

# Pursuing True Science

*COTR, Time of the Church/Advent 2020*

# Agenda

- *Oct. 18*— What is Science?
- *Oct. 25*— Is Faith Necessary for Science?
- *Nov. 1*— Is Science a value-neutral endeavor?
- *Nov. 8*— How is God revealed in Science?
- *Nov. 15*— How are Christians to engage in Science?
- *Nov. 22*— What questions can we bring to the public use of Science?

# Why is the Class Important?

- There is a history of a “dilemma” of “reconciling” faith and science or Christianity and science.
- There is also a perceived “dilemma” between those who live their lives according to faith and those who live their lives according to science. Both of these are caricatures of the words, BTW.
- Even Christians allow scientific speculations way too much sway over their lives. E.g. Global warming
- Because of the misuse of science for personal, social, and political reasons, many Christians ignore or retreat from the good and right use of science. We ought to be the best!

# Is there a dilemma?

- Psalm 19:4b “Their [the heavens] voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them, he has set a tent for the sun... its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them.”
  - Does the sun rise?
- Psalm 104:5 “He set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be moved.”
  - Is the earth a stationary object?

“Living symbolism does not deny science as a mode of knowing about our world, but serves to place scientific fact and methods of proof in a large multi-dimensional context.” Vincent Rossi

Calvin’s commentaries on Genesis and the Psalms. “The Holy Spirit is not an astronomer or a philosopher (scientist)...”

# So, what is science?

- *Scientia* - knowledge
- From the Merriam Webster Dictionary: knowledge or a system of knowledge covering general truths or the operation of general laws especially as obtained and tested through scientific method  
**b:** such knowledge or such a system of knowledge concerned with the physical world and its phenomena.
- Is there anything wrong with this definition?
- What are the underlying assumptions in this definition?

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- Perhaps a better definition: knowledge of, or the human endeavor to know about, the world that is created by God.

# What is the purpose of science?

- **Science** aims to explain and understand. **Science** as a collective institution aims to produce more and more accurate natural explanations of how the natural world works, what its components are, and how the world got to be the way it is now.  
-UC Berkeley.
- Is science an institution? Is anything purely natural? Can science explain how the world got to be the way it is now?
- Perhaps a better purpose: The pursuit of knowledge of the world that God created leads to the wonder and praise of the Creator and to the service of mankind, which further reveals the glory of God.