



Logical Approaches: Cosmological: Law of Cause & Effect: If God Is Left Out, the Operation of the Universe is Unsolvable; the Importance of Bible Doctrine

E. Cosmological:

The New Oxford American Dictionary, s.v.,

Cosmological: Argument for the existence of God that claims that all things in nature depend on something else for their existence, and that the whole cosmos must therefore itself depend on a being that exists independently or necessarily.

1. This is the intuitive law of cause and effect. It demands the existence of God as First Cause.
2. In no sense can the universe be its own cause. Order and arrangement in the universe demand a Creator and a Preserver:

Colossians 1:16 - For by Christ were all things created in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions, or principalities, or powers, all things were created through Him and for Him.

v. 17 - And Jesus has existed eternally before all things, and by Him all things hold together.

3. If God is left out, design, arrangement, order, function, and operation of the universe become an unsolvable problem of infinite proportions.
4. This is a perceptive process of rationalism plus logic.

2 Corinthians 4:6 - For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

v. 7 - But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves.

Galatians 1:14 - I [Paul] was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.

Colossians 2:8 - See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

Hebrews 4:12 - The Word of God is alive and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even unto the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Revelation 2:23b - I am He Who constantly inventories the emotions and the stream of consciousness, and I will impose punishment to each one of you according to your production.

27. #4 Failure to make learning the Word of God life's top priority.

1. The passages just referenced under the third basic problem in the life of the believer give us a good summary of why study of the Bible must become the believer's top priority in life.
2. Believers cannot fulfill the plan of God without spiritual growth. Likewise, the mystery doctrine of the Christian marriage cannot be fulfilled unless the couple advances simultaneously in their spiritual growth.



3. The Bible presents commandments, responsibilities, and obligations for believers to fulfill in the execution of the plan of God. In addition, the husband and wife are given additional duties to fulfill in the execution of His plan for the Christian marriage.
4. The Scripture appeals to every believer to make learning its doctrines the first obligation in life. Therefore the solution to not make the Word of God one's top priority can be corrected by understanding the importance of Bible doctrine.
5. The Importance of Bible Doctrine:
 1. Definition: Bible doctrine is the thinking of God related to the human race. Nothing in life is more important than knowing what God has to say to us and becoming familiar with His policies.
 2. Consequently, the inculcation of Bible doctrine becomes top priority in the life of the believer. Knowledge of the Word of God is the only way the believer can understand and then execute the plan of God.
 3. Bible doctrine is personified in Proverbs 8 and 9 as "wisdom" where it challenges the believer to make doctrine life's top priority.
 4. The Hebrew word for doctrine is חֵכְמָה **chakmah** and is translated in Proverbs by the word "wisdom." For example, in:

Proverbs 8:11 - "For wisdom is better than jewels and all desirable things cannot compare with her.

v. 12 - "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I find knowledge and discretion."

Proverbs 8:17 - "I love those who love me; and those who diligently seek me will find me."

5. Wisdom is personified in verses 22-31 as the eternal knowledge, intelligence, and insight of God which was displayed in His creation of the universe.
6. Wisdom gives advice on the importance of the believer having it as a teacher, instructor, guide, and mentor:

Proverbs 8:32 - "Now therefore, O sons, listen to me, for blessed are they who keep my ways [דְּרָכַי **derek: wheel-tracks of righteousness**].

v. 33 - "Heed instruction and be wise [חַכָּם **chakam: to be wise**], and do not neglect it.

v. 34 - "Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at my doorposts.

v. 35 - "For he who finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the Lord.

v. 36 - "But he who sins against me injures himself; all those who hate me love death."