

## SESSION ONE: How People Perish for Lack of Knowledge.

*"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being my priests. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children." (Hosea 4:6)*

*"Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end time; many will travel back and forth and knowledge will explode." (Daniel 12:4)*

*"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (II Peter 3:18)*

1. People are destroyed for lack of knowledge because knowledge provides truth about reality, and they must deal with reality. If they do not have knowledge and do not act on the basis of truth reality will destroy them.
2. What we believe matters because belief governs action. False beliefs damage or destroy our lives.
3. Distinguish belief, truth, knowledge and commitment.
  - Knowledge is capacity to represent things as they are, and on an appropriate basis of thought and experience.
  - Truth: A thought or statement is true provided that what it is about **is** as it is represented in the thought or statement.
  - The 'idols' of Daedalus (Plato's Meno). Mere belief is unstable, and behavior goes with it.
4. The *"double minded man is unstable in all his ways."* (James 1:8 & 4:8) Acting on contradictory beliefs; e.g., the reality of God and His Kingdom against the 'cosmos' as the sole reality.
5. **The four great questions of life.**
  1. What is Reality?
  2. Who is well-off? What is Blessedness? The Good Life?
  3. Who is a really good person?
  4. How does one become a really good person?(Compare Kant's questions.)
6. It is these large questions that determine direction or orientation in life: determine what our life is about.
7. The inevitability of "World View"—Orientation is a biological necessity.
8. The currently dominant World View and our "educational" system:
  - "Naturalism"
  - It is an inherently irrationalist system:
    - ◆ The disappearance of Logic—a word from Screwtape
  - The politics of contempt.
9. The gospel of Jesus in this context. *"Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens is now available to you."* (Matt. 4:17)
10. Considering the competition to him on the four questions.
  - "Where shall we go?"