

LESSON 3: (Oct. 1) HISTORICAL REVISIONISM

1. Unfinished topics from last week:

a. How has these “hollow and deceptive philosophies” corrupted Christianity?

Hermeneutics : The science of interpretation, in general, and specifically, the principles of exegesis.

- (1) Naturalism > combined with Christianity. C. S. Lewis' *The Silver Chair*
- (2) Platonism combined with Christianity or Christoplatonism, a made up word by Randy Alcorn.

- Gnosticism: Philo (ca 20 BC to AD 50) & Clement of Alexandria, an early church father, (150 to 215 AD) Origen, an Egyptian born Christian writer (ca 185-254 AD)
- Mysticism:
- Scholasticism: Aquinas (13th century)
- 20th Century Form Critics

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

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

What are our values? Why is lying wrong? Is it an absolute or is this “situational?”

RC Sproul makes this point on ethics and morality. What is ethics? What is morality? Ethics is the ought, THE NORM OF BEHAVIOR and morality is, HOW THEY BEHAVE. The good is determined by what is rather than what ought to be.

2. Historical Revisionism

a. Why is history important?

b. Examples:

- (1) last week: the definition of philosophy was changed.
- (2) The book, I Rigoberta Menchu
- (3) The Da Vinci Code, Haeckel's Embryo, Pithdown man (Nova podcast)
- (4) The Mayflower Compact: Nov. 11, 1620

The new school version of the mayflower compact reads: “We whose names are underwritten... having undertaken, a voyage to plant the first colony...” The original version of the mayflower compact reads: “In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten... having undertaken, for the glorie of God, and advancemente of the Christian faith..., a voyage to plant the first colony...”

- (5) Genesis 3. The first historical revision.
- (6) Matthew 28: 11-15.
- (7) Attacks on the Bible.

The oldest manuscripts of ancient works:

Homer's Illiad (500 yrs after he wrote it)
Caesar's Gallic Wars 1000 yrs after
Pliny's History 750 yrs after
Thucydides history 1300 yrs after
Heroditus' History 1300 yrs after
New Testament _____ yrs after

Number of early manuscripts

643
10
7
8
8

Dr Provine's points are: How would you answer Dr. Provine on his idea that there is no free will and that he is willing to give up his free will?

Modern Evolutionary Biology, Dr. Provine, says that no free will, no ultimate foundation for ethics, no gods or purposive forces, no ultimate meaning in life.

Naturalistic Philosophy, Dr Paul Kurtz (The humanist Alternative) says that man is not a special product of creation and the universe has no meaning or purpose.' Man is a cosmic accident

Radical Environmentalist: "While the death of young men in war is unfortunate, it is no more serious than the touching of mountains and wilderness by humankind." David Brown former head of the Sierra Club

Haeckel's Embryo was retouched to look like we came from animals.

David Brease, Seven Men who Ruled the world from the Grave,
Keynes, Dewey, Freud, Welhausen, Marx, Kierkegaard, and Darwin
These men have changed our biblical worldview.

THE ATTACK TODAY:

2 Co 10:4>> 34:46 to 35:35 Sproul "existence of God and truth of God's Word"

The attack today is against the existence of God and the credibility of the Word (DaVinci Code). SEE 1 Peter 1:24
Liberal Theology tries to undermine the authority of the Bible. What can be trusted and what is a contradiction.

The 4 Gospels were earlier and written by the disciples or close companions of the disciples. They were used by apostolic churches. They have a genuine oral tradition. BUT most importantly compare their content. The Gospels contain narrative history of Jesus Christ. The Gnostic Gospels are all allegory, mysticism and a mixture of the Christian worldview with Platonism and Stoicism.

Because of the late date of their writing, these pseudo-gospels were not written by the the disciples or friends as their name suggests. But that alone didn't disqualify them from being part of our Bible. These false gospels were mainly within the Gnostic and Mystic groups that grew up alongside the Christian church and presented the Christian church with it's first of many assaults by cults and the need of the church to define it's true faith and doctrine. Gnosticism is hard to define because it had so many splinter groups named after some known figure in the community. They had one thing in common. They all believed in dualism first expounded by Plato. Plato believed that the good of life was spirit and that the bad part of life was the physical. Basically the earth was bad even though the Christian worldview was that God pronounced creation good in Genesis. The body was bad, a prison of the spirit, but Christian scripture said that the body was the temple of the Holy Spirit. When gnostic beliefs were combined with Christian beliefs in these cults, a new doctrine emerged stating that Jesus only appeared human with a phantom body. So this making of a false doctrine denies the incarnation, the suffering of Christ. and the resurrection. So, the greatest doctrinal issue in the early church was not the full divinity of Jesus but his full humanity. (This is the exact opposite assumption in the book.) For instance, one well-known Gnostic, Marcion, rejected the Old Testament and was anti-semitic because creation is called good. The church countered Gnosticism with the Apostle's Creed. Read the Apostle's Creed. Every line contradicts Gnostic beliefs — God (the maker of earth), Jesus (born, suffered, crucified under Pilate's reign, dead, and buried), and believers whose bodies will be resurrected.

The Nag Hammadi documents were found in 1945 in upper Egypt and were verified as 4th century A.D. Coptic documents of a Gnostic library. It is the single most important discovery towards understanding Gnosticism. The book calls these "secret" documents because the church has suppressed the truth revealed in these documents that Jesus was only human, married to Mary Magdallene, and exalts the the female. Let's refute all four assertions. First, there's nothing secret about these documents. A copy can be bought at any bookstore. Secondly, when you read them Jesus is not human but only divine. Thirdly, the female is actually degraded in these books.

Ann Druyan is a renowned author, lecturer, and television and motion picture writer/producer whose work mostly explores the implications of science and technology for our society. She is the widow of the great Carl Sagan with whom she was a co-writer of the Emmy and Peabody Award winning television series *Cosmos*.

In this discussion with DJ Grothe, she stresses the point that people can have a sense of awe and wonder about the universe without having to believe in God or the supernatural

Michael Shermer is one of the most well-known skeptics in America. He is a contributing editor and monthly columnist for *Scientific American*, and is the host of the *Skeptics Distinguished Lecture Series* at Caltech. He is also the co-host and producer of the Fox Family TV show, *Exploring the Unknown*. He is the author of many books, including *Science Friction: Where the Known Meets the Unknown*, and *Why People Believe Weird Things*. Since founding the *Skeptics Society* in Southern California and *Skeptic* magazine, he has appeared widely on TV and radio advancing the scientific and skeptical point of view, on shows such as *20/20*, *Dateline*, *Charlie Rose*, *Oprah*, *Unsolved Mysteries*, and many more.

In this discussion with D.J. Grothe, Shermer discusses evolution and Intelligent Design theory, Darwin's impact on the world today, the conflict and the compatibility of science and religion, and the meaning of life without God.

Also in this episode, Tom Flynn asks *Did You Know?* about Darwin, sharing facts and trivia about one of the most influential scientists of the modern era.

Paul Kurtz is professor emeritus of philosophy at the State University of New York at Buffalo, editor of *Free Inquiry* magazine, founding chairman of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP), and copresident of the International Humanist and Ethical Union.

1. LIVING WITHOUT RELIGION

Paul Kurtz is one of America's foremost expositors of humanist philosophy.

In this interview with DJ Grothe, Paul Kurtz discusses the meaning of life from a scientific point of view, and expounds on the secular humanistic, stoical, skeptical perspective on questions regarding life after death and morality without belief in the soul, or heaven and hell.

The Doctrine of God: Who is God?

God is.

Transcendant and Immanent

His character = basis of ethics

Sovereignty vrs. Historical Revisionism

God rules

He has a plan

Working his purpose out as year succeeds to year

Revelation: reveals himself, generally, in creation and, specifically, in his Word.

Trinity: 3 in 1 >> God imprint

God is not.

CARL SAGAN
ANN DRUYAN
WILLIAM PROVINE
PAUL KURTZ

- No God or gods
- No purpose or meaning to life
- No Free Will
- No life after death
- No ultimate foundation for ethics
- No sin or evil

Christians should be the BEST....

What do think of (good or bad):

- Enviromentalists
- NRA members
- College Educators
- School Educators
- Scientists
- Medical Researchers
- Medical Doctors

Why good or bad?

What makes them good or bad?

The Universals:
Doctrine of God
Doctrine of Man

Fraud rediscovered

Most people have heard of or been taught the idea that the human embryo goes through (or recapitulates) various evolutionary stages, such as having gills like a fish, a tail like a monkey, etc., during the first few months that it develops in the womb. The idea has not only been presented to generations of biology / medical students as fact, but has also been used for many years to persuasively justify abortion. Abortionists claimed that the unborn child being killed was still in the fish stage or the monkey stage, and had not yet become a human being. • This idea (called embryonic recapitulation) was vigorously expounded by Ernst Haeckel from the late 1860s to promote Darwin's theory of evolution in Germany, even though Haeckel did not have evidence to support his views. Lacking the evidence, Haeckel set out to manufacture the data. He fraudulently changed drawings made by other scientists of human and dog embryos, to increase the resemblance between them and to hide the dissimilarities. Ernst Haeckel's drawings were declared fraudulent by Professor His in 1874 and were included in Haeckel's quasi confession, but according to Richardson, Haeckel's confession got lost after his drawings were subsequently used in a 1901 book called *Darwin and After Darwin* and reproduced widely in English language biology texts.'

Most informed evolutionists in the past 70 years have realized that the recapitulation theory is false. Nevertheless, the recapitulation idea is still advanced as evidence for the theory of evolution in many books and particularly encyclopedias and by evolutionary popularizers like the late Carl Sagan. When evolutionists say that the recapitulation theory is false, they usually do not mean to admit that comparing embryos gives no evidence of common ancestry. In fact, they still frequently highlight the assumed similarities between embryos in their early stages (called embryonic homology) as evidence for evolution. This assumption is based on the idea that such similarities are 'common knowledge'. They still appear in textbooks and popular works on evolution.

It turns out that the similarities are much, much less than anyone thought. Michael Richardson, a lecturer and embryologist at St George's Hospital Medical School, London, has exposed this further fraud, in an article in the journal *Anatomy and Embryology*, 8 recently reviewed in *Science* and *New Scientist*. He therefore assembled an international team to do just that—examine and photograph 'the external form of embryos from a wide range of vertebrate species, at a stage comparable to that depicted by Haeckel'. The team collected embryos of 39 different creatures, including marsupials from Australia, tree-frogs from Puerto Rico, snakes from France, and an alligator embryo from England. They found that the embryos of different species are very different. In fact, they are so different that the drawings made by Haeckel (of similar-looking human, rabbit, salamander, fish, chicken, etc. embryos) could not possibly have been done from real specimens.

Haeckel not only changed the drawings by adding, omitting, and changing features but, according to Richardson and his team, he also fudged the scale to exaggerate similarities among species, even when there were 10-fold differences in size. Haeckel further blurred differences by neglecting to name the species in most cases, as if one representative was accurate for an entire group of animals'.

G.K. Chesterton, in his book about St. Francis of Assisi, wrote in 1933:

Chapter two is called "The World St. Francis Found" and is really more about the ancient

world into which he was born than about St. Francis.

“...The Greeks, the great guides and pioneers of pagan antiquity, started out with the idea of something splendidly obvious and direct; the idea that if man walked straight ahead on the high road of reason and nature, he could come to no harm; especially if he was, as the Greek was, eminently enlightened and intelligent. We might be so flippant as to say that man was simply to follow his nose, so long as it was a Greek nose. And the case of the Greeks themselves is alone enough to illustrate the strange but certain fatality that attends upon this fallacy. No sooner did the Greeks themselves begin to follow their own noses and their own notion of being natural, than the queerest thing in history seems to have happened to them. It was much too queer to be an easy matter to discuss. It may be remarked that our more repulsive realists never give us the benefit of their realism. Their studies of unsavoury subjects never take note of the testimony which they bear to the truths of a traditional morality. But if we had the taste for such, we could cite thousands of such things as part of the case for Christian morals. And an instance of this is found in the fact that nobody has written, in this sense, a real moral history of the Greeks. Nobody has seen the scale of the strangeness of the story. The wisest men in the world set out to be natural; and the most unnatural thing in the world was the very first thing they did. The immediate effect of saluting the sun and the sunny sanity of nature was a perversion spreading like a pestilence. The greatest and even the purest philosophers could not apparently avoid this low sort of lunacy. Why? It would seem simple enough for the people whose poets had conceived Helen of Troy, whose sculptors had carved the Venus of Milo to remain healthy on the point. The truth is that people who worship health cannot remain healthy. When Man goes straight he goes crooked. When he follows his nose he manages somehow to put his nose out of joint, or even to cut off his nose to spite his face; and that in accordance with something much deeper in human nature than nature-worshippers could ever understand. It was the discovery of that deeper thing, humanly speaking, that constituted the conversion to Christianity. There is a bias in man like the bias in the bowl; and Christianity was the discovery of how to correct the bias and therefore his mark. There are many who will smile at the saying; but it is profoundly true to say that the glad good news brought by the Gospel was the news of original sin.

“Rome rose at the expense of her Greek teachers largely because she did not entirely consent to be taught these tricks. She had a much more decent domestic tradition; but she ultimately suffered from the same fallacy in her religious tradition; which was necessarily in no small degree the heathen tradition of nature-worship. What was the matter with the whole heathen civilization was that there was nothing for the mass of men in the way of mysticism, except that concerned with the mystery of the nameless forces of nature, such as sex and growth and death. In the Roman Empire also, long before the end, we find nature-worship inevitably producing things that are against nature. Cases like that of Nero have passed into a proverb, when Sadism sat on a throne brazen in the broad daylight. But the truth I mean is something much more subtle and universal than a conventional catalogue of atrocities.

What had happened to the human imagination, as a whole, was that the whole world was coloured by dangerous and rapidly deteriorating passions; by natural passions becoming unnatural passions. Thus the effect of treating sex as only one innocent natural thing was that every other innocent natural thing became soaked and sodden with sex. For sex cannot be

admitted to a mere equality among elementary emotions or experiences like eating and sleeping. The moment sex ceases to be a servant it becomes a tyrant. There is something dangerous and disproportionate in its place in human nature, for whatever reason; and it does really need a special purification and dedication. The modern talk about sex being free like any other sense, about the body being beautiful like any tree or flower, is either a description of the Garden of Eden or a piece of thoroughly bad psychology, of which the world grew weary two thousand years ago."

Barclay has written in his N.T. commentaries on how original Christianity was in the ancient world on morality in sexual matters. Purity was never preached nor practiced by the Greek teachers and the Romans. Gibbons Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" And Romans 1 on 4exchanging the natural for the unnatural.