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**A Christian Philosophy  
Of Learning:  
The Starting Point for Truth  
(part 1)**

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CRPC Adult Sunday School  
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Class #3

<http://www.logicteacher.com/pol/>

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# Review of Weeks 1 & 2

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P We're seeking a biblically sound, comprehensive way of thinking about acquiring and applying truth

P Special elements will include

- ▶ Inquisitive Interlude ( $I^2$ ) : none yet
- ▶ Week's Work ( $W^2$ ) : one each week
- ▶ Valuable Verity ( $V^2$ ) : two so far
- ▶ Quaint Quote ( $Q^2$ ) : two so far
- ▶ Evident Enigma ( $E^2$ ) : none yet
- ▶ Ubiquitous Untruth ( $U^2$ ) : none yet, but just wait ...
- ▶ Pet Peeve ( $P^2$ ) : two so far

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# Review of Weeks 1 & 2 (continued)

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P  $V^2_1$ : A wise person will continually seek to acquire and apply truth for the glory of God. An unwise person will not.

- ▶ If you do not seek truth, you are unwise.
- ▶ If you seek truth, but not for God's glory, you are unwise.

P  $V^2_2$ : Truth consists of all the propositions that God affirms.

$$\{p \mid A_{\text{God}}(p)\} : \mathcal{X}$$

- ▶ A proposition is a statement that is either true or false.
- ▶ A proposition is true if and only if God affirms it (perhaps only to Himself).  
$$p \Leftrightarrow p \in \mathcal{X}$$
- ▶ We define affirmation by a person based primarily on what the person does (not just on what he says).

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# Implications of $V^2_1$ & $V^2_2$

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- P A wise person will continually seek to affirm the propositions that God affirms, for the glory of God.
- P If I am wise, then my attitude will be
- ▶ If God says a proposition is true (by His Word or His works), then I will affirm it.
  - ▶ If God says a proposition is false (by His Word or His works), then I will deny it.
  - ▶ If God is silent about a proposition (in His Word and His works), then I will neither affirm nor deny it.
  - ▶ 2 Corinthians 10:5 — We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ

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# Some Ubiquitous Untruths (U<sup>2</sup><sub>1-3</sub>)

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## P Denying what God affirms

- ▶ Many say: “Evolution accounts for all living things.”
- ▶ God says: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)

## P Affirming what God denies

- ▶ Many say: “I can be neutral towards Christianity.”
- ▶ God says: “He who is not with Me is against Me.” (Luke 11:23a)

## P Affirming / denying when God’s position is not clear

- ▶ Many say: “Xmillennialism is the right eschatology.”
- ▶ God does not say enough in the Scripture to justify definitive propositions on this subject.

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# You Must Remember This ...

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P A truth is still a truth

- ▶ Even if you do not believe it is true
- ▶ Even if you do not know whether it is true
- ▶ Even if God has not chosen to reveal that it is true

P But, unless God has revealed clearly (by His Word or his works) that a certain proposition is true, we *must not* assert that it is true.

- ▶ To do so is to claim that God erred in what He chose to reveal to us.
- ▶ It also gives ammunition to those who claim that Christians are intellectually deficient.

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## **Valuable Verity ( $V^2_3$ )**

**A truth is still a truth, even if you do not believe it is true, or if you do not know whether it is true, or if God has not chosen to reveal that it is true.**

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# Discussion of $W^2_2$

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P Your homework was to consider how to answer the question:

- ▶ *Do there exist any propositions that are affirmed by every sane person?*  $\exists p \forall S : A_S(p)$

P In particular, you were to

- ▶ Answer 'Yes' or 'No'.
- ▶ If 'Yes', state the proposition(s) that you think is (are) affirmed by every sane person.

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# A Clever, But Useless Answer

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P Define 'sane' as follows:

- ▶ A sane person is a person who affirms the proposition "Utilize' is a frequently misused word."

P Answer, "Yes" to the question.

P State as the proposition that is affirmed by all sane people:

- ▶ "Utilize' is a frequently misused word."

P This answer is consistent, but not very useful

- ▶ Uselessness remains no matter what proposition is stated in the definition of 'sane'.

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# Distribution of Answers

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P Number of people saying, “No”: 3

P Number of people saying, “Yes”: the rest

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# Suggested Propositions

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P P1: I am sane

P P2: I am alive

P P3:  $2+2=4$

P P4: I must eat to live

P P5: Jesus is the only way to heaven or he is not.

P P6: The sun rises in the east.

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# Suggested Propositions (continued)

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PP7: There is a God.

PP8: Jesus is the Messiah.

PP9: God is a God of order.

PP10: All people born before 1880 are dead.

PP11: All life depends on cellular activity.

All refuted as universal after discussion.

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# Two Famous Answers

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P “I think, therefore I am.” — Rene Decartes

- ▶ Not accepted by materialists: ‘This is Descartes’ error: the abyssal separation between body and mind, between the sizable, dimensioned, mechanically operated, infinitely divisible body stuff, on the one hand, and the unsizable, undimensioned, unpushpullable, nondivisible stuff: the suggestion that reasoning, and moral judgment, and the suffering that comes from physical pain or emotional upheaval might exist separately from the body....’

P “Whatever will be, will be.” — Doris Day

- ▶ Not accepted by non-determinists, including many modern evangelical Christians
- ▶ Should not be accepted by any Christian, if it is intended to deny human responsibility for actions

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# So What's the Right Answer?

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P I believe it does not matter

P It does not matter for learning because ...

- ▶ ... what is important is what God affirms, not what other people affirm.

P It does not matter for apologetics because ...

- ▶ ... what matters for apologetics is the set of propositions affirmed by the person with whom you're talking

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# Next Week

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P We'll talk about the relationship between regeneration and learning

P  $W^2_3$ : Read the following passages

- ▶ Matthew 16:13-17
- ▶ Matthew 11:25-27
- ▶ Psalm 119:18
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 1:18-31