Foundational knowledge for life

Psalm 119:137–144 (NKJV)
137 Righteous are You, O Lord, And upright are Your judgments.
138 Your testimonies, which You have commanded, Are righteous and very faithful.
139 My zeal has consumed me, Because my enemies have forgotten Your words.
140 Your word is very pure; Therefore Your servant loves it.
141 I am small and despised, Yet I do not forget Your precepts.
142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth.
143 Trouble and anguish have overtaken me, Yet Your commandments are my delights.
144 The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting; Give me understanding, and I shall live.

Aligning our thinking to Truth

What is truth?

1. **John 18:37 (NKJV)**
37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. **For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."**

a. **John 19:1–7 (NKJV)**
1 So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him.
2 And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe.
3 Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands.
4 Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him."
5 Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!"
6 Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him."
7 The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God."

i. **4 groups involved in this setting, in John 18:37:**

1. **The nonreligious philosophical:**

a. **Pilot:**

Like people in our day, Pilate was not religious but he was a product of Greek philosophy

John 18:37–38 (NKJV)
37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."
38 Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all.

2. **The religious & philosophical: the Jews were divided in 2 groups:**

a. **The Pharisees: the religious**
Religion:
Based on mysticism; the human system of thought that reinterprets God's word by opinion and personal preference.

They are comforted by:
Using God language; praise the Lord, it's a God thing, just have faith and suchlike.

They comfort themselves by:
Good works such as:
Prayer
Church attendance
Ritual activities such as, lighting candles, confessing their sins to Priests, taking communion, reciting the Lord's prayer, and on and on

With all of these and many other overt activities, they comfort themselves thinking they have satisfied God.

The Sadducees: liberal deists

Rejected resurrection. They didn't believe in the existence of angels. They didn't believe in the supernatural. They represent the liberalizing group of religious thought that has existed down through the ages.

deism | ˈdēˌizəm | noun
belief in the existence of a supreme being, specifically of a creator who does not intervene in the universe. The term is used chiefly of an intellectual movement of the 17th and 18th centuries that accepted the existence of a creator on the basis of reason but rejected belief in a supernatural deity who interacts with humankind. Compare with theism.

Over against this we have the claims of Biblical Christianity that there is one truth. It is a truth that man can know. It is this truth that Jesus Christ claimed to represent. It is that claim that Jesus Christ made in

3. **Jesus Christ is truth:**

a. **John 14:6 (NKJV)**
6 Jesus said to him, "**I am the way, the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

2. **Rationalism/Empiricism/Mysticism:** The attempt to come to an ultimate knowledge of truth

The boundaries of human knowledge

a. **This was the situation both in ancient history in the ideas of Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics and Epicureans; and the story of modern thought from Cartesian rationalism in the 17th century all the way up to modern existentialism.**

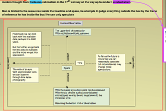
Man is limited to the resources inside the box/time and space, he attempts to judge everything outside the box by the frame of reference he has inside the box! He can only speculate

Noun: Descartes
| deɪˈkɑːrt | | ˈdeɪ,kɑːrt |
1. French philosopher and mathematician; developed dualistic theory of mind and matter; introduced the use of coordinates to locate a point in two or three dimensions (1596-1650)
   - = Rene Descartes
   - ~ mathematician, philosopher

Stoicism
Stoicism is a school of Hellenistic philosophy founded in Athens by Zeno of Citium in the early 3rd century BC. The Stoics taught that destructive emotions resulted from errors in judgment, and that a sage, or person of "moral and intellectual perfection", would not suffer such emotions.

Epicureans
Epicureans (ep-i-kyuh-ree'uhnz), followers of the philosopher Epicurus (341–270 B.C.). Members of the Epicurean school of philosophy established in Athens are mentioned in Acts 17:18. Epicurean teaching was expounded in a lengthy poem by the first-century B.C. Latin writer Lucretius. Epicureans were often attacked as atheists, since they held that sense perception was the only basis for knowledge. Everything had come into being out of atoms and the void. A random 'swerve' in the path of the atoms caused the world to come into being and provided the material basis for free will, since no god had created or ruled over human beings, according to the Epicureans.

Noun: existentialism
| ,eg-zi'sten-shu,li-zum |
1. (philosophy) a 20th-century philosophical movement chiefly in Europe; assumes that people are entirely free and thus responsible for what they make of themselves
   - = existential philosophy, existentialist philosophy
   - ~ philosophical doctrine, philosophical theory

i. 
Human Observation
Historically we can look back with the available data perhaps 2 to 3000 years.
But the further we go back the less data is available, and the more we get into speculation.
The wink of an eye. With sophisticated tools we can observe through time lapse photography.
The upper limit of observation With sophisticated tools, galaxies
Largest
Time
Space
Smallest
Lower limits
Upper limits
As far as the future is concerned we can reasonably speculate but circumstances may change those speculations.
With the naked eye a tiny speck can be observed With the aid of tools such as sophisticated microscopes we may be old to get down to the molecular level.
Reaching the bottom limit of observation

ii. An analogy that has been used to talk about philosophy to answer these questions is the analogy of a blind man in a dark alley. He tries to grab the black cat. The black cat represents truth. Plato comes along and tries to grab the cat. He grabs the cat. Then Aristotle who is another blind man in a black alley grabs the cat. Then the Stoics claim to have the cat. Then someone else claims to have the cat. Pretty soon you have 20 or 30 different thinkers that think they have the cat. But they are in a black alley and don't have a clue what a black cat is even if they grabbed it.

Jesus comes and says He is the light of the world, and turns the light on. He says He will define what truth is because you are blind and you can't see. But man, because he is fallen, denies it.

Romans 1:18–19 (NKJV)
18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,**
19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

b. **What we have according to God outside the box, is the creator. The creator is outside the box.**

He speaks inside the box, so man can have information about what goes on outside the box. This is what Jesus referred to in John 3 when He spoke to Nicodemus.

i. **John 3:12-13 (NKJV)**
12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?
13 No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.

ii. **Jesus enters the box:**

1. **John 1:14 (NKJV)**
14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, **full of grace and truth.**

Romans 10:6–8 (NKJV)
6 **But the righteousness of faith** speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down from above)
7 or, " 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).
8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, **the word of faith which we preach**):

a. **No one has ascended to heaven. There is no human being who on the basis of reason or experience can tell you what is outside the box of human experience and creation.**
Only someone who has come down from heaven, Jesus Christ the Son of Man

What Jesus is saying is that it is necessary for God to speak to man in order to give man information about what is outside the limitations of human knowledge.
Only then can man have certainty in his answers about the fundamental questions of life.

Why do we exist?

What is my purpose?

Is this just some cosmic accident as the Darwinist say?

Does my life have meaning and value and significance?

Am I no different from a rock or a lizard or a guppy?

Is there life after death?

Will I see my loved ones again after I die?

Is there a God?

Is there a God I can trust and rely on, who gives meaning and value to life?

The following are questions we all wrestle with in the light of criminality and suffering.

We want to know why there is evil and suffering.

Is there ultimate justice for those who commit these reprehensible acts?

Will God resolve the problem?

But man in his knowledge, if he is left inside the box unaided , he is left with guesswork and speculation, to answer these questions that are only knowable outside the box.

c. **It is God alone who knows what is outside the limitations of human knowledge/outside the box.**
God exists outside of time and space.
God created everything that is knowable, and placed it inside the universe.
Those things that are not knowable without the intervention of God, he revealed through Jesus Christ; the word, the Truth

i. God alone has the right to define reality

3. **An examination of the exclusivity of Jesus claim to be the truth**

"Jesus said I am the truth"

Jesus as the truth in the flow of biblical thought

On the basis of volition alone, sin is possible. Lucifer did not need a test in order to make a choice.

What God is demonstrating to all of his volitional creatures, is that absolute obedience/faith is necessary.

Because all of his creatures have limited knowledge.

a. **Starting in Genesis 1 the Bible tells us that God created everything from nothing!**

That means that God is the architect of all knowledge, all knowable things.
It brings clear distinction between God and man.
It is God who established all physical laws, just as there are physical laws; there are spiritual laws; they are just as real as the physical laws.
But man wants to rule, he wants to tell God how it is.

4. **God's structuring of man**

He made man in such a way that man could receive divine communication. God knew that He was going to speak to man and reveal things to man.

So He created man with a soul and with a mind that was structured in such a way that man could hear what God had to say, and understand it, and know with certainty that it was the truth.

Man was created with 4 key elements.

All of which work together within the soul of man.

a. **One:**

He has self-consciousness; to set him apart from the other creatures. It sets him apart from the animals.
Man is capable of knowing and understanding himself.
He can know his own behavior and actions.
He can know and evaluate his own behavior and actions.

b. **Second:**

He has mentality; He has the ability to think and reason. He develops his knowledge and understanding of the creation in which God has placed him.

c. **Third,**

He has volition; He is responsible for the decisions that he makes. He is able to make choices and he is capable of understanding what the implications are for those choices. He has self-determination.

d. **Fourth,**

He has a conscience; He is given the ability to know right from wrong. He can have standards and then operate on the basis of those standards by the correct use of his volition.

5. **So what we see from the very beginning is that God structures reality and then He identifies what that reality is to man. That is the start of truth.**

Truth is what conforms to reality.

God defines reality by how He creates it.

Then He informs man what the conditions are of that reality, and what the consequences are for disobedience.

Of course we know what happened. Eve was Tested. The fall.

6. **God reveals his righteous holy character, and that on the basis of his righteous character, He reveals reality**

a. **Adam:**
God created a perfect environment, man is created perfect after God's image, God places man in the perfect environment, so that nothing in that environment will cause his failure

i. **Man's limited knowledge:**

Adam is given a job to do, he carries out that job based on His ability to reason and gather empirical information

1. **Genesis 2:15 (NKJV)**
15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.
Genesis 2:19–20 (NKJV)
19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.
20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

On the basis of volition alone, sin is possible. Lucifer did not need a test in order to make a choice.

What God is demonstrating to all of his volitional creatures, is that absolute obedience/faith is necessary.

Because all of his creatures have limited knowledge.

ii. **Within the perfect environment, God requires faith:**

which is confidence in God's word, in light of man's limited knowledge, and

in light of **God: from whom emanates all knowable things**

1. **One thing the man can't learn through empirical data or human reason;**
that there is a tree, that if he eats of it he will immediately die spiritually.

God defines reality

a. **Genesis 2:16–17 (NKJV)**
16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;
17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

i. **In the fall we have the fallen angel Lucifer who comes along in the form of a serpent and tempts Eve. He says to her, "Has God really said**

Adam and Eve place themselves as judge for God

On the basis of Eve's available resources within the box, she tries to redefine reality by deciding her way is better than God's; she knows best!

1. **Genesis 3:1–6 (NKJV)**
1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"
2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;
3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "
4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.
5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

a. **Total devastation is the result, rippling through all creation, affecting man and beast, all the elements of nature; sky and land, plant life and the elements the earth. We can even speculate the colliding of planets and galaxies;t black holes and supernovas**

Genesis 3:16–19 (NKJV)
16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."
17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.
18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.
19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

God redefines reality:
He brings judgment on the transgression
God's love provides a solution

b. Reality changes because of man's sin. In God's love and mercy and grace He will reveal that there will be a solution to the sin. There will be a seed of the woman who will come.

Genesis 3:14–24 (NKJV)
14 So the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life.
15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."
16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."
17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.
18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.
19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."
20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.
21 Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.
22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—
23 therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.
24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

b. **Cain slew Abel:**
The first murder, more murders follow along with, deterioration of marriage and the family, morality and ethics degenerate

Generation after generation man in his pride and arrogance redefines truth according to his own opinion based on the information available within the box.

i. **Genesis 4:1–15 (NKJV)**
1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord."
2 Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.
3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord.
4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering,
5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.
6 So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?
7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."
8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.
9 Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"
10 And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.
11 So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.
12 When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth."
13 And Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear!
14 Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me."
15 And the Lord said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

1. **Romans 1 talks about man suppressing the truth. He wants to define reality on his own terms.**

c. **Noah:**

Again man redefines reality on his own terms, in opposition to God's reality!
God restates reality in Genesis 6:7

God's love provides the one exclusive solution:
Noah a preacher of righteousness for 100 yrs proclaims a flood is coming, there's one way of salvation,
once again man suppresses the truth in unrighteousness.

God redefines reality:
He brings judgment on the transgression
God's love provides a solution

i. **Genesis 6:1–8 (NKJV)**
1 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,
2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.
3 And the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."
4 There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.
5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
6 And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.
7 So the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."
8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

1. God always provides a way of salvation/a solution.

Once again after the flood they get new revelation given by God to Noah in Genesis 9.

Genesis 9:1–9 (NKJV)
1 So God blessed Noah and his sons, **and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.**
2 And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand.
3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs.
4 But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.
5 Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man.
6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.
7 And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Bring forth abundantly in the earth And multiply in it."
8 Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying:
9 "And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you,

2.

Generation after generation man in his pride and arrogance redefines truth according to his own opinion based on the information available within the box.

d. **Tower of Babel and Abraham.**

God defines reality once again in Genesis 9:1

Man suppresses the truth in unrighteousness once again in Genesis 11:4

God judges their disobedience by dividing their languages, they are forced to spread over the earth.

God redefines reality:
He brings judgment on the transgression
God's love provides a solution

i. **Genesis 11:1–6 (NKJV)**
1 Now the whole earth had one language and one speech.
2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.
3 Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.
4 And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."
5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.
6 And the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

ii. God once again provides a solution, again it is one exclusive way of salvation, which will come through:
one man Abraham,
through one nation Israel,
through one tribe of Judah and ultimately
through the one seed Jesus Christ.
The people Israel will be the custodians of truth, they will record it and preserve it.

e. **The 12 sons of Jacob were not to intermarry with the Canaanites, God causes them to go into Egypt where they are isolated in Goshen as slaves to the Egyptians for 400 years. In this isolation their race is preserved, and multiplies to a great multitude.**

Generation after generation man in his pride and arrogance redefines truth according to his own opinion based on the information available within the box.

i. **5. The Exodus.**

God once again defines reality through Moses, to Pharaoh:

Farrow suppresses the truth in unrighteousness, and redefines reality on his own terms

God judges Pharaoh with 10 plagues, the 10th plague is the final and most severe,

But once again God provides one exclusive solution, spread blood on the door post before the death Angel passes by.

Jews and the Egyptians both had opportunity to take advantage of this solution.

Once again men suppress the truth in unrighteousness, redefine it and say it's not going to happen. The result was the death of the firstborn.

The law and the tabernacle:

The Jews are freed from bondage, and lead into the wilderness to Mount Sinai, where they receive the Mosaic law.
In the Mosaic law, God once again reveals his one exclusive truth, how he will relate to man in terms of his holy righteous character in the form of the tabernacle.

God's presence indwells the centerpiece of the tabernacle and only the high priest comes in because God is teaching them that as a holy righteous God there has to be certain things done before you can come into His presence.

If you look at the structure of the tabernacle there is only one entry point. There is only one way to go into the tabernacle.

There has to be a blood sacrifice. So once again truth is revealed. It is exclusive.

God redefines reality:
He brings judgment on the transgression
God's love provides a solution

1. **The twelve spies go into the land:**

a. **God defines reality, saying I will go with you and you will defeat the inhabitants of land!**
10 of them suppress the truth in unrighteousness, redefine it and say it can't happen

Numbers 14:9–10 (NKJV)
9 Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them."
10 And all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Now the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel.
Numbers 14:11 (NKJV)
11 Then the Lord said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?
Judgments of God: they must wander in the wilderness, for 40 years.

After 40 years has expired, Joshua leads the children of Israel under God's specific instructions:
God defines reality, he says this is the way you will do it, there's only one way:

Joshua 6:2–5 (NKJV)
2 And the Lord said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.
3 You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days.
4 And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.
5 It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."

f.

7. **What is consistent throughout this?**

God gives them truth.

They reject truth.

They reshape truth.

They suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

There is always the battle between the truth of God, and man always wanting to redefine reality on his own terms.

8.