

# Preparing to Know God

## Review

In our last lesson we looked at the strategies for interpreting Genesis. We dealt with the fact that evolution is not new! Rather, it's an ancient belief of the Continuity of Being, that has come down through time and is now packaged in what we call Cosmic Evolution, the evolution of all things in the universe. It's really nothing more than an outgrowth of that old HVP idea. It can be expressed mathematically, with slick equations, but after all is said and done it's the same old belief in a Continuity of Being.

Even secular scholars admit that there's a linkage going on between ancient paganism and modern paganism. Science really isn't involved in this debate, its philosophy that's involved, the philosophy of naturalism.

We also compared a brief list of characteristics in regards to Genesis and Evolution and saw that there were not only differences in the characteristics, but major differences in the sequence of things. One example we saw was in the Bible God created everything very good and death was introduced later so death becomes abnormal. Death is something that came in after creation because of man's sin. Evolution uses death to bring about life. In the Bible we have life and then it descends into death.

Our worldview really determines how we interpret the book of Genesis. Even small influences from HVP can really cause us to get off track with the Scripture. We looked at three historical strategies that have been used to interpret the origins of the Bible:

- **The Capitulation Strategy** - using higher criticism, interpreters have influenced the church to completely surrender to cosmic evolution leaving Genesis behind as nothing more than a myth with individual spiritual meaning. We would call this the complete surrender strategy.
- **The Accommodation Strategy** - also called theistic evolution (God used evolution to create), this approach tries to get Genesis and evolution together and usually attempts this with one of three basic theories:
  - **Gap Theory** - interpreters place an indefinite period of time between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 followed by divine creation in six 24 hour days
  - **Day-Age-Day theory** - interpreters places indefinite periods of time between the six 24 hour days
  - **Day-Age theory** - interpreters read each of the six days is an indefinite period of time.

- **The Counter-attack Strategy** - this approach took a look at the other two strategies and saw problems. If the Bible could not be 'adjusted' to fit evolution, and if it was the word of God, then the problem, somehow, must be with the scientific interpretation of data. This approach sets its foundation on the error-free and unchanging word of God and seeks to use science as a tool with God and His word as the final authority.

## Cleaning up the Debris

In this lesson we're going to start clearing the pagan debris that surrounds creation. This is needed in preparation for understanding how God can and cannot be known. If we don't get creation right then we're not going to get God right. These two are intrinsically linked. The creation event defines who and what God is. So, it is crucial that we get our view of origins right. And we've said, when everything is said and done there are only two views of origins, the biblical kinds and the unbelieving kinds. The biblical kinds have a Creator and a creation, two levels of existence. The pagan kinds ALWAYS reject this and claim one level of existence, the Continuity of Being where everything that exists differs only in degree.

In this lesson we want to push these distinctives further. I want you to go into the implications of the two views. Where do they take us?

Whenever you do something such as cook or build something, even if it's done right, what's left behind? Debris, you've got to clean up and until you clean up the job really isn't done is it? So, now in this lesson we're going to clean up a little bit and what we're doing is preparing for a big question. How can God be known? How should God be known? There is a way to know God and a way not to know God and we want to respect that way. So, we're going to prepare now for how God can and cannot be known.

To get into that we said in our last lesson that we have a conflict today between Genesis and Modern Science. We looked at several points of contrast between the creation story in Genesis and the story of Modern Cosmic Evolution. Of course there are many more points of contrast but it isn't necessary to go into those at this point. If you are intellectually honest and you sit down with those two stories you will find that there is no way to ever get them together. Genesis and Evolution cannot get together. The sequence is all wrong. Adding millions of years between the days doesn't change the sequence. Besides you've got cardinal numbers used in the Hebrew text, day one, day two, day three and cardinal numbers always mean a counting measure, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.... You don't allegorically count. You literally count. If you want to keep the beat in

music you use a counting measure, you lose the beat if you add thousands of years there.

So, the bottom line is that Christians have thought about this for 200 years and what they found was that they made a fatal mistake. They bought into a pagan presupposition (ultimate belief), the idea that the conclusions of modern science were fact, objective, neutral facts. Science was infallible...and finally some Christians, not seminary professors, but some Christians who were trained in the sciences said, "Look, you can't get these two together. I've been trained in evolution and I've read my bible and these are in complete opposition.

So, Henry Morris was one of these guys and he started what we called the Counter-Attack Strategy, argued essentially that somewhere along the way Modern Science went wrong. They made a titanic claim. That modern scientists were not neutral. They were interpreting the evidence in terms of a philosophy of naturalism. They weren't following the evidence wherever it led. We have learned from previous lessons that everyone has presuppositions and no one is neutral. They can't be escaped! What we want to make sure of is that we have the right presuppositions, the presuppositions that provide the pre-conditions for knowledge and meaning and make sense of all of reality.

So, up to this point I have tried to introduce things, and the reason we spent so long trying to introduce things is to convince you that by the time we get to this point of looking at the text and looking at a key event that everyone comes to the Bible with presuppositions, and we want to be sure what those presuppositions are. If this isn't clear at this point we need to go back and review, because the direction we are moving requires you to see how ultimate beliefs work together to form your worldview.

## Laying the Foundation

Now, beginning in our next lesson we are going to be looking at Genesis 1:1 to Genesis 2:4. By the time we get through 3 or 4 more lessons of this, going through this creation event, you will see how crucial this chapter is for the doctrines of God, man and nature. Foundational doctrines! It's all set up here. This is the foundation for everyone. So, what we're doing is laying the foundation. If we build on a poor foundation, if we go study other parts of the Bible but we don't have a firm foundation then what kind of a structure are we going to have? A weak one. It's going to fall down and so we want to start with a firm foundation.

Everything else in the Bible depends on Genesis 1, 2 and 3, EVERYTHING. There's not a thing in the Bible that doesn't go back to Genesis 1, 2 and 3. That's why if you

mythologize these chapters away you might as well throw your Bible in the trash can. Redemption and the cross mean nothing without Creation and the Fall. If all mankind are not the direct lineal descendants of a literal Adam then all mankind did not die in Adam and all men cannot be redeemed in Christ. There's a coherence to Scripture and if you fool around with the text you're going to create problems over here, over there, and over there, it will just go cascading through the rest of Scripture and obliterate it.

So, as we start to look at the details of the creation event we want to pay special attention to how God created because how God created leads us to think certain ways about God. This is not something we're suggesting, this is not an opinion, this comes out of observations, and that's why we looked at the Enuma elish, which is a typical pagan creation text so you can see for yourself how the gods of paganism create. There's no ex nihilo (out of nothing) creation, rather the gods create the universe out of their anatomy. And this difference has major implications.

Jeremy Thomas, shares the following story:

*"Several years ago after I graduated from Texas Tech I was in a discipleship class at a local church. This guy was teaching us about creation and then he said something like "it's not really a big deal how God created it's just important to affirm that God did, in fact, create." In other words, the mechanism wasn't that important. How He does something doesn't tell us anything about Him. And being a biology major, I thought, "Hey, wait a minute. What he's really saying is that God could have used evolution if He wanted to and that wouldn't change my view of God. God could use death to bring about life and that wouldn't change my view of God?" And by the grace of God's work in my life on these issues I wrote him a letter saying, "Well, quite frankly it does matter. It's a big deal because how God does something tells us something about who He is." And by the grace of God, this guy saw it, responded positively and is one of my best friends, Jim McCulley. This guy is an expert in the technical field of computer graphics and design. He could be making hundreds of thousands of dollars working for some Fortune 500 firm, but he's not. He's using his training on the mission field to spread a clear gospel by teaching from Creation to the Cross. He realized what so few people realize and that's that Paul started evangelizing with creation. He didn't start with Jesus because we've got to get who God is first, then through a series of logical steps we can get to Jesus. If we don't start with creation we get the wrong Jesus. So, the point is that it does matter how God created."*

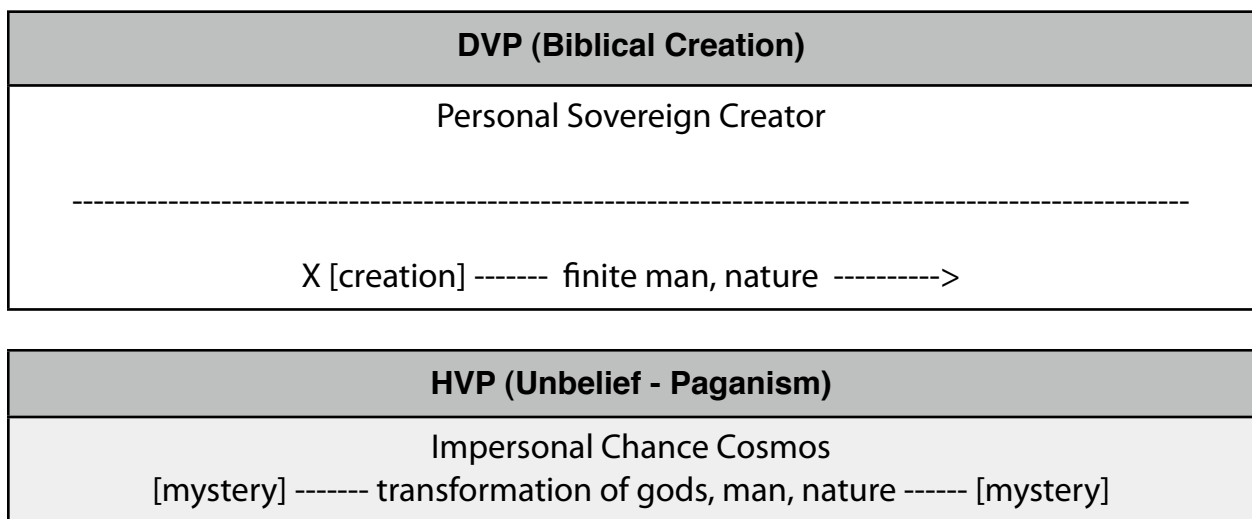
Some of you may have been in churches where you have creeds that are recite. Have you noticed how these creeds begin? All the creeds basically begin somewhat like the apostle's creed,

*"I believe in God the Father, Almighty, maker of heaven and earth."*

You notice the creeds never begin with I believe in Jesus. Ever ask yourself why that is? Why don't they start with Jesus? Obviously they do believe in Jesus, but why don't they start the creed that way? The reason they don't start the creed that way is because the Holy Spirit didn't start the Bible that way. The Bible doesn't begin with Jesus, it begins with creation, and hence the creeds, the historic creeds of the church always begin with "I believe in God the Father, Almighty, maker of heaven and earth," because that defines God.

So creation is a defining event of who God is. Are the cross and the resurrection important? Absolutely, but the cross and the resurrection tell you what this God is doing. But God Himself is defined by the event of creation. This is why it's such a critical event. It sets the universe apart from God and God apart from the universe, and defines who our God is. The importance of creation is that, at this point it eclipses the cross, and what I mean by that is "redemption would be unimportant if the God who redeemed were not the Creator." If God is not the Creator, then everything else may seem relevant but it isn't.

In this diagram we see the difference between what the Bible teaches and what paganism teaches. In the Biblical creation you have God eternally existing, there never was a time when God did not exist.



God is eternal, God is personal, God is sovereign and then God speaks out creation and that marks the beginning of a new reality. Now I want you to look at where the "x" is,

that “x” marks the creation event, and I want you to do a little thought experiment, a little imagination, and it will challenge your imagination to do this but think back to that creation event, you have read in Genesis 1:1,

*“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep,”*

Imagine being present at verse 2, imagine seeing all the mass of the universe in this watery mode, and you are somehow present, and it’s just been called into existence. Look at the “X” in the chart which marks the spot for the creation event. Seconds before God called the universe into existence, if we can conceive of time, it wasn’t there, but if we can mentally project ourselves just seconds before God spoke the universe into existence what was there? Were the laws of physics there? Were subatomic particles there? Was God and another universe there? No, God and God alone was there. This is the discipline spiritually that you want to go through when you think about creation, is that God preceded everything. It is not God plus anything. It is only that God and God alone always existed.

The implication of that is that He is the root and ground of our creaturely existence. This produces a number of exciting things, which we’ll get to as we work through this. On the pagan side of the house all we can ultimately say is that there was mystery in eternity past, that’s all we can say, just mystery in eternity past and mystery in eternity future. We don’t know where we came from and we don’t know where we’re going. That is the ultimate claim of paganism. Everything is surrounded by mystery. And all you get in between mystery is some form of transformation. You never get creation, and that’s where we want to distinguish this.

There are two words here you want to note: Creation and Transformation. These are the words you want to recall in your mind when you find yourself talking about origins. When people come to you for example and they talk about the big bang, which is the prevalent physics model of the origin of the universe, when you think about that and you ask deeper questions and you say what was the universe like in the first three seconds and they’ll give you this story, the best that physicists can do to reconstruct this big bang.

The problem is that even then matter, energy, and some form of physical laws exist. So that really is not creation. That is transformation of the universe from one state into another state; it is a transformation, not a creation. And this has tremendous implications in the area of idolatry which we’ll get to because what we find is that no one ever gets rid of the attributes of God. Everyone uses the attributes, they just relocate them moving them from the Creator to the creation so that now we’re not

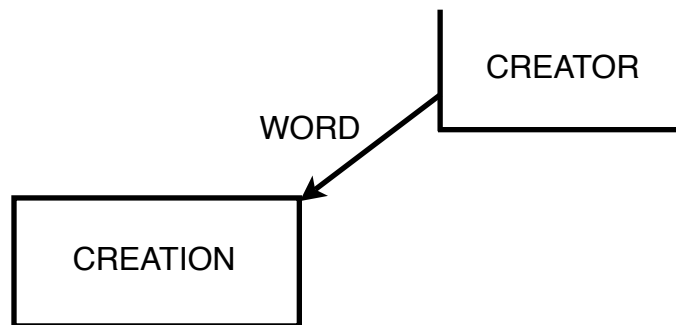
talking about an eternal God but an eternal universe that just transforms from one state to another and that is the essence of idolatry, taking what belongs to God and God alone and assigning it to the creation. But you never escape God's attributes.

## Implications of Biblical Creation and Paganism

Let's now look at the implications of Biblical creation and paganism and how they influence that answers to three key questions men have asked. These three questions are simply representing the three areas of philosophy: metaphysics, epistemology and ethics. These would be the areas of study in any philosophy course, so these are not new questions.

### Who am I?

Today we hear all things about having a problem with self-identity, we can't figure out who we really are, and that's not silly, there's a real problem here, who are we? To answer this question we have to answer another question. What is our ultimate reality? Because that defines the ultimate context in which we exist. So, let's look at this from both sides, biblical and pagan. And, let's use a diagram to think this through. If the Bible is true, and if we have God as the Creator, and He has a character and a being of His own, and then we have the creation down here.



### DVP

In this chart we see God in an open box just to express that He's infinite, no boundaries. All we ever see is part of Him, we never can glimpse all of Him. We also see here that God uses His word to create the universe, He speaks and it comes to life. We are part of that universe. If God had not created the universe then we would not be in existence. And what would be there? Nothing but God. Nothing. No protons and electrons.

Now, out of this comes an enormously powerful truth that is deeply moving so pay attention. What I'm getting at in this "Who am I" question is that the basic

environment of everything is a Person, a Personal Sovereign God, not an impersonal force, not an "it," not protons and electrons, not DNA, not laws of physics. All those weren't there at one time, only God was there. So behind what we see in the universe stands a Person. Go out to the farthest galaxy and God is there. The Hubble telescope provides us with a small glimpse of how vast the universe is, it's enormous, but God preexists it all.

So, our ultimate environment is a Person. So, what does that make you? What that makes you is found in Genesis 1:26,

*"Then God said, Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness."*

Inside the creation there's one and only one creature called man. Of all the things that God made, if you carefully observe the text, there's one and only one part of the universe that's said to be made in His image. Man. And that means whoever is a human being, whatever the skin color, whatever the culture, whatever language they speak, wherever they live, whatever point in history, they are made in God's image.

This is a powerful idea and it has implications across the board. So, here I'm just pointing out the answer to the question, "Who am I?" if I begin with Biblical creation. If Biblical creation is valid, if it is a true event that happened, that makes me a creature, bounded in time and space, whose existence is dependent upon a God who is always there, and I wasn't always there and the DNA code that I carry around in my cells and determines my genetic makeup was passed down to me by Adam. And there are implications of that in Romans 5:12. So, when we get into salvation, redemption, etc. we'll come back to this observation. If you don't have a literal Adam then you don't have a literal Jesus. A lot of people have done away with Adam but they want to hang on to Jesus but the Bible doesn't permit that. The Bible gives a coherent picture and if you depart from it, you can, you have the choice to reject, but if you do then you're whole worldview is going to come crashing down. It's going to be incoherent, flawed at the very core.

Now, if I say that the universe is this impersonal chance organism, the bottom line on our diagram then "Who am I?" Let's look at the pagan side.

## **HVP**

From an unbelieving viewpoint you start with god(s), men, animals, and rocks as an ultimate reality. You have this chain of being and no one knows what's out here beyond this; fate, chance, whatever. This view tells us that reality at bottom is one. What do we mean "reality at bottom is one?" What I mean by that is you can't split between God and the creation. That split between creation and God is available only to the Bible believing Christian. We are the only ones who can make the split.

Everyone else holds to this idea, that all reality encompasses everything, one level of existence. So there is only one level of being. It doesn't matter whether reality is pictured as a vast machine, as many people did in the 19th century, or as some sort of cosmic organism, which is an ancient idea that is now coming into modern vogue. The universe beneath you, above you, in front of you, and behind you is an infinite impersonal 'it.' You and your 'personal' nature differ only in degree from its electrons and protons.

In the Chain of Being your thinking, talking, emotions, loving, and artistic expressions are merely surface appearances on a reality that is basically impersonal. You and other human beings are really only person-like bubbles, floating for the moment on an impersonal ocean of chance. Ultimately you and other human beings are tragically and cosmically alone.

This is an extremely depressing realization. This is where the grass isn't greener on the other side of the fence. Pity the poor non-Christian, he doesn't realize it but this is where he is.

Frances Schaefer often spoke of a remark Charlie Chaplain made when the probe that went to Mars to find out if there were organic molecules out there. They had all the TV cameras on this little probe that came out and were hoping to find out if there's life out there, and there wasn't. Somebody asked Charlie Chaplain what's your response to that, and he said "I feel lonely." It wasn't a funny remark; it's exactly what this is. People don't see the consequences of things. We, as Christians in whom the Spirit of God dwells, we should be the people who give an answer for the loneliness and the darkness of the world.

People tell us to be a free-thinker, but if you want to be free, just understand this is where you wind up; you have to wind up ultimately lonely...impersonal. You can dress it up with drugs and other stuff, but all your doing is attempting to escape the "free-thinking" reality. You know some of the smartest people in society take drugs, don't think only stupid people, or poor people take drugs, smart people take drugs too. Do you know why they do that? For the same reason they drink; for the same reason they do anything else that will numb reality.

Life is a tragedy, it's painful, it hurts to go on living in an existence like this so why not numb it a bit. Realize that you can't just expect people to say no to drugs; you've got to have a reason for saying no. If I'm in pain and then I want morphine or something because I want to stop the pain. In the same way, if it's a pain in the soul, one that involves the way I think about myself, my life, everything around me why shouldn't I

numb the pain with drugs or whatever. You can't really stop people from taking drugs until this is clear in their mind.

Aldous Huxley was no stupid person, he was the pioneer in America in the 60's for advocating drugs, he taught at Harvard. Why did he advocate taking drugs? Read him, you'll see why, because he saw this, he saw that ultimately when you lay aside all the hoopla and get right down to the basics there is no reason for life. It's just a big cosmic machine. That's where you end up when you start with a pagan perspective.

Contrast that with the God of the Bible. We have a God who speaks, and that God who speaks appreciates music, do you know how I know that? Because when the universe was created a choir was singing, you read about that in the book of Job (38:7), it says when God laid the foundations of the earth, the morning stars sang. The first song ever sung by a human is Adam to Eve, we know that because the Hebrew is in a poetic structure, it was a love song. Now where does this come from? Because we are made in God's image, He sings, He loves music, He loves art, He has emotions. That which we see in ourselves that makes us people, that's patterned after Him. That's the magnitude of it all, its mind blowing to think about this. You can spend the rest of your life thinking about this, and the implications of just starting from Biblical creation vs starting from a pagan idea that there is nothing there except the impersonal machine cranking out molecules.

### **What is truth? How can I know?**

The next question is, "What is truth?" Another question is "How can I know?" That's a question that's tortured people, actually tortured people..."how can I really be sure of truth?" This has to do with the area of philosophy called epistemology.

We have to approach this question from our viewpoint. Its important to see how all our questions in life have to be approached from a DVP or a HVP.

### **DVP**

Refer back to the chart above and let's look at this from a biblical viewpoint (DVP). We see God in His own infinite reality, and we see God using His word to create the universe. Now try to imagine again in your mind back to the moment just prior to God creating the heavens and the earth, when He and He alone existed. Now ask yourself, did God have a plan in His mind for what He was going to do, or did He just say, "Gee, I feel lonely today?" Did God have an eternal plan? Did God from all eternity have a plan? Or is He just throwing things together, never knowing what's going to happen next? Sure He had a plan. There are many passages in the bible that say He did. He had everything in mind before He created. You know what the implication of that is? God never learns anything.

So what does all this have to do with the question we're asking, "What is truth?" Can you see where it leads?

Here is an example. If you're looking at some event down here in the creation, let's say an event surrounding Abraham and Sarah. They're having a little marital dispute over children. Abraham says, "All right, have it your way lady," and he shacks up with a maid and they have a baby - Ishmael.

This is our event. What's the meaning of that event? In their lifetime did Sarah and Abraham fully perceive what would come forth out of Ishmael? Did they have a clue? They had some of a clue, yes, they knew some of the truth. Today in the Middle East do we know more of the truth, of Isaac and Ishmael? How about war between Isaac and Ishmael's descendants...1948...1967. How about the continual wave of suicide bombings. Abraham and Sarah could have never seen the meaning of that event centuries ago in that tent in the Middle East. We never see the implications as finite humans.

Let's enlarge this. If we start with God who had a plan from all eternity and He creates then what is truth? Truth inside the creation is that which corresponds to His plan. And we know something truly as much as we know its place in His plan. We cannot say that we really know truth until we locate what we are talking about in the context of His eternal plan. That's why we say we only know bits and pieces of truth. We only see part of the plan and the more of the plan we see the more truth we know.

So, what do we do in the meantime? Well, we know enough of God's character to be able to trust Him for all the unknowns, because as human beings we are faced daily with unknowns that we have no control over. Let's take our salvation as an example. Epistemologically, how do you know you have salvation? How can you know your really saved? Well, you can know because you know Him and trust His character on the basis of His revelation. As long as you believe the promises of God in His word you have 100% assurance.

He is a God who plans, and as chaotic as life is, we can know enough about God to know that His plan prevails. Do you know what that produces? Stability in your life. And in this generation, with all the chaos we see going on, it's the key to sanity.

## **HVP**

Let's think about this question from a HVP standpoint. Honestly it's mind boggling how a thinking non-Christian is not going totally insane in these times; with the changes that are happening, and the rate of history shifting. How anybody can keep their mind from fragmenting is puzzling. It's no surprise that people are flipping out, blowing their brains out, because the stress is too high. And the Christian

fundamentalists are ripped to shreds because they are answering these questions with their Bible. Is there someone else out there that has an answer to this...no! Not that doesn't lead back to either the Biblical creation event or some sort of Continuity of being.

As Christians we ought to be proud in a proper sense. We have something the world has nothing of, knows nothing of, and can't even grasp. It's the concept of truth. They're the ones saying "what is truth?" Just like Pilate said in the trial of Jesus, "What is truth?" Well, you'd better figure out what truth is, because it's what keeps you going. If you really believe that you can't know something truly, what will you end up with? A life left to wonder about in meaninglessness.

Kids don't want to learn anything anymore. Schools and parents can't get anybody to read anymore, they don't want to think! But why should they, if there's not truth to find out why go to all the pain of learning to read. Why did people in our society learn to read in the first place? Because they had a Bible. The first reading programs were not just to read the almanac, the reading programs were so that a person could come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ on their own by reading Scripture. That's the source of literacy. This is important; you take away this powerful concept of truth and literacy will go away; as night follows day, there's no reason for me, if I'm a kid to go learn something that's not ultimately true anyway. Think about it.

All this powerful context to truth comes out of the creation event - it's the beginning of God's known plan. Do you see why we're saying Genesis 1 is so important? Look what comes out of this. If I am a pagan where do I go to find truth. All the unbeliever has is total mystery, everywhere they turn they are surrounded by fate or chance. They are subject to a universe that transforms itself from one moment to the next, everything is in continual flux, why should they bother to learn? It strikes at the very heart and the very motivation to learn anything.

### **How should I then live?**

Let's go to the third question, "How should I then live?" In philosophy this area is known as ethics. It seeks answers to questions like what ought we to do? What is the source of value? To answer the question "how should I live" you have to seek your highest loyalty.

### **HVP**

We have learned that within a unbelieving worldview (HVP) that your ultimate reality is one where you are alone and one where you seek to act as a law unto yourself (autonomy - comes from two words auto=self, nomos=law).

If you really believe this and you are a person, then you have to have the idea that it's your mind that reaches out and creates truth (Kant). You have to; you're not discovering truth that was there prior to you. On a Biblical basis yes, there was a God who preexisted the universe, who had a plan in His mind, and so there's something out there worth my brain coming to know, His plan. But if there is no God out there who has a plan for the universe then my thoughts in my brain are just matter in motion, chemical reactions in my brain. That's being autonomous.

So in the pagan worldview you are alone and autonomous. That means you have a big problem at this point. You have no One there to whom you are ultimately responsible, you are left on your own. You may do what seems right in your own eyes. However, a problem exists when you meet another autonomous person who is doing what seems right in his eyes.

The tragedy of this is that every time a society turns to HVP (and you're living in one right now), values are eroded more and more. And you are wrecking standards of right and wrong, because you're destroying the foundation of them. That's what's happening.

So if you reject God as the source of morals then you're left with one of two places to get ethics from. You could get them from society. You've heard the argument of society...51% of the people agree so it must be true. Here's the counter to that. If somebody tells you that ethics come out of society, ask them what they would have done about Nazi racism in 1937? If 51% of German's believed it was wrong to be a Jew are we going to endorse that? Is society right? If morals come out of a 51% vote we live dangerously. So morals can't come out of a society. Do any of you remember the great trial after WWII? Where was the trial where the world brought the Nazi's in and judged them? Nuremberg. What was the Nazi defense, when those great proud men of the SS corps went into court? "I followed my orders," "Yes sir," my society told me to do it." What was the judgment at Nuremberg? Did the nations accept that defense? They did not. That's something to remember when you get into a conversation and somebody yaks yaks "I think society says." "Oh really, what do you do with Nuremberg. If society determines right and wrong then the Nazi racists were right, and you can't touch them. Nazi Germany showed us that the source of ethics transcends society. It's rooted in God and if you reject that then you have no defense, no defense against this sort of atrocity. And when a society collectively becomes mad, you can't stand against it.

Or, what's happening today, we're getting more sophisticated, we can try to locate ethics in mother earth, nature. The problem here is if you make nature the source of ethics, what happens to the boundary between man and animal now? It goes away.

So now we see the spectacle where we're concerned if a whale beaches himself and we have a million dollar rescue effort, and meanwhile man is creating technology to enable abortion. Isn't that logical though, if it's just nature you can define your ethic any way you want. So these are practical issues that come right out of the Scripture, right out of Genesis.

So, I bring all this up to show you the implications of the Creator-creature distinction and the Continuity of Being. These two beliefs flesh out in everyone's life. This is not abstract philosophy. Your beliefs here have tremendous implications and what I'm showing you is that you can throw rocks at the abortion issue, you can throw rocks at global warming and homosexuality but if you want to get at the real issue, the root of these things you've got to go back to origins.

You can't go very far just looking at the surface. You want to get down underneath where the real slime is. And you know why we're doing this? Because ultimately I want to know God properly. We are about to look at the greatest Person, the Personal Sovereign God who has eternally been who He is and whether you are here or I am here or any of this is here, He is. So, if you want to do a little more here in advance let me suggest to you a little Bible reading. Read Job 38, where God is doing the speaking, see if you can detect that there is a proper way to come to know God, there is a way He insists that we come to Him. You can also look in Isa 40.