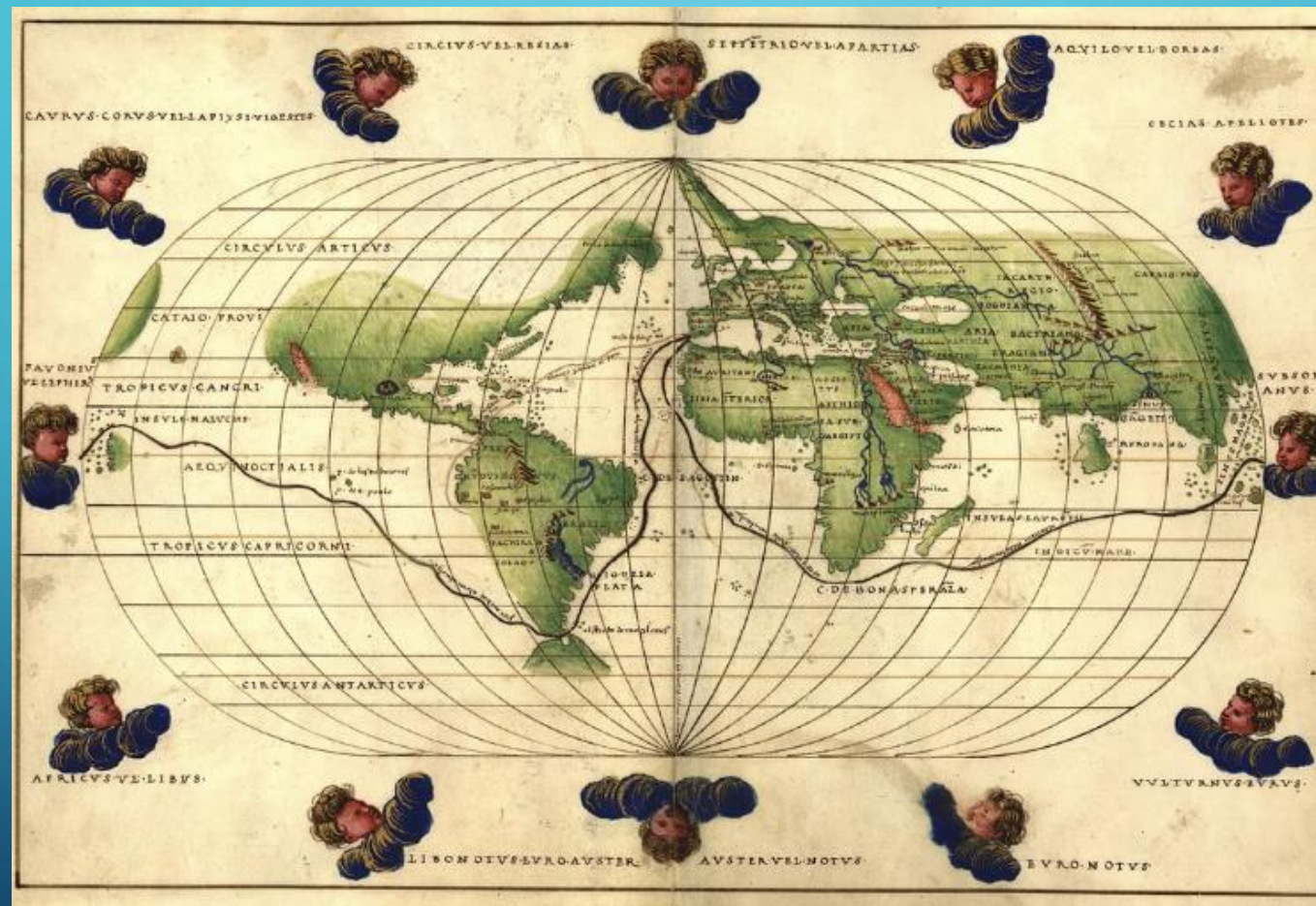


A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consisting of white and light blue lines that resemble a circuit board or a stylized tree. The lines are vertical and horizontal, with small circles at the ends, creating a complex, branching pattern.

# WORLDVIEW CLASS

UNIT 2- EPISTEMOLOGY AND SCIENCE

# RECAP



# BE WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST

- Stability, Spontaneity, and Momentum
- “Man was to gather up into the prism of self-conscious activity all the manifold manifestations of the glory of God in order to make one central self-conscious sacrifice of it all to God.”

# WORKING PILGRIMS

- Kuyper: Christian life as a pilgrimage was not changed, but the Calvinist became a pilgrim, who, while on his way to our eternal home, had yet to perform on earth an important task. The cosmos, in all the wealth of the kingdom of nature, was spread out before, under, and above man. This entire limitless field had to be worked. To this labor the Calvinist consecrated himself with enthusiasm and energy. For the earth with all that is in it, had, according to God's Will, to be subjected to man.

# WE CANNOT CHOOSE EPISTEMOLOGIES AS WE CHOOSE HATS.

- “Human spirit cannot do without it.” → Metaphysical before the Epistemological



This is a cow

This cow is not  
me

I exist in the  
same world  
as the cow

I exist

I can study  
this cow

My  
observation  
senses are  
reliable

What I observe  
exists in reality, I  
can observe it  
and communicate  
this to my brain

What I  
observe in the  
past can be  
used to  
determine my  
observations  
in the future

The past is  
related to  
the future  
through the  
regularity of  
nature

Cows possess  
“cow-ness”

I possess  
“Will-ness”

This remains



# NEED FOR EXHAUSTIVE KNOWLEDGE

- Van Til: Man will therefore have to seek to make a system for himself that will relate all the facts of his environment to one another in such a way as **will enable him to see exhaustively all the relations that obtain between them...man must, in short, be virtually omniscient.**

# EPISTEMOLOGY IN THE GARDEN

- Van Til: Satan suggested to Eve that God's statement about the relation of one temporal fact to another was not determinative of the nature of that relationship. Facts and truth about the relationships to one another can be known by man...He had to choose between taking the divine mind or his own mind as the source of truth about all facts. Truth out of all relationship to any mind is a pure meaningless abstraction.

# RATIONALISM

- Cogito Ergo Sum
- Solipsism



I assert Q

    If P then Q

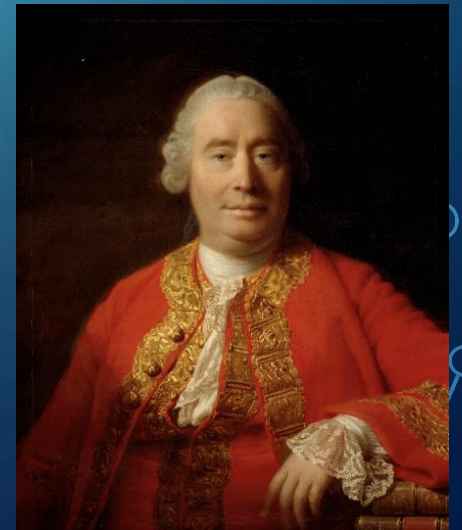
        If M, P

            If N, M

                    .....

# EMPIRICISM

- “That the sun will not rise tomorrow is no less intelligible a proposition, and implies no more contradiction than the affirmation, that it will rise. ...”
- Problem of Induction: unjustifiable “but psychologically inescapable”
- “Otherwise life would be impossible”
- Inductive skepticism is *dangerous*



# TRANSCENDENTAL IDEALISM





IMPRESSIONS OF A MAN *WHO HIMSELF IS AS A FACT AN INDISTINGUISHABLE PART OF THE FEATURELESS BLOB* THAT HAS SEEN FIT TO CLIMB OUT OF THE MORASS OF CHANCE TO HAVE A LOOK AT ITSELF.



# SCHOOL OF ATHENS: FINITE AND SINFUL



**He would rather attempt to harvest the wheat of the world with the scythe then admit that there may be such things as binders and tractors.**



# RATIONALISM OR IRRATIONALISM

- *If one does not make human knowledge wholly dependent upon the original self-knowledge and consequent revelation of God to man, then man will have to seek knowledge within himself as the final reference point. Then he will have to seek an exhaustive understanding of reality. Then he will have to hold that if he cannot attain to such an exhaustive understanding of reality, he has no true knowledge of anything at all. Either man must then know everything or he knows nothing. This is the dilemma that confronts every form of non-Christian epistemology.*



# SKEPTICISM

- Hume: Most fortunately it happens, that since reason is incapable of dispelling these clouds, nature herself suffices to that purpose, and cures me of this philosophical melancholy and delirium, either by relaxing this bent of mind. I dine, I play a game of back-gammon, I converse, and am merry with my friends; and when after three or four hour's amusement, I wou'd return to these speculations, they appear so cold, and strain'd, and ridiculous, that I cannot find in my heart to enter into them any farther.
- Van Til: He grows desperate. He grows insane. He commits suicide.
- Schaeffer: Nietzsche went insane because he understood that insanity was the only philosophical answer if the infinite-personal God does not exist.

# SPURGEON

There was an evil hour when once I slipped the anchor of my faith; I cut the cable of my belief; I no longer moored myself hard by the coasts of revelation; I allowed my vessel to drift before the wind; I said to reason, “Be thou my captain;” I said to my own brain, “Be thou my rudder;” and I started on my mad voyage. Thank God it is all over now; but I will tell you its brief history. It was one hurried sailing over the tempestuous ocean of free thought. I went on, and as I went the skies began to darken; but to make up for that deficiency, the waters were brilliant with coruscations of brilliancy. I saw sparks flying upwards that pleased me, and I thought, ‘If this be free thought, it is a happy thing.’ My thoughts seemed gems, and I scattered stars with both my hands; but anon, instead of these coruscations of glory, I saw grim fiends, fierce and horrible, start up from the waters, and as I dashed on they gnashed their teeth and grinned upon me; they seized the prow of my ship, and dragged me on, while I, in part, gloried at the rapidity of my motion, but yet shuddered at the terrific rate with which I passed the old land marks of my faith. As I hurried forward with an awful speed, I began to doubt my very existence; I doubted if there were a world, I doubted if there were such a thing as myself. I went to the very verge of the dreary realms of unbelief. I went to the very bottom of the sea of infidelity. I doubted everything.

# THINKS TOO MUCH?

- Van Til: “What then is our complaint? That the rationalist does not want to set aside his intellect? On the contrary, we charged him with refusing to use his intellect sufficiently. Are we afraid that in public colleges and universities men will learn to think and therefore reject the faith of their fathers? Not at all. Our only fear is that they will not learn to think soberly as men ought to think. Do we fear that young men and women will criticize our concepts of revelation in inspiration? Not in the least? **We only fear that they will stop halfway.** If thought goes far enough and criticism deep enough it has to admit that man because of his finitude needs God and because of his total depravity needs Christ, and that neither can be known except through the Spirit.”
- Van Til: Faith comes only in answer to the fathomless agony of soul.

# CALL TO EPISTEMOLOGICAL REPENTANCE

- CVT: “God in Christ is speaking to us modern men pleading with us by his Spirit to forsake our pride, to admit our spiritual and intellectual self-frustration and rest on his death and resurrection for the meaning and with it for the joy of life...”
- CVT: “It comes with the demand that we recognize that all our own attempts at validity are not only fruitless and vain, but godless.”

# CALL TO EPISTEMOLOGICAL REPENTANCE

- Van Til: “I have set myself up as the standard of my life. The Holy Spirit must therefore turn me about. But I resist. I will not acknowledge that there is anything wrong with my standard of judgement. It is especially obnoxious to me to have men point to Jesus and the Bible as my only hope...Hence you require of me that I get down from my pedestal as judge and let God judge me. It implies that I must repent and believe. To believe, that is the hardest thing in the world for the conceited heart of man to do. It implies a total reversal of one's attitude of mind. It implies an open declaration of bankruptcy which is hard for him to do who thinks he is rich and increased in goods. It implies the attitude of the millionaire reduced to poverty, begging bread. It implies the attitude of the drowning man at sea stretching forth his hands for mercy and sure to perish without it.”

# INTELLECTUAL REST

- Matthew 11:28: <sup>28</sup> Come to me, all who are (intellectually) weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest...Ps. 23: He restores my soul
- Van Til: Christ as our Prophet
- ...The Christian has been saved by grace from the futile and sinful effort of knowing himself without knowing himself in terms of the self-identifying Christ.

# INTELLECTUAL REST

- If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the mind, I have more: <sup>5</sup> graduated Summa Cum Laude, of the people of High Society, of the tribe of Ivey-League, a mind of minds; as to truth, a “free-thinker”; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to intellect under the exam,<sup>[c]</sup> blameless. <sup>7</sup> But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a knowledge grounded in my own principles that comes from my sinful heart, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the knowledge from God that depends on faith



# POOL BALL



# ABSOLUTE DERIVATIVE COMPREHENSION

- My unity is that of a child who walks with its father through the woods. The child is not afraid because its father knows it all and is capable of handling every situation, So I readily grant that there are some “difficulties” with respect to belief in God and His revelation in nature and Scripture that I cannot solve. In fact there is mystery in every relationship with respect to every fact that faces me, for the reason that all facts have their final explanation in God whose thoughts are higher than my thoughts, and whose ways are higher than my ways.



# POSITION OF FAITH

- Van Til: “There has never been mystery for God. It is this that makes the mystery that has always and that will always surround man not a burden, but a joy, to him. Man can rejoice in the mystery that surrounds himself because he believes no mystery surrounds God...A child who knows his father is a millionaire does not need to have more than a dollar in his hand.”
- The fact that we do not fully comprehend the atom should not make us grow desperate with respect to the truth of the atom. When a Christian sees the atom surrounded by mystery, he worships God; when the non-Christian scientist sees the atom surrounded by mystery, he worships the void.”

## POSITION OF FAITH

“The solution of the deepest philosophical difficulties was to be sought in a reasonable faith that they are solved in God and by God, and therefore are solved for us.”

# COWS AND CHICKENS

- Van Til: It is the firm conviction of every epistemologically self-conscious Christian that no human being can utter a single syllable, whether in negation or in affirmation, unless it were for God's existence.

# COWS AND CHICKENS

- Christian theist must claim that he alone has true knowledge about cows and chickens as well as about God. He does this in no spirit of conceit, because it is a gift of God's grace.
- Repent of viewing Christianity as a hypothesis

# SPURGEON

- The old saying is, "Go from nature up to nature's God!" but it is hard work going up-hill. The best thing is to go from nature's God down to nature; and if you once get to nature's God, and believe Him, and love Him, it is surprising how easy it is to hear music in the waves, and songs in the wild whisperings of the winds, to see God everywhere, in the stones, in the rocks, in the rippling brooks, and to hear Him everywhere, in the lowing of cattle, in the rolling of thunders, and in the fury of tempests. Christ is to me the wisdom of God. I can learn everything now that I know the science of Christ crucified.

