

Jesus






To Know Jesus

- John 17:3 *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*
- 1Cor 2:2 *For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*



Occam's Razor

- It states that among competing hypotheses, the one with the fewest assumptions should be selected. Other, more complicated solutions may ultimately prove correct, but—in the absence of certainty—the fewer assumptions that are made, the better.
- Often summarized as “the simplest answer is the best.”

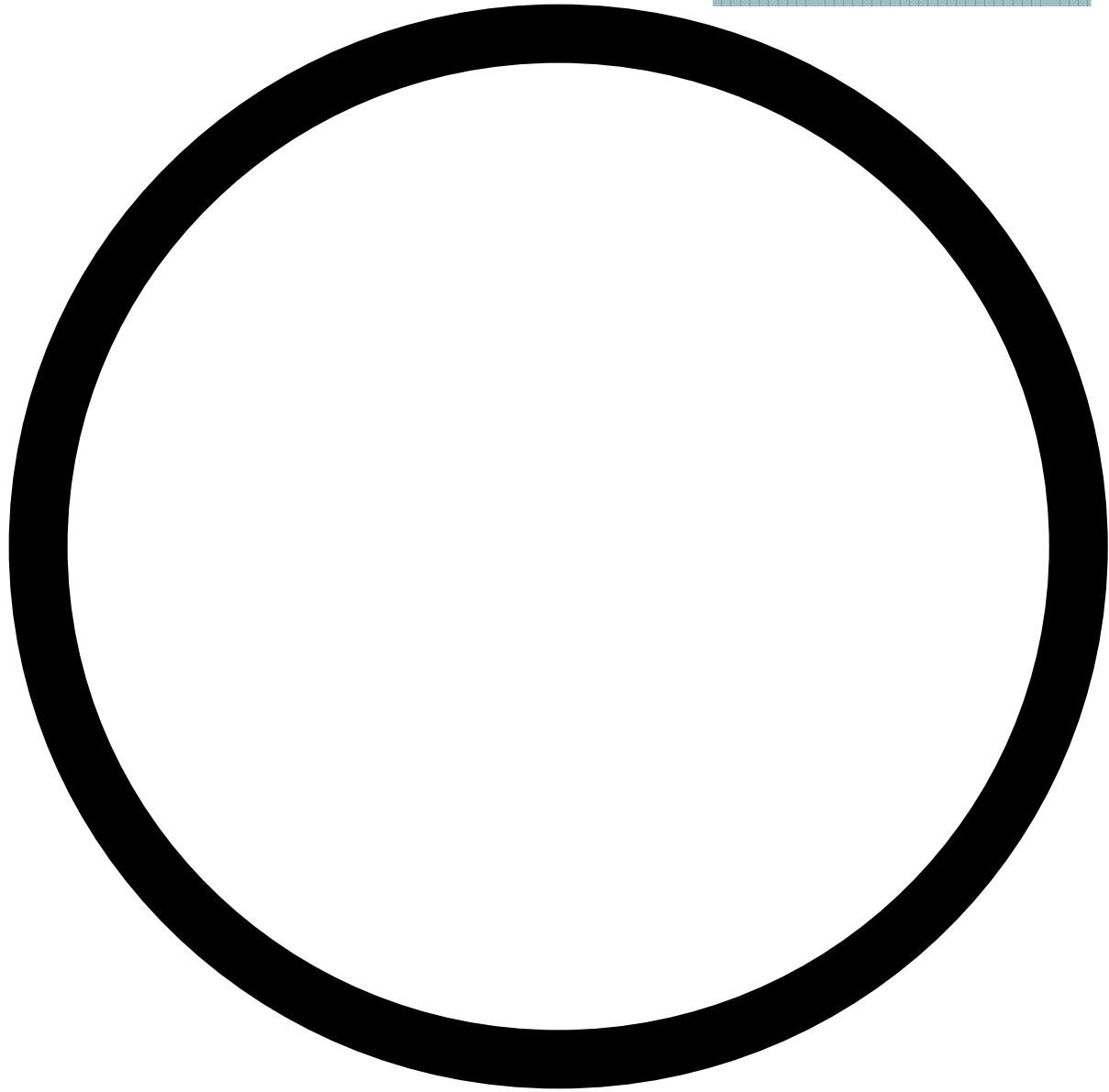
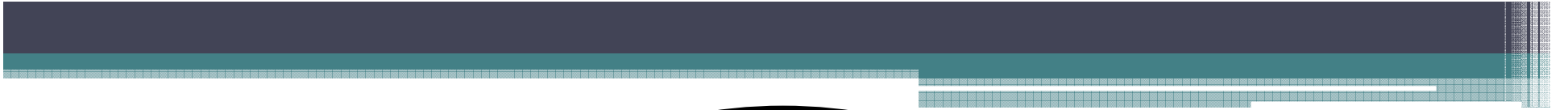
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- *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the **simplicity** that is in Christ. (2 Cor. 11:3 ESV)*



Complexity

- Jesus on the cross saved us how?
- Did God create a solution to humanities' problems that required the execution of His son?





Bread
Good
truth
Resurrection
Shepherd
the

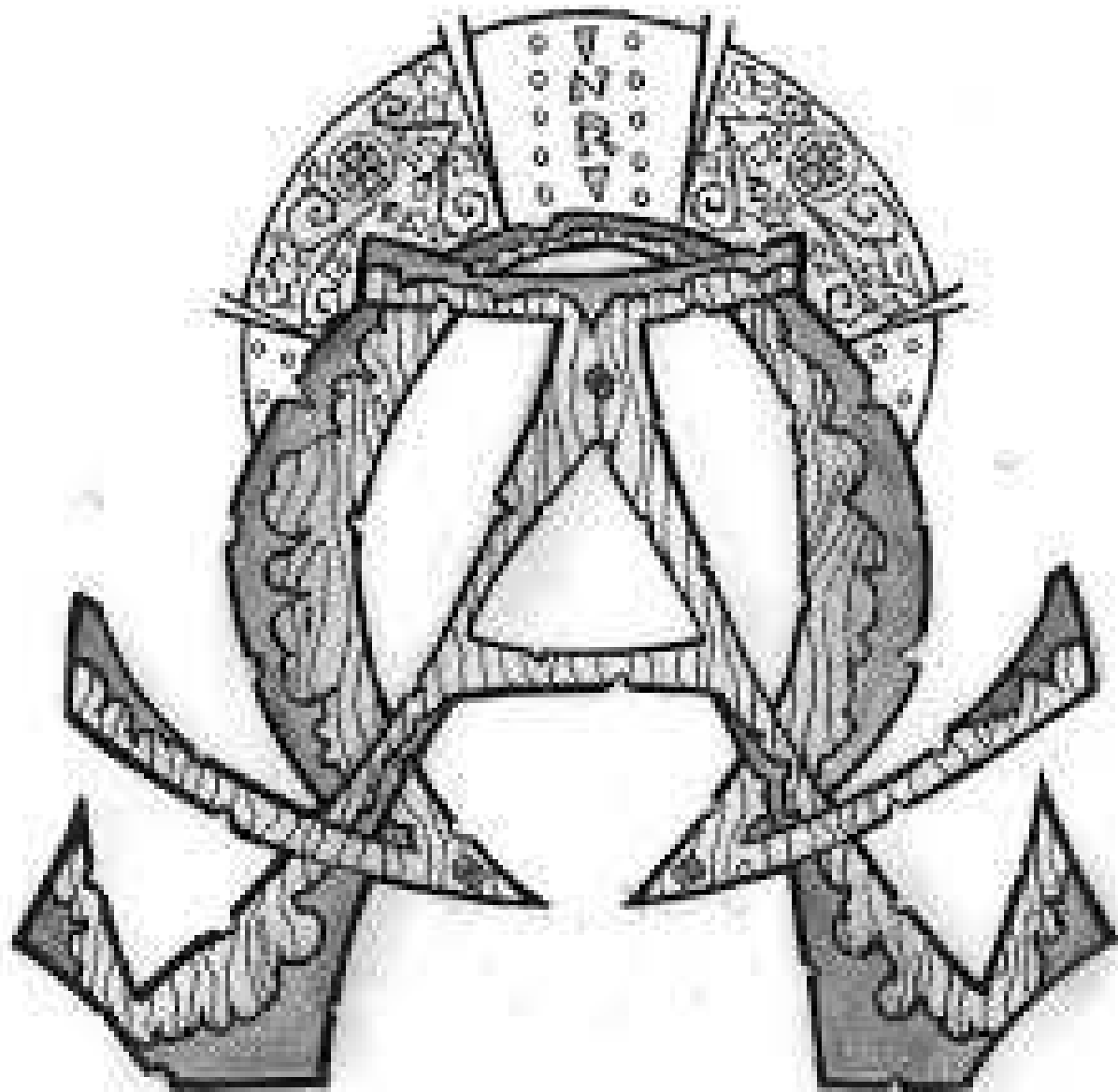


light
Life
life
World
way
True
Gate
Vine
of

am

“the true...” means “the real”
228 αληθινος alethinos

- 1) that which has not only the name and resemblance, but the real nature corresponding to the name, in every respect corresponding to the idea signified by the name, real, true genuine



The New Creation in Christ

- Jesus' creation is the real creation
 - Jesus is the light
 - Jesus is the word
- Jesus gives real life
 - Gen 2:7 *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*
 - John 6:47 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.*

Jesus

The Word



The Genesis Connection

- And God said....
 - God's word is creative and active
 - God's word is life
 - God's word is instructive
 - God's word is in our best interest

The Problem

- Gen 3:7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.
- Gen 3:8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

**You can run,
but you can't hide!**

God

What Does God Want?

- "When you come to appear before me, who has required of you this trampling of my courts? Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations— I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause. (Is. 1:12-17 ESV)

A Mechanical God?

- God wants....
 - Correct doctrine only
 - One cup vs. many cups
 - Right view on resurrection
 - Good morals only
 - The right Statement of Faith
 - The right rite
 - Circumcision
 - Baptism



A Mechanical God Ends Up...

- Unreasonable
 - Unjust
 - Unkind
 - Unloving
 - Legalistic
-
- Is this the one to whom we cry “Abba, Father?”



Giving God the Benefit of the Doubt

- When God asks questions, is it because He doesn't know the answer?
- When He tests us, is it to see what we will do?
- When He does things we can't explain, can we conceive of circumstances which would make this reasonable?

- *Exo 32:7-14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation. And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever. And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.*

What was God saying?

- Mic_6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?
- Deu 6:4-5 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might
- Lev_19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.



Jesus is What God is Trying to Say God's "Last Word"

- Heb 1:1-2 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. (ESV)

- "Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. **Finally** he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance. And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." (Matt. 21: 33-41 ESV)

- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-14 ESV)



Jesus is What God is Trying to Say

- Trust me
 - Love me
 - Follow me
 - Run to me
 - Obey me
-
- Correct doctrine, morals and principles lead us closer to God

Jesus is What God is Trying to Say

- Come to Me
 - Joh_5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.
 - Joh_6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.
 - Rev_22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Jesus is What God is Trying to Say

- Love

- Luk_6:27 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,
- Joh_13:34-35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.
- Joh_3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Jesus is What God is Trying to Say

- God is not mechanical and sane
 - Mar 2:25-26 And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?"

Jesus is What God is Trying to Say

- God is not caught up in ritual
 - Joh 5:8-10 Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed."



Jesus is What God is Trying to Say

- God wants the best for you
- God is on your side
- God means what He says and is trustworthy
- He loves us so much He sent His son despite knowing what we were going to do to him