

How Should We Then Vote?
Series

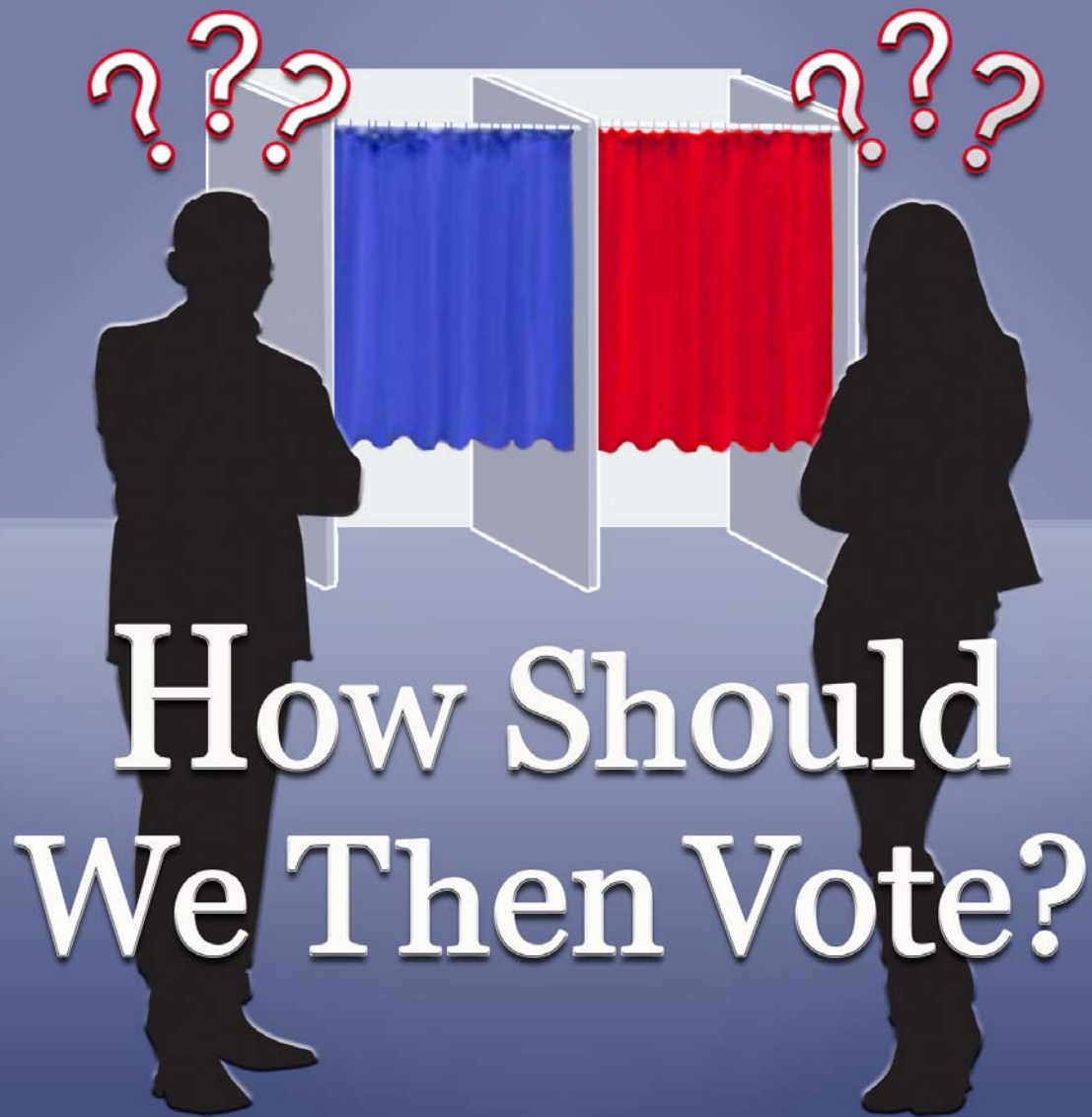
Lesson #05

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Dean Bible Ministries

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What is Right? What is Just?

Psa. 11:3, “If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?”

צְדָקָה (*ṣ^edāqâ*) justice, righteousness.

Conformity to an ethical or moral standard

What is a Worldview?

An iceberg floating in the ocean, with only the tip visible above the water. The background is a blue sky and sea. The text is overlaid on the image, with the top part above the water and the bottom part below the water.

Political/National or Individual Decisions

Ethics: What is right? What is wrong? What is good or bad?

Epistemology (Knowledge): How do we know truth? Right from wrong? Just or unjust?

Metaphysics: Ultimate reality, i.e., God, matter, energy, “the universe”, nothing

Foundation of *all* thought

A Judeo-Christian Worldview

- 1. God is the Creator of all things and created human beings in His image and likeness, giving them value and purpose.**
- 2. The Bible is God's revelation to man and is completely accurate in all that it reveals to man, teaching them how to live wisely in God's creation marred by sin.**
- 3. God created the human race in His image, both male and female.**

A Judeo-Christian Worldview

- 4. Sin has corrupted the human race and God's creation.**
- 5. God has given principles and laws for the right conduct of the human race in this corrupted universe, because, as their Creator only He can do this.**
- 6. God continues to oversee and direct His creation toward His perfect end.**

The Image of God

Personal

Self-consciousness

Exercising will and determination

Intellectual, the ability to know, to think, to know

Perfect righteousness and justice

Gen. 1:26, “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’

Gen. 1:27, “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Gen. 1:28, “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’ ”

But if, as the Bible claims, we are the direct, intentional, creation of God, then humans have dignity, every human life has value, every human is deserving of respect, and each is responsible and accountable for their moral decisions.

This is the foundation for equality under the law.

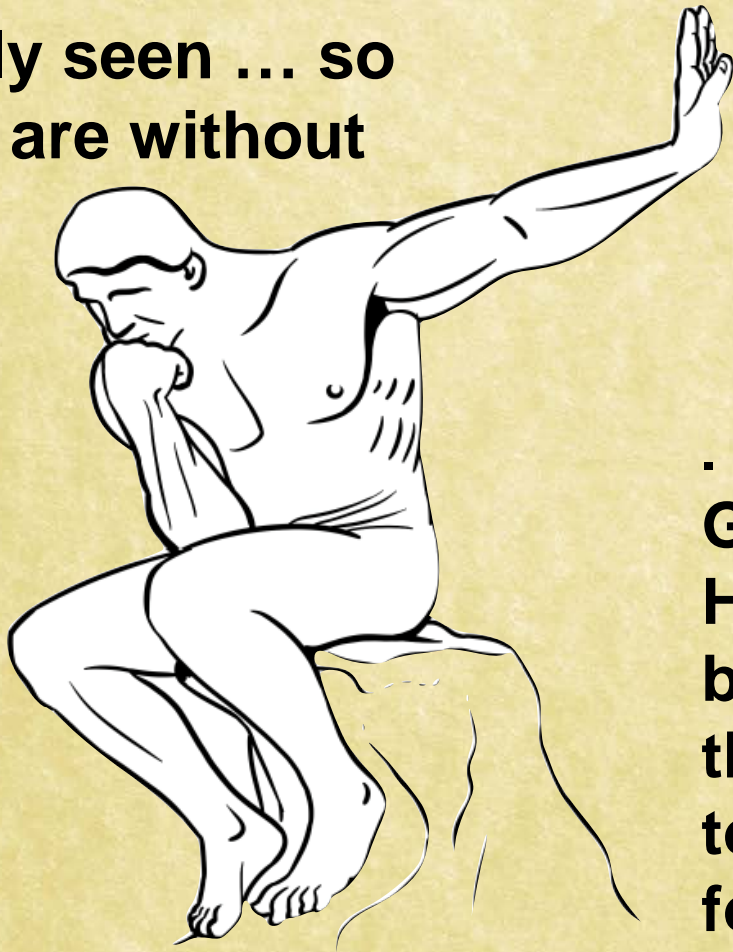
The Basis of Knowledge

	SYSTEM	STARTING POINT	METHOD
Autonomous Systems of Perception	RATIONALISM	Innate ideas; <u>Faith</u> in human ability	Independent use of logic & reason
	EMPIRICISM	Sense perceptions; External experience; Scientific method; <u>Faith</u> in human ability	Independent use of logic & reason
	MYSTICISM	Inner, private experience; intuition; <u>Faith</u> in human ability	Independent, nonlogical, nonrational, nonverifiable
Divine Viewpoint	REVELATION	<u>Faith</u> in the objective revelation of God	<i>Dependent</i> use of logic and reason

Psa. 36:9, “In Your light, we see light.”

Man as His Own Ultimate Authority

Rom. 1:20–22, “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen ... so that they are without excuse!”



God's Verbal & Non-Verbal Revelation

... “Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God . . . But became futile in their thoughts . . . Professing to be wise, they became fools!”

Gen. 2:9, “And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

The Authority of the Bible

1. The Bible claims for itself to be the very words of God.

2 Tim. 3:16, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

2 Tim. 3:17, “that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Pet. 1:20, “knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

2 Pet. 1:21, “for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

- 2. “The Lord said”, 234x; “God said”, 44x;
“Thus says the Lord”, 420x
Specific commands to write the Word
of the Lord (Ex. 17:14; Jer. 30:2).**

**Matt. 15:4, “For God commanded,
saying, ‘Honor your father and your
mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or
mother, let him be put to death.’ ”**

**Jer. 30:2, “Thus speaks the LORD God
of Israel, saying: ‘Write in a book for
yourself all the words that I have
spoken to you.’ ”**

Where Did They Get Their Views of Scripture?

1. The Westminster Confession of Faith

2. William Ames (1576–1633) was an English Protestant theologian who spent most of his life in the Netherlands. His work was hugely influential on the English Puritans of the following generations, especially in New England.

2. “For they only could commit the rule of Faith and manners to writing, who by reason of the immediate and infallible direction which they had from God, were in that business free from all error.”

~Ames, William. *The Marrow of Theology*

“For prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men spake as they were moved by the holy Spirit. 2 Tim. 2. 16. All Scripture is inspired by God.”

~William Ames, *The Marrow of Theology*

2. They wrote also by the inspiration and guidance of the holy Spirit, so that the men themselves were as it were instruments of the spirit. In the place before.

Jerem. 1. 9. “Behold I put my words in thy mouth.”

Acts 28. 25. “Well indeed spake the holy Spirit by Esaias the Prophet.”

3. John Calvin

“the Scriptures alone exist as the means by which God has been pleased to consign his truth to perpetual remembrance, the full authority which they obtain with the faithful proceeds from no other consideration than that they are persuaded that they proceeded from heaven, as if God had been heard giving utterance to them” (I, vii, 1)

4. Martin Luther

“The Scriptures, although they too are written by men, are neither of men nor from men but from God. Now since Scriptures and the doctrines of men are contrary one to the other, the one must lie and the other be true”

The Views of the Founding Fathers

The Influence of the Bible on the Founding Fathers

- 1. 1983—Dr. Donald Lutz, Univ. of Houston. Ten-year project analyzed over 15,000 political documents from 1760–1805; 3,154 citations evaluated.**
- 2. The most often-quoted source for political ideas was the Bible, mostly the Old Testament, over 1/3rd of all direct quotes.**
- 3. The next most quoted source is quoted 1/4th as frequently, John Locke (in the 1760s and 1770s).**
- 4. Another 60% of all references came from authors whose original source goes back to the Bible.**

“the Holy Scriptures were the most important source of authority for America’s founders.”

~Mark David Hall

Ethics: The study of morality, right and wrong; The morals or standards of right and wrong which govern our lives, our decisions, and the use of our resources.

Isa. 5:16, “But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God who is holy shall be hallowed in righteousness.”

Isa. 6:3, “And one cried to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!’ ”

Deut. 32:4, “He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.”

Psa. 11:3, “If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?”

**הַדָּקָה (ḥ^edāqâ) justice, righteousness.
Conformity to an ethical or moral standard.**

דָּקָה zedeq “This root basically connotes conformity to an ethical or moral standard. It is claimed by Snaith (N. Snaith, *Distinctive Ideas of the OT*, Schocken, 1964, p. 73) “the original significance of the root דָּקָה to have been “to be straight.” But he adds that it stands for a “norm.”

Deut. 1:13, “ ‘Choose wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men from among your tribes, and I will make them heads over you.’ ”

Deut. 1:14 , “And you answered me and said, ‘The thing which you have told us to do is good.’ ”

Deut. 1:15, “So I took the heads of your tribes, wise and knowledgeable men, and made them heads over you, leaders of thousands, leaders of hundreds, leaders of fifties, leaders of tens, and officers for your tribes.

Deut. 1:16, “Then I commanded your judges at that time, saying, ‘Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the stranger who is with him.

Deut. 1:17, “ ‘You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small as well as the great; you shall not be afraid in any man’s presence, for the judgment is God’s. The case that is too hard for you, bring to me, and I will hear it.’ ”

Deut. 16:18, “You shall appoint judges and officers in all your gates, which the LORD your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with just [righteous (*tzedeqah*)] judgment.”

Deut. 16:19, “You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.

Deut. 16:20, “You shall follow what is altogether just, that you may live and inherit the land which the LORD your God is giving you.”

Lev. 19:15, “You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor.”

Lev. 19:36, “You shall have honest scales, honest weights, an honest ephah, and an honest hin: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.”

Deut. 16:18, “You shall appoint judges and officers in all your gates, which the LORD your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with just judgment.

Deut. 16:19, “You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.

Deut. 16:20, “You shall follow what is altogether just, that you may live and inherit the land which the LORD your God is giving you.”

2 Sam. 23:1, “Now these are the last words of David. Thus says David the son of Jesse; Thus says the man raised up concerning, the Messiah of the God of Jacob, and the Delightful One of the songs of Israel:

2 Sam. 23:2, “ ‘The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue.’

2 Sam. 23:3, “The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spoke to me: ‘He who rules over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.’ ”

Judg. 21:25, “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

Judg. 17:6, “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

1 Sam. 8:5, “and said to him, ‘Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.’”

1 Sam. 8:6, “But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, ‘Give us a king to judge us.’ So Samuel prayed to the LORD.”