man by which we see that He is an organized thinker; He speaks in an organized way.

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The problem we have as Believers is that, we too, tend to compartmentalize, we tend to think of the Bible as just truth for our religious life and that the Bible really doesn't have much to contribute in other areas – areas like biology, physics, geology, astronomy, history, or archeology. But that's not true because that's the way God created the universe, and those things deal with aspects of His universe. We hope to undermine that kind of compartmentalized thought. The Bible is God's word, and as the word of the living God, when it touches on these areas, it's true, because God is a God of truth.

For example: The Biblical Creation and the Evolutionary theory are diametrically opposed!

Either, as our schools and the media state as “fact”, that over billions of years, from some kind of ocean slime, life evolved into a fish that eventually, crawled onto land and further evolved into a monkey type, which slowly evolved into a human being,

OR, as Gen 2:7 (further explaining Gen 1:27) says “.. the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

They cannot both be true!

We will be looking at the events of Creation, the Fall, the Flood, and the New World Covenant as historical, true, and accurate; and we will look at the doctrines that flow from each of these events. We will be looking at God's Word as being interrelated – that these events and doctrines are not just “loose marbles” in a bag. There's an inner coherence to Scripture and that coherence reflects the coherence of our God.

So it is, in the final analysis, that we are confronted with a serious choice - an “either / or” situation.

Is the Bible really the Word of God? If it is, then:

Either

you will let the Word of God
interpret the world around you,

or

you will let the world around you
interpret the Word of God.

You will be forced to accept one or the other as truth!

Either you will let the Word of God interpret the world around you, or you're going to let the world around you interpret the Word of God. You cannot “pick and choose” to appease an opponent, nor can

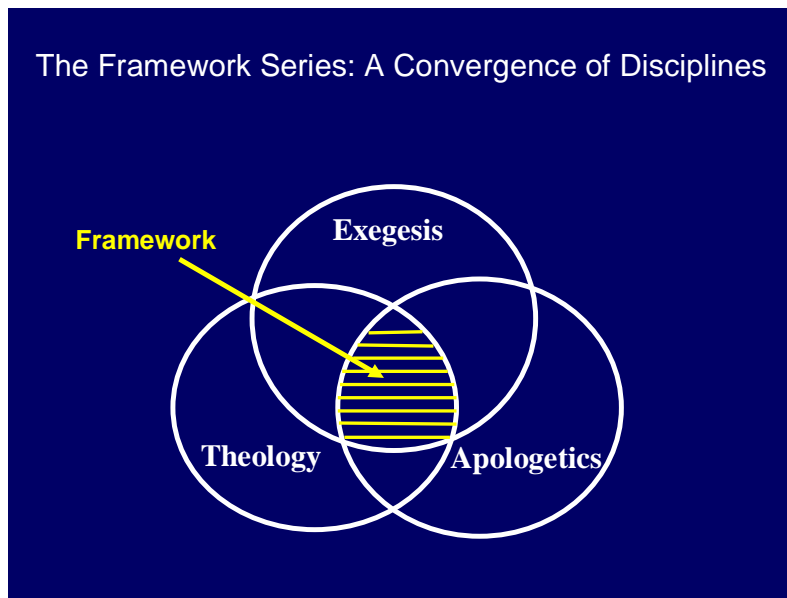
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you “mix and match” as needed to support your own presuppositions. In the end, you will be forced to accept one or the other as truth!

Remember, the Bible is written from the Divine Viewpoint – telling us about world events from His point of view. It’s history! It is God showing us, through important events in history – His complete control of the circumstances and events concerning the rise and fall of nations for His purpose. We see this in Job 12:23 where “He makes the nations great, then destroys them; He enlarges the nations, then leads them away.”

As we begin to see that history has meaning, purpose, and direction we will come to realize that God is truly in control, our lives take on stability and confidence, because we can see God’s Plan being worked out in history. We will see this as we unfold Genesis chapter 1 through Genesis chapter 9. This introductory course looks at the first 4 basic events in a 22 event Framework Series course.

As a final point, and to conclude this introduction, here in picture form is the concept of The Framework Series.



It is a convergence of three disciplines: Exegesis, Theology, and Apologetics.

It was never intended to replace the line by line, verse by verse study of God’s Word, only to complement it. But I think you will find it a great help in comprehending the Old Testament and New Testament and putting pieces together.

Remember, one of the reasons for studying Genesis 1-9 is to prepare yourself with a Biblical framework from which to present the Gospel more clearly and effectively.

Next time, we’ll look at the importance of origins.

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