

**Church History, Christian Thought, and Philosophy – Session 2**  
June 11, 2008

*The Impact of Platonism on Christian Thought*

When we read the Bible, there is always something that comes between the text and our eyes, which affects how we understand or interpret the text.

The purpose of this series is largely to help us determine what that “something” is, so that we can be aware of it as we process the word of God and the will of God.

*What do we mean by “Christian Thought”?*

How we \_\_\_\_\_ what is \_\_\_\_\_ (epistemology).

How we \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible (hermeneutics).

What we \_\_\_\_\_ about God (theology).

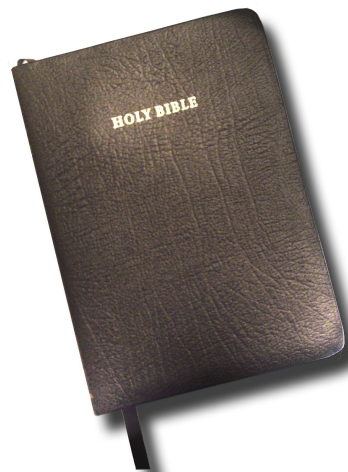
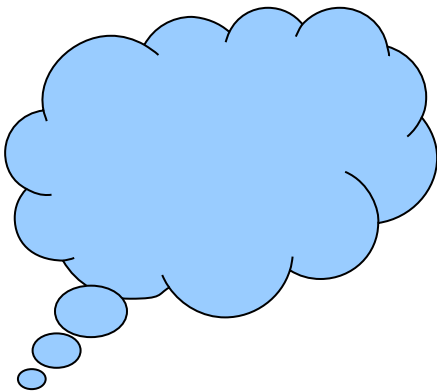
How we \_\_\_\_\_ our beliefs (apologetics).

*What do we mean by “Philosophy”?*

“Philosophy” means “the \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ of wisdom.”

“Philosophy” has at least two aspects:

- (1) It has to do with what we believe to be \_\_\_\_\_ even if we can’t see it.
- (2) It has to do with how we \_\_\_\_\_ that truth to life.



Three Major Eras of Philosophy:

What is \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_? (Ontological Era)

\_\_\_\_\_ can we \_\_\_\_\_? (Epistemological Era)

What do we \_\_\_\_\_? (Linguistic or Analytical Era)

PLATO (428-348 B.C.)

Plato's Major Principles:

We can know \_\_\_\_\_. (Socrates)

We can know the truth of an object only if it is \_\_\_\_\_. (Parmenides)

Everything in the world is in \_\_\_\_\_. (Heraclitus)

Thus, there must be another world which is motionless that we can truly \_\_\_\_\_.

The World of Forms  
(Perfect, Fixed)

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The World of Sense  
(Moving, Changing)

Two Teachings in Plato that have impacted Christian Thought:

1. Plato's view of the soul of human beings
2. Plato's *cave*, or his view of ultimate truth.

Ways in which Paul or the author of Hebrews *may* betray a knowledge of Plato's philosophy, which may be used to help illustrate divine revelation:

See Colossians 2:17; Hebrews 9:23-24; 10:1-14; 11 (faith in an ultimate world)