
Book 2

Biblical Philosophy

What is God's Purpose for Human Reason?

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The chapter numbers below are color-coded according to the following categories in order to help you prioritize your reading:

Best: The most helpful, interesting and/or important chapters of the book.

Essential: Important chapters to understand the topic of the book.

Specialized: Chapters for the finer or more complex points of the topic of the book.

Part I: Philosophical Foundations

2.1: **Born Again Philosophy:** *Thinking Hard About Life's Most Important Questions* [24 pp.]

A) The Importance of Philosophy

- A.1) Introduction to Philosophy
- A.2) Scripture & Philosophy
- A.3) The Complexity of Philosophy
- A.4) The Abuse of Philosophy
- A.5) Philosophy & Thinking
- A.6) Philosophy & Theology

B) A Practical Christian Epistemology

- B.1) Book 2: *Biblical Philosophy: How Do We Know What We Know?*
- B.2) Book 3: *Biblical Authority: Who or What Really Directs Our Life?*
- B.3) Book 4: *Biblical Psychology: Understanding & Appreciating the Human "Heart"*
- B.4) Book 5: *Biblical Apologetics: How Can We Be Sure of Christianity?*
- B.5) Book 6: *Biblical Faith: God Pleasing Reason*

Extras & Endnotes

2.2: **Born Again Knowing:** *The Divine Power for Believing* [25 pp.]

A) The Bible Begins Boldly

B) We Will Not Know the Truth Until We Know *The Truth***C) The Power of God for Salvation is the Gospel, Not Apologetics****D) Born Again Believing***Extras & Endnotes***2.3: Born Again Believing: *The Divine Plan for Believing***

[20 pp.]

A) The Truth about Truth

A.1) Defining Truth

A.2) All Truth is God's Truth

A.3) Skepticism is Self-refuting

B) The Types of Belief

B.1) Belief vs. Knowledge

B.2) False vs. True Beliefs

B.3) Vital vs. Minor Beliefs

B.4) Moral vs. Amoral Beliefs

C) The Sources of Belief: *Divine Revelation & Human Information*C.1) *Divine Revelation vs. Human Information*C.2) *Direct vs. Indirect Knowledge***D) The Process of Believing: *Human Research****Extras & Endnotes***2.4: Born Again Reasoning: *The Human Equipment for Believing*** [37 pp.]**A) Reason & Christianity**A.1) The Praise of Reason in the Bible: *Loving God with our logic (Matt 23:37-8)*A.2) The Enemies of Reason in the Church: *Postmodernism, charismaticism, & anti-intellectualism***B) Reason & God**B.1) God Reasons: *Isa 1:18*B.2) God is Logic: *John 1:1***C) Reason & Humans: *A computer of beliefs*****D) Reason & Creation****E) Reason & Reality: *vs. contradictions, fideism, & postmodernism*****F) Reason & Communication: *Everyone speaks through propositions-including God****Extras & Endnotes*

2.5: Born Again Learning: *The Human Process of Believing* [44 pp.]

A) Personal Knowledge through Human Senses & Experience

B) Scientific Knowledge through Human Research

C) Moral Knowledge through Human Experience

C.1) The Means of *Moral Knowledge*: *Human Research* not *Divine Revelation*

C.2) The Foundation of *Moral Knowledge*

C.2.a) *Utilitarianism* in the World

C.2.b) Love in the Kingdom of God

D) Historical Knowledge through Human Testimony

D.1) The Nature & Importance of Human Testimony

D.2) The Important Factors in Human Testimony

D.3) The Importance of Human History

D.4) The Importance of Historical Interpretation

E) Theological Knowledge through Human Exegesis

Extras & Endnotes

2.6: Born Again Certainty: *The Divine Expectation of Believing* [24 pp.]

A) Absolute Certainty

A.1) The Denial of *Absolute Certainty* in Contemporary Theology

A.2) The Demonstration of *Absolute Certainty* in Life & Scripture

B) Potential Absolute Certainty

C) Adequate Certainty

Extra & Endnotes

Part II: Philosophical Critiques

2.7: A Critique of Historical Skepticism [27 pp.]

A) The Data of History Comes from Records or Testimonies, not Personal Experience

A.1) Correcting the Skeptics

A.2) Correcting the Simple

B) Historical Events are Not Repeatable

C) Theology Does Not Depend on History

D) History is Subject to Subjectivism at Every Stage

E) The Miraculous is Unbelievable

F) The Bible is Unbelievable*Extras & Endnotes***2.8: A Critique of *Reformed Epistemology*: A Popular, but Unbiblical & Dangerous Approach to Epistemology** [9 pp.]**2.9: A Critique of Rationalism: The Potential Abuse of Reason Does Not Diminish its Value or Authority** [17 pp.]**A) Rationalism vs. Rationality****B) Objective vs. Subjective Authority****C) Rationalism & Understanding***Publications & Particulars***2.10: A Critique of *Fideism*: What is Contrary to Reason is Neither True nor Meaningful for Humans** [24 pp.]**A) Understanding *Fideism*: The Worship of Contradiction****B) Refuting *Fideism*: It's Not How God Created Things***Extras & Endnotes***2.11: A Critique of *Postmodernism*: More Bark than Bite** [9 pp.]**2.12: Reason & Apologetics: Unregenerated Reason Can Know About God But Not Know God** [13 pp.]**A) Christian Extremes Regarding Reason****B) Reason & *Natural Theology*****C) Reason & *Classical Apologetics*****D) Reason & *Presuppositionalism****Extras & Endnotes*