

SHEFFEY SCHOOL OF THE BIBLE

*A Ministry of Freedom Tabernacle Baptist Church
Atkins, Virginia*

Course: APO-301 Presuppositional Apologetics

Week 3 Student Handout

REVELATION AS THE FOUNDATION OF KNOWLEDGE & GOD'S SELF-ATTESTING AUTHORITY

Instructor: _____

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

WHAT YOU SHOULD LEARN FROM TODAY'S LECTURE

- Explain why revelation is necessary for knowledge.
 - Define general and special revelation.
 - Understand why God's knowledge is primary.
 - Explain the failure of human autonomy.
 - Describe Scripture as the foundation of knowledge.
 - Define self-attesting authority.
 - Explain why Scripture is the ultimate standard of truth.
 - Apply these truths in apologetic encounters.
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I. THE NECESSITY OF DIVINE REVELATION

Key Principle

Knowledge begins with God, not man.

KJV Scripture

Proverbs 1:7

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Short Explanation

God must reveal truth before man can know truth.

Notes

II. GOD'S KNOWLEDGE IS PRIMARY

Key Principle

Human knowledge depends upon God's prior knowledge.

KJV Scripture

Psalms 36:9

"For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light."

Short Explanation

Man's knowledge is dependent and derivative.

Notes

III. THE FAILURE OF HUMAN AUTONOMY

Key Principle

Autonomy leads to intellectual darkness.

KJV Scripture

Romans 1:21

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."

Short Explanation

Independent reasoning apart from God ultimately fails.

Notes

IV. GOD'S WORD AS THE FOUNDATION OF KNOWLEDGE

Key Principle

Scripture is the foundation of all true knowledge.

KJV Scripture

Psalms 119:105

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Short Explanation

God's Word provides the standard by which all truth is evaluated.

Notes

V. GOD'S SELF-ATTESTING AUTHORITY

Key Principle

God's Word is the ultimate standard of truth.

KJV Scripture

Isaiah 8:20

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

Short Explanation

Scripture does not appeal to a higher authority because none exists.

Notes

VI. APPLICATION TO PRESUPPOSITIONAL APOLOGETICS

Key Principle

The defense of Christianity begins with the authority of God's Word.

Short Explanation

The Christian evaluates all reasoning through Scripture rather than placing Scripture under human judgment.

Notes

THINGS TO KNOW (EXAM ANCHORS)

- Revelation is necessary for knowledge.
- God is the source of all truth.
- Knowledge begins with the fear of the Lord.
- Proverbs 1:7 teaches that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.
- God possesses perfect knowledge.
- Human knowledge is derivative.
- Psalm 36:9 teaches that in God's light we see light.
- Human knowledge depends upon God's knowledge.
- Autonomy seeks independence from God.
- Humanism places man at the center.
- Romans 1:21 describes fallen reasoning.
- Fallen reasoning becomes vain and darkened.
- Scripture is the foundation of knowledge.
- God's Word provides the standard for truth.
- Psalm 119:105 describes God's Word as a lamp and light.
- Scripture possesses self-attesting authority.
- No authority is higher than God's authority.
- God's Word validates itself.
- Isaiah 8:20 teaches the necessity of God's Word.
- Truth claims must be tested by Scripture.
- The Christian begins with revelation.
- The unbeliever begins with autonomy.
- Apologetics involves competing authorities.
- Human reason is subordinate to Scripture.
- God's Word is the ultimate standard of truth.

ASSIGNMENT

Read Week 4 material:

- Chapter 7 — *Three Arguments Against Presuppositionalism*
- Chapter 8 — *Humble Boldness, Not Obscurantist Arrogance*

Be prepared to discuss common objections to presuppositional apologetics and how Christians should combine humility with confidence when defending the faith.