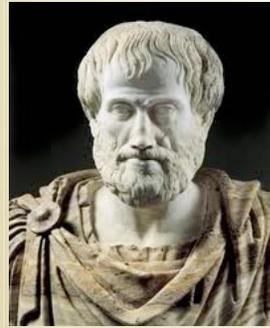


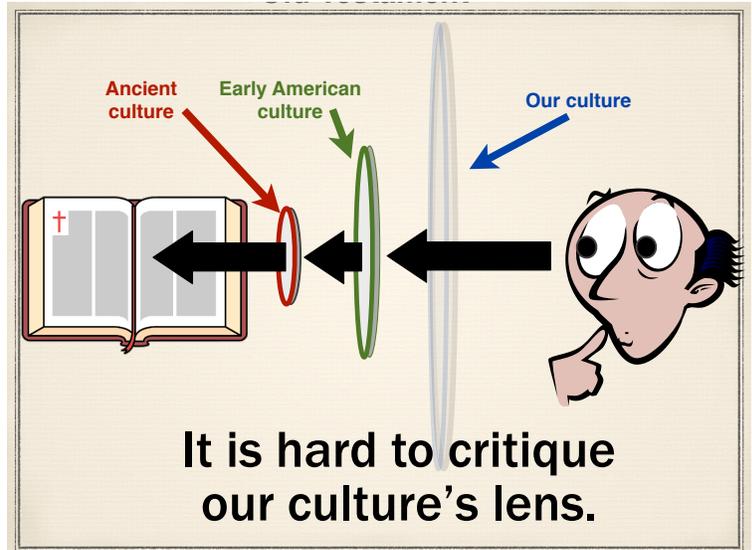
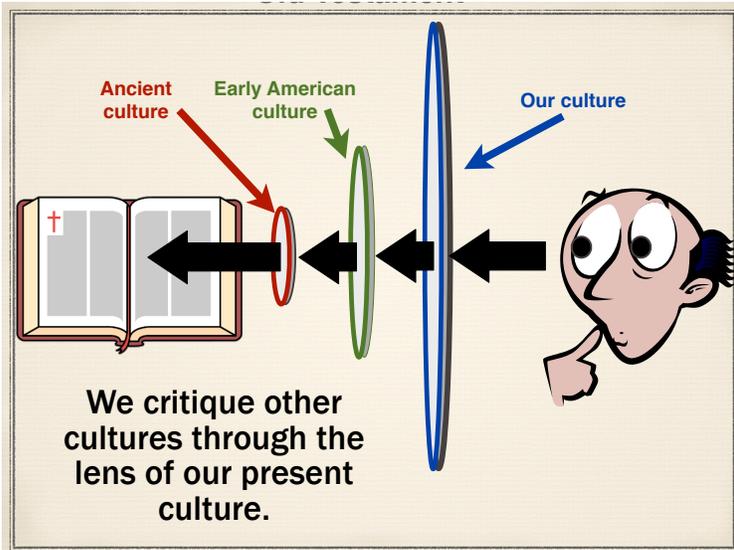
*Three deal breakers to Christian Faith  
in Modern Western culture*

- 1. Is God there?**  
(the challenge of **naturalism & science**)
- 2. Is God fair?**  
(the challenge of **pluralism & choices**)
- 3. Does God care?**  
(the challenge of **deism & suffering**)



Aristotle

“The guest will  
judge better of  
a feast than  
the cook.”



*We let our culture define  
fairness in all cultures.*

**1. Freedom to choose**

(God's choices trump ours - Israel, Levites, gender roles, personal election)

**2. Credit for virtue**

(God does not credit us with our good works, accomplishments, etc.)

**3. Individual identity**

(God views us as a part of a body - nations, ethnicity, etc.)



*Romans 10*

“<sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; <sup>13</sup> for “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.” <sup>14</sup> How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? <sup>15</sup> And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” <sup>16</sup> However, they did not all heed the glad tidings; for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” <sup>17</sup> So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”

*Joel 2*

- 30 "I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth,  
Blood, fire and columns of smoke.
- 31 "The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into  
blood before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.
- 32 "**And it will come about that whoever calls on the name  
of the Lord will be delivered**; for on Mount Zion and in  
Jerusalem there will be those who escape, as the Lord has  
said, even among the survivors whom the Lord calls.

*Who is in mind?*

*The Jews who are delivered from the destruction  
of Jerusalem on the "day of the Lord."*

*Jesus was not yet born so they are calling on the  
name of the God of Israel (not the name of Jesus).*

**On the one hand this passage  
suggests that the Jews need to have  
the Gospel preached to them.**

- 1. Apostle - preaching - hearing -  
believing - confessing = salvation.**
- 2. If a person has not heard the  
message they cannot believe so  
as to confess and be saved.**
- 3. This seems unfair to those who  
have never heard the Gospel.**

"18 But I say, surely they have never  
heard, have they? Indeed they have;  
*"Their voice has gone out into all the earth,  
And their words to the ends of the world."*

19 But I say, surely Israel did not know,  
did they? At the first Moses says, *"I will  
make you jealous by that which is not a  
nation, By a nation without understanding  
will I anger you."* 20 And Isaiah is very  
bold and says, *"I was found by those who  
sought Me not, I became manifest to those  
who did not ask for Me."* 21 But as for  
Israel He says, *"All the day long I have  
stretched out My hands to a disobedient  
and obstinate people."*

*Psalms 19*

- 1 The **heavens** are telling of the glory of God; and their **expanse** is  
declaring the work of His hands.
- 2 **Day to day** pours forth speech, and **night to night** reveals  
knowledge.
- 3 There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard.
- 4 Their line has gone out **through all the earth**, and their  
utterances **to the end of the world**. In them He has placed a  
tent for the sun,
- 5 Which is **as a bridegroom** coming out of his chamber; it rejoices  
**as a strong man** to run his course.
- 6 Its rising is from one end of the heavens, and its circuit to the  
other end of them; and there is **nothing hidden from its heat**.

***What kind of preaching has Israel heard?  
The general revelation of nature and history as  
mentioned in Rom. 1***

*Romans 1*

"20 For since the creation of the world His  
invisible attributes, His eternal power and  
divine nature, have been clearly seen, being  
understood through what has been made, so  
that they are without excuse. 21 For even  
though they knew God, they did not honor Him  
as God, or give thanks, but they became futile  
in their speculations, and their foolish heart  
was darkened."

*Malachi 1:11*

"From the rising of the sun to its setting, my  
name is great among the nations, and in every  
place incense is offered to my name and a pure  
offering; for my name is great among the nations,  
says the Lord of hosts."

**On the other hand this passage  
suggests that the Jews already had  
sufficient information to believe.**

- 1. The problem of unbelief is not for lack  
of exposure to truth.**
- 2. The problem of unbelief is not for lack  
of God's will to save.**
- 3. The problem of unbelief rests with the  
will of man to honor God and give  
thanks.**

**All evangelicals agree that:**

1. Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation.

*John 14:6* “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.’”

2. Christ’s work on the cross is imputed to any and all sinners who will be saved.

*2 Corinthians 5:21* “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

**All evangelicals do not agree that:**

Salvation comes only to those who place direct faith in Jesus.

*Acts 10:34-35*

“I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.”

**“Implicit faith”**

(Justin Martyr, John Wesley, John Stott, C.S. Lewis, Vatican II)



**The Saved**

The Lost



**Faith in Jesus is the only way to salvation, but are there several ways to saving faith in Jesus?**

**Different views**

**Exclusivism**

God does not provide salvation to those who fail to hear of Jesus and come to faith in him before they die.

*John Calvin*

*John 3:17-18*

“For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world should be saved through Him. **He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed** in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

**Different views**

**Exclusivism**

God does not provide salvation to those who fail to hear of Jesus and come to faith in him before they die.

*John Calvin*

**Universalism**

All people will in fact be saved by Jesus. No one is damned forever.

*William Barclay*

*Romans 11:32*

“For God has shut up all in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all.”

## “anonymous Christianity”

Karl Barth, Lesslie Newbigin

- The **incarnation** expresses the heart of God.
- God **respects non-Christian religions** where the Gospel has not been proclaimed.
- Those who have true faith **will welcome the Gospel** when they hear it.
- “**Father forgive them for they know not what they do**” = those who have not heard.
- The issue is not “who is saved” but “**what best glorifies God** who seeks to reconcile all.”
- The message that is to be preached is “**reconciliation**” of all through Christ.

## Different views

### Exclusivism

God does not provide salvation to those who fail to hear of Jesus and come to faith in him before they die.

*John Calvin*

### Universalism

All people will in fact be saved by Jesus. No one is damned forever.

*William Barclay*

### Extended Mercy

#### Partial revelation

The unevangelized may be saved if they respond in faith to God based on the revelation they have.

*John Wesley*

#### Opportunity before death

All people are given opportunity to be saved by God sending the gospel (even by angels or dreams) or at the moment of death.

*Norman Geisler*

#### Postmortem evangelism

The unevangelized receive an opportunity to believe in Jesus after death.

*George MacDonald*

## The Old Testament examples of God's grace going beyond the Abrahamic covenant.

- **Holy Pagans - Job, Abimelech** (king of Gerar - Gen.20:1-18), **Jethro** (a priest of Midian - Ex.18:1-12).
- **Abraham** and other believing Jews who lived before Jesus was born, crucified, and raised.
- **The Ninevites** - God received their repentance (Jonah 3:5).
- **Abel, Enoch, Noah**, being neither Jews nor Christians, pleased God because they sought Him with the faith response which pleases Him (Heb.11:6)
- **Malachi 1:11** “From the rising of the sun to its setting, my name is great among the nations, and in every place incense is offered to my name and a pure offering; for my name is great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts.”
- **Isaiah 19:25** “Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria my handiwork, and Israel my inheritance.”

## The New Testament examples of God's grace going beyond the Abrahamic covenant.

- **Melchizedek** (a Canaanite priest - Gen.14:17-24) Heb.6-7.
- **The Magi** (wise men) (Matt.2:1-12)
- **Luke 18:9-14** God forgives the publican who simply asks for mercy.
- **Matthew 10:15; 11:22; 12:41-42** Some of the unexpected inhabitants of heaven - the Ninevites, the queen of Sheba, the inhabitants of Tyre and Sidon, Sodom and Gomorrah.
- **Acts 10:34-35** “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.”
- **Acts 14:16-17** “In the past, He let all nations go their own way. Yet He has not left Himself without testimony.”

“I have never been able to conjure up (as some great evangelical missionaries have) the appalling vision of the millions who are not only perishing but who will inevitably perish. On the other hand, as I have said, I cannot be a universalist. Between these extremes I cherish the hope that the majority of the human race will be saved.”

**John Stott**

*Essentials: a Liberal-Evangelical Dialogue p327*

## The Lord of Mysteries

Israel knew God's covenant  
The mercies of the Lord divine  
Not seeing clear God's mystery  
Of Gentiles grafted to His vine.



But when the light of God's broad plan  
The mystery hid in ages past  
Is brought to light at Calvary  
A new perspective then is cast.



So when we contemplate the host  
Who know not Christ but fear God still  
We can't but wonder at the thought  
Is another mystery in His will?