**Philosophy & Ethics says Who?**

**2 Timothy 2:24-26**
The Lord’s servant must gently instruct his opponents...“in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the **truth**, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them **captive** to do his will.”

**See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.”**

**Colossians 2:8**

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**AN EXAMPLE OF**

**“Hollow & Deceptive Philosophy”**

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**Cosmos: Assumptions**

Carl Sagan, 1981 Humanist of the Year

“The Cosmos is all that is, or ever was, or ever will be.”

“Our contemplations of the Cosmos stir us.”

“There is...a faint sensation as if a distant memory...of falling from a great height...”

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Assumptions are the most dangerous form of knowledge.

Assumptions are caught and bought without an open, conscious dialogue. If you buy a statement, you buy its assumptions as well.

“Some part of our being knows this is where we came from. We long to return and we can because the cosmos is also within us.”

“We’re made of star-stuff.”

“The Cosmos is all that is, or ever was, or ever will be.”

“Hollow & Deceptive Philosophy”

Example Continued

An Older Definition

**Philosophy:**
“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...”

Noah Webster
1828 American Dictionary of the English Language


An Older Definition

**Philosophy:**
“True religion and true philosophy must ultimately arrive at the same principle.”

S. S. Smith
cited in Noah Webster, American Dictionary of the English Language


Philosophical Questions

what is *existence*? what is *reality*?
what does it *mean* to exist?
  how do I *know* I exist?
  if I do exist, *why* do I exist?
  if I *think* I exist, where did that thought *come from*?
PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS
what is thinking?
what is reason?
what is logic?
what is knowing?
if I know something, how can I know that it is real?
what is the meaning and purpose of life?


naturalism’s philosophical problem
(give meaning to the particulars) UNIVERSALS

PARTICULARS
(including each of us as a person)

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naturalism’s philosophical problem
how does one find the

UNIVERSALS?

why am I here?
what is the purpose of life?

is there any meaning to existence?

Seeking Truth

He believed he could find them in mathematics, then science, then art. Ended up empty. Died a despondent, depressed man without hope... failed to find the universals of life.

Leonardo Da Vinci

beginning with Universals

equivalents

God’s approach the world’s approach

particulars

“Hollow & Deceptive Philosophy”

- Materialism: matter is the only reality
- Idealism: ideas are the only reality
- Empiricism: knowledge comes from 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

“Hollow & Deceptive Philosophy”

- 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 physical or biological causes
- Solipsism: self is all you need to know
- Subjectivism: knowledge is dependent upon and limited by your own subjective experiences
- Intuitionism: knowledge comes primarily from some kind of inner sense
- Hedonism: pleasure is good, pain is evil; if it feels good, it is...
- Etc.
Postmodernism can you Live it?

Ethics
what is right?
what is wrong?
who makes the rules?

Right or Wrong?
From Plato’s Euthyphro

“Is an act right because God wills it, or whether God wills it because he knows it is right?”

Right or Wrong?
William of Ockham

Whatever God wills must be done simply because He says so. If God had wanted, He could have ordered men to obey the opposite of the Ten Commandments. Even now He can rescind those laws and will their opposite.

Cited in Feinberg & Feinberg


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The Battle is real
“See to it that no one takes you captive…”

Taken Captive
Barna Study:
How many Americans have a biblical worldview?
General American population: 4%
“Born-again” American population: 9%
…and we don’t act that different from the world...

“The church’s singular failure in recent decades has been the failure to see Christianity as a life system, or worldview, that governs every area of existence.”
Charles Colson
How Now Shall We Live?

what is Your worldview?


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**The Cosmic Battle**

Truth vs. 
False Religion
Nature
Secularism
Postmodernism
Pagan Mysticism

**Personal Worldview**

The set of individual truth claims that you have embraced so deeply that you believe they reflect what is really real, and therefore they drive what you think, how you act, and what you feel.

**What are the consequences?**

Buy the lies...

Conform to the world...

**The Solution**

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind…”

Romans 12:2

**Metamorphoo**

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds…”

Romans 12:2
After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them.

Mark 9:2

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18