

Introduction

John 18:37-38 KJV 1900

³⁷ Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

³⁸ Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault *at all*.

Body

Review

1 Peter 3:15 KJV 1900

¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

We learned previously there are two fundamental truths people must acknowledge:

1. God is the creator, and therefore, the owner of everything, the lawgiver and absolute ruler of His creation.
2. God's Word is our sole authority and foundational truth through which everything else is judged.

Preconditions of Intelligibility

These are conditions that have to exist before we would be able to understand, or make sense of, anything. These include subjects like:

- Laws of Logic
- Laws of Non-Contradiction
- Laws of morality
- Human dignity and worth
- Reliability of memory

Laws of Logic

- We are created in the image and likeness of God
- God is a logical, rational being
- It follows then, that, at least originally, we were logical, rational beings
- After the fall however, sin corrupted and broke our ability to think this way
- Because we have great difficulty thinking this way naturally now, we have come up with what's known as "laws of logic"
- As children of God, we are tasked with becoming Christ-like, and helping others to do the same.
- One of God's characteristics is that He thinks logically naturally. He is a *reasonable* God.
- Reason, logic, these are rules that, when followed, will allow us to think like God does.

1 Samuel 12:7 KJV 1900

⁷ Now therefore stand still, that I may reason with you before the LORD of all the righteous acts of the LORD, which he did to you and to your fathers.

Job 9:14 KJV 1900

¹⁴ How much less shall I answer him, *And* choose out my words *to reason* with him?

Job 13:3 KJV 1900

³ Surely I would speak to the Almighty, And I desire to reason with God.

Isaiah 1:18 KJV 1900

¹⁸ Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; Though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Mark 12:28 KJV 1900

²⁸ And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?

- The reasoning powers of Jesus were too much for the Pharisees and the Scribes. They could not trap Him or trip Him up.

Matthew 22:17-22 KJV 1900

¹⁷ Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?

¹⁸ But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?

¹⁹ Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny.

²⁰ And he saith unto them, Whose *is* this image and superscription?

²¹ They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

²² When they had heard *these words*, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way.

- Examples of God's people reasoning with others

Acts 17:2 KJV 1900

² And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

Acts 18:4 KJV 1900

⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

Acts 18:19 KJV 1900

¹⁹ And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.

Acts 24:25 KJV 1900

²⁵ And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

1 Peter 3:15 KJV 1900

¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

- God made all of reality to conform to laws and logic

Psalms 8:3-4 KJV 1900

³ When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, The moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

⁴ What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?

- Whenever people try to reason in their own power apart from God, they end up coming to a wrong conclusion.

Mark 8:16-17 KJV 1900

¹⁶ And they reasoned among themselves, saying, *It is* because we have no bread.

¹⁷ And when Jesus knew *it*, he saith unto them, Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened?

- When we observe God's creation with the wrong presuppositions:

Romans 1:19–25 KJV 1900

¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them.

²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

²³ And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

²⁴ Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

²⁵ Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

- Because we have been made in the image and likeness of God, God expects us, *wants* us to reason correctly.

Laws of Non-Contradiction

This states that something cannot be both A and non-A at the same time.

- We're not allowed to contradict ourselves at any point of discussion.
- If there is a contradiction, it has to be resolved.

Laws of Morality

- Most everyone agrees that there are such things as “right” and “wrong”, but we'll disagree on the specifics.

Human Dignity and Worth

- Why do we treat people as if they have worth? Why do we love our spouse? Our children?

Reliability of Memory

- Why should I trust my memory? If all my brain is a collection of matter and chemicals reacting, why should I trust what it produces?

Jew vs. Greek

1 Corinthians 1:23 KJV 1900

²³ But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

There are two sermons in the bible that are very different from each other.

- The first is found in [Acts 2](#), and here we find Peter preaching right after the Holy Ghost fell in the upper room to a very Jewish population.
- The second in [Acts 17](#), where Paul is preaching to the Greeks at Aeropegus.

Acts 2:14–36 KJV 1900

¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

¹⁵ For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is *but* the third hour of the day.

¹⁶ But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

¹⁷ And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

¹⁸ And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

¹⁹ And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

²¹ And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

²² Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

²³ Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

²⁴ Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

²⁵ For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:

²⁶ Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:

²⁷ Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

²⁸ Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

²⁹ Men *and* brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

³⁰ Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

³¹ He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

³² This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

³³ Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

³⁴ For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

³⁵ Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

- Peter quoted scripture

- Pointed to experience
- Made the altar call

Acts 17:22-31 KJV 1900

²² Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

²³ For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

²⁴ God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

²⁵ Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

²⁶ And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

²⁷ That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

²⁸ For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

²⁹ Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

³⁰ And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

³¹ Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in

righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

- Paul didn't start with scripture, but with the truth his listeners had.
- Using that springboard, he presents the Christian position.
- He supports the Christian position using references from their own culture (v28)
- He concluded and makes the altar call (v30-31)

Why the different formats?

- Because the listeners were different.
- The cultures were different.
- The Jews already believed in God as their creator, and they believed that His Word was supreme. The Greeks did not!
- Our culture today is becoming more and more "Greek" and less and less "Jewish".