

# *The Areopagus*

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# The Areopagus







## Seminar Curriculum



1. Bibliology

2. Christian History

3. Apologetics Foundations

4. Alternative Universes: Comparative Worldviews

5. The Theodicy Issue: The Problem of Good and Evil

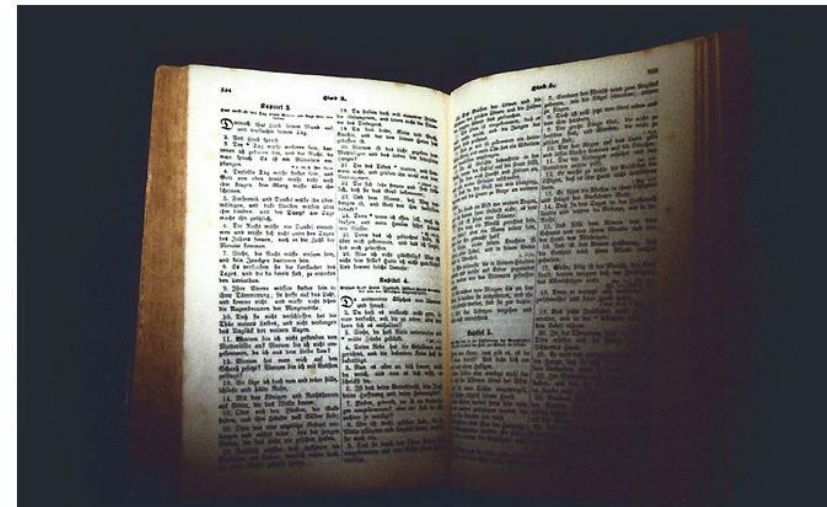
6. The Historical Quest for the Real Jesus

7. Special Topics: Other Religions, the Afterlife, etc.

8. Frontline Apologetics: Responding to Skeptics

9. Cultural Apologetics: How Should We Now Live?

10. Apologetics and the Arts



# INTRODUCTION TO *Bibliology*

What Every Christian Should Know About the  
Origins, Composition, Inspiration, Interpretation,  
Canonization, and Transmission of the Bible

*Jefrey D. Breshears*

# Introduction To Bibliology

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# Three Views of the Bible



# Three Views of the Bible

## The Basic Issues

### 1. Divine Inspiration.

# Three Views of the Bible

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1. Divine Inspiration.
2. Historical Reliability.



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4. Moral Authority.

# Three Views of the Bible

## The Basic Issues

1. Divine Inspiration.
2. Historical Reliability.
3. Doctrinal Authority.
4. Moral Authority.
5. Preservation and Transmission of the Bible Through the Centuries.



# Three Views of the Bible

## Three Orientations:

1. Traditional/Conservative View.
2. Liberal /Modernist (“Progressive”) View.
3. Neo-Orthodoxy.

**NOTE:** These three views are contradictory and irreconcilable.

# Three Views of the Bible

## 1. Traditional/Conservative View.

- The Bible is divinely-inspired.

# Three Views of the Bible

## 1. Traditional/Conservative View.

- The Bible is divinely-inspired.
- The Bible is historically reliable, doctrinally and morally authoritative, and scientifically accurate when properly interpreted.
- Irenaeus: Scripture is “the rule of faith, the standard by which we measure and evaluate all things.”



# Three Views of the Bible

## 1. Traditional/Conservative View.

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- Thomas Aquinas: Canonical Scripture alone is the rule of faith.”



# Three Views of the Bible

## 1. Traditional/Conservative View.

- The Bible is divinely-inspired.
- The Bible is historically reliable, doctrinally and morally authoritative, and scientifically accurate when properly interpreted.
- The Bible has been accurately preserved and transmitted through the centuries.

# Three Views of the Bible

## 2. Liberal/Modernist (“Progressive”) View.

- Modernism is a product of Enlightenment rationalism.
- The Bible is a mixture of human knowledge and ignorance; wisdom and foolishness.
- The Bible incorporates ancient (and outdated) concepts regarding the character of God and the realities of human nature.



# Three Views of the Bible

## 2. Liberal/Modernist (“Progressive”) View.

- Some portions of the Bible may be divinely-inspired.
  - EX: “God is love.”
  - EX: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
  - EX: The ethics of the Sermon on the Mount.

# Three Views of the Bible

## 2. Liberal/Modernist (“Progressive”) View.

- Some portions of the Bible may be divinely-inspired.
- The Bible contains some authentic history but also legends and myths.
  - EX: The historical Adam and Eve.
  - EX: Noah’s flood.
  - EX: Moses and the Exodus.
  - EX: Miracles.
  - EX: The incarnation, virgin birth, and the physical/bodily resurrection of Jesus.

# Three Views of the Bible

## 2. Liberal/Modernist (“Progressive”) View.

- Some portions of the Bible may be divinely-inspired.
- The Bible contains some authentic history along with legends and myths.
- The Bible, written in a pre-scientific age, cannot be reconciled with modern science.
  - EX: The creation account of Genesis 1-2.



# Three Views of the Bible

## 2. Liberal/Modernist (“Progressive”) View.

- The Bible is not necessarily authoritative regarding doctrinal and moral issues.
  - EX: The Trinity and the divinity of Christ.
  - EX: The inherent sinfulness of mankind.
  - EX: The reality of Hell.
  - EX: Sexual morality.

# Three Views of the Bible

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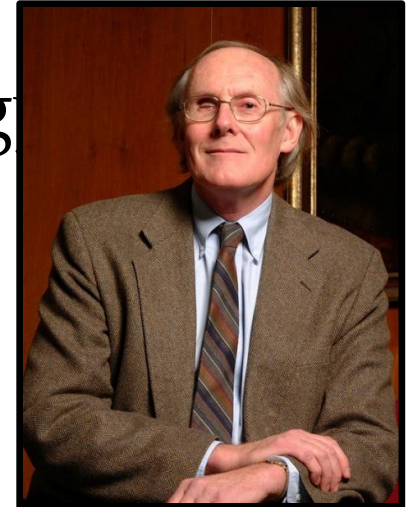
- The Bible is not necessarily authoritative regarding doctrinal and moral issues.
- In all likelihood, the Bible has not been accurately preserved and transmitted through the centuries.
- Liberal theologians who identify as “Christians” often hold positions that are virtually indistinguishable from secularists and agnostics.



# Three Views of the Bible

## 2. Liberal/Modernist (“Progressive”) View.

- Clark Pinnock: “In its view of biblical authority, liberal theology insists that the Bible is a merely human text, written, copied, translated and interpreted by fallible people. It contains all manner of internal contradictions, moral blemishes, legend and saga, and inaccuracies....

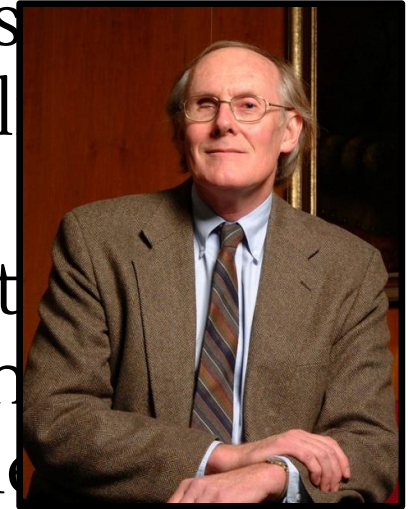


To regard it as God's written Word is an idolatrous perversion of belief. It is norms that

# Three Views of the Bible

## 2. Liberal/Modernist (“Progressive”) View.

- “...situation, with a new awareness of our autonomy and responsibility to think things through for ourselves. No longer can we appeal to the unquestioned authority of an inspired book.... Liberalism, in the search for relevance, deliberately adjusted the biblical message to the spirit of the times.”





## Theological Conservatism

### Basis of Authority:

Special revelation as mediated through the Bible (as properly interpreted), and general revelation as mediated through God's creation and the moral truths inherent in natural law.

John Chrysostom: "A Christian is one who agrees with Holy Scripture, and he who does not agree with it has deviated from the one true faith."

Conservatives accept the core doctrines of the historic Christian faith as summarized in the early church creeds.

### Philosophy of the Bible:

The Bible was divinely-inspired.

The Bible is historically reliable.

The Bible is doctrinally and morally authoritative.

The Bible has been accurately preserved and transmitted through the centuries.

If the Bible seems to contradict our current understanding of history or science, either...

- (1) our biblical hermeneutic is wrong; or
- (2) current historical or scientific theories are incorrect.

### Doctrine of the Trinity:

God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are three co-equal and co-eternal Persons who share a single divine nature.

## Theological Liberalism

### Basis of Authority:

Rationalism – Knowledge gained through the natural sciences, the social sciences, and human experience.

William Ellery Channing: "I am surer that my rational nature is from God than that any book is an expression of his will."

Liberals question or reject the core doctrines such as God's active involvement in human affairs, the divine inspiration of the Bible, the Fall, the reality of miracles, the Trinity, the Virgin Birth, the deity of Christ, the Atonement, and the Resurrection of Christ.

### Philosophy of the Bible:

Portions of the Bible are perhaps "divinely inspired," but like other ancient religious texts it is mostly of human origins.

The Bible is a mix of history, myth and legend.

There are no doctrinal or moral absolutes. Beliefs and values are relative and subjective. The Bible contains some profound wisdom but also many outdated moral and social values.

The biblical text has been corrupted in the transmission process through the centuries.

If the Bible contradicts our current understanding of history or science, these disciplines are correct and the Bible is wrong.

### Doctrine of the Trinity:

The traditional Christian doctrine of the Trinity is an irrational superstition.



## Theological Conservatism

### Christology:

Jesus Christ is God incarnate and the spiritual Savior of humanity who died an atoning death on the cross for the sins of humanity and was raised from the dead.

Jesus Christ is the sole and exclusive Savior of humanity.

### The Human Condition:

Due to the effects of the Fall, human beings are naturally sinful and in need of divine salvific grace.

### Human Destiny:

Human beings will live in a conscious state for all eternity either in Heaven or Hell.

### Basic Christianity:

The true essence of Christianity is the salvific mission of Jesus Christ who reconciles us to God and who is the sole Mediator between God and mankind.

Christian orthodoxy and orthopraxy are indivisible, symbiotic and synergistic.

## Theological Liberalism

### Christology:

Jesus Christ, although merely a man, was a great rabbi, social prophet and spiritual leader who lived an exemplary life and taught some profound moral and ethical truths.

Jesus Christ is not the sole and exclusive Savior of humanity, as there are many spiritual paths to God.

### The Human Condition:

Human beings are basically good; evil is the result of biological factors and/or unjust social and political systems.

### Human Destiny:

All of humanity will live in a conscious state for all eternity in Heaven (universalism), or perhaps some will exist for a time (or for all eternity) in Hell or otherwise cease to exist (annihilationism).

### Basic Christianity:

The essence of Christianity is ethical humanitarianism based on the moral teachings of Jesus as summarized in the Golden Rule and the Sermon on the Mount.

What truly matters is orthopraxy, not orthodoxy.



# Three Views of the Bible

## The Bottom-Line:

- Traditional/conservative Christianity and liberal/modernist (“progressive”) Christianity are contradictory and irreconcilable.
- They are two different religions.



# Three Views of the Bible

## 3. Neo-Orthodoxy.

- An existentialist view of the Bible.

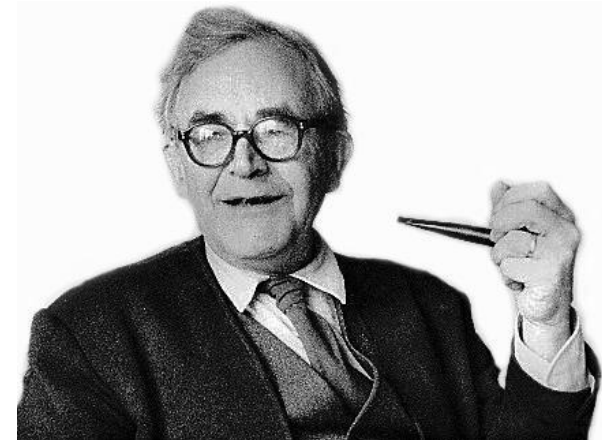


Karl Barth (1886-1968)

# Three Views of the Bible

## 3. Neo-Orthodoxy.

- An existentialist view of the Bible.
- The Bible is divinely-inspired in a certain sense.



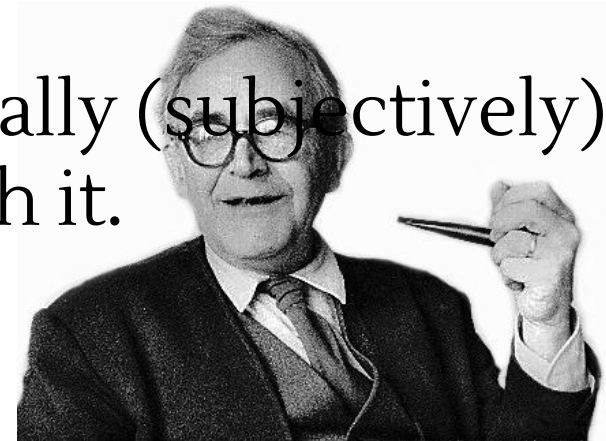
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## 3. Neo-Orthodoxy.

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- The Bible is not objectively true, but it becomes

“God’s Word” as we personally (subjectively) encounter and interact with it.



Karl Barth (1886-1968)



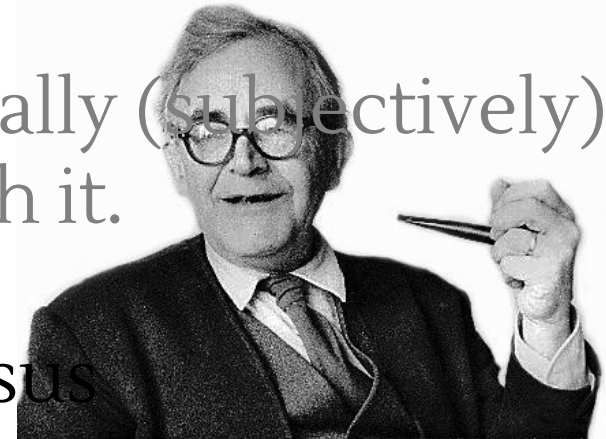
# Three Views of the Bible

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- The Bible is divinely-inspired in a certain sense.
- The Bible is not objectively true, but it becomes

“God’s Word” as we personally (subjectively) encounter and interact with it.

- The real “Word of God” is a person – the living Lord Jesus Christ – not a book.

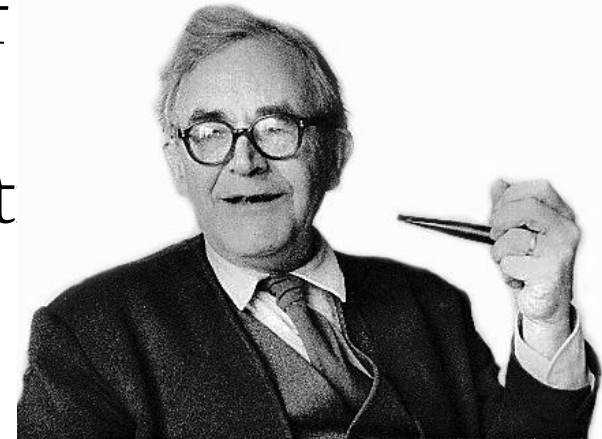


Karl Barth (1886-1968)

# Three Views of the Bible

## 3. Neo-Orthodoxy.

- The Bible is not necessarily historically-reliable or doctrinally and morally authoritative, but it is nonetheless a medium of revelation:  
i.e., the Bible is “spiritually t

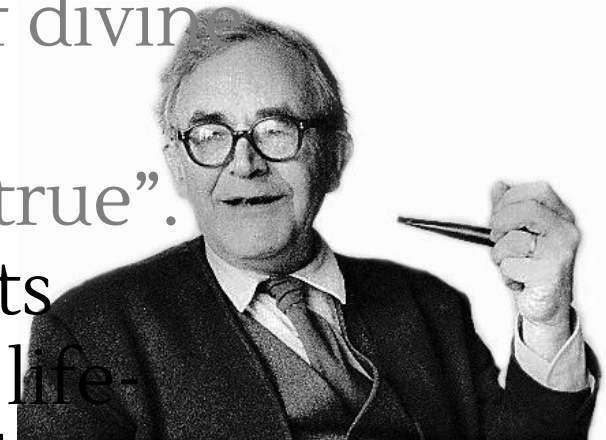


Karl Barth (1886-1968)

# Three Views of the Bible

## 3. Neo-Orthodoxy.

- The Bible is not necessarily historically-reliable or doctrinally and morally authoritative, but it is nonetheless a medium of divine revelation:  
i.e., the Bible is “spiritually true”.
- The value of Scripture is in its ability to point us toward a life-changing encounter with the living Christ.

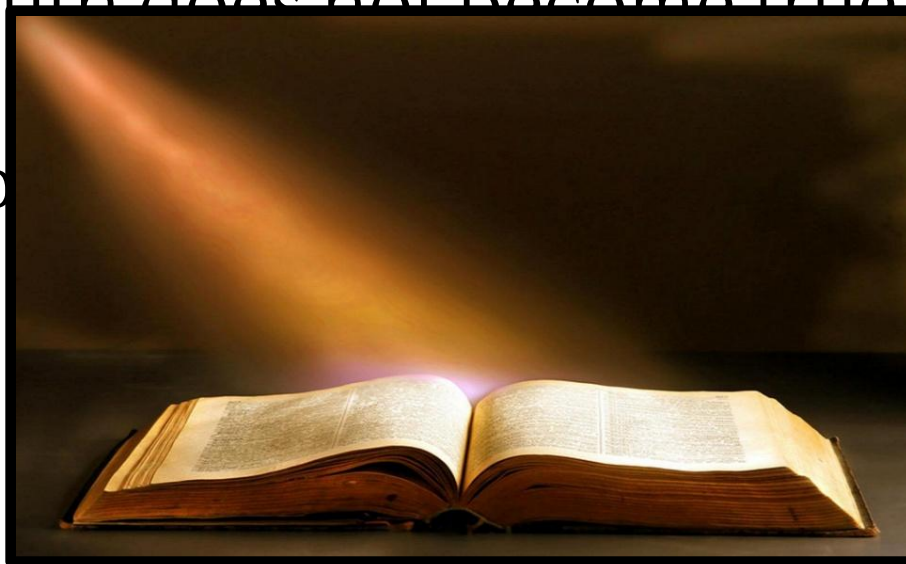


Karl Barth (1886-1968)

# Three Views of the Bible

## 3. Neo-Orthodoxy.

- A critique: While it is true that Truth does us no good unless we personally accept it, it is also true that Truth does not become true merely because we choose to accept it.

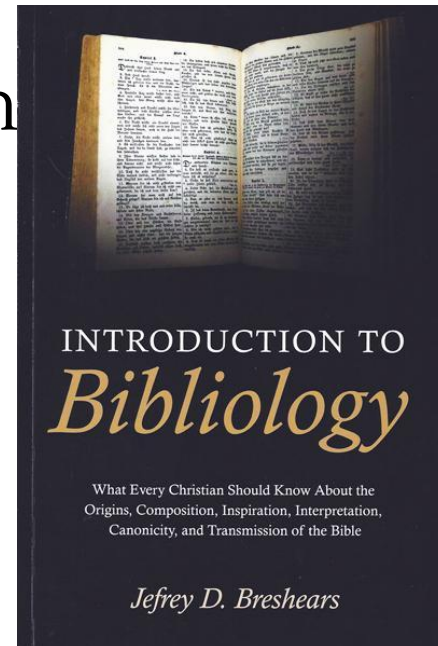




# What Is the Bible?

## The Summa:

- “The Bible is the revelation of God’s nature and character, and his will and purpose for mankind in the context of history and four doctrinal themes:  
Creation,  
Fall,  
Redemption, and  
Restoration.”







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