

BECOMING

A

CERTAIN

KIND

OF

CHRISTIAN

DEVELOPING AN INTEGRATED FAITH

six week life study class
sundays • 12p-1p • sept 10-oct 15
middle school yth room



THEY'RE STRONGER
TOGETHER

Discipleship

Apologetics

Evangelism

NGIM



NGIM

NORM GEISLER INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

Building an Unshakable Foundation

HE WAS LOOKING FOR ANSWERS... AND FOUND SO MUCH MORE.



NORM GEISLER:

NOT QUALIFIED

Norm Geisler discovered early in his spiritual journey...

- 1. ...that faith and reason are more compatible than some Christians realize.**
- 2. ...that there is an appropriate way to use apologetics (Christian evidence) in our witness to others and yet in partnership with the Holy Spirit.**
- 3. ...that we have more common ground in witnessing to non-believers than they realize.**

Things To Know About Our Faith

1. *Biblical faith must have an object to be valid.*
2. *Our faith is not a blind faith.*
3. *It is a faith with reason.*
4. *It is a faith that is supported by evidence.*
5. *Our subjective experience of Christ is only valid if it corresponds to an objective truth.*
6. *The bible makes an important distinction between “belief that” and “belief in.”*
7. *Our faith goes deeper than knowing things about God!*
8. *In better understanding our faith, we need to remember that God’s truth goes beyond reason but never against reason (2 Cor. 1:18; Titus 1:9 ESV).*
9. *God’s truth can be a mystery.*
10. *I can trust God for what I don’t know because of what He’s revealed to me that I do know.*
11. *Christianity is a system of truth, with some error in minor details, all other religions in the world are a system of error with some truth.*



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APOLOGETICS AND EVANGELISM GO HAND IN HAND



APOLOGETICS AND EVANGELISM

Scripture Commands Us to Defend the Faith

1 Peter 3:15- “but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being *prepared* to make a *defense* to anyone who asks you for a *reason* for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” (ESV)





Observation 1 Pet. 3:15

1. We are commanded to give answers specifically for the hope we have in Christ!



Christian evidence normally accompanied the presentation of the Gospel in the New Testament:

Matthew 4:23; John 5:36, 10:37-38, 20:30-31; Acts 9:22, 14:1, 17:2-3, 26:28-29, 28:23.

What Does It Mean to be Ready?

1 Pet. 3:15 (ESV) says,

“But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared (ready) to make a defensive to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,”





Being Ready

“Being ready is not just a matter of having the right information available, it is also an attitude of readiness and eagerness to share the truth of what we believe.”

Norman Geisler, Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics, p. 37



- But what if they don't ask us questions about what we believe?

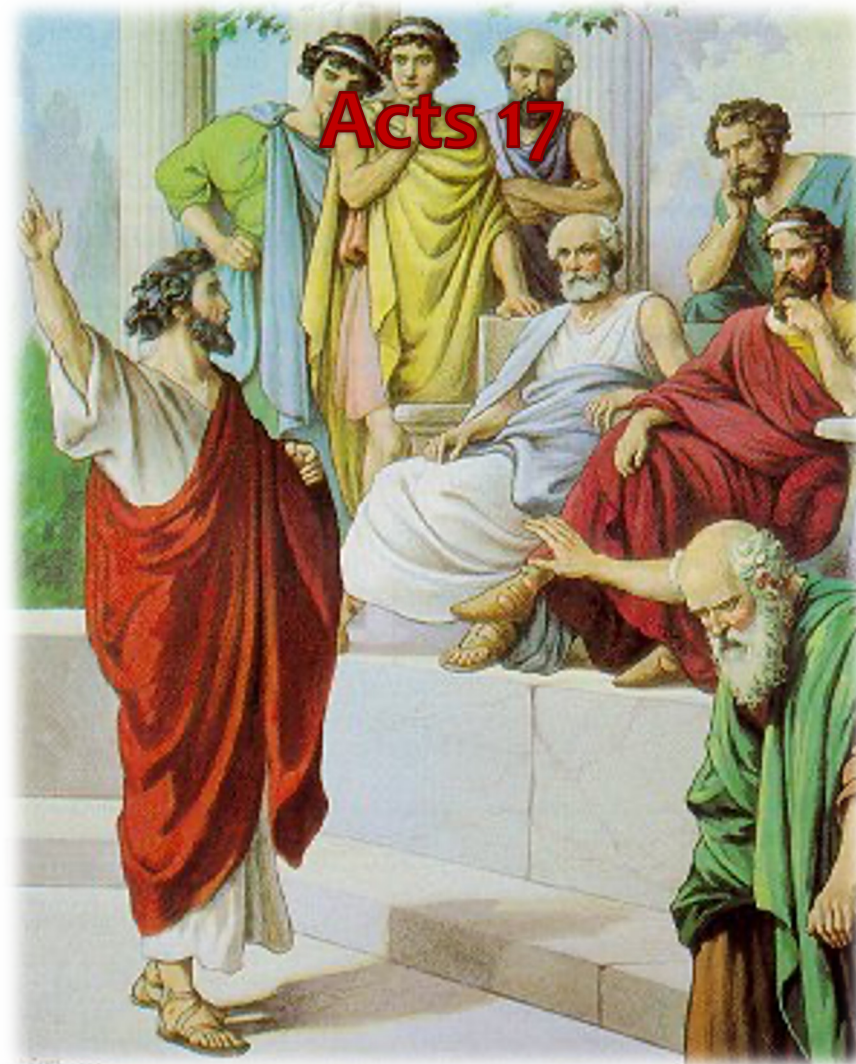
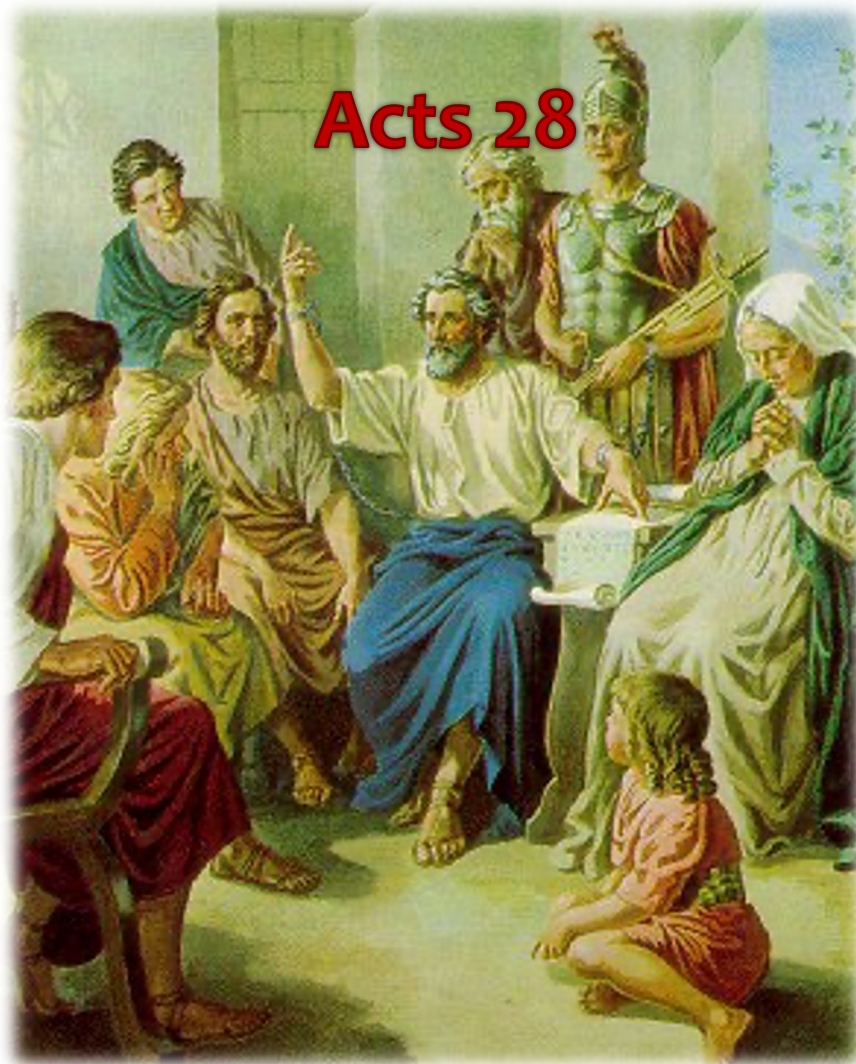


Being Ready

The Greek word for ready (Hetoimos) is used in Matt 24:44 and Luke 12:40 to communicate the idea that as Christians we need to anticipate Christ's return.

Now, if we combine 1 Peter 3:15 with 2 Corinthians 10:5 and I Cor. 9:22, it is clear that our responsibility as Christians is also to eagerly anticipate the questions and objections that our non-Christian friends may raise against Christianity, whether they ask us a specific question or not!

That Was The Apostle Paul's Practice!



Persuading them From Nature

Paul's approach in Acts 17:29



“Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.”

Acts 17:29 ESV

The Bottom Line Concerning 1 Peter 3:15



If we are going to be able to fulfill the imperatives of 1 Peter 3:15 in today's world, we must understand our responsibilities as being more than just giving answers if asked!

We must eagerly work to remove their barriers!

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



1. Apologetics and Evangelism worked hand In hand in the New Testament.
 - 2. The apologetic imperative could even mean simply removing barriers.**
- These barriers could be intellectual, emotional or volitional barriers or some kind of combination of the three.

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



1. Apologetics and Evangelism worked hand In hand in the New Testament.
2. The apologetic imperative could even mean simply removing barriers.
- 3. Intellectual barriers are never the primary barrier that keeps someone from coming to Christ.**

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



**“Though he had
done so many signs
before them,
they still did not
believe in him,”
John 12:37 ESV**

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



“They are darkened in their understanding...because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart!”

Ephesians 4:18 ESV

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



Implications:

- **Our goal should not be to win the argument!**

What is the Goal of Using Apologetics in Evangelism?



Is it to smash down the person?

2 Cor. 10:5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

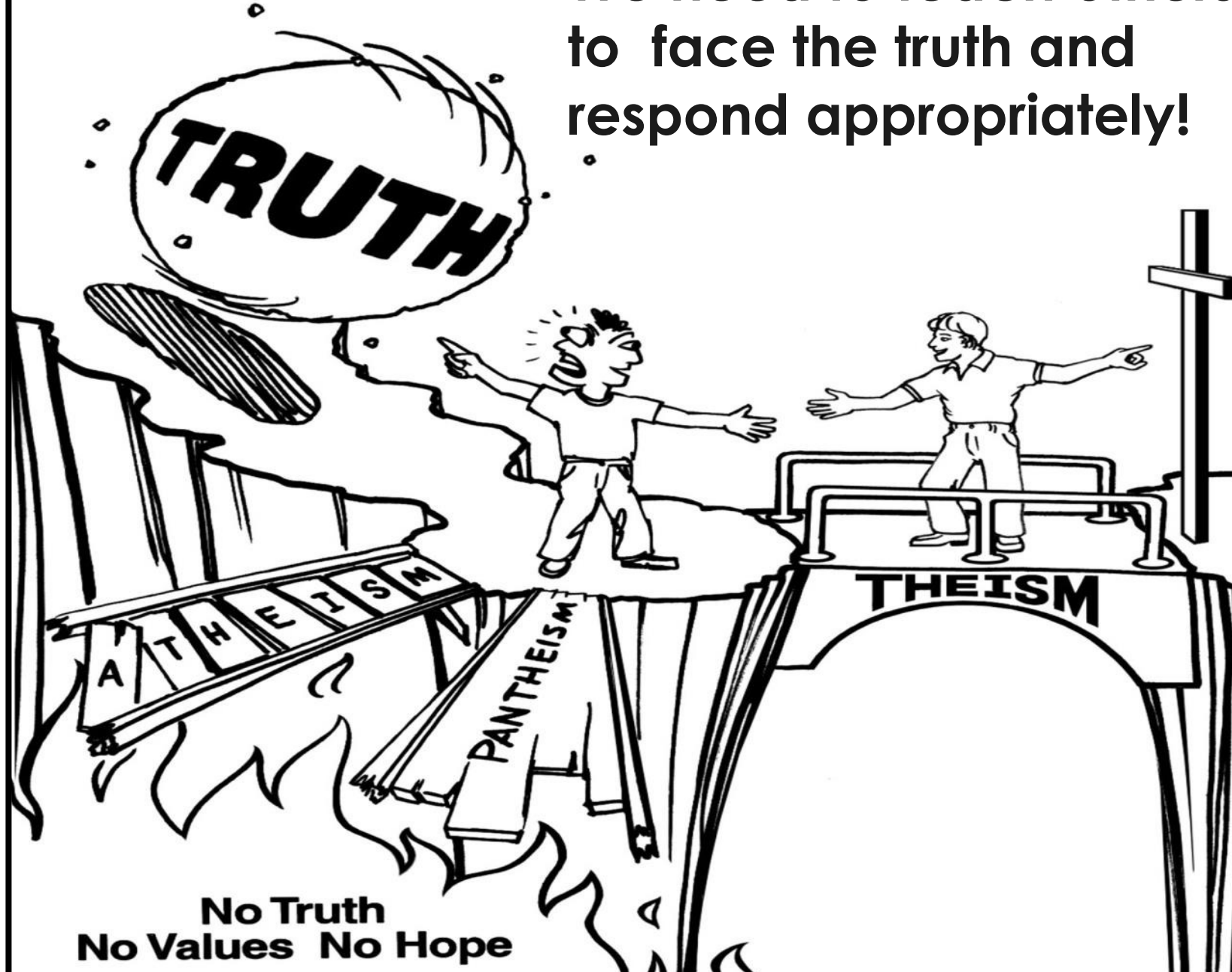
Understand the Goal of Apologetics in Evangelism



We want to use it to provide the motivation for helping people to take steps away from their current distorted worldview perspective and towards Theism and Christianity

Acts 17:31-32

We need to teach others
to face the truth and
respond appropriately!

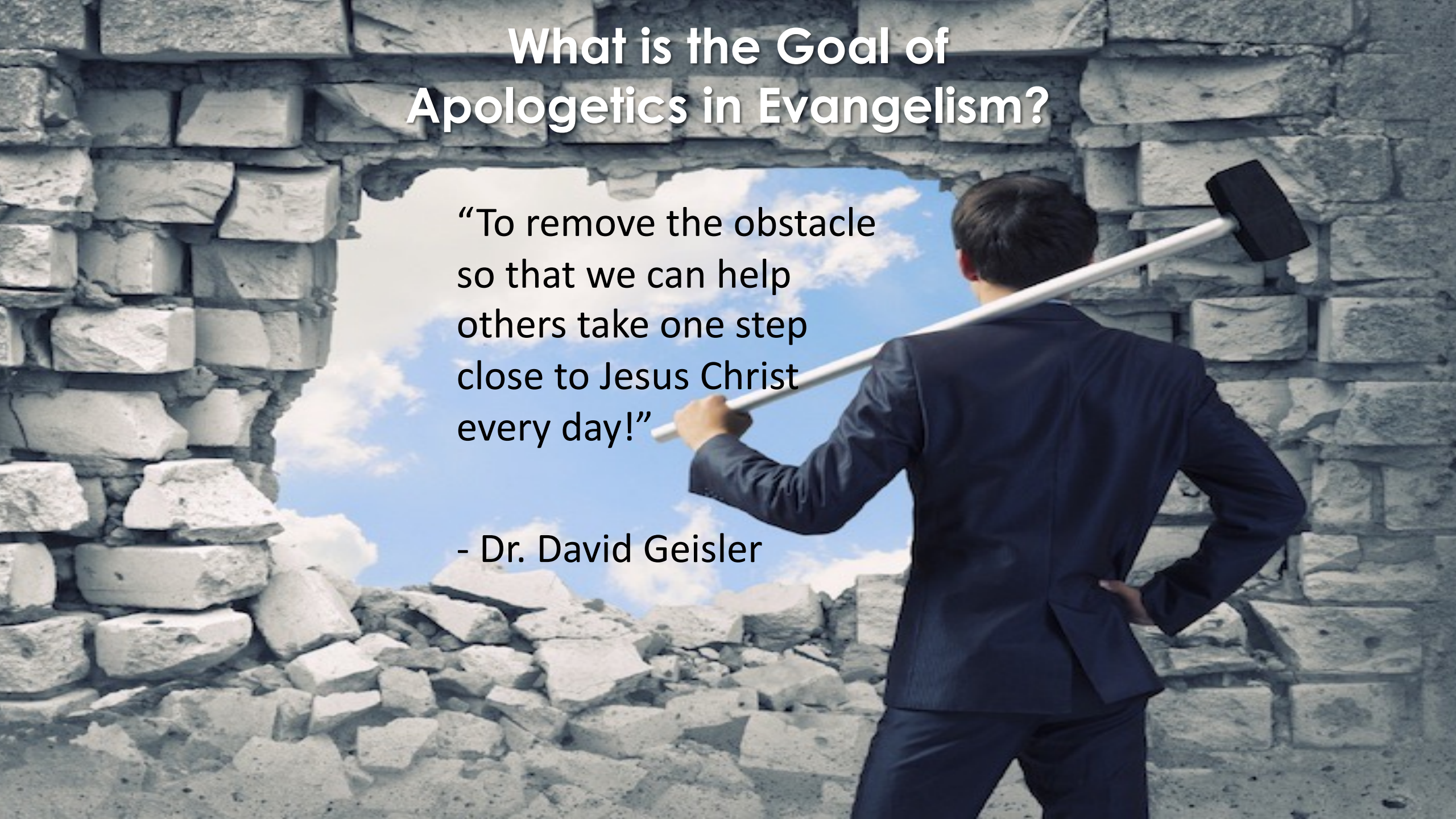


No Truth
No Values No Hope

What is the Goal of Apologetics in Evangelism?

“To remove the obstacle so that we can help others take one step close to Jesus Christ every day!”

- Dr. David Geisler



Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



1. Apologetics and Evangelism worked hand In hand in the New Testament.
 2. The apologetic imperative could even simply mean removing barriers.
 3. Intellectual barriers are never the primary barrier that keeps someone from coming to Christ.
 4. **Remember that using apologetics in our witness to others is never enough to save anyone because we also need the work of the Holy Spirit.**
- Apologetics can only bring you so far.

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



We need the Holy Spirit!

“And he said, ‘This is why I told you that no that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.’”

John. 6:65 ESV

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



2. Remember that using apologetics is never enough to save anyone because we also need the work of the Holy Spirit.(Jn. 6:65).

- **Apologetics can only bring you so far.**
- **We cannot welcome the Holy Spirit, no matter what we believe.
(1 Cor. 2:14).**

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



“The natural person does not accept (welcome) the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”

1 Cor. 2:14 ESV

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- 3. ...that we have more in common ground in witnessing to non-believers than they realize.**

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



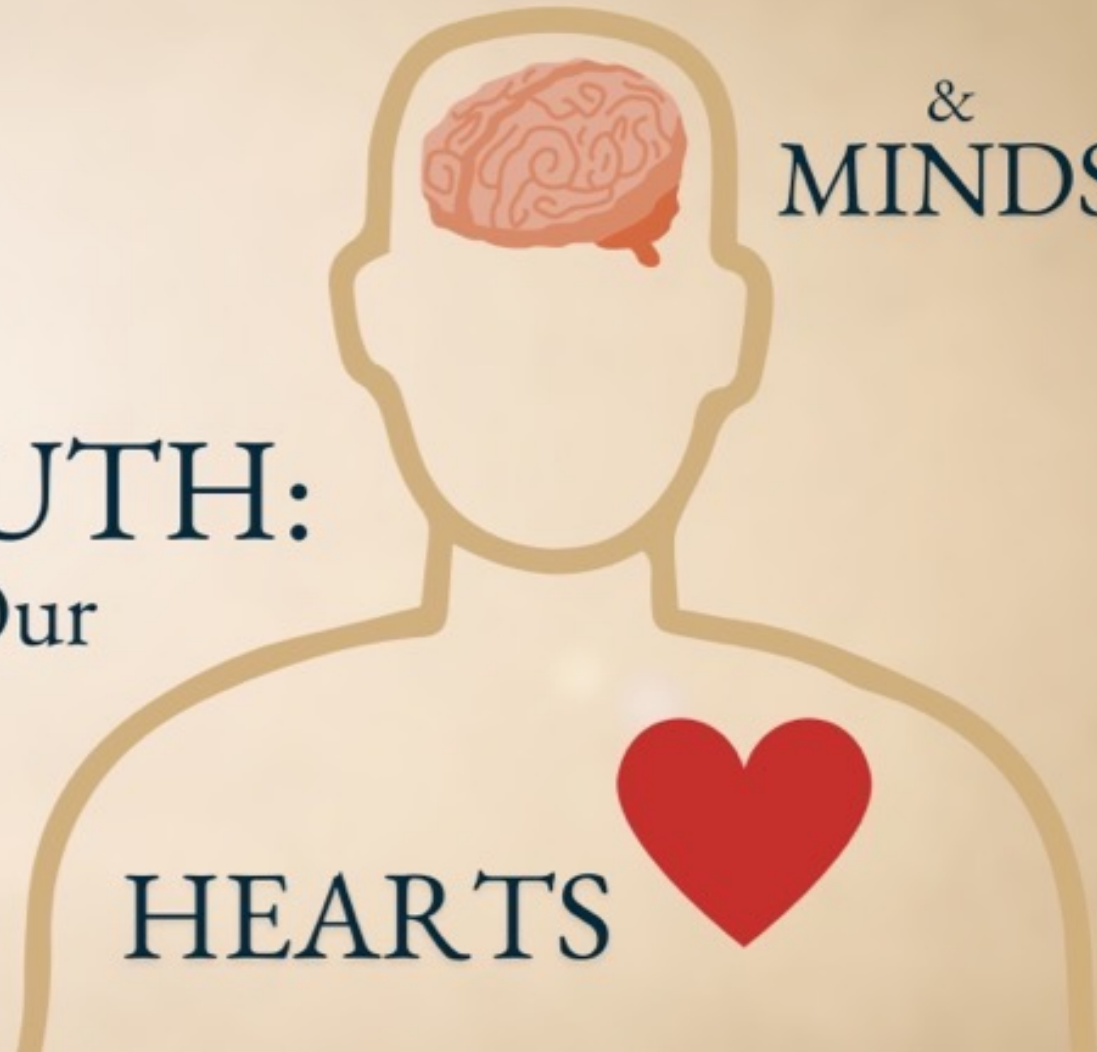
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&
MINDS

GOD'S TRUTH:
Written on Our

HEARTS

w/ Dr. David Geisler

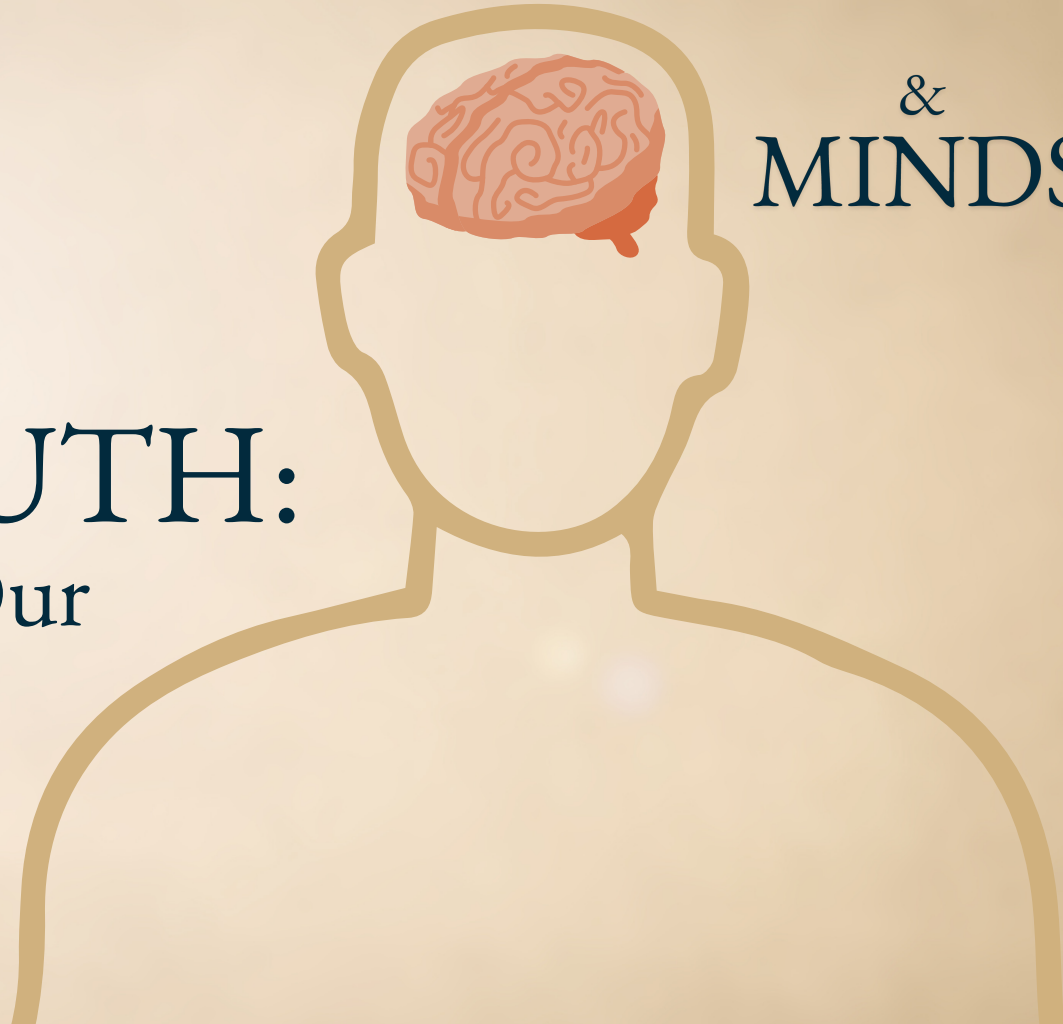


Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



&
MINDS

GOD'S TRUTH:
Written on Our



Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



- The bible teaches that knowledge of God...His nature and power is plain to everyone (Rom. 1:19-20).

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism

**For what can be known about
God is plain to them, because
God has shown it to them.**

Romans 1:19 ESV

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made..."

Romans 1:20 ESV

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism

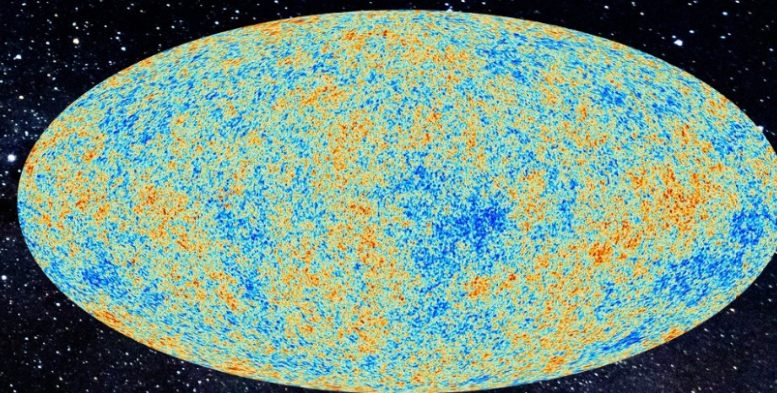


One light-year is 5.88 trillion miles. Cosmologists have theorized that the universe is 94 billion light-years long. Obviously that is only how big the *known* universe is. Certainly the power to create stars and galaxies in that big space, had to be pretty powerful. So our creator has to be pretty powerful.

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ROMANS 1:19-20



|||||
94 Billion Light-years

- God's Truth...



GOD'S TRUTH:
Written on Our

HEARTS



Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



“For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them.”

Romans 2:14-15 ESV

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



An Independent Standard for Measurement



C.S. Lewis
Mere Christianity, p 25.

“The moment you say that one set of moral ideas can be better than another, you are, in fact, measuring them both by a standard, saying that one of them conforms to that standard more nearly than the other. But the standard that measures two things is something different from either.”

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



1. God's Truth is written on our minds (Rom. 1:18-20).
2. God's Truth is written on our hearts (Rom. 2:14-15).

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



- God's Truth is written on our minds (Rom. 1:18-20).
 - God's Truth is written on our hearts (Rom. 2:14-15).
-
- Remember that there are some things that we cannot not know.
 - Remember also we will be judge for the knowledge we do have.

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



“18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.19 For what can be known about God is plain to them,...So they are without excuse. (Rom. 1:18 – 20 ESV).

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



Implications:

- **Even if someone has never opened a bible, they are still responsible!**
- **No one can accuse God of not being fair because they didn't know the truth!**

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



Implications:

- **I should have mercy on my friend and do whatever I can to help my non-Christian friends take a step to the cross daily! (Jude 22)**

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



“And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.”

Jude 22 ESV

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



1. God's Truth is written on our minds (Rom. 1:18-20).
2. God's Truth is written on our hearts (Rom. 2:14-15).
3. We share some similar philosophical ideas with non-believers to build common ground (1 Cor. 9:22; Rom. 1:20).

“Philosophy”-

**Is a rational investigation into the true nature of
reality.**

***Everybody* uses philosophy!**

“Philosophy”-

“Is the study of ideas about knowledge, truth, the nature and meaning of life, etc.”

Merriam-Webster

Branches of Philosophy

1. Metaphysics (The study of reality)
2. Epistemology (The study of knowledge)
3. Logic (The systematic study of valid inference and reasoning)
4. Ethics (The study of value and morality)
5. Aesthetics (The study of beauty, art, and taste)

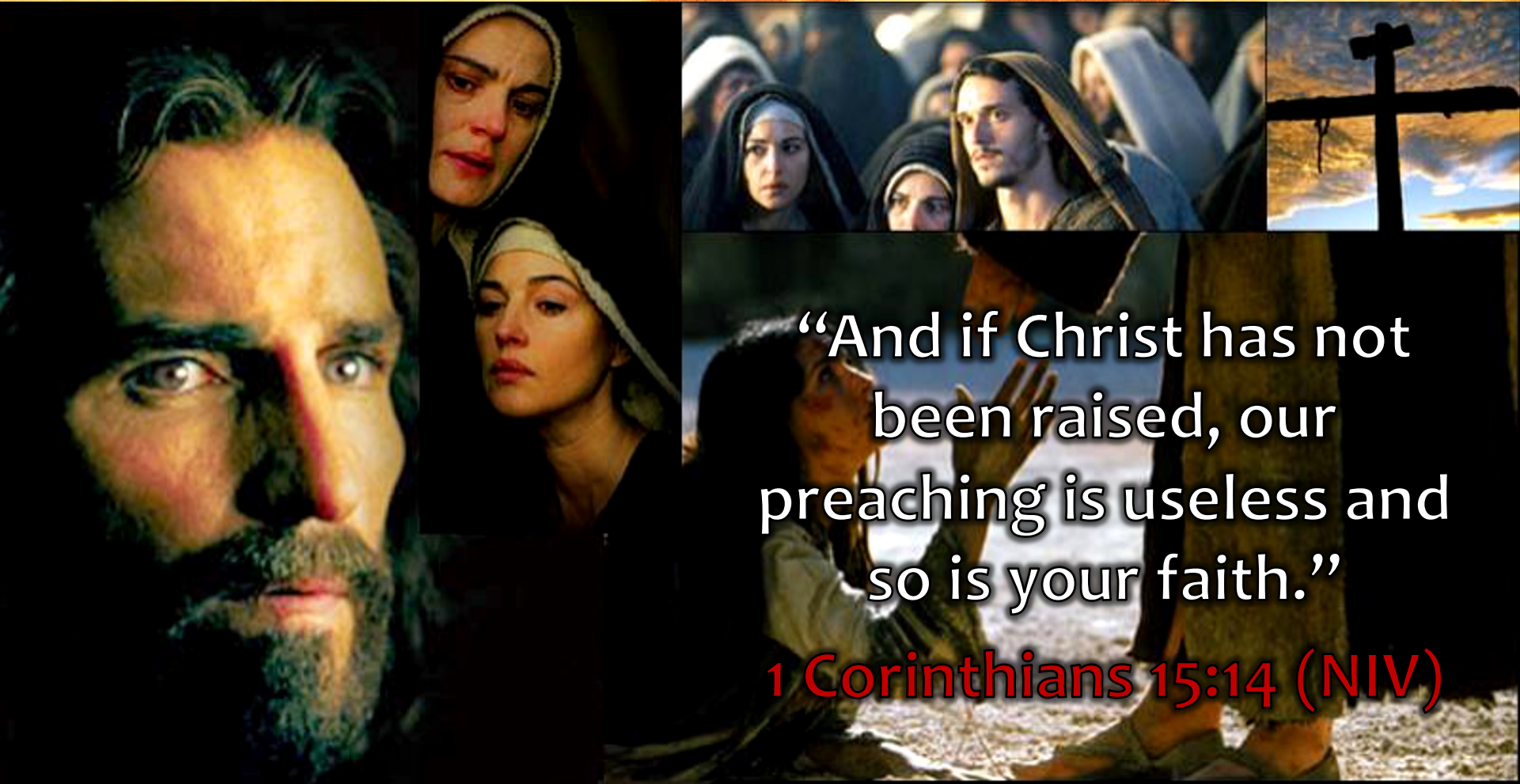
Note: There is good philosophy and bad philosophy!

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



1. God's Truth is written on our minds (Rom. 1:18-20).
2. God's Truth is written on our hearts (Rom. 2:14-15).
3. We share some similar philosophical ideas with non-believers that we can use to build common ground (1 Cor. 9:22; Rom. 1:20).
 - We both believe in objective truth.
 - We both believe that truth corresponds to reality.
 - We both believe the laws of logic apply to reality.

Christianity is Based on a Historical Event



“And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.”

1 Corinthians 15:14 (NIV)

** Biblical faith must have an object to be valid.*



Conv



Conversational EVANGELISM

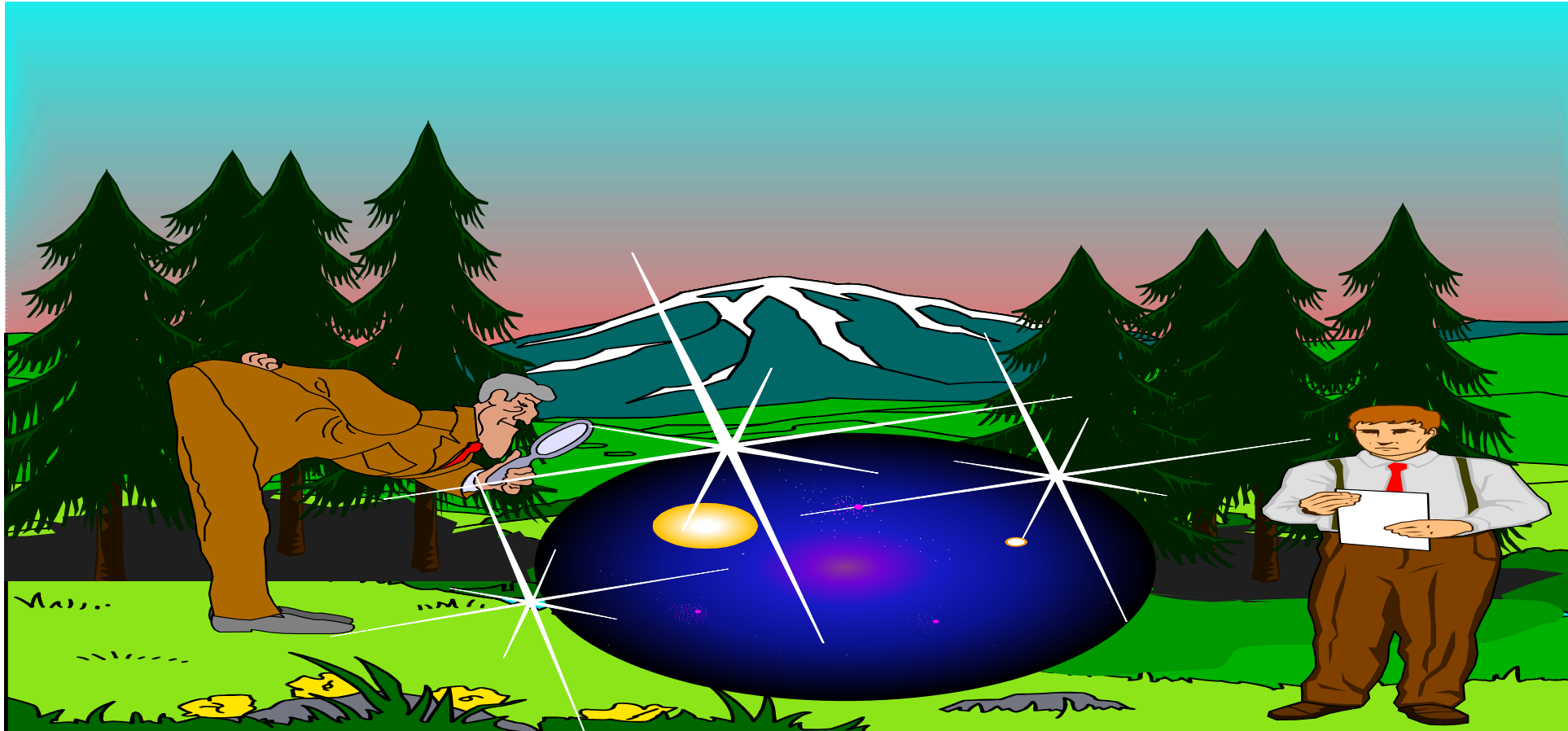


**Truth
of
Christianity**

**Truth
of
Christianity**

**Existence and
Attributes of God**

**...being understood from what has been
made so they are without excuse.**



What we need to remember!

There cannot be:

...the Son of God,

...the Word of God,

...miraculous acts of God,

...the salvation of God—

unless there is a God!



**Truth
of
Christianity**

**Existence and
Attributes of God**

**Truth
of
Christianity**

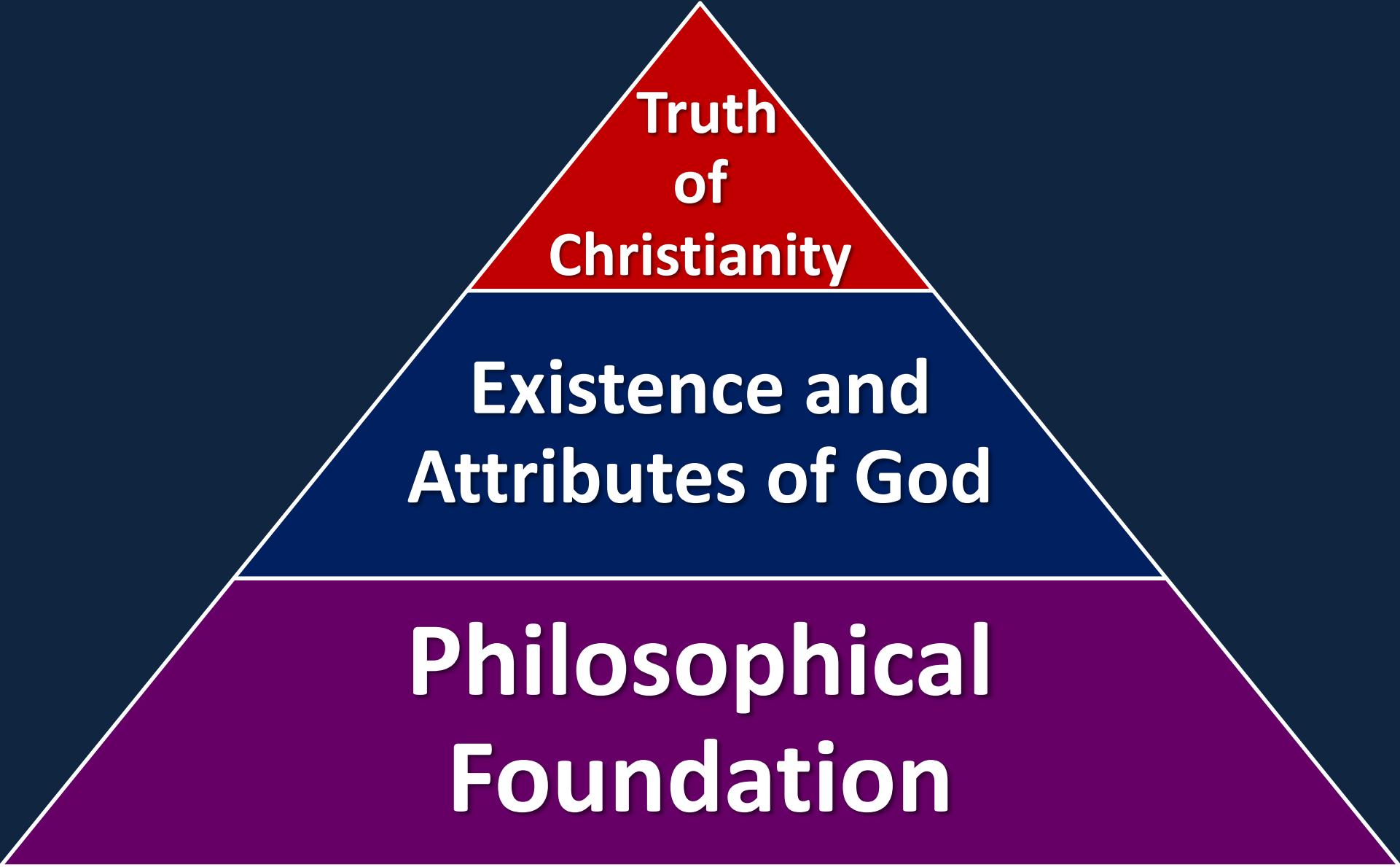
**Existence and
Attributes of God**

Certain Beliefs

**Truth
of
Christianity**

**Existence and
Attributes of God**

**Certain Beliefs about Reality
and How We Can Know Things**



**Truth
of
Christianity**

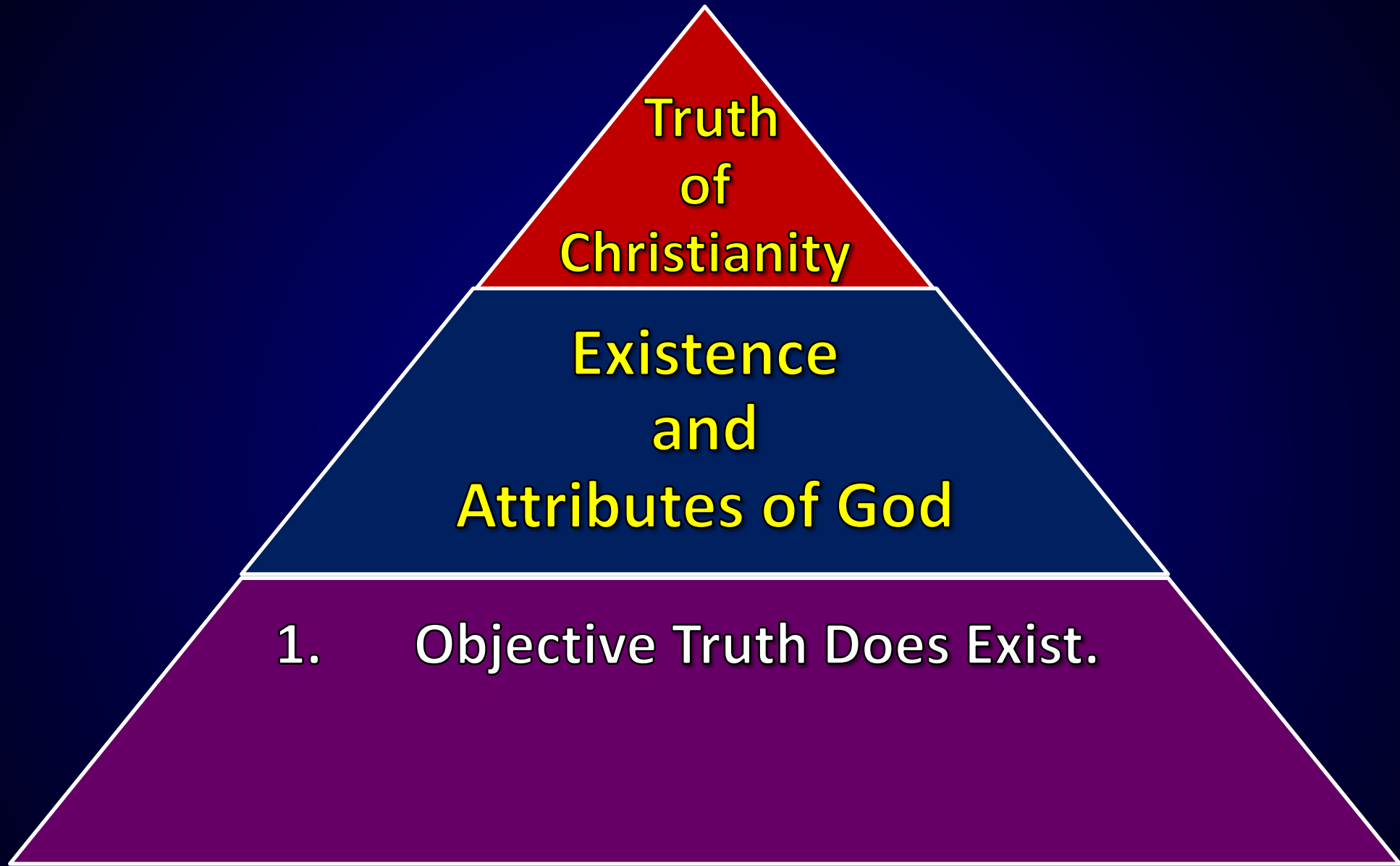
**Existence and
Attributes of God**

**Philosophical
Foundation**

**Truth
of
Christianity**

**Existence and
Attributes of God**

**Certain Beliefs
about Truth**



Truth
of
Christianity

Existence
and
Attributes of God

1. Objective Truth Does Exist.

Truth
of
Christianity

Existence
and
Attributes of God

1. Objective Truth Does Exist

2. We Can Know The Truth.

Truth can be know...

Jesus said: "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse..."

Romans 1:20 ESV

Truth
of
Christianity

Existence
and
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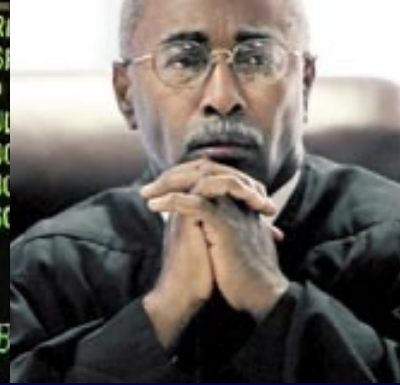
1. Objective Truth Does Exist.
2. We Can Know The Truth.
3. **Truth Corresponds to Reality.**

Truth Corresponds to Reality

Satan is called a liar because his statement to Eve, “You will surely not die” in Gen. 3:4 did not correspond to what God really said, namely “you shall surely die (Gen. 2:17).

Have you ever noticed that people demand absolute (objective) truth when it comes to:

- **Safety**
- **Money**
- **Medicine**
- **Relationships**
- **Transportation**
- **Court Proceedings**



So why not religion?

**Truth
of
Christianity**

**Existence
and
Attributes of God**

1. Absolute Truth Does Exist.
2. We Can Know The Truth.
3. Truth Corresponds to Reality.
4. The Laws of Logic Apply to Reality.

Understanding God and Logic

1. The laws of logic are fundamental to all thought.
 - Logic makes rational thought possible.
 - Without logic there is no rational thought!

Logic is like a computer operating system that runs your computer programs. Without it you could not run any of your programs. Without logic, you could not function in life.

Without logic you could not understand any of the truth claims in scripture. Without logic you also could not rule out any statement as being contrary to scripture!



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Nothing
cannot
create
something.

We are to Beware of Philosophy!

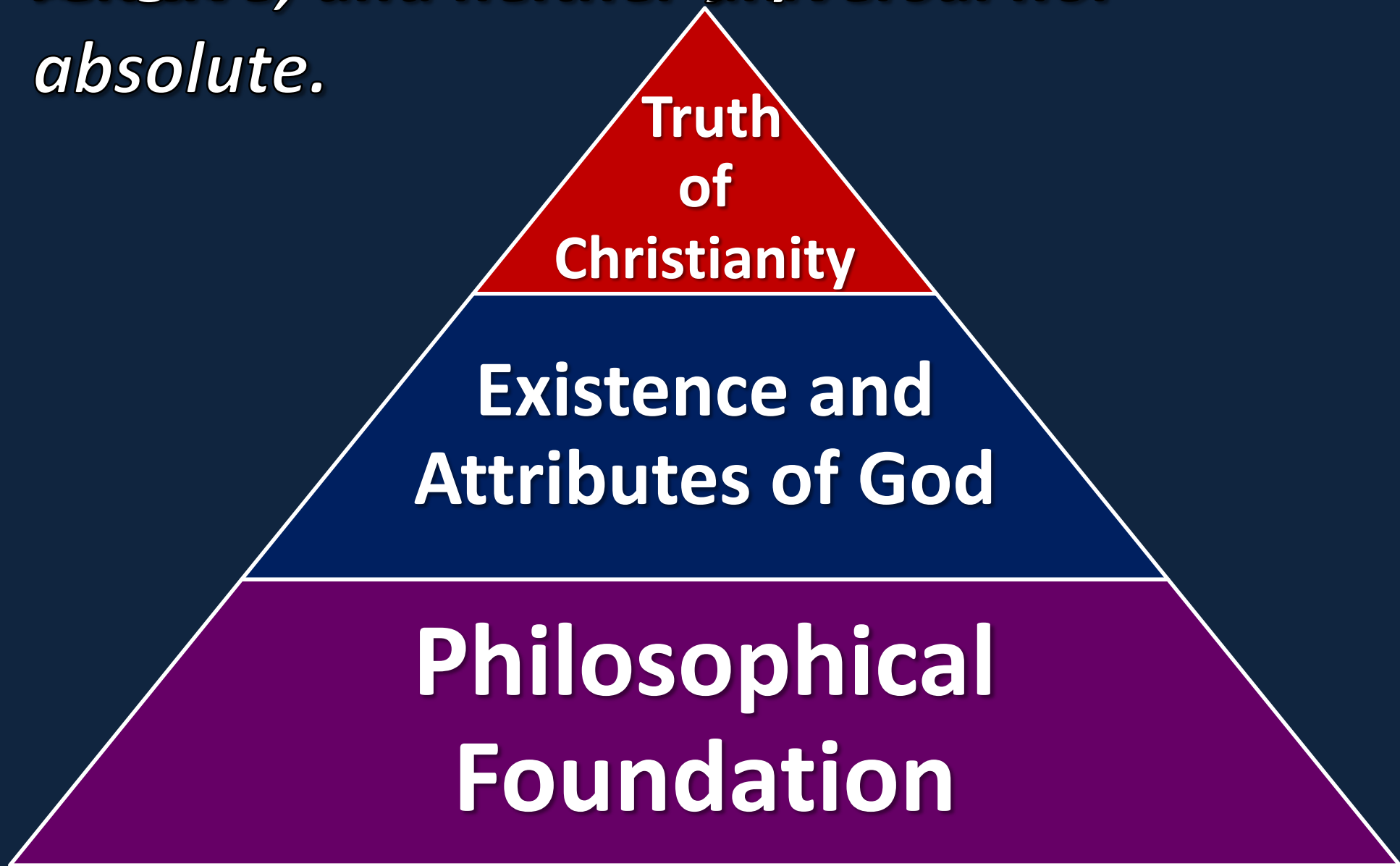
“See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”

Col. 2:8

5 Incorrect Philosophical Positions

1. **Scientism**
2. **Materialism**
3. **Relativism**
4. **Pluralism**
5. **Naturalism**

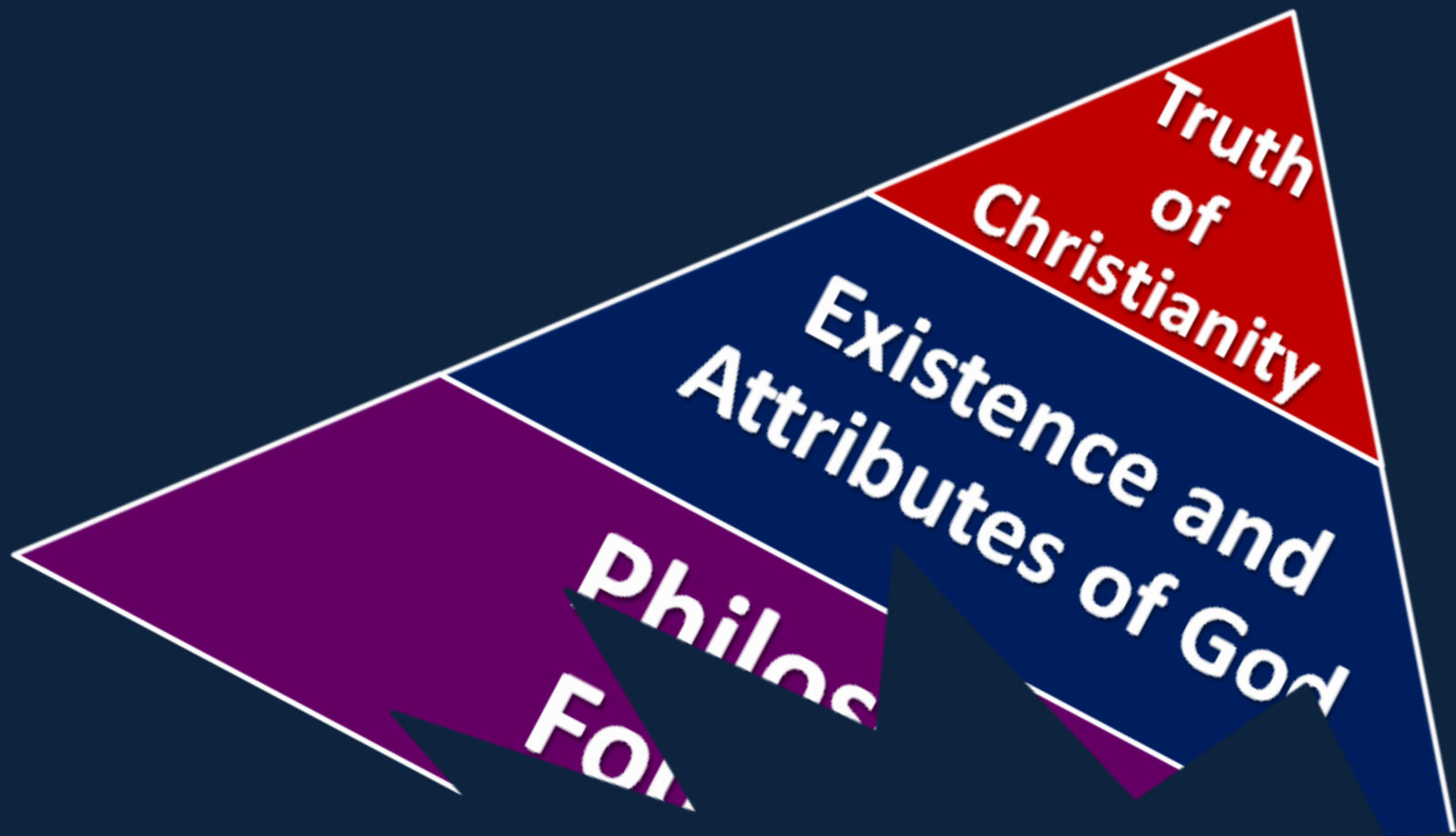
Naturalism: All events are from natural causes. There are no supernatural events. absolute.



**Truth
of
Christianity**

Existen

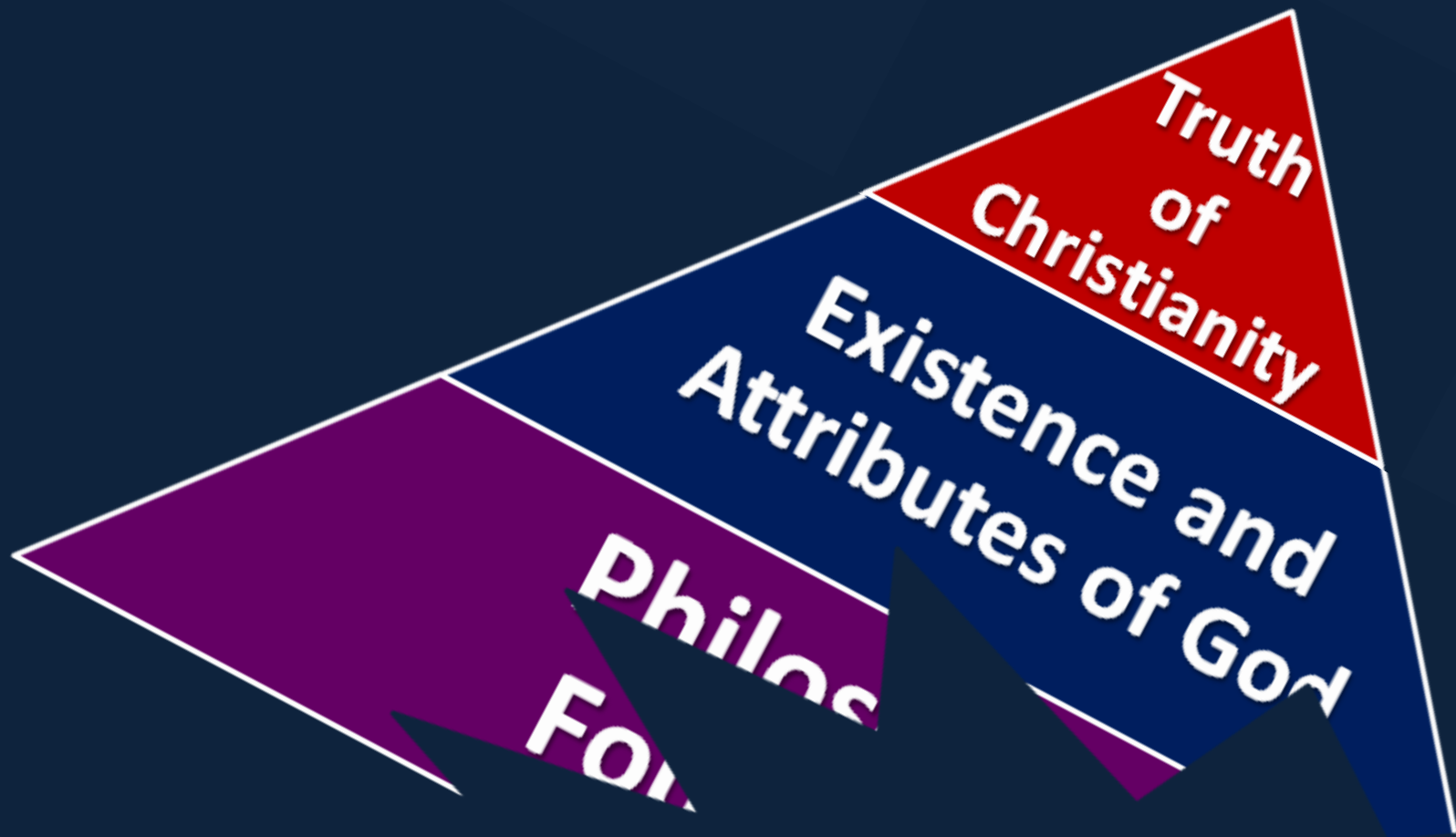




Truth
of
Christianity

Existence and
Attributes of God

Philosophy

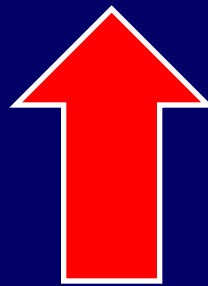


Incorrect Philosophical Position

1. Scientism

SCIENTISM

Science (empirical observation) is the only way to know the truth about reality.



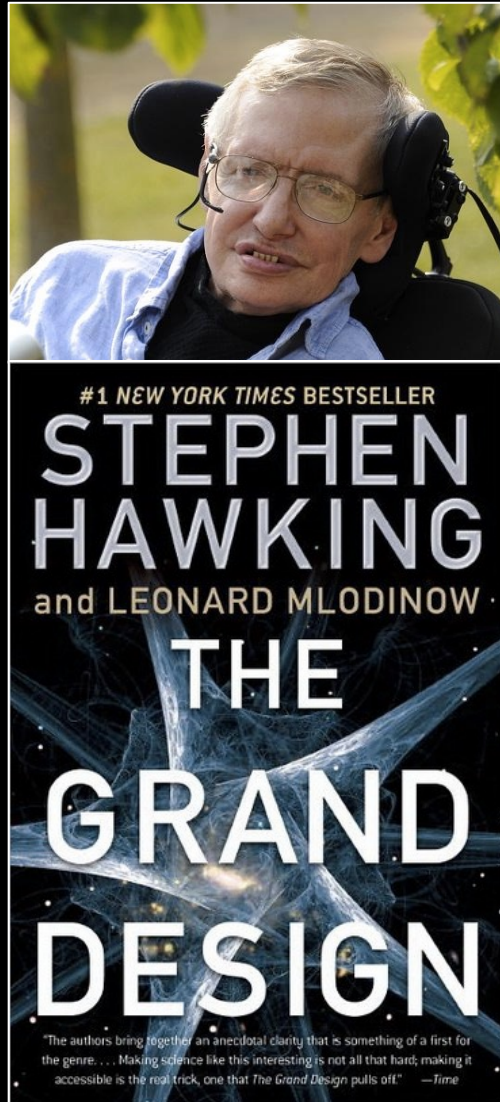
Why Is This a Problem for Christianity?

SCIENTISM

Science (empirical observation) is the only way to know the truth about reality.

Because God Isn't Observable

Stephen Hawking (Physicist) Said:



“What is the *nature of reality*? . . . Did the *universe need a creator*? Traditionally these are questions for *philosophy*, but *philosophy is dead*. . . *Scientists have become the bearers of the torch of discovery in our quest for knowledge.*”

(The Grand Design, p. 5)

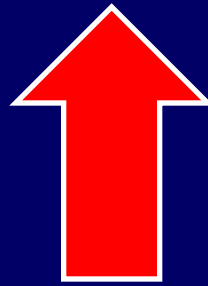
Incorrect Philosophical Position

1. **Scientism**

2. **Materialism**

MATERIALISM

Matter is the only thing that exists.



Why Is This a Problem for
Christianity?

MATERIALISM

Matter is the only thing that exists.

**Because God and
the Human Soul Are Immaterial**

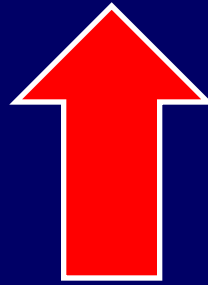
Incorrect Philosophical Position

1. **Scientism**
2. **Materialism**

3. Relativism

RELATIVISM

Truth and morality are relative; they are neither universal nor absolute.



Why Is This a Problem for Christianity?

RELATIVISM

Truth and morality are relative; they are neither universal nor absolute.

Because the Bible Teaches that Truth and Morality are Universal and Absolute.

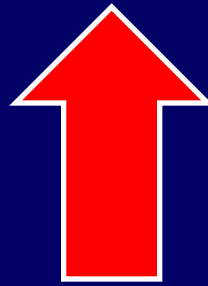
Incorrect Philosophical Position

1. **Scientism**
2. **Materialism**
3. **Relativism**

4. Pluralism

PLURALISM

All religions are true and lead to God.



Why Is This a Problem for
Christianity?

PLURALISM

All religions are true and lead to God.

**Because Jesus said: “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”
(John 14:6).**

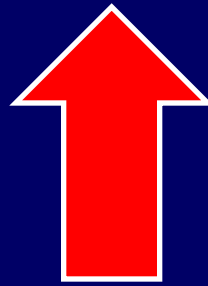
Incorrect Philosophical Position

1. **Scientism**
2. **Materialism**
3. **Relativism**
4. **Pluralism**

5. Naturalism

NATURALISM

**All events are from natural causes.
There are no supernatural events.**



**Why Is This a Problem for
Christianity?**

NATURALISM

**All events are from natural causes.
There are no supernatural events.**

**Because God is a supernatural
being and miracles are
supernatural acts of God**

5 Incorrect Philosophical Positions

1. **Scientism**
2. **Materialism**
3. **Relativism**
4. **Pluralism**
5. **Naturalism**

**Truth
of
Christianity**

**Existence
and
Attributes of God**

1. Objective Truth Does Exist
2. We Can Know The Truth.
3. Truth Corresponds to Reality
4. The Laws of Logic Apply to Reality



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