

## TRUTH, FAITH AND FREEDOM

## Apologetics

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**4. TO REMEMBER****0. INTRODUCTION**

- answering the question: “Why is faith necessary at all?”
- Hard questions are easy to ask...
- **Ecc 3:11** He has made everything beautiful in its time (יָפֶה בְּעֵתוֹ). Also, he has put eternity into man's heart (אֶת־הָעֹלָם נָתַן בְּלִבָּם), yet so that he cannot find out (מִבְּלִי אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִמְצָא הָאָדָם) what God has done from the beginning to the end (מֵרֵאשִׁית וְעַד־סוֹף)

**0.1. WHAT IS FAITH?**

- **fides** – belief, honesty, loyalty → the question of TRUTH (knowledge) (**James 2:19** Even the demons believe – and shudder!)
  - a lack of *omniscience* ⇒ the need for faith in received *information*...
- **fiducia** – trust, confidence, reliance, courage → the question of RELATIONSHIP (love) (**1Cor 13:2** ...if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing)
  - a lack of *omnipotence* ⇒ the need for faith in received *help*...

**0.2. BEGINNING WITH ONTOLOGY (METAPHYSICS)**

- worldview again...
- The relations in the created order are determined by the attributes and the values of the entities entering in those relations.
  - → God has to be the *CENTRE* of all relations (**Heb 1:3** ...he upholds the universe by the **word** of his **power**.)
  - → All created beings are dependent on him and he desires them to be related to him in freedom. This voluntary and intelligent dependence is faith.

**1. MAN: CREATED INTO IGNORANCE**

- HEIDEGGER: we are *thrown* into the world (ie. – if nobody cares and loves us)

- Human beings are BOTH a set of separate *individuals* AND a body of inter-connected *humanity*.
  - → individualism vs. “socialism”/collectivism – both *dependent* on other and *free* to choose

### 1.1. EXISTING BETWEEN DUST AND DIVINITY

- **Job 7:17** **What is man** (מִהְיֹאֲנוֹשׁ), that you make so much of him (כִּי תַגְדִּילֵנוּ), and that you set your heart on him (וְכִי־תִשִּׁיחַ אֱלֹוֹ לְבָבְךָ)...
- **Ps 8:4-5** ...**what is man** (מִהְיֹאֲנוֹשׁ) that you are mindful of him (כִּי־תִזְכְּרֵנִי), and the son of **man** that you care for him (כִּי תִבְקָרֵנִי)? <sup>5</sup>Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings (וְתַחֲסִרְהוּ מִעַט מֵאֱלֹהִים) and crowned him with glory and honor (וְהַדָּר וְהַדָּר תַּעֲטִרְהוּ).
- **Ps 144:3** O LORD, **what is man** (מִהְיֹאֲדָם) that you regard him (וְתִדְרֶהוּ), or the son of **man** that you think of him (וְתַחֲשְׁבֵהוּ)?
- **Ps 82:6-7** "You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you (אֱלֹהִים אַתֶּם וּבְנֵי עֲלִיוֹן כָּלְכֶם); <sup>7</sup>nevertheless, like men you shall die (כְּאָדָם תָּמוּתוּן), and fall like any prince."
- **Gn 3:19** ...you are **dust**, and to **dust** you shall return (עָפָר אַתָּה וְאֶל־עָפָר תָּשִׁיב).
- **Heb 2:7** You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor

### 1.2. DEUS ABSCONDITUS (THE HIDDEN GOD)

#### 1.2.1. THE BARRIERS OF BEING

- [time-space reality] **Acts 17:26-27** And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup>**that they should seek God**, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him.
- **Isa 45:15** Truly, you are a **God who hides yourself**, O **God** of Israel, the Savior.

#### 1.2.2. THE BARRIERS OF REBELLION

- **Job 36:11-12** If they listen and serve him, they complete their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasantness. <sup>12</sup> But if they do not listen, they perish by the sword and die without knowledge.

## 2. TRUTH, LANGUAGE AND REALITY

- the relation between language and the reality it is about is arbitrary. Thus, the word ‘apple’ could have referred to pears → proper names (TANESINI)
- “I think it is fair to say that the greatest achievements in philosophy over the past hundred or one hundred and twenty five years have been in the philosophy of language.” (SEARLE What is Language)
- According to Saussure, ...if one tried to envisage reality without language there would be no reality as we know it, instead there would be an amorphous mass of nebulous, indistinguishable stuff, no pieces of furniture, no types of animals, just a great big uninterpretable blob.

### 2.1. ACQUIRING KNOWLEDGE

- through the senses (empiricism)
- through reason (rationalism)
- through language (analytic philosophy)
- through revelation (the Word of God)

### 2.2. LEARNING THE TRUTH

- divisions, divisions...
- the world of faith: (1) unseen, (2) the future, (3) the divine

#### 2.2.1. THE SEEN AND THE UNSEEN

- **Heb 11:1** ...faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
- **2Cor 4:17-18** [For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,] <sup>18</sup> as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are

**unseen.** For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are **unseen** are eternal

### 2.2.2. THE NOW AND THE AFTERWARD

- **Rom 8:24** For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?
- **1Cor 2:9-10** But, as it is written, "What no **eye** has seen, nor ear heard, nor the **heart** of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him" – <sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.
- **Heb 13:14** For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.
- **2Cor 5:1** For we know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens (ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς)

### 2.2.3. GOD AND SATAN

- **2Cor 4:4** ...the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers,

## 3. FAITH AND THE WILL

- Faith in God and *ethics* → faith is not only a passive recognition of facts ("how things are") but also an active search for the hidden spiritual truth behind the obvious surface.
- **Jer 29:13** You will seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart.
- **John 7:17** If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.

### 3.1. LIFE AS CREATIVITY → CHOOSING VALUES

- Who am I?; What am I going to do with my life?; What is the most important factor in my important decisions?

### 3.2. LIFE AS JOURNEY → CHOOSING DESTINATION

- Billy Graham: *The Great Quest (Peace with God)*:

YOU started on the Great Quest the moment you were born. It was many years perhaps before you realized it, before it became apparent that you were constantly searching – searching for something you never had – searching for something that was more important than anything in life.

- Abraham *Hebrew* ("pilgrim") → **Heb 11:16** they desire **a** better country, that is, **a** heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them **a city**

### 3.3. LIFE AS STRUGGLE → CHOOSING SIDES

- Choose sides!
- **1Tim 6:12** **Fight** the good **fight** of the **faith**.

## 4. TO REMEMBER

- Ignorance is our basic human condition and it reminds us we need outside help to get to know the truth.
- The way we deny or admit our dependence decides our ability to receive God's word about the unseen and the future Kingdom of God.
- Possibility to choose gives us freedom to live either in the world of our imagination or in the world revealed to our faith through the Word of God.