



# VOLUME 2

STEWARDING SCIENCE FOR GOD'S GLORY

CREATION CONFERENCE



There are **two books** laid before us to study, to prevent our falling into error; first, the **volume of Scriptures**, which revealed the will of God; then the **volume of the Creatures**, which expresses His power.

Sir Francis Bacon, Founder of the Scientific Method

“

Let no man ... think or maintain that a man can search too far or be too well studied in the book of God's word, or in the book of God's works; divinity or philosophy; but rather let men endeavor an endless progress of proficiencie in both.

Sir Francis Bacon, Founder of the Scientific Method



“



Whatever knowledge is attainable, must be attained by scientific methods; and what science cannot discover, mankind cannot know.

Bertrand Russell

“

**absurd** \əb-sərd, -zərd\  
incongruous, logically contradictory; nonsensical; ridiculous



# Naturalism and Scientism

- “Only those things knowable to science constitute reality.”
- This statement is not knowable to science.
  - If this statement were true, it would be false.
  - If it is false, it is meaningless.
- Naturalism is a philosophy that is self-contradictory.



# Unempirical Realities Necessary for Science

- Reality of nature
- Orderliness of nature
- Uniformity of nature
- Existence of truth
- Knowability of truth
- Reliability of cognitive and sensory faculties
- Language to communicate truth
- Value of and obligation to truth



# The Nature of Scientific Evidence

What is the nature of scientific evidence? It is not self-interpreting. The meaning of physical phenomena is interpreted meaning. Material evidence is scientifically meaningless without interpretation, and scientific interpretation is made under a set of governing assumptions. The real starting point, then, is not with the evidence but with the human reasoning that interprets the evidence.





# The Nature of Scientific Evidence

**Scientific evidence by itself resolves no controversy.** Observations are interpreted within and in support of a preconceived framework of thought—*a worldview*. Everyone thinks according to their worldview, which is presuppositional in nature, meaning that it consists of a set of ideas that are presupposed. One's worldview guides and justifies one's interpretation of evidence. What's more, one's worldview not only determines how facts are interpreted, but even what constitutes a fact.



# Human Reasoning

1. No Neutral
2. All Presuppose
3. On Preconditions
4. Must Justify



# The Pretended Neutrality Fallacy

The natural assumption that our thinking is neutral and objective



I believe in evidence. I believe in observation, measurement, and reasoning, confirmed by independent observers. I'll believe anything, no matter how wild and ridiculous, if there is evidence for it. The wilder and more ridiculous something is, however, the firmer and more solid the evidence will have to be.

Isaac Asimov, *The Roving Mind* (1997)



# The Pretended Neutrality Fallacy

What would make you change your mind?


Christian: “Nothing”

Scientist: “Evidence”



# The Pretended Neutrality Fallacy

The common ground between people  
is really not neutral ground.



“  
Since God is the creator of all things, since He sovereignly controls every event, and since He clearly reveals Himself in every fact of the created order, it is utterly *impossible* that there should be any *neutral* ground, any territory or facet of reality where man is not confronted with the claims of God, any area of knowledge where the theological issue is inconsequential. Yet this perspective guarantees that there is *common ground* between the believer and the unbeliever—common ground of a metaphysical nature. The whole world, the created realm and public history, constitute commonality between the Christian and the non-Christian. But this common ground is not neutral ground; it is God’s ground. There is nowhere to stand in the world—even the world of thought—that is not God’s territory.

Greg Bahnsen, Christian Apologist and Philosopher

“

The non-Christian thinks that his thinking process is normal. He thinks that his mind is the final court of appeal in all matters of knowledge. He takes himself to be the reference point for all interpretation of the facts.

Greg Bahnsen, Christian Apologist and Philosopher





# The Presuppositional Nature of Interpretation

Presupposed and precommitted assumptions govern interpretation



# The Presuppositional Nature of Interpretation

1. Typology
2. Transitional Forms
3. Oort Clouds



# The Preconditions of Intelligibility

Accounting for the necessary preconditions for rationality



# Laws of Logic

- Not Material
- Not Conventional
- Not Empirical
- Not Personal
  
- Laws of logic and material are in an *insulated relationship*. Logic cannot create matter; matter cannot create logic.
  - As insulated as *Metaphysics* and *Physics*.

“

Are we accidents? Why should one accident be the measure of all other accidents? Why should we trust our thoughts to be true if they are mere accidents? I see no reason that one accident should be able to give a correct account of all other accidents.

C. S. Lewis, *The Business of Heaven*



# Unempirical Realities Necessary for Intelligibility

- Existence of truth
- Universality of truth
- Consistency of truth
- Knowability of truth
- Language to communicate truth
- Value of and obligation to truth



# The Justification of Reason

Justifying the way you think



The atheist worldview is irrational and cannot consistently provide the preconditions of intelligible experience, science, logic, or morality. The atheist worldview cannot allow for laws of logic, the uniformity of nature, the ability for the mind to understand the world, and moral absolutes.

Greg Bahnsen





# A Cogent Worldview

1. Universal
2. Abstract
3. Invariant



# “What Justifies Science?”

1. Uniformity of Nature
2. Laws of Logic
3. Absolute Morality

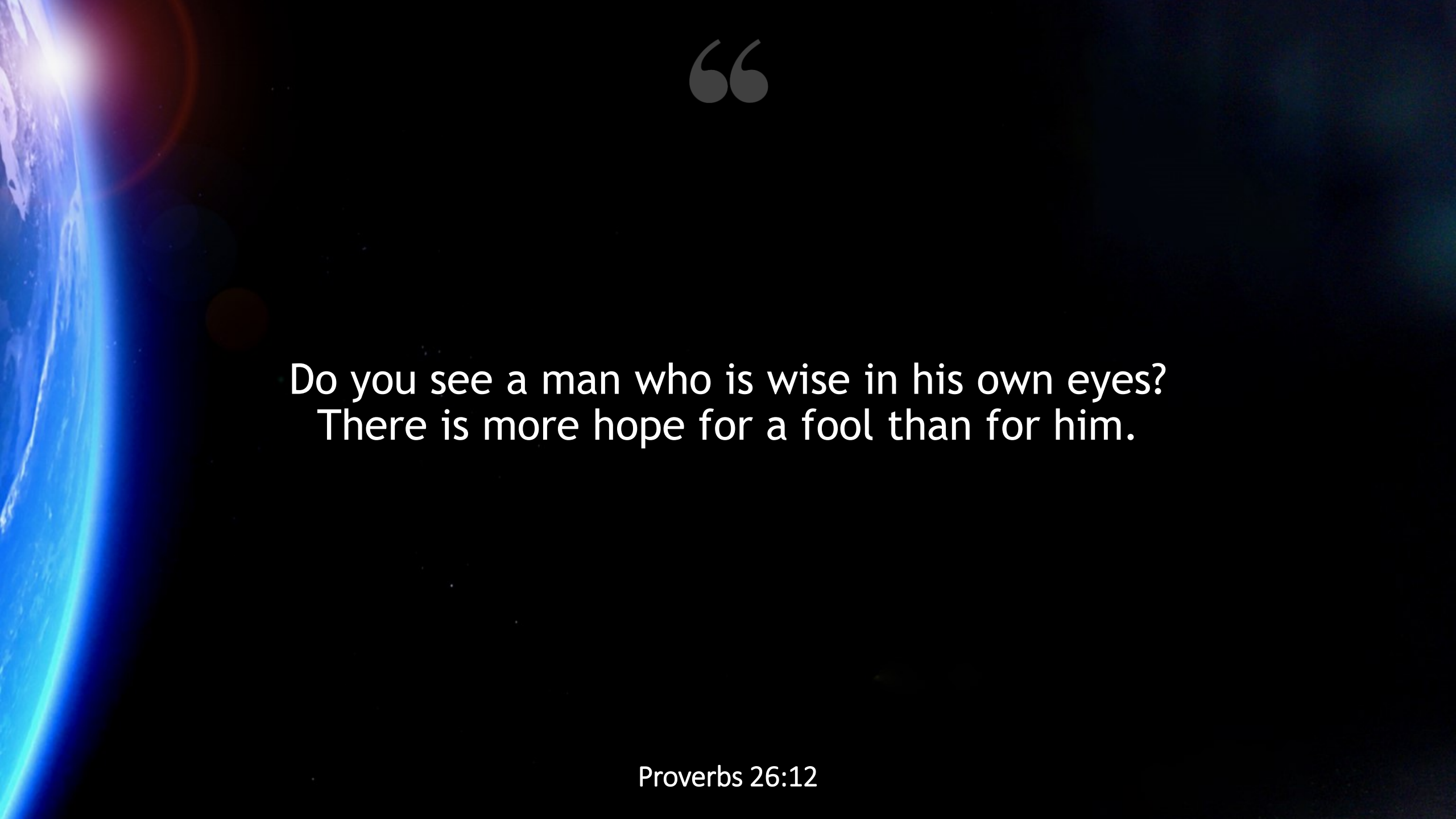


# Human Reasoning

1. No Neutral
2. All Presuppose
3. On Preconditions
4. Must Justify



“



Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes?  
There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Proverbs 26:12



“

Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes,  
and shrewd in their own sight!

Isaiah 5:21



# WORLDVIEW

A worldview is one's comprehensive perspective and interpretation of reality.



“

For with you is the fountain of life;  
in your light do we see light.

Psalm 36:9



“

For it is you who light my lamp;  
the LORD my God lightens my darkness.

Psalm 18:28





“

The unfolding of your words gives light;  
it imparts understanding to the simple.

Psalm 119:130

“

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,  
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Proverbs 9:10



“

What do you have that you did not receive?

1 Corinthians 4:7

# WORLDVIEW (Page 19)

	<b>Category</b>	<b>Conceptual Subjects</b>
1	<b>God</b>	The ultimate or absolute (creator, source of life, authority, judge, sovereign)
2	<b>Creation</b>	Nature of the material universe (origins, life)
3	<b>Humanity</b>	Nature of man (self-consciousness, identity, purpose, responsibility, meaning)
4	<b>Truth</b>	Knowledge (epistemology, reason, presupposition, faith, metaphysics)
5	<b>Plight</b>	Evil (sin, suffering, natural disasters, ignorance, disorder, disease, decay, death)
6	<b>Hope</b>	Salvation (forgiveness, peace, restoration)
7	<b>Ethics</b>	Morality (justice, right, conscience)
8	<b>Afterlife</b>	Nature of the afterlife (retribution, nihilism, heaven, hell)
9	<b>History</b>	Nature of history (time and eternity)
10	<b>Society</b>	Civilization (marriage, family, community, cultural, humanities, government)



# NATURALIST WORLDVIEW

1. There is no God and nothing supernatural
2. Energy is eternal (the material universe is evolving)
3. Humanity is a cosmic accident
4. No absolute truth (conventional)
5. Pain, suffering, and death are all part of nature (evil is illusory)
6. Improved human behavior and conditions of life
7. No moral absolutes
8. No afterlife
9. Relative (potentially illusory)
10. Conventional



# BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

1. Triune God
2. God created and upholds all things
3. Immediately created by God in His own image
4. Absolute truth
5. Evil is real
6. God offers and provides redemption
7. God provides an absolute standard of morality
8. Final retribution for all who oppose God
9. God created time and dwells in eternity
10. God created humanity for marriage, families, fellowship, arts, culture, work, and meaningful expression



For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written,  
“The righteous shall live by faith.”



# 1. ANSWER NOT IN FOLLY

“Answer not a fool according to his folly,  
lest you be like him yourself.”

**Proverbs 26:4**





## 2. ANSWER TO EXPOSE FOLLY

“Answer a fool according to his folly,  
lest he be wise in his own eyes.”

**Proverbs 26:5**



### 3. GOD IS PRESUPPOSED BY CREATION

“The God who made the world and everything in it,

...

he himself gives to all mankind  
life and breath and everything.

...

‘In him we live and move and have our being’”

**Acts 17:24-25, 28**



## 4. REPENTANCE PRECEDES A KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH

“Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness.

God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth.”

2 Timothy 2:23-25



He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

