
A Christian Philosophy Of Learning: What Do I Do With This Stuff?

March - May 2002
CRPC Adult Sunday School
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Class #5

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

+ Verities So Far +

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- ▶ V^2_1 : A wise person will continually seek to acquire and apply truth for the glory of God. An unwise person will not.
- ▶ V^2_2 : Truth consists of all the propositions that God affirms.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ V^2_4 : The starting point for acquiring and applying truth is regeneration.
- ▶ V^2_5 : No person ever reaches a point where he should stop acquiring and applying truth.

– Untruths So Far –

P U^2_1 : 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 U^2_2 : 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 U^2_3 : Affirming when God’s position is not clear

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

Varieties of Varieties

P “Are there varieties of truth?”

- ▶ “No,” I said in class four
- ▶ “Yes,” said some folks afterwards

P Suggested varieties include

- ▶ Revealed in Scripture / revealed in natural world
- ▶ Chemistry / biology / mechanical engineering / ...
- ▶ Clearly revealed / not-so-clearly revealed / not revealed

P Instead of varieties of truth, perhaps varieties of ...

- ▶ methods of revelation
- ▶ subject matter
- ▶ strengths of evidence

So What?

P Much of what we've discussed in the first 4 classes has been fairly abstract, so ...

- ▶ Does any of this apply to my life today?
- ▶ Can I use any of it to glorify God?

P There is much more we need to cover, but plenty of applications can be drawn from what we have discussed.

P I'll discuss 3 of them this morning.

Sign of Spiritual Condition

P One way in which I can judge my spiritual condition is by considering the extent to which I am seeking to acquire and apply truth.

- ▶ No seeking implies spiritual stagnation.
- ▶ Fervent seeking implies spiritual growth.

P This same principle applies to assessing the spiritual condition of others.

P Scriptural examples

- ▶ 1 Corinthians 3:1-3
- ▶ Hebrews 5:12-6:1a
- ▶ Ephesians 4:11-16

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Which of these passages best describes me?

Spur to Superior Scholarship

- P I should be a more diligent and accomplished student than non-believers of comparable natural abilities.

- P (Q²₄) Francis Schaeffer: “Evangelical Christians should be better scholars than non-Christians because they know that there is truth in contrast to the relativism and narrow reductionism of every discipline.”

- P Scriptural examples
 - ▶ 1 Kings 4:29-34
 - ▶ Psalm 119:98-100

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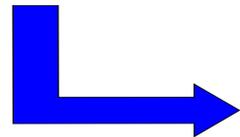
Not having a biblical view of scholarship is a major failing of the church today.

Stimulant for Humility

- P The gap between my knowledge and God's knowledge is vastly bigger than the gap between my knowledge and anyone else's.
- P Pride in the depth of my knowledge, or in the extent of my ability to apply that knowledge, is not justified.
- P I have no basis for feeling intellectually superior to those who do not understand the truth of the Gospel.

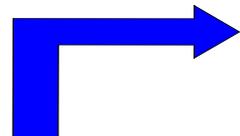
Evident Enigma (E^2_1) Resolved

Biblically-mandated
striving for excellence



Differences in abilities are significant
in daily living.

Biblically-mandated
humility



Differences in abilities are insignificant
in standing before God.

Reminder of Verities

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Next Week: From Truth to Truth

P W^2_5 : Answer these questions

- ▶ If I affirm that the Bible is the Word of God, is there anything else that I also need to affirm, before I can affirm that I am a sinner?
- ▶ If so, what else do I need to affirm?

P Quote ID challenge #2: Who said, “If a picture is worth a thousand words, then why did God give us His Word, instead of His drawings?”

- ▶ Hint 3: The person is, at least at the time of this writing, alive today.