

## LESSON 2: SEPT. 24: PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS AND RELIGION.

Key concept: God is and God reveals Himself, generally, in the creation and specifically, in the Bible.

1. **Introduction:** This week in TV, movies or books? Anything to share?

### 2. Define Philosophy and Religion

a. WEBSTERS COLLEGE DICTIONARY (1960) defines philosophy as: "A study of the processes governing thought and conduct; theory or investigation of the principles or laws that regulate the universe and underlie all knowledge and reality."

Noah Webster Dictionary (1828): "The objects of philosophy are to ascertain facts or truth, and the causes of things or their phenomena; to enlarge our views of God and his works." S. S. SMITH is quoted in same dictionary: "True religion and true philosophy must ultimately arrive at the same principle."

•Can you find all the answers to the fundamental questions of life by just studying the universe and leaving God out?

b. How do Philosophy and Religion go about discovering the truth? By what means?

c. Many different philosophies and Science splits off from Philosophy.

(1) Naturalism: truth and reality are derived from nature and natural causes. Rejects all spiritual and supernatural explanations of the world and holds that science is primary basis of what can be known.

(2) Religious philosophy says that God is beyond the world. **DEISM** is the belief that God created the universe but has no relationship to it.

(3) Religious philosophy says that God is only in the world. **PANTHEISM** = God is in all the physical. or **PAGANISM**: The Force, the Sun God, etc. or **SPIRITUALISM**: spirit invades everything (vitalism?).

(4) Christianity says that God is both transcendent and immanent. God is; He reveals Himself in what he created and in his Word.

### 3. The Philosophical Dilemma

a. Definitions:

Universals: Broad "universal" truth claims that provide answers to the great philosophical questions we face.

Particulars: Individual truth claims, the small details that describe particular objects.

b. Christianity says, "God gave us the Universals so that we can understand the Particulars."

- Can you find all the answers to the fundamental questions of life by just studying the universe and leaving God out? • When you leave God out what happens?

“Hollow and Deceptive Philosophy”

Materialism: matter is the only reality;

Idealism: ideas are the only reality;

Empiricism: knowledge comes from sensory experience;

Rationalism: knowledge is gained by reason without experience;

Naturalism: true knowledge only comes from scientific study;

Determinism: there really is no knowledge, you only react to stimuli;

Relativism: there are no absolutes;

Mentalism: mind is the true reality and objects exist only as an aspect of the mind’s awareness

Mechanism: everything can be explained in terms of physics and chemistry.

Vitalism: opposite of mechanism, all life is self-determined and self-evolving, a vital principle is operating within a living organism distinct from physical and chemical forces.

Solipsism: nothing exists or is real but the self. Latin, soli, alone + ipsi, self+ ism

Subjectivism: knowledge is dependent upon and limited by your own subjective experience

Intuitionism: knowledge comes primarily from some kind of inner sense

Hedonism: pleasure is good, pain is evil, if it feels good do it.

Postmodernism: there is no absolute truth, there is no purpose in life.

ETC.

Psalm 14:1, “The fool says in his heart there is no God.”

#### 4. Has these “hollow and deceptive philosophies” corrupted Christianity?

Hermeneutics:

Naturalism:

Platonism:

Gnosticism:

Scholasticism:

#### 4. ETHICS. What is right and what is wrong? Who makes the rules? Where do we find our values?

Plato, from Euthyphro: “Is an act right because God wills it, or whether God wills it because he knows it is right? Which is right? A or B.

Have we confused ethics with morality?

The “ought” and God’s character.