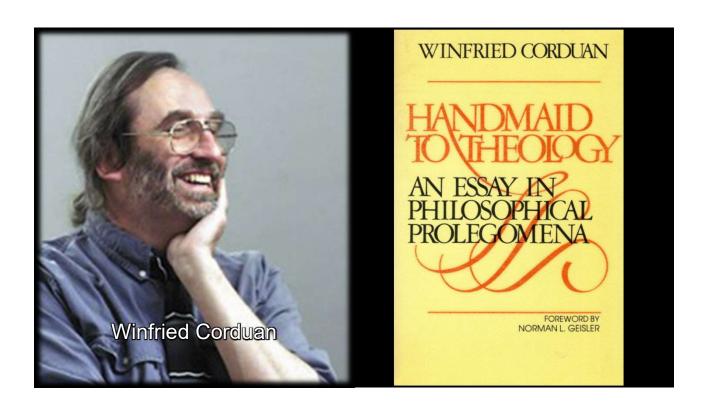
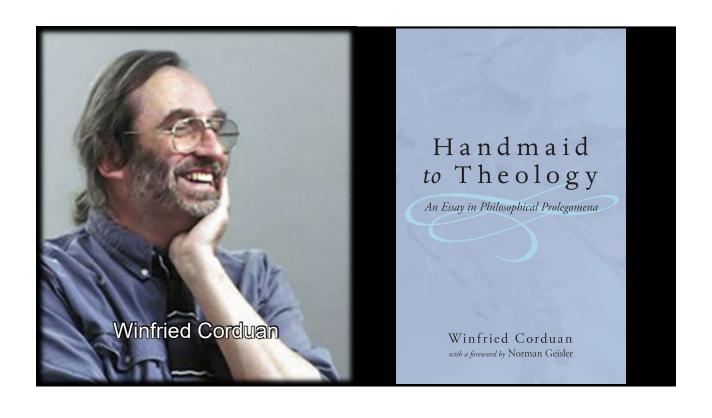
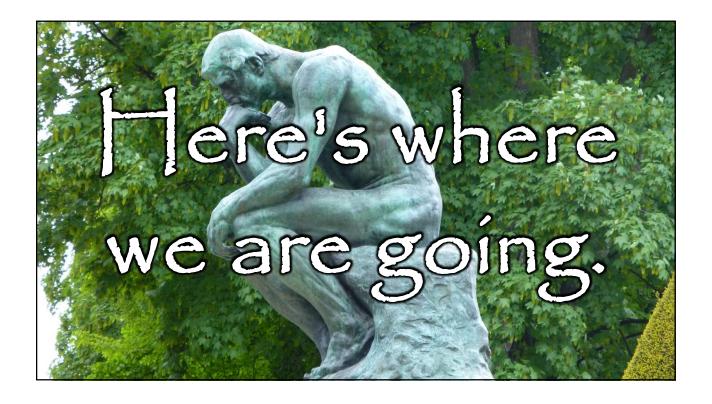
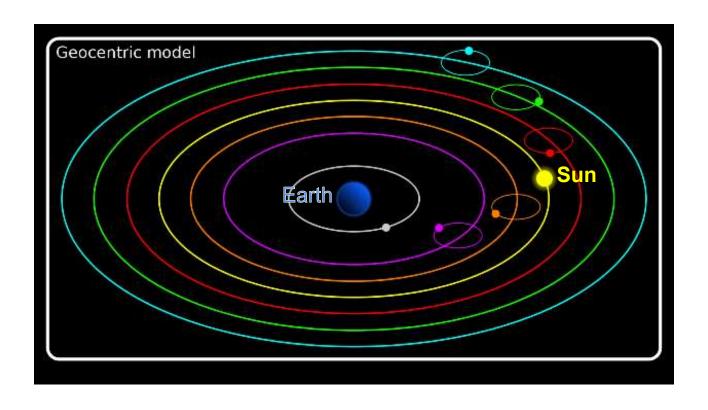


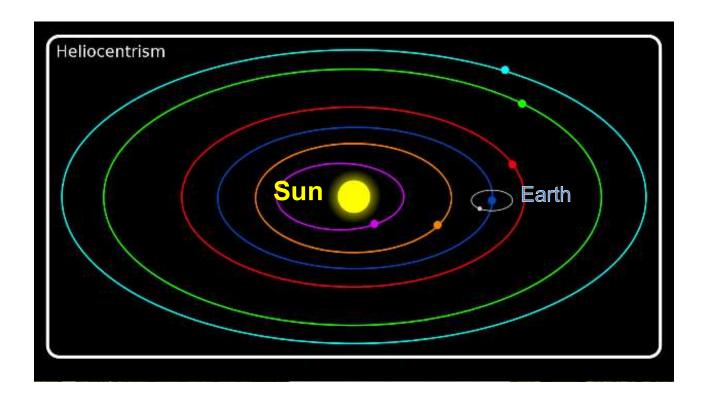
Theology is the Queen of the sciences and philosophy is her handmaid.















"Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: 'Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.' So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the people had revenge upon their enemies."

Joshua 10:12-13 NKJV

Phenomenological Language

a.k.a.,

Language of Appearance



What discipline of study is relevant to the question of geocentrism vs. heliocentrism?

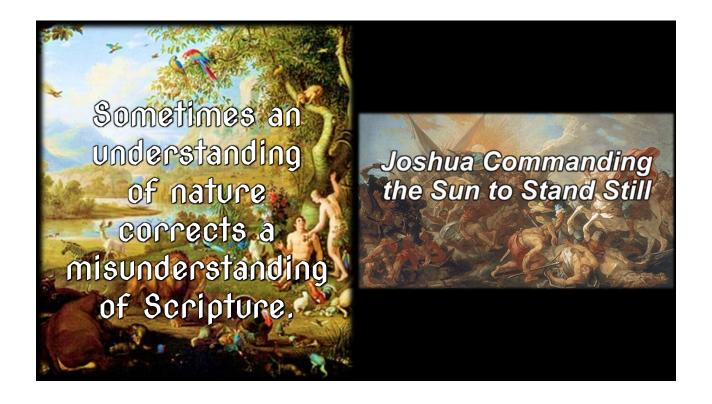
ASTRONOMY

Can you see how astronomy corrected our misunderstanding of Joshua 10:12-13?

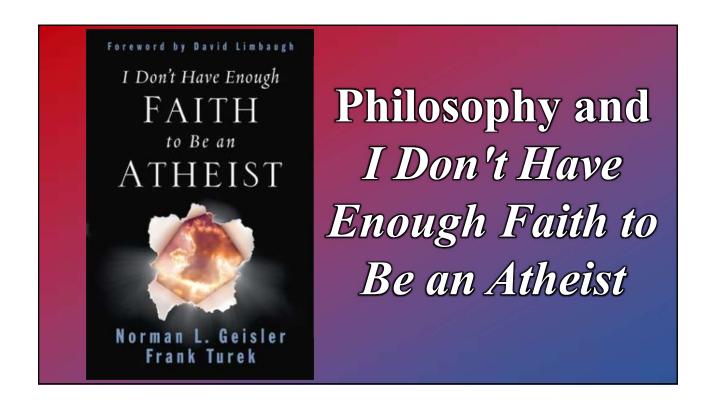
Might there be questions and issues the debate of which involves the discipline of

PHILOSOPHY?

Might it be that philosophy can guard our interpretations of certain verses of Scripture?







Philosophers

Mortimer Adler Gary Habermas Aristotle Thomas Howe David Hume Augustine Avicenna Anthony Kenny Constantine Kolenda A. J. Aver **Francis Bacon Peter Kreeft Paul Kurtz** J. Budziszewski J. P. Moreland William Lane Craig William Dembski Friedrich Nietzsche **Antony Flew** William Paley **Blaise Pascal Peter Singer Socrates**

Issues

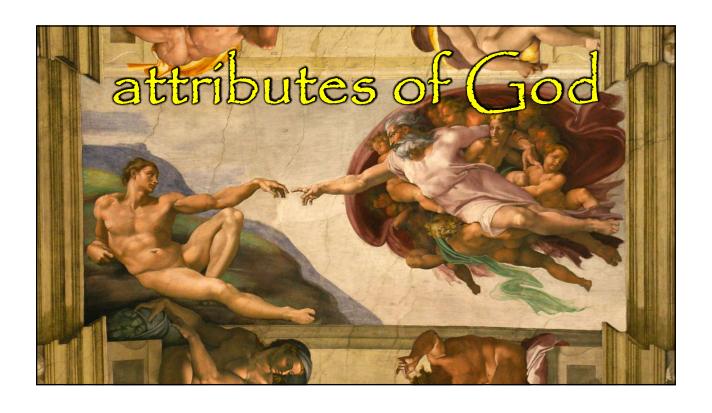
Kalam cosmological abortion argument agnosticism law of causality atheism law of non-contradiction inerrancy cosmological laws of logic argument logic, Western vs. Eastern creation materialism design miracles empirical science vs. morality forensic science noumena / phenomena enlightenment pantheism extraordinary evidence principle of uniformity faith and reason science and philosophy first cause self-defeating statements first principles teleological argument general revelation theism historical tests time induction truth

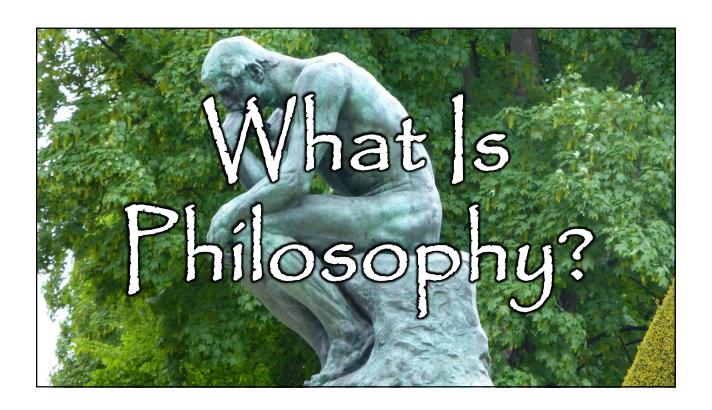
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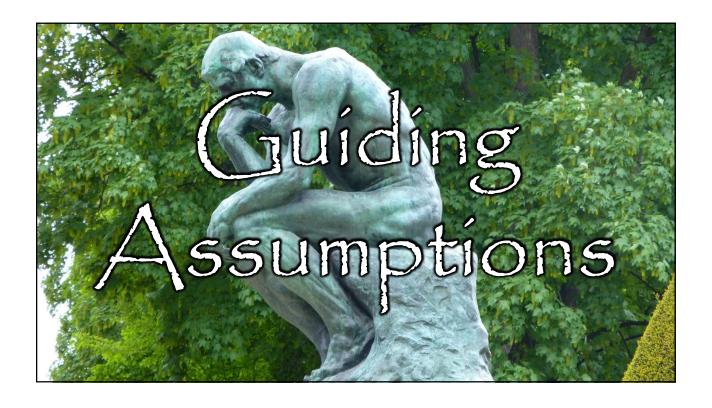
Issues

enlightenment
extraordinary evidence
faith and reason
first cause
first principles
general revelation
induction
law of non-contradiction
laws of logic
science and philosophy
attributes of God
truth



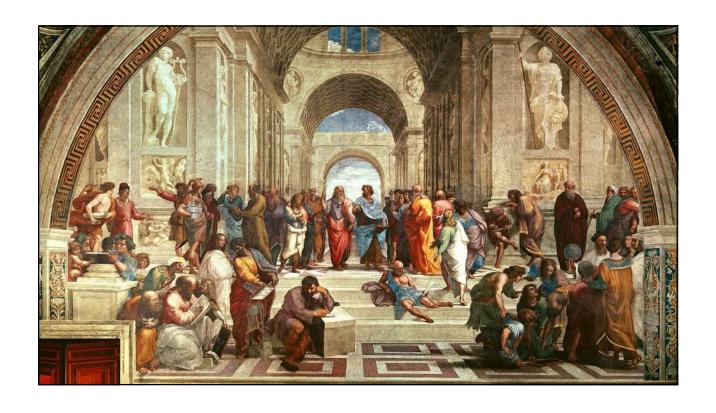






There are two great philosophical traditions in Western thought that have endured since the ancient Greeks.



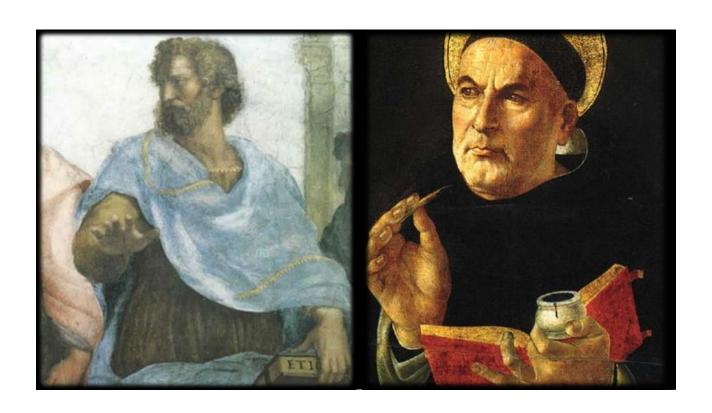


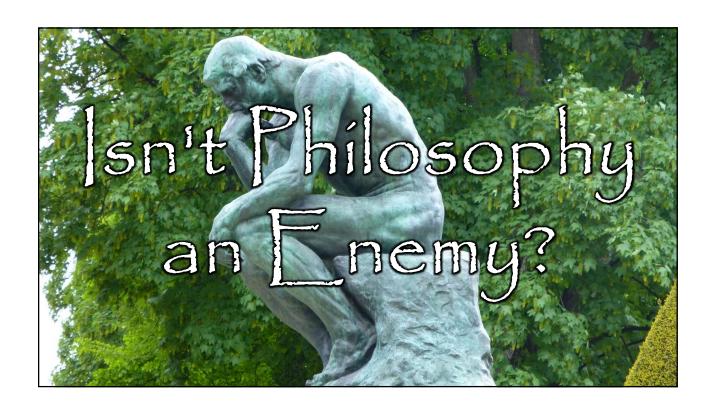
There are two great philosophical/theological traditions in Christian thought that have tracked these two Greek philosophical traditions.

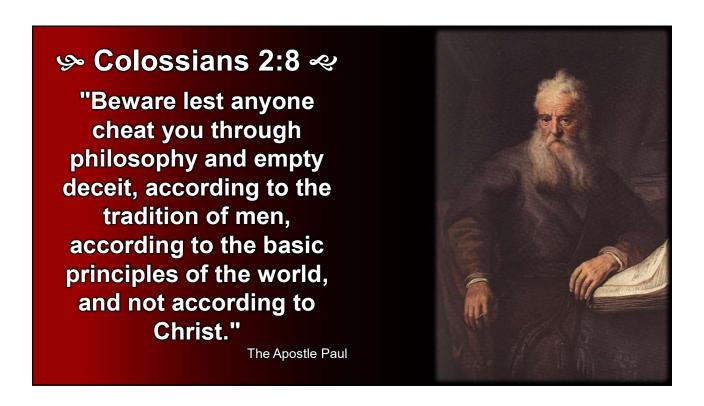


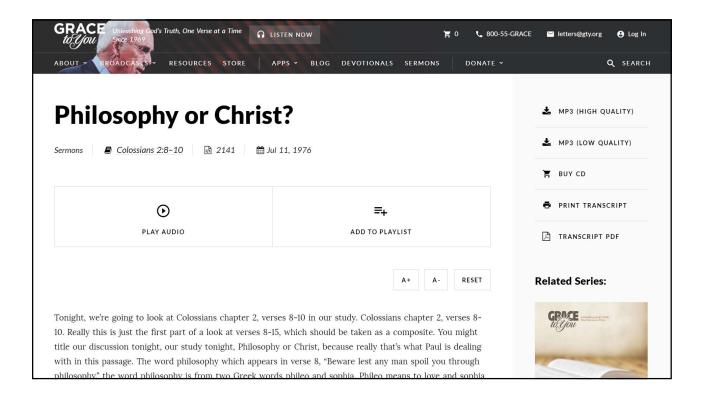


Exploring the contours of how these traditions have answered certain basic questions about the nature of reality and our knowledge of it, will enable us to position many questions and concerns we have as Christians.

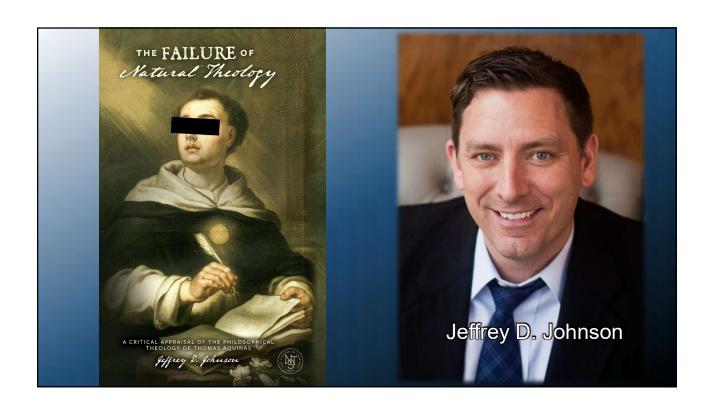














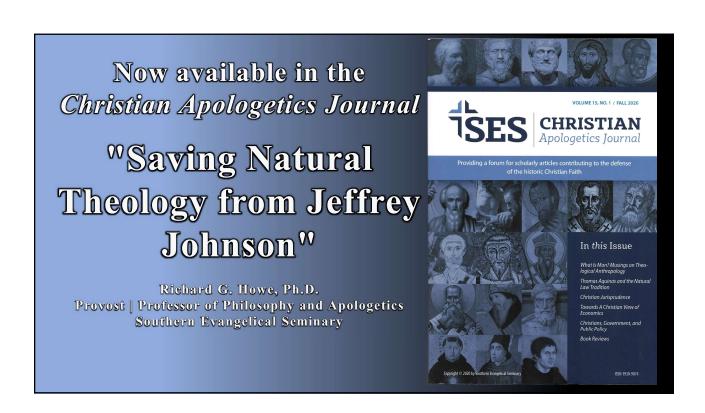
Evangelical Philosophical Society

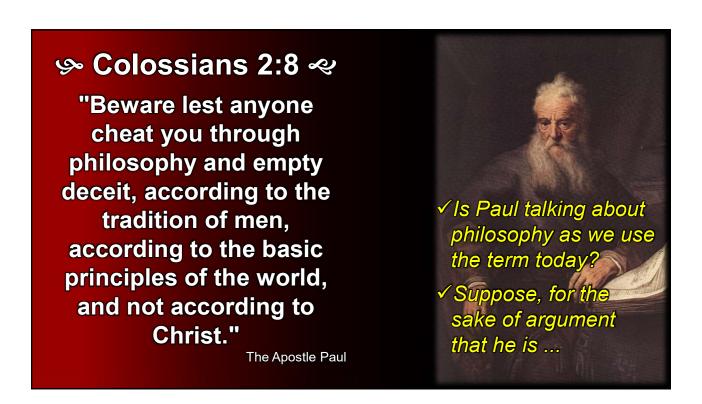
Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel Nov. 15-17, 2022

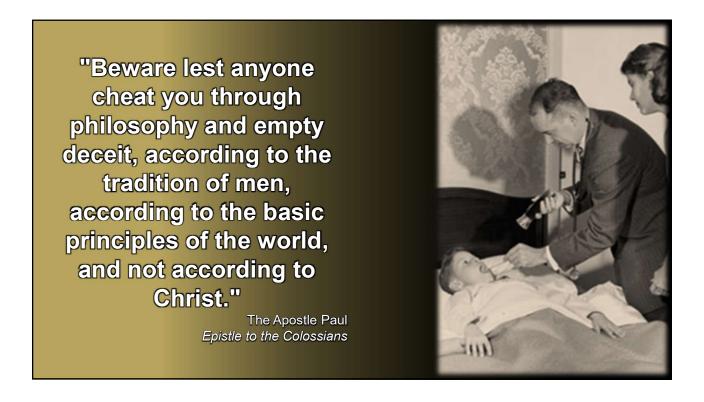
"Saving Natural Theology from Jeffrey Johnson"

Richard G. Howe, Ph.D.

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





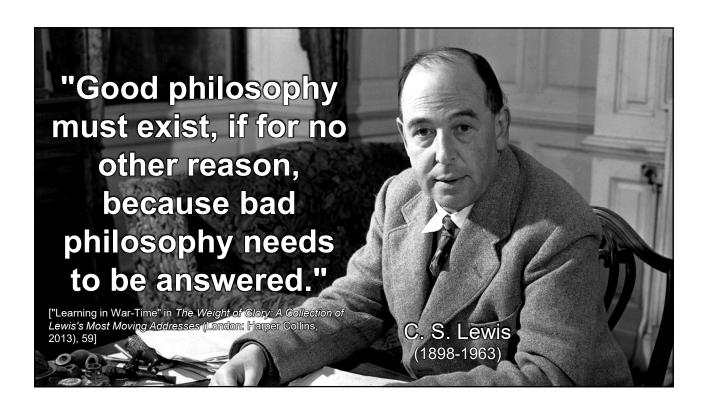


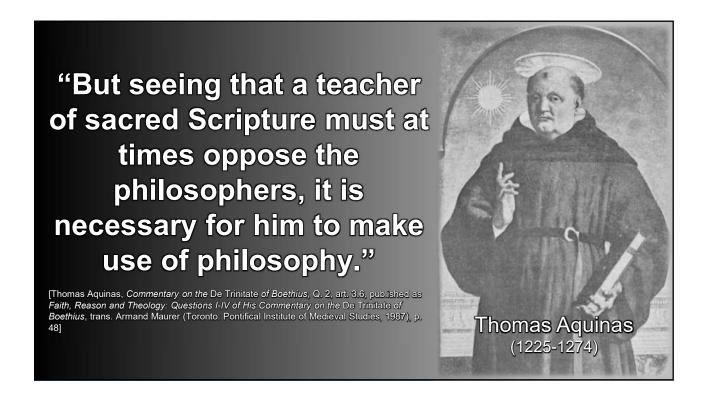
"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

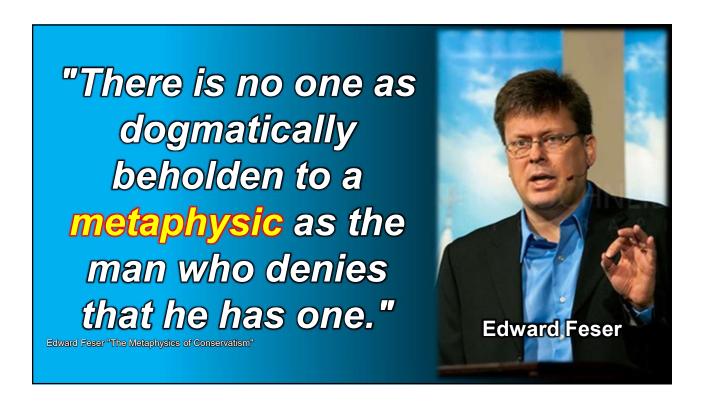
The Apostle Paul Epistle to the Colossians ✓ Though infectious diseases are not to be trifled with, we are grateful that physicians learn about them in order to help us avoid getting sick or to help us get cured.

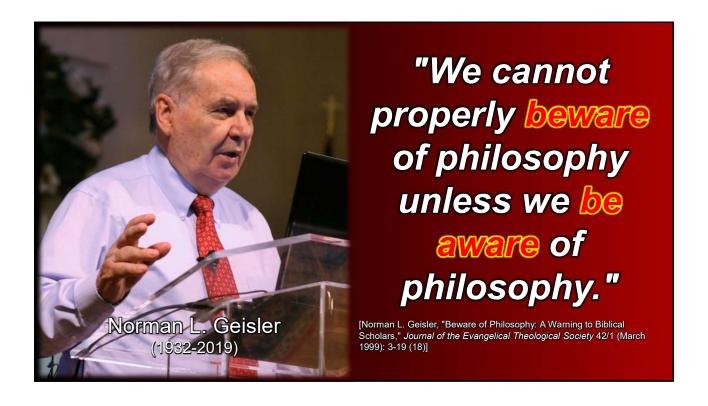
"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

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."





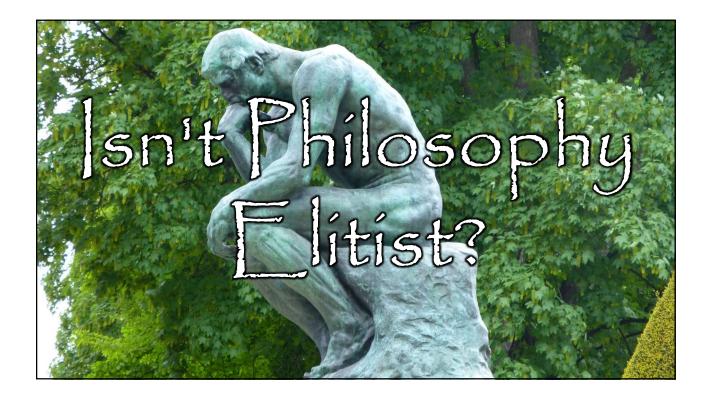




Some Voices from Christian History on Philosophy





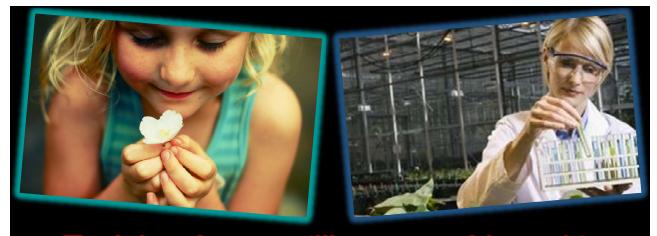




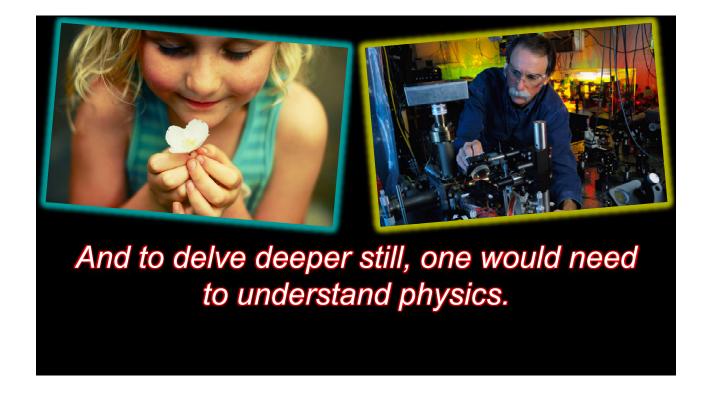
A child can know what a flower is. She knows that a flower is not a human.

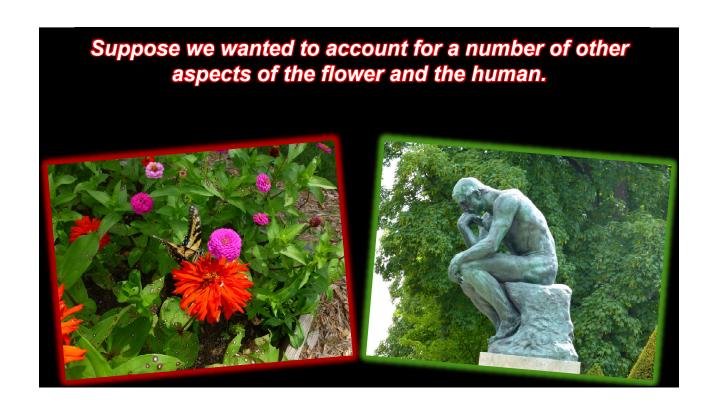


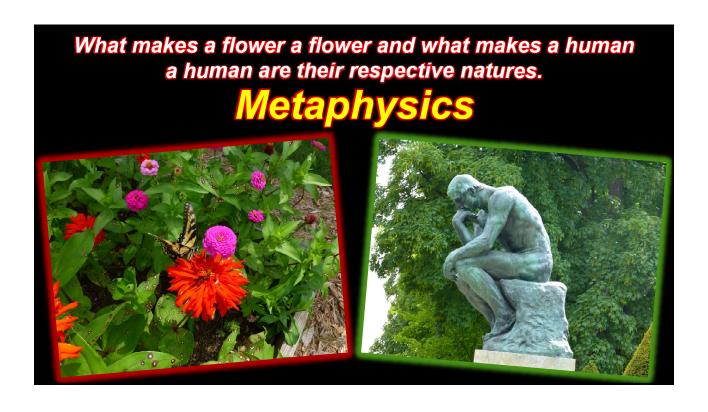
However, to delve deeper into the physical nature of a flower, one would need to understand botany.

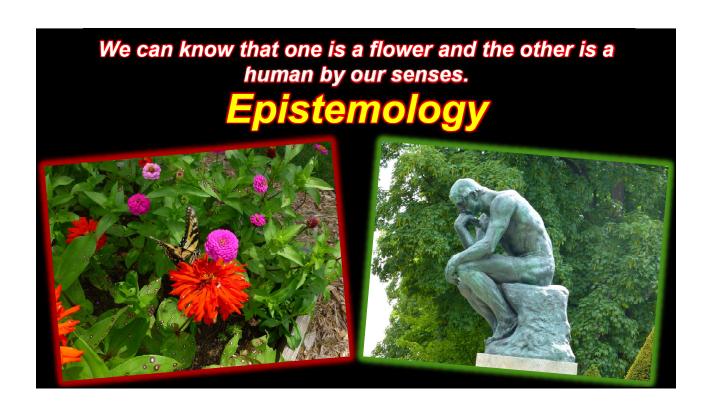


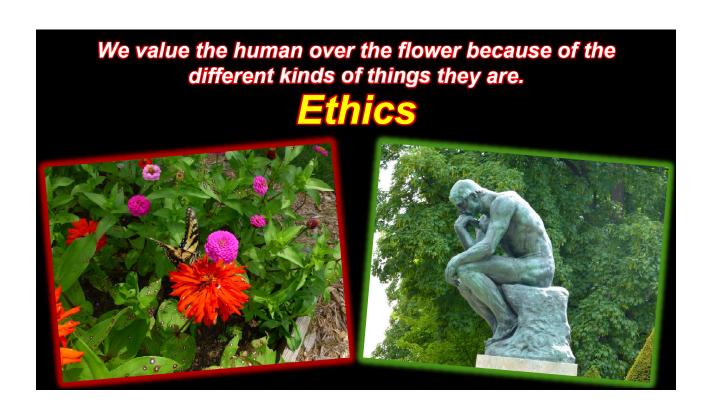
To delve deeper still, one would need to understand chemistry (to understand, e.g., photosynthesis).

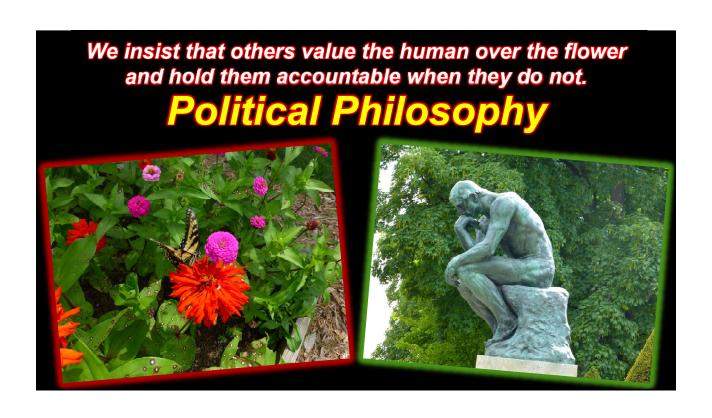


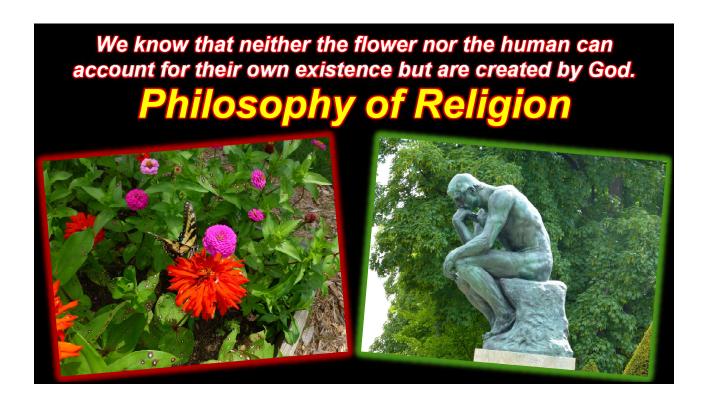


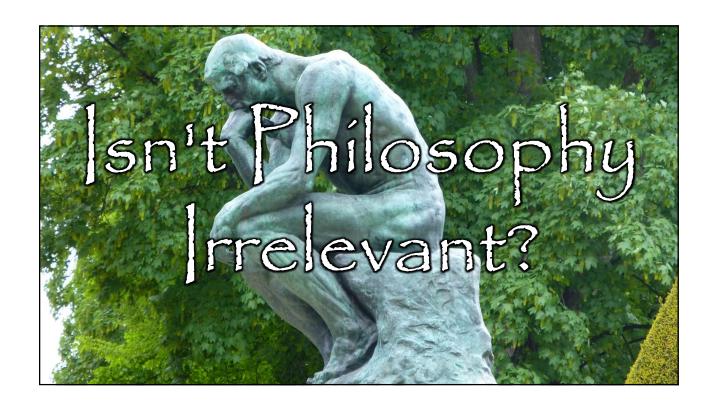


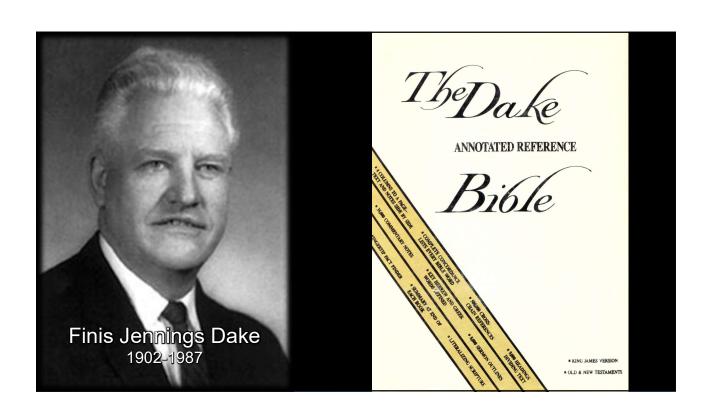


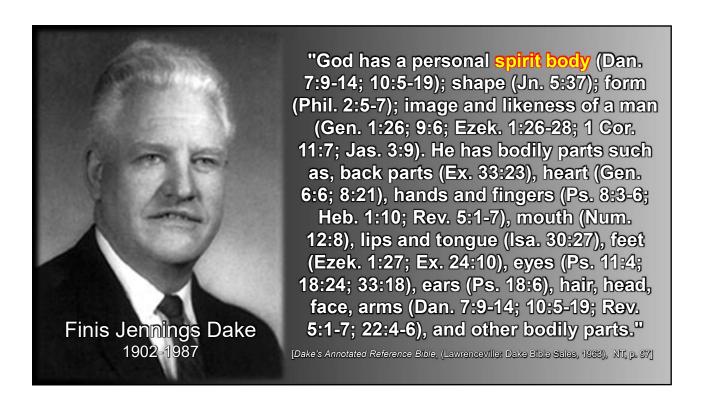


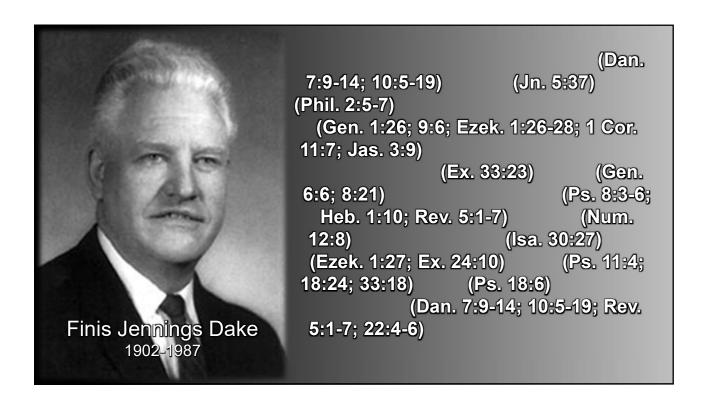


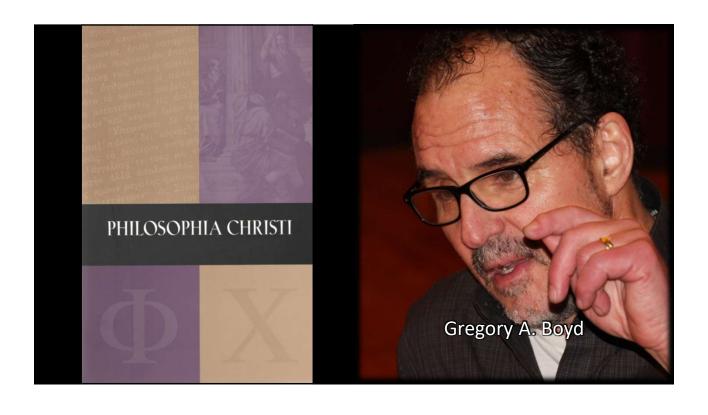


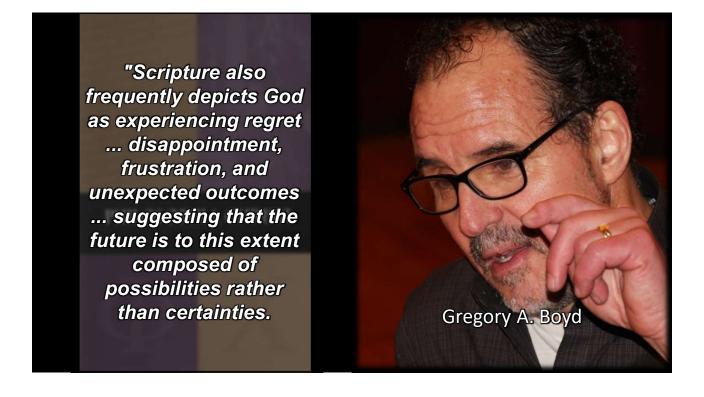


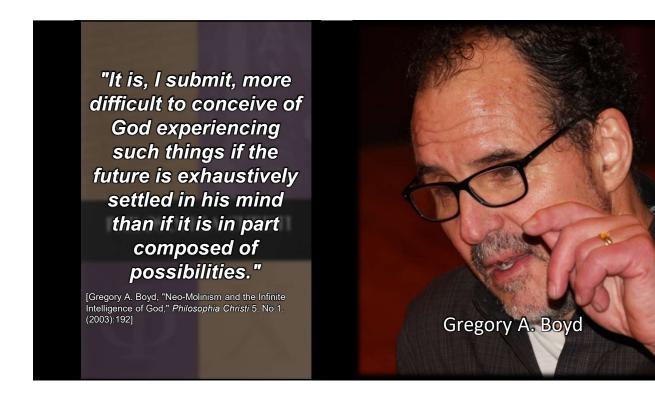


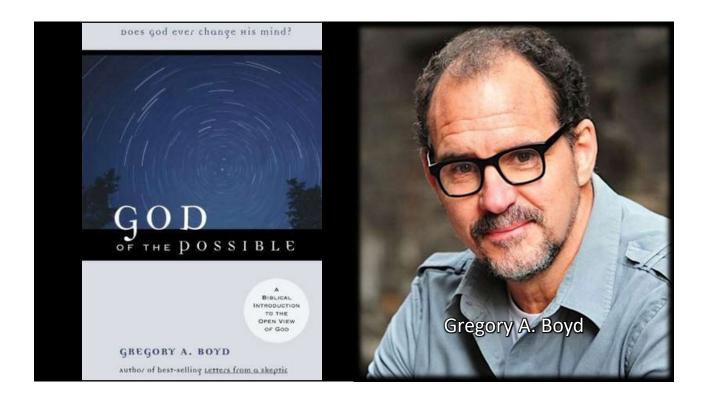






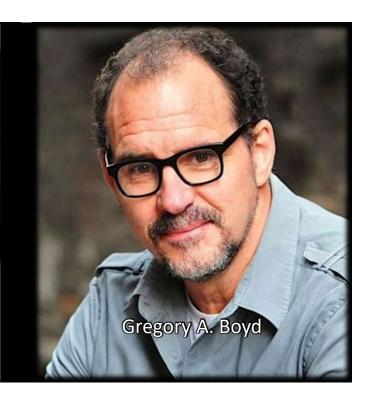






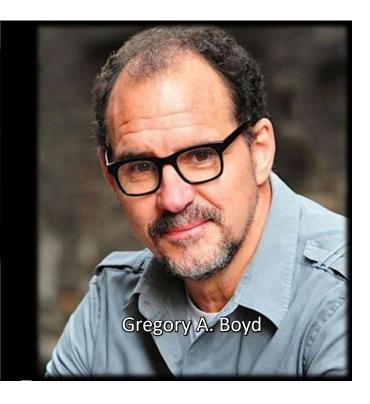
"My agnostic father ... asked me why God would allow Adolf Hitler to be born if he foreknew that this man would massacre millions of Jews. ...

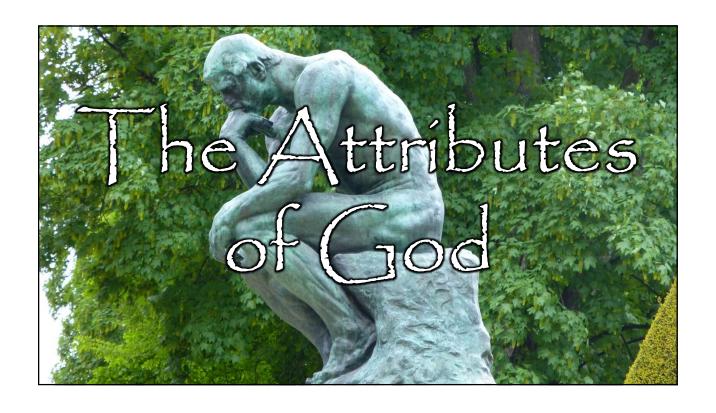
[Gregory A. Boyd, God of the Possible (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000), 98]



"The only response I could offer then, and the only response I continue to offer now is that this was not foreknown as a certainty at the time God created Hitler."

[Gregory A. Boyd, God of the Possible (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000), 98]





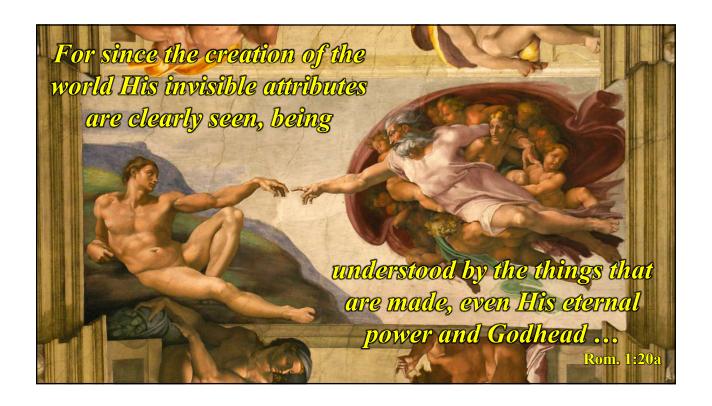


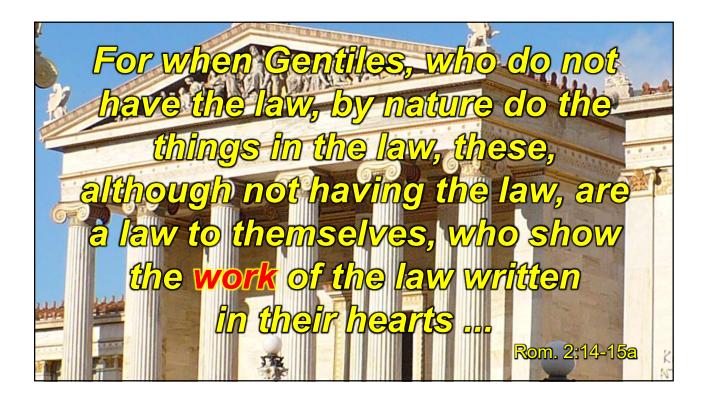


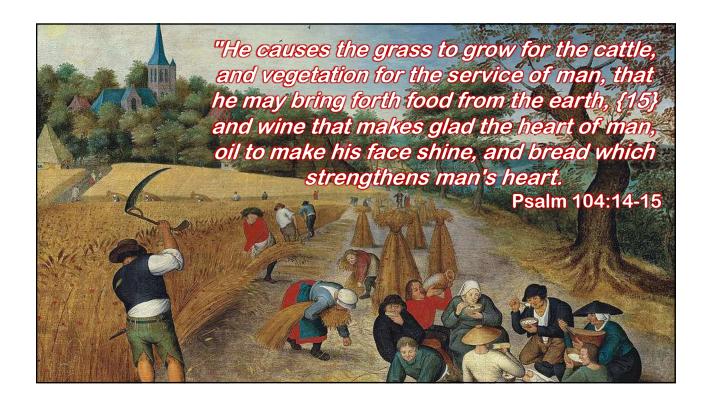
Psalm 19:1

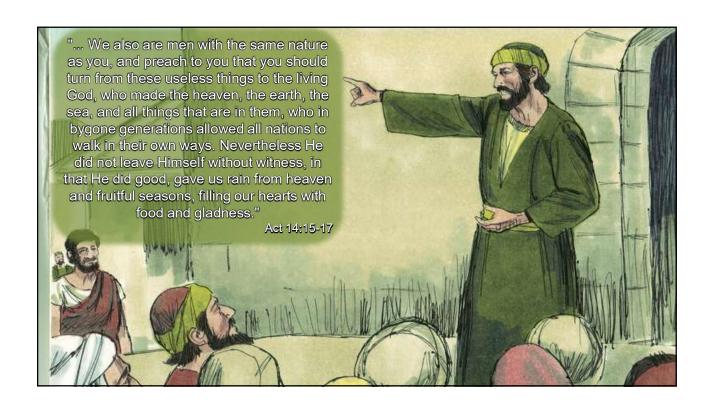
The heavens declare His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory.

Psalm 97:6

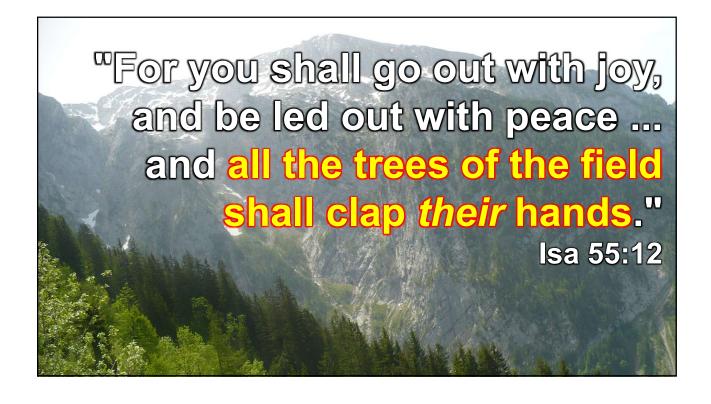






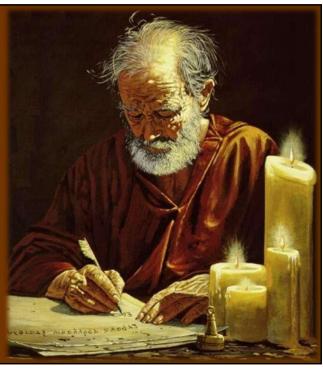


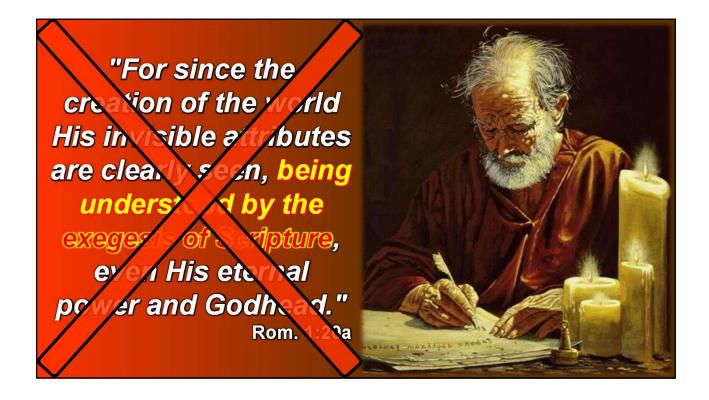




"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead."

Rom. 1:20a





So Where Does the Philosophy Come In?

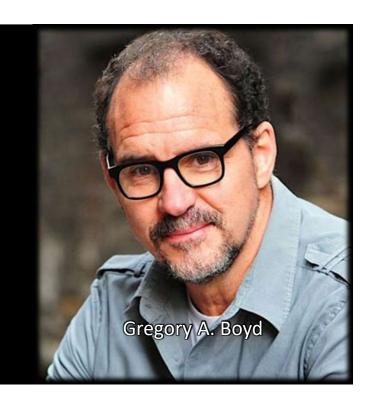
But as more toxic philosophical voices have fogged the conversation throughout history, the need has arisen to appeal to deeper issues in philosophy to demonstrate God's existence and attributes "through the things that are made" (Rom. 1:20).



Classical Theistic Open Process
Theism Personalism Theism Theology

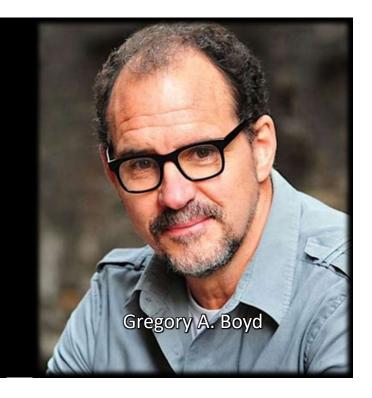
CLASSICAL PHILOSOPHY PROCESS PHILOSOPHY

"There are certainly passages in the Bible that are figurative and portray God in human terms.

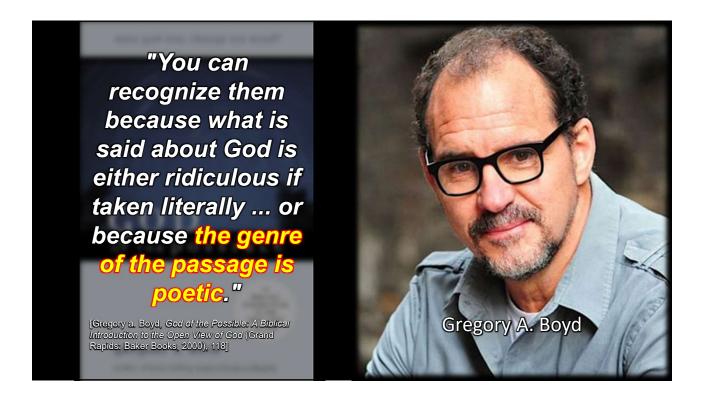


"You can recognize them because what is said about God is either ridiculous if taken literally ... or because the genre of the passage is poetic."

[Gregory a. Boyd, God of the Possible: A Biblical Introduction to the Open View of God (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000), 118]

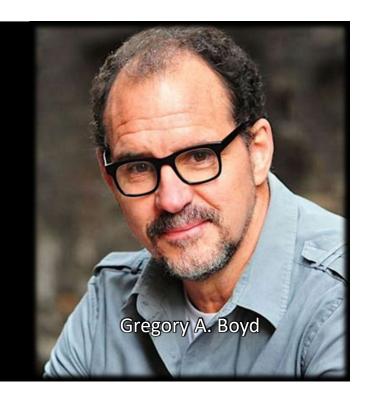


What if the Classical
Theist said that it is
ridiculous to think that
God changes His mind or
regrets certain decisions?



"There is nothing ridiculous or poetic about the way the Bible repeatedly speaks about God changing his mind, regretting decisions, or thinking and speaking about the future in terms of possibilities. These passages usually occur within the historical narrative sections of Scripture."

[Gregory A. Boyd, God of the Possible: A Biblical Introduction to the Open View of God (Grand Raptds: Baker Books, 2000), 118]



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[Gregory A. Boyd, God of the Possible: A Biblical Introduction to the Open View of God (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000), 118] Why should one think that the passages occurring "within the historical narrative sections of Scripture" have anything to do whether there is anything "ridiculous or poetic" about how the Bible is speaking about God?

After all, the Genesis 3 and the 2 Samuel 7 passages are both within historical narrative sections of Scripture.

Christian Apologetics Journal, Volume 6, No. 1, Spring 2007

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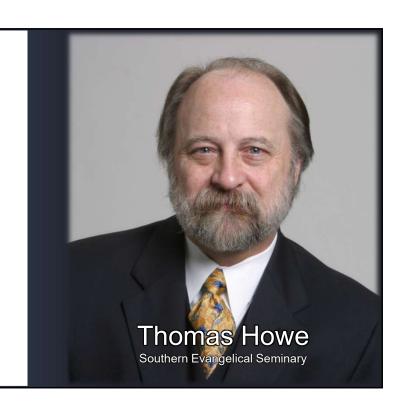
DOES GENRE DETERMINE MEANING? ©2007 Thomas A. Howe, Ph.D.

FROM THE BEGINNINGS of the development of the critical methodology, as it was being applied to the study of the Bible, understanding the Bible as literature has become more important and more central to hermeneutics. As Jeffrey Weima remarks, "The past few decades have witnessed a paradigm shift taking place in biblical studies. The old perspective that viewed Scripture as primarily a historical or theological document has been replaced by a new conviction that the Bible is literature and as such ought to be interpreted from a literary perspective." It is notoriously difficult to identify what constitutes literature. After a lengthy consideration of several attempts at developing a definition of "literature," one theories concluded,

A piece of writing may start off life as history or philosophy and then come to be ranked as literature, or it may start off as literature and then come to be valued for its archaeological significance. Some texts are born literary, some achieve

Thomas A. Howe is Professor of Bible and Biblical Languages at Southern Evangelical Seminary in Charlotte, NC.

1



"They only strike some as ridiculous because these readers bring to the text a preconception of what God must be like. Once one is free from this preconception, these passages contribute to the exalted portrait of the lovingly sovereign God in the Bible."

[Gregory A. Boyd, God of the Possible: A Biblical Introduction to the Open View of God (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000), 118-119, emphasis in original]



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[Gregory A. Boyd, God of the Possible: A Biblical Introduction to the Open View of God (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000), 118-119, emphasis in

original]

But, from where might one get such a "preconception of what God must be like" that he could bring to the text?

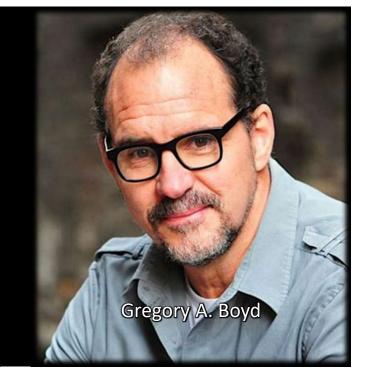


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[Gregory A. Boyd, God of the Possible: A Biblical Introduction to the Open View of God (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000), 118-119, emphasis in original] Given that this
"preconception of what
God must be like" comes
from our encounter with
God's creation before we
read Scripture, how is it
possible for one to get
"free from this
preconception"?

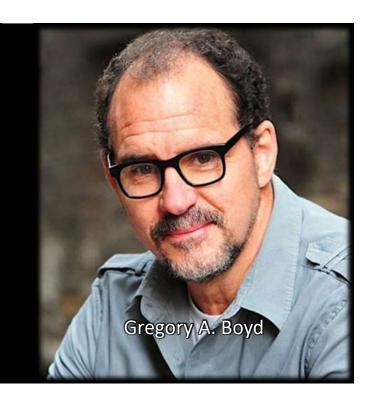
"My fundamental thesis is that the classical theological tradition became misguided when, under the influence of Hellenistic philosophy, it defined God's perfection in static, timeless terms."

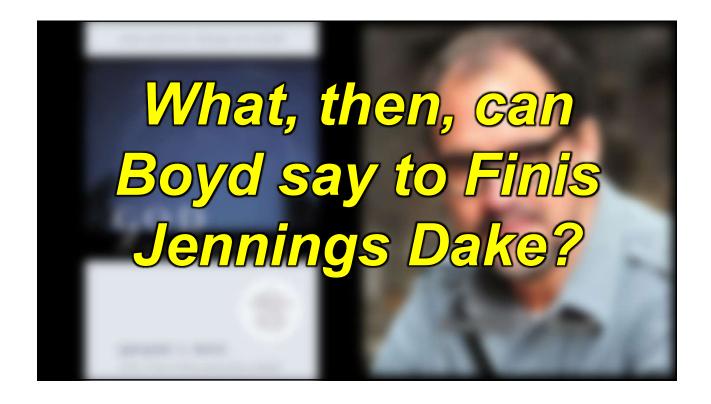
[Gregory a. Boyd, God of the Possible: A Biblical Introduction to the Open View of God (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000), 17]

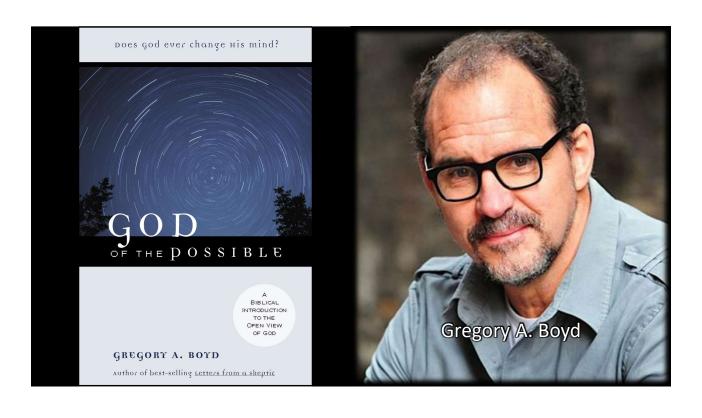


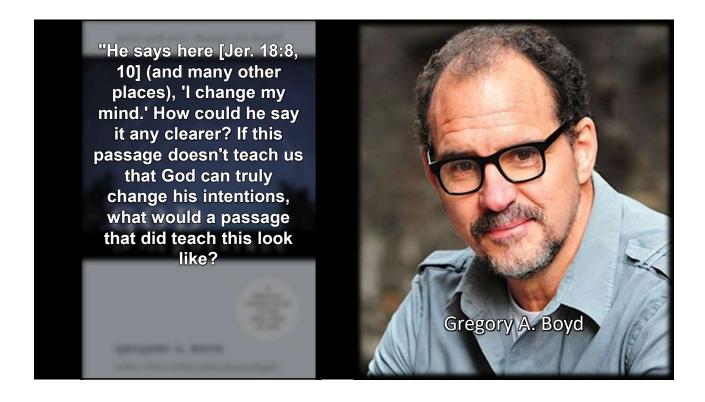
"Doesn't every page of the Bible paint a portrait of God who experiences things, thinks things, and responds to things sequentially? Every verb applied to God in the Bible testifies to this."

[Gregory a. Boyd, God of the Possible: A Biblical Introduction to the Open View of God (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000), 131-132]







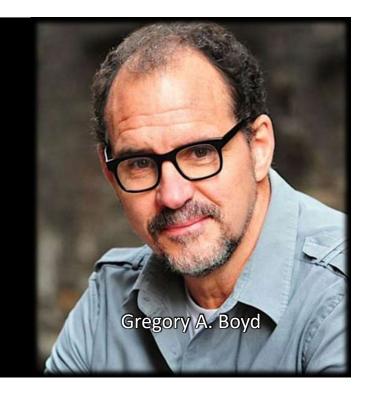


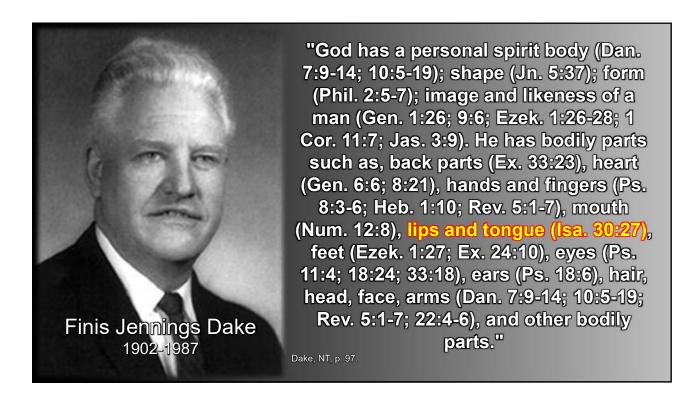
"I suggest that if this text isn't enough to convince us that God's mind is not eternally settled, then our philosophical presuppositions are controlling our exegesis to a degree that no text could ever teach us this. People who affirm the divine authority of Scripture do not want to be guilty of this charge."

Gregory A. Boyd, God of the Possible: Does

God Ever Change His Mind? (Grand Rapids:

Baker, 2000), 78.





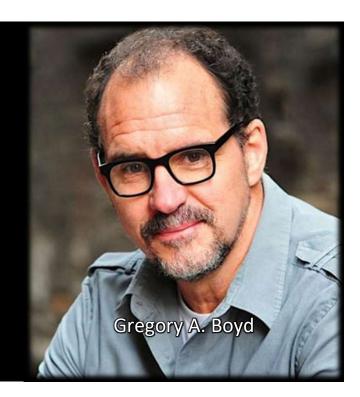
Behold, the name of the LORD comes from afar, Burning with His anger, And His burden is heavy; His lips are full of indignation, And His tongue like a devouring fire.

"I suggest that if this text isn't enough to convince us that God's mind is not eternally settled, then our philosophical presuppositions are controlling our exegesis to a degree that no text could ever teach us this. People who affirm the divine authority of Scripture do not want to be guilty of this charge."

Gregory A. Boyd. God of the Possible: Does

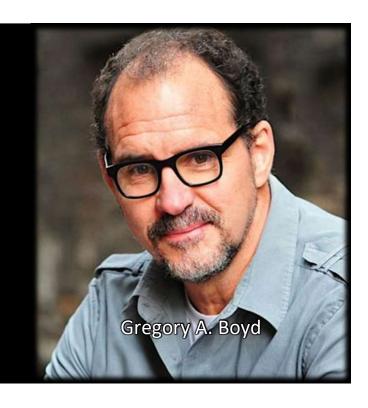
God Ever Change His Mind? (Grand Rapids:

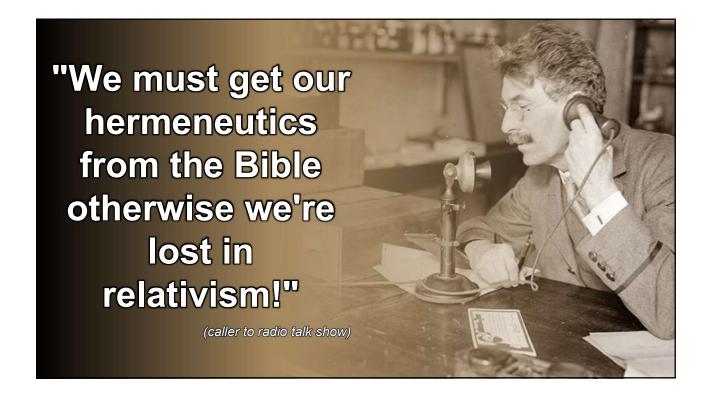
Baker, 2000), 78.

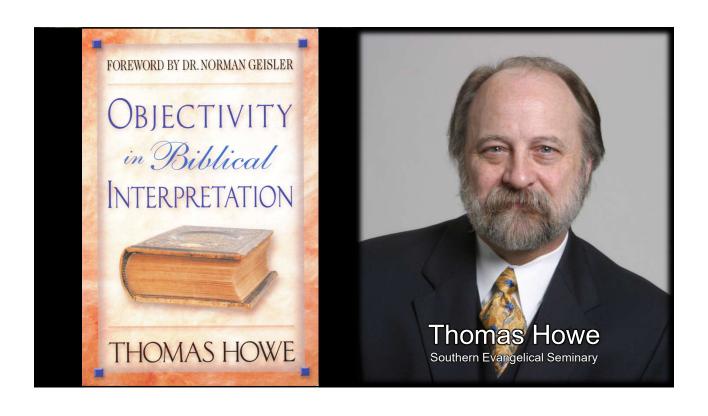


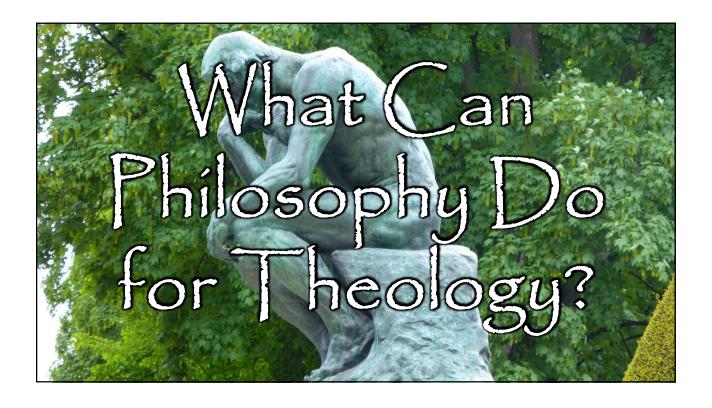
"I suggest that if this text isn't enough to convince us that God has lips and a tongue, then our philosophical presuppositions are controlling our exegesis to a degree that no text could ever teach us this. People who affirm the divine authority of Scripture do not want to be guilty of this charge."

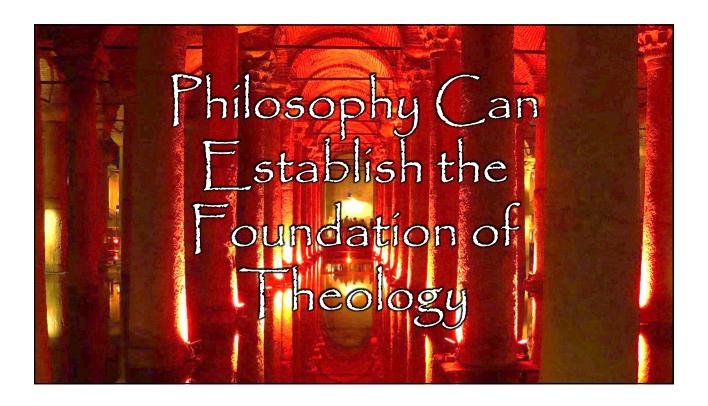
Gregory A. Boyd, God of the Possible: Does God Ever Change His Mind? (Grand Rapids: Baker. 2000). 78.









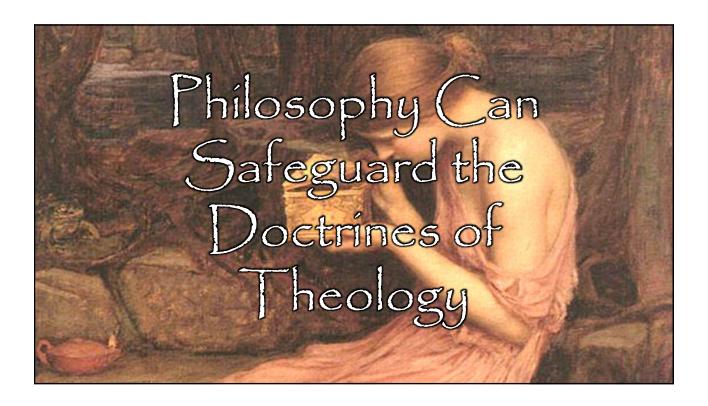


Philosophy Can Establish the Foundation of Theology I. The Foundation of Truth A. Theories of Truth 1. Correspondence 2. Coherence 3. Functional 4. Pragmatic 5. Power B. Tests for Truth 1. Classical Empiricism vs. Modern Empiricism 2. Foundationalism / Warrant II. The Foundation of Logic A. Laws of Logic B. Objections to Logic III. The Foundation of Human Knowledge IV. The Foundation of Apologetics (Apologetic Method) V. The Foundation of Morality (Natural Law Theory; Objective Morality) VI.The Foundation of God: His Existence (Theistic arguments)



Philosophy Can Clarify the Meaning of Theology

- I. The Meaning of 'Nature'
 - A. Nature vs. Function
 - B. Nature and Teleology
 - C. Human Nature
- II. The Meaning of Flesh vs. Sprit
 - A. Flesh
 - 1. as Material
 - 2. as Moral
 - B. Spirit
 - 1. as Immaterial
 - 2. as Godly
- III. The Meaning of Biblical Inerrancy
 - A. The Concept of Truth in the Inerrancy Debate
 - B. The Concept of Truth in the Inerrancy Debate, Revisited



Philosophy Can Safeguard the Doctrines of Theology

- I. The Doctrine of Natural Theology
 - A. Saving Natural Theology from Jeffrey Johnson
 - B. God Fading Away: Contending for Classical Attributes of God
 - 1. Simplicity
 - 2. Omniscience (Open Theism; Molinism)
 - 3. Goodness (God and Morality)
- II. The Doctrine Faith and Reason
 - 1. The Popular Misconception of Faith and Reason
 - 2. Atheism's Misconception of Faith and Reason
 - 3. Neo-Orthodoxy's Misconception of Faith and Reason
 - 4. Presuppositionalism's Misconception of Faith and Reason
 - 5. Postmodernism's Misconception of Faith and Reason
 - 6. The Classical View of Faith and Reason
- III. The Doctrine Principles of Biblical Interpretation (Hermeneutics)
- IV. The Doctrine Miracles: A Philosophy, Theology, and Apologetic
- V. The Doctrine of Faith: Refuting the Heresies of the Word of Faith Movement

