

TRUTH

REALITY

MEANING

PURPOSE

HOPE

# The Biblical Worldview *and* True Grace

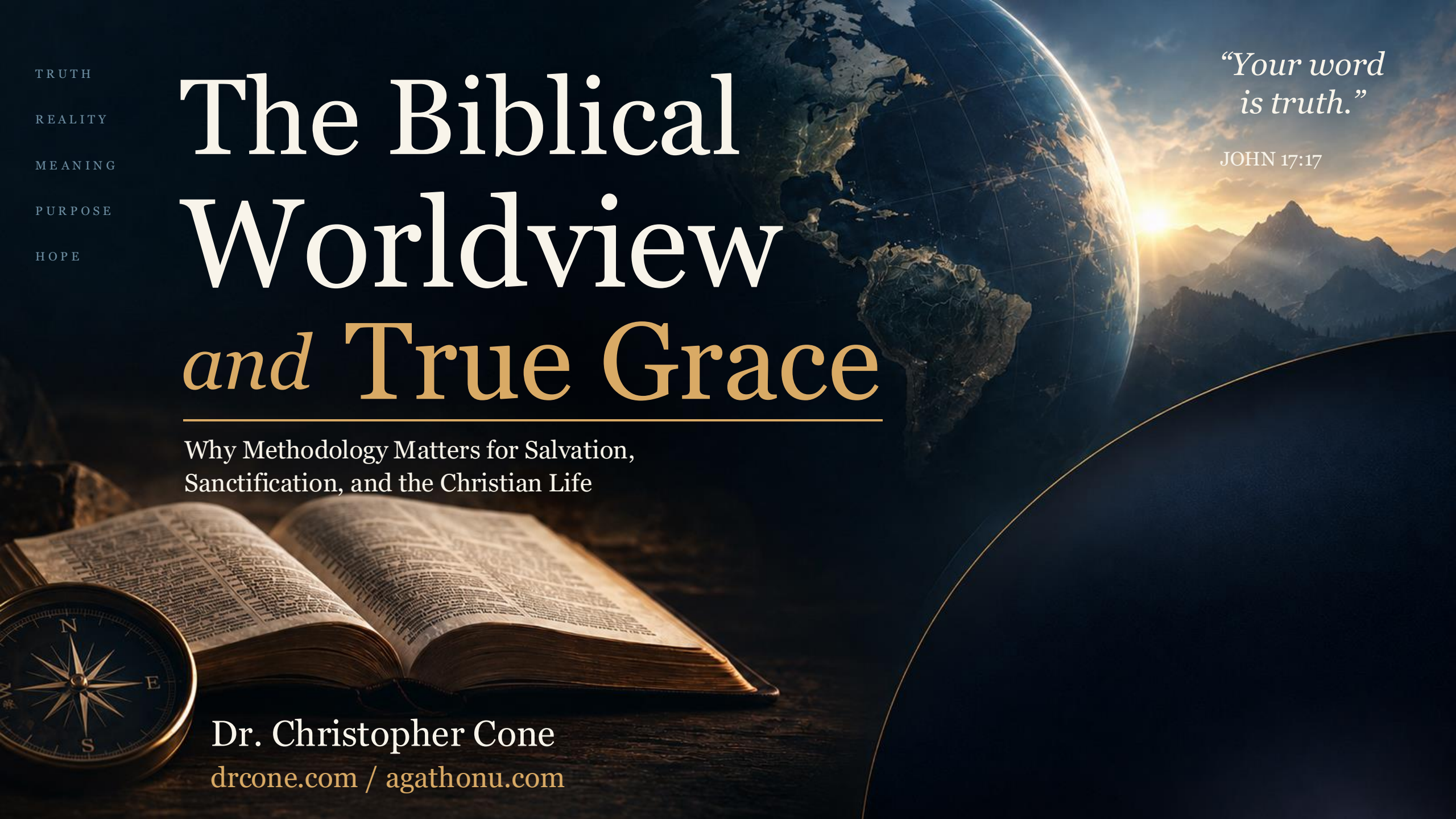
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Why Methodology Matters for Salvation,  
Sanctification, and the Christian Life

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*“Your word  
is truth.”*

JOHN 17:17



# What Is a Worldview?

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**The interconnected system of how  
We interpret and apply reality.**

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## Meaning

What gives life purpose?

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## Reason

Is it coherent?

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## Experience

Does it explain what  
we encounter?

Colossians 2:8–10

# The Components of Worldview

## Components of Worldview



**Is = Description**

What is true?  
What is real?

**Ought = Prescription**

How should we live?

Proverbs 1:7; 2:6

# Worldview Begins With Epistemology

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## 01 Authority

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Who or what provides truth, knowledge, and certainty?

## 02 Interpretation

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How do we understand what that authority has communicated?

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God as revealed in Scripture.  
Words understood in their context.

2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2:15



# The Need for Biblical Methodology

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01

**God revealed  
in Scripture**

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02

→ **Biblical  
hermeneutic**

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03

→ **Biblical  
conclusions**

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## **Literal**

Read the normal sense.

## **Grammatical**

Attend to words and syntax.

## **Historical**

Consider setting and audience.

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Genesis and Job establish  
the communicative precedent.

Genesis 2:16–17; 3:1–7; Job 38–42

# The Danger of Starting With the System

A system controls the reading

**System → Interpretation → Conclusions**



**The text governs the conclusions**

**Scripture → Interpretation → Conclusions → System**

Every system must remain  
open to correction by Scripture.

Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15



# Therefore...

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Every system must remain  
open to correction by Scripture.

Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15

# Metaphysics: Ontology/Axiology – Humanity's Need for Grace

01

**God is Holy**  
(requires perfection)

Isaiah 6:3,  
Revelation 4:8

02

→ **Humanity is sinful**

Isaiah 64:6  
Romans 3:10-23

03

→ **Sin brings death**

Romans 6:23

04

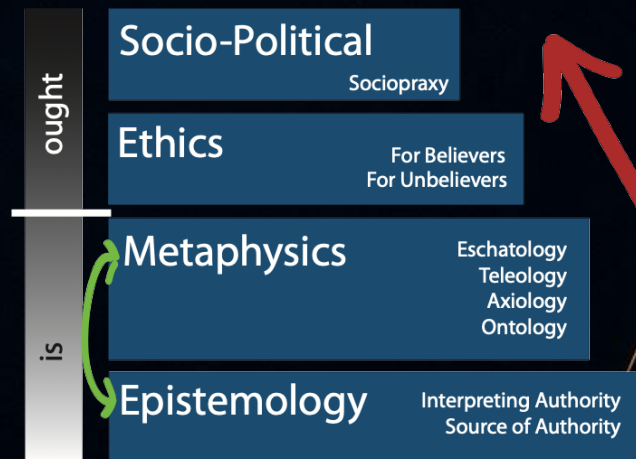
→ **We cannot save ourselves**

Ephesians 2:1-4  
Romans 6:23

Salvation must originate with God.  
Ephesians 2:4–5

Romans 3:10–24; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1–5

## Components of Worldview



# Axiology: Grace: Gift Rather Than Wage

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## WAGE

Earned. Owed.

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Payment corresponds to work.  
Romans 4:4

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Law exposes the need.  
Grace supplies the remedy.

Romans 4:4–5; 6:23; Ephesians 2:8–9

## GIFT

Given. Received.

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Life comes through God's generosity.  
Romans 4:3-5, 6:23



# Axiology: Salvation by Grace Through Faith

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## Source

God's grace (Ephesians 2:4-5,8-9)

## Object of faith

**Jesus Christ** (Genesis 15:6, Romans 4:3)

## Reception/Application

Faith, apart from works (John 6:47)

## Gift

Eternal life (John 6:47, Romans 6:23 1 John 2:25)

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Good works follow salvation.  
They do not purchase it.

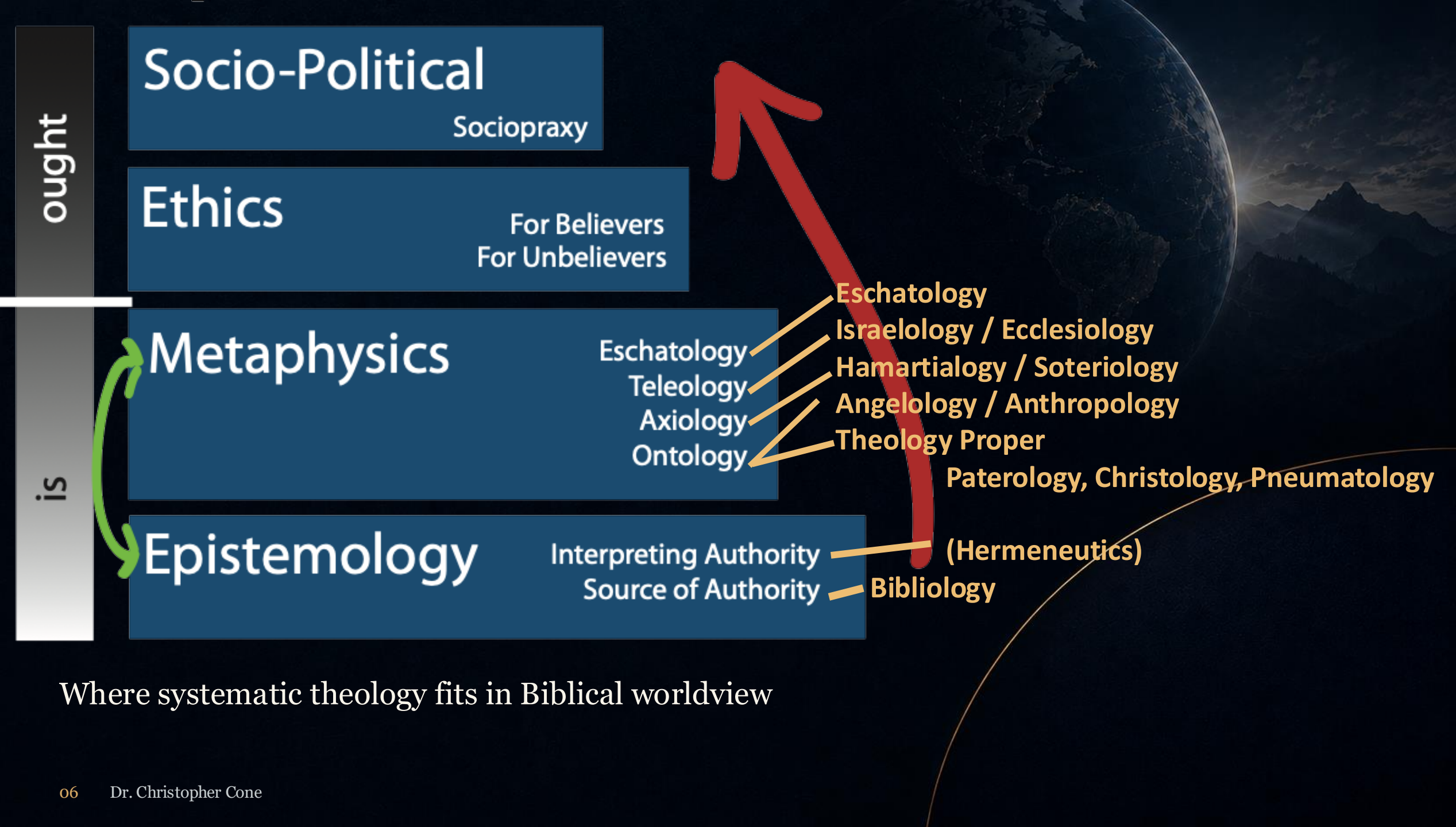
Ephesians 2:8-10; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; John 3:16





# Zooming out for a moment...

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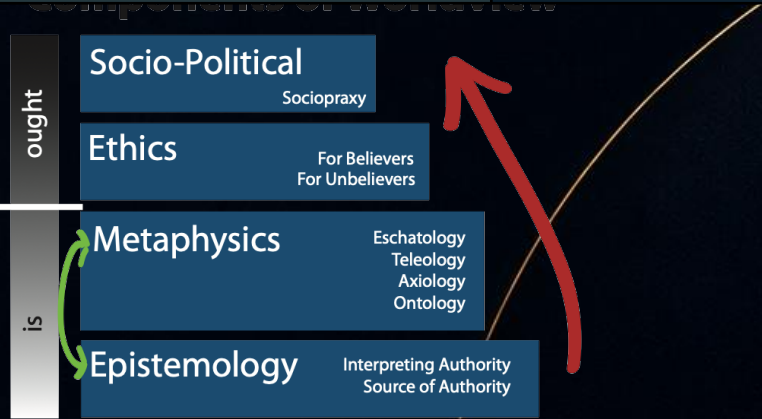
Where systematic theology fits in Biblical worldview

# Axiology: Three Views of Salvation (Hamartiology/Soteriology)

| Question                 | Lordship Salvation                                                              | Biblical (True) Grace                                                         | Hybrid Grace                                                               |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Salvation & discipleship | One and the same (John 6:66)                                                    | Distinguished, with growth expected (1 Corinthians 2-3)                       | Distinguished, with growth expected                                        |
| Saving faith             | Requires submission and repentance (Rom 10:9-10 – confuses national/individual) | Belief in Christ, Based on His person and work (1 Corinthians 15:1-3)         | Belief of facts about Christ or Belief in Christ without knowledge of Him. |
| Fruit and assurance      | Persevering fruit evidences saving faith (James 2:13ff)                         | Fruit expected, rewards at stake, assurance by testimony of God 1 John 5:4-13 | Fruit expected, kingdom presence at stake, assurance by testimony of God   |

These summaries describe positions, with differences among advocates.

Comparative framework: Cone, “The Thessalonian Example” (2013)



Lordship: justification = discipleship

(redefining of repentance and discipleship)

Biblical (True) Grace: justification ≠ discipleship

(gospel needed)

Hybrid Grace: Justification= acceptance of facts

(gospel not needed?)

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Lordship vs. Biblical vs. Hybrid

Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15



Lordship vs. Biblical vs. Hybrid

# Axiology: Justification and Sanctification

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## SALVATION EVENT

### Justification / Positional Sanctification

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A declaration of righteousness

Received by faith

Standing before God

Genesis 15:6, Romans 4-5, Galatians 3:8

## DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS

### Progressive/Practical Sanctification

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Growth in the believer's life

Learning and obeying

Conduct shaped by position

Ephesians 1:18-23, 4:1

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A command to believers is not a condition for becoming a believer.

Romans 4:5; 5:1; Ephesians 2:8-10; 4:1

# Ontology/Axiology: The Person and Work of Christ

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## Who He is

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Jesus the Christ, the Son of God – John 20:30–31  
God the Son  
Yahweh of the Hebrew Scriptures – Genesis 15:6,  
Isaiah 48:11-16, Revelation 22:13

## What He accomplished

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Died for our sins, was buried, and rose again  
1 Corinthians 15:3–4

**The promise of life comes from this Person.**

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# The Thessalonians: A Biblical Test Case

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01

**Gospel  
proclaimed**

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1:5; Acts 17:1-4

02

→ **Word  
received**

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1:6; 2:13

03

→ **Imitators  
and examples**

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1:7-8

04

→ **Turning, serving,  
waiting**

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1:9-10

**Paul also calls them to continued growth. 1 Thessalonians 4:1**

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A portrait of reception and maturation,  
not a checklist for justification.

Acts 17:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10; 2:13; 4:1

# The Corinthians: A Necessary Counterexample

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## Thessalonica

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Imitators and examples  
A testimony heard by others  
1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

## Corinth

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Believers addressed as fleshly  
Jealousy, strife, immaturity  
1 Corinthians 3:1-3

**One gospel. Belief. Different levels of maturity.**

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Standing in Christ and observable maturity  
must not be treated as identical.

1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:1-3; 15:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

# Metaphysics/Ethics: Grace Does Not Eliminate Ethics

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**IS** God has **given** believers a secure position.

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**OUGHT** Walk worthy of that calling.

Grace trains. Sin grieves. God disciplines.

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Obedience grows from what God has done.  
Security carries responsibility.

Ephesians 2:10; 4:1, 30; Titus 2:11–14; Hebrews 12:5–11

# Metaphysics/Ethics: Grace – Empowerment for Discipleship

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01

**Position**

02

→ **Identity**

03

→ **Renewed  
Mind**

04

→ **Growth**

05

→ **Maturity**

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## Scripture

Fills and renews the mind  
(**Transformative Learning**)

## The Spirit

Enables a worthy walk  
through His word

## Practice

Applies what is learned

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Fruit is expected.  
Maturity is the goal of discipleship.

Romans 12:1–2; Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:16–17; Galatians 5:16

# The Outworking of Three Worldviews

| Area                | Lordship tendency                                                   | Biblical (True) Grace                                                        | Hybrid Grace                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Evangelism</b>   | Submission integrated with saving faith.<br>Did Jesus die for you?? | Christ's person and work,<br>Applied by grace through faith (think Passover) | Required gospel content may be reduced |
| <b>Assurance</b>    | Promise assessed with persevering fruit                             | Grounded in Christ and God's promise                                         | Centered on the promise of life        |
| <b>Discipleship</b> | Evidence of genuine conversion                                      | Distinct, expected, and consequential                                        | Distinct, expected, and consequential  |

An assessment of doctrinal tendencies, not a judgment on every adherent's conduct or motives.

Synthesis of Cone's comparative framework and discipleship material

# True Grace: Let the Text Build the System

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## **Epistemology**

God has spoken in Scripture.

## **Hermeneutics**

Read His words normatively, through the LGH, as intended.

## **Metaphysics**

God saves by grace through faith in Christ.

## **Ethics and outworking**

Live and serve from that secure position  
(Love because He loved us, not so that He will love us – 1 John 4:19).

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Allow the Bible to tell us what grace is.

Ephesians 2:8–10; 2 Timothy 2:15

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