

Church History Literacy

The Age of Reason –

Modern Mind and a Modern Church Part 2

- Lesson 80

Biblical-Literacy.com

© Copyright 2007 by W. Mark Lanier. Permission hereby granted to reprint this document in its entirety without change, with reference given, and not for financial profit.

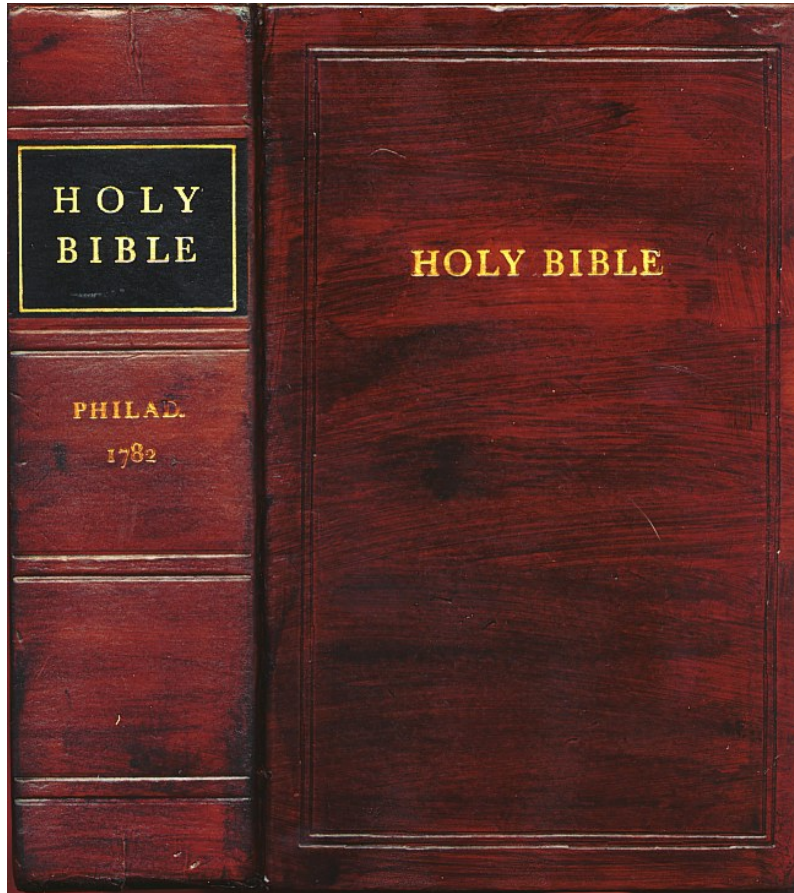
Who/What decides truth?





Catholic view:

The Church
establishes truth



Reformation view:

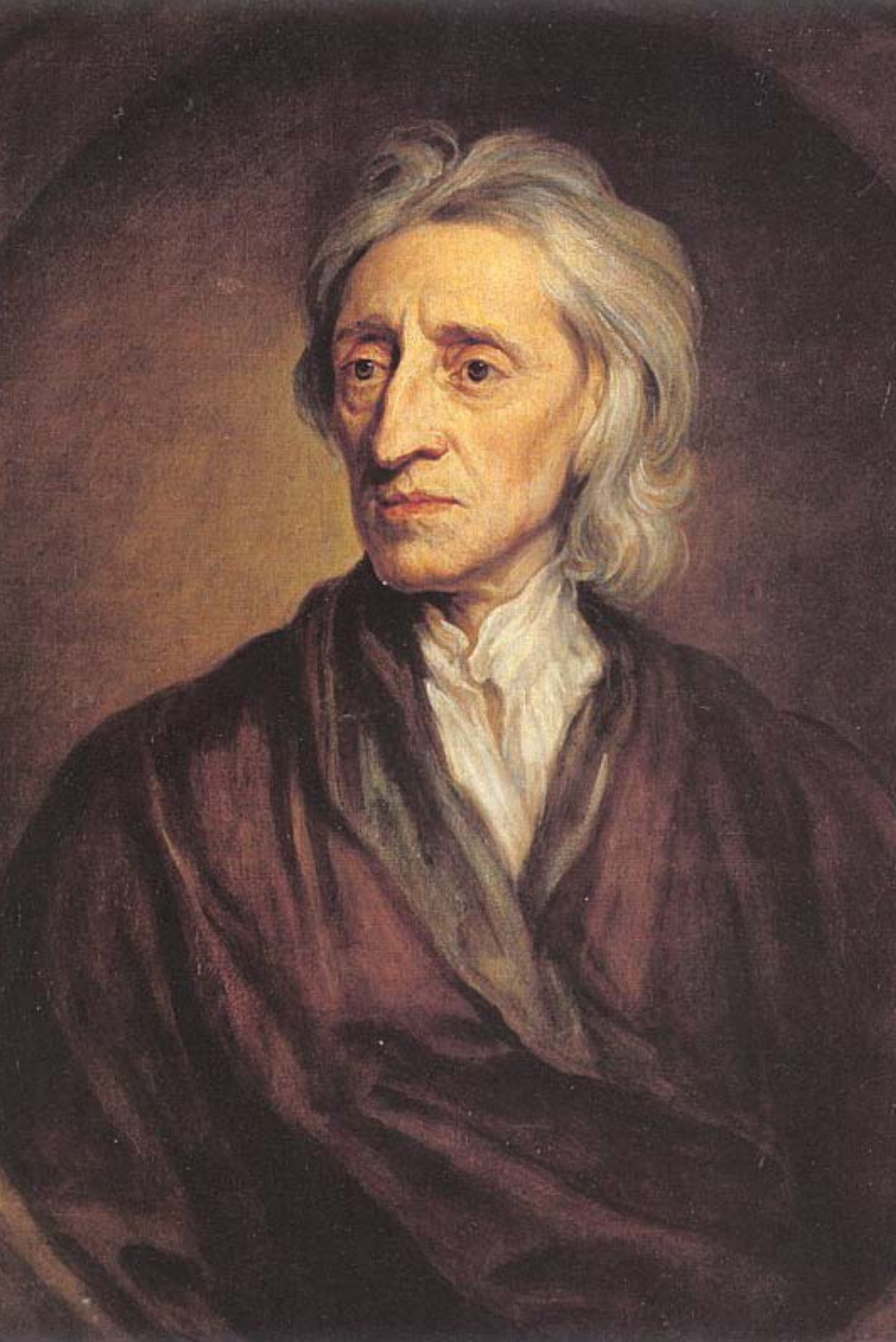
Scripture alone
establishes truth,
which is confirmed
by the Holy Spirit

Enter: Modern Man

$$2 + 2 = 4$$

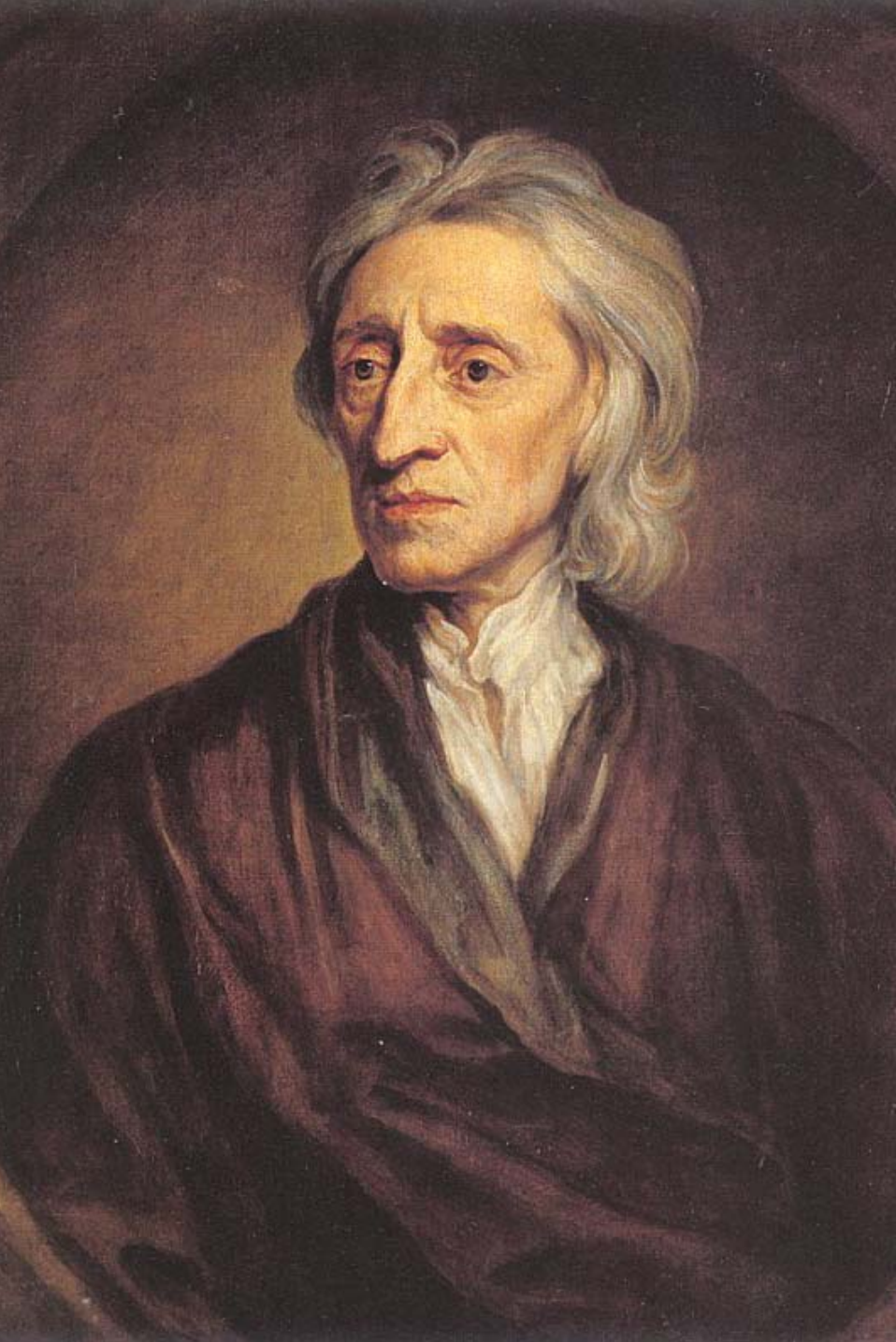
The
Enlightenment:

Reason alone
establishes truth

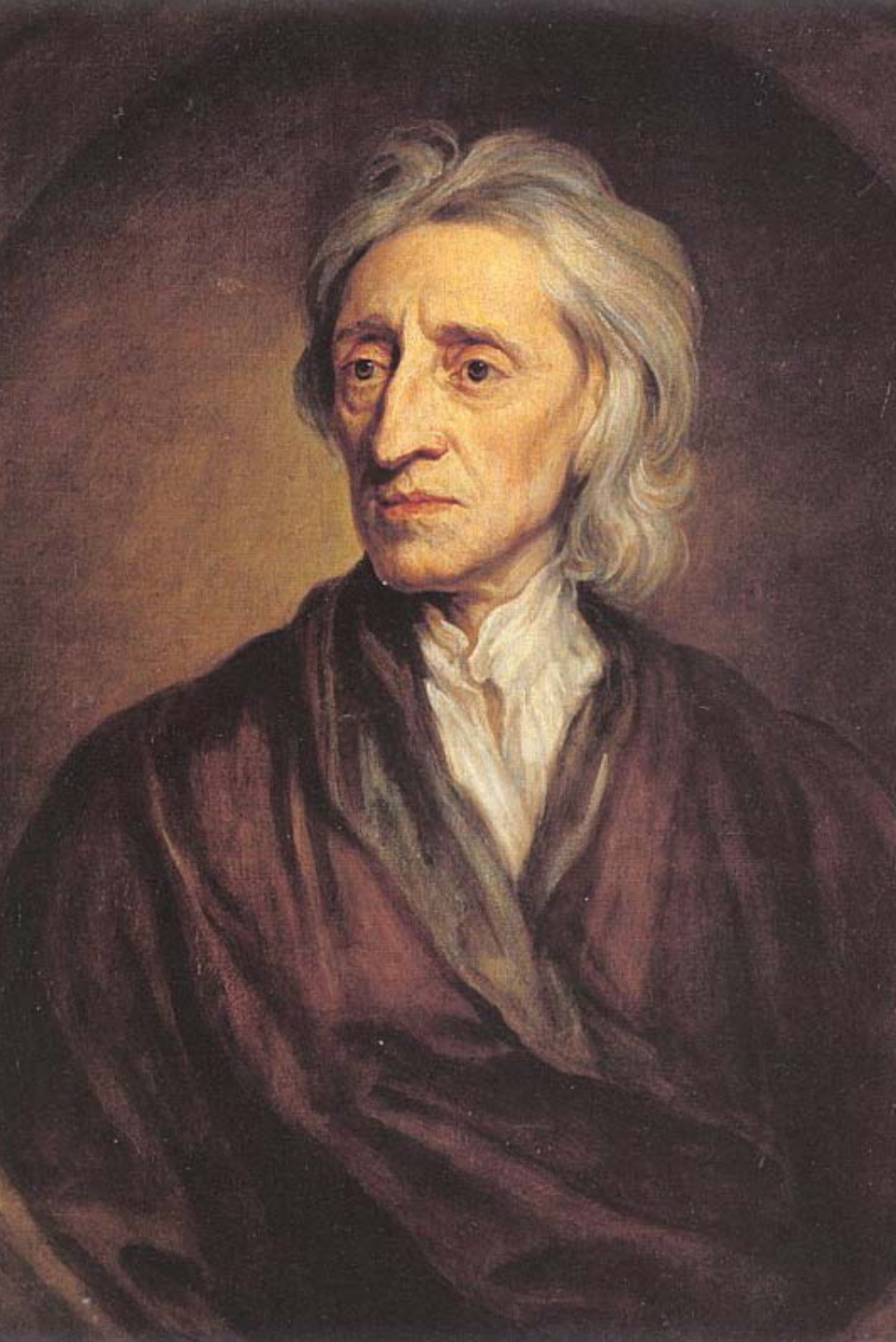


John Locke
(1632-1704)

*The
Reasonableness
of Christianity
(1695)*

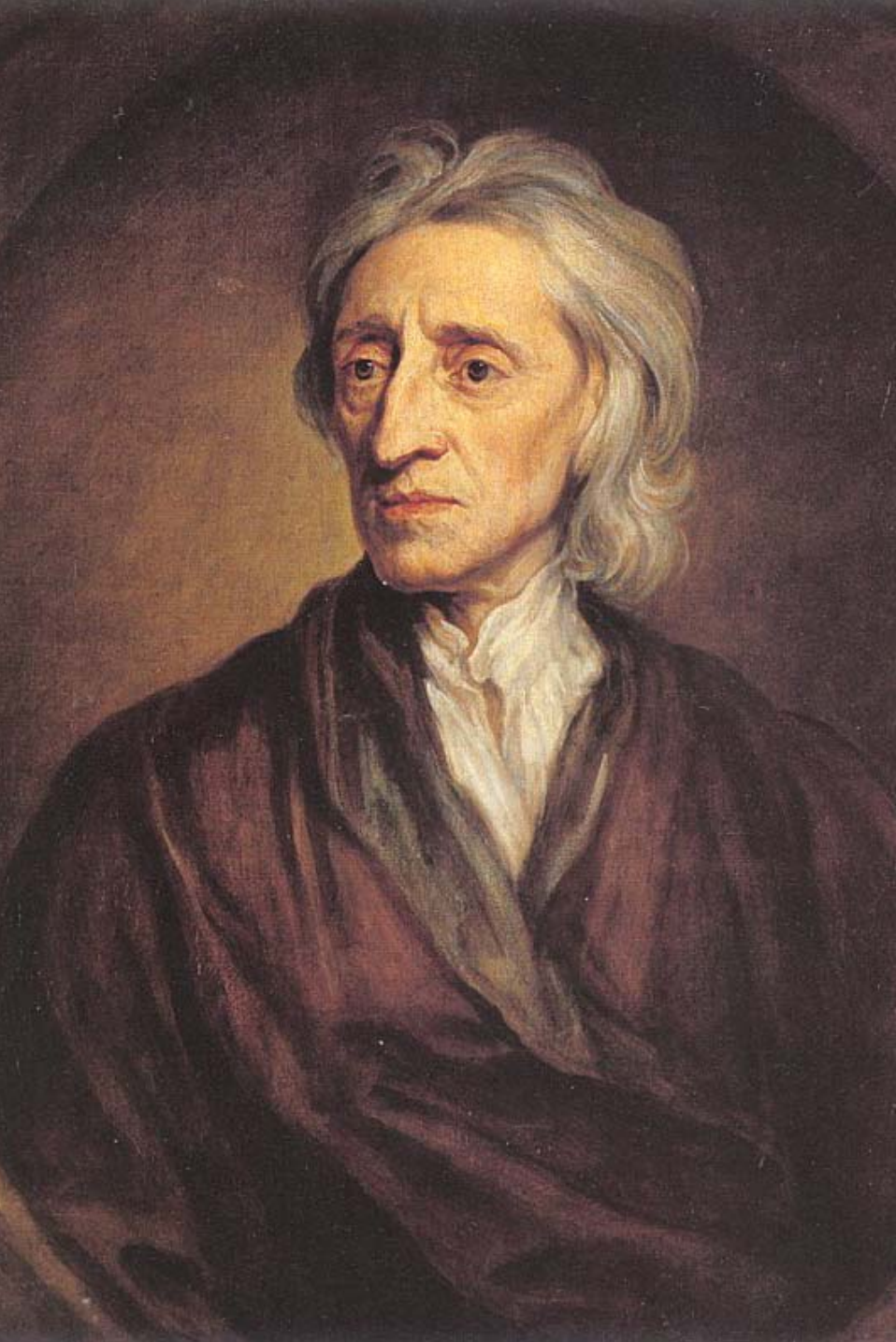


For Aquinas,
reason was a
tool in the hands
of faith



For Aquinas,
reason was a
tool in the hands
of faith

For Locke,
reason is the
ultimate judge of
faith and
revelation



Religion
becomes an
intellectual
exercise, more
than a
relationship



John Toland (1670-1722)

Sees Locke as a
mentor and takes
Locke to a logical
conclusion



John Toland
(1670-1722)

*Christianity Not
Mysterious*

Ephesians

Ephesians

God made known the **mystery** of his will (1:9)

Ephesians

God made known the **mystery** of his will (1:9)

The **mystery** made known (3:3)

Ephesians

God made known the **mystery** of his will (1:9)

The **mystery** made known (3:3)

The **mystery** of Christ (3:4)

Ephesians

God made known the **mystery** of his will (1:9)

The **mystery** made known (3:3)

The **mystery** of Christ (3:4)

The **mystery** bringing together Jews and Gentiles (3:6)

Ephesians

God made known the **mystery** of his will (1:9)

The **mystery** made known (3:3)

The **mystery** of Christ (3:4)

The **mystery** bringing together Jews and Gentiles (3:6)

A **mystery** hidden in God (3:9)

Ephesians

God made known the **mystery** of his will (1:9)

The **mystery** made known (3:3)

The **mystery** of Christ (3:4)

The **mystery** bringing together Jews and Gentiles (3:6)

A **mystery** hidden in God (3:9)

The profound **mystery** of Christ and his church (5:32)

Ephesians

God made known the **mystery** of his will (1:9)

The **mystery** made known (3:3)

The **mystery** of Christ (3:4)

The **mystery** bringing together Jews and Gentiles (3:6)

A **mystery** hidden in God (3:9)


The profound **mystery** of Christ and his church (5:32)

The **mystery** of the gospel (6:19)

John Toland (1670-1722)

Whoever reveals anything ... his words must be intelligible and the matter possible. This rule holds good, let God or Man be the Revealer.



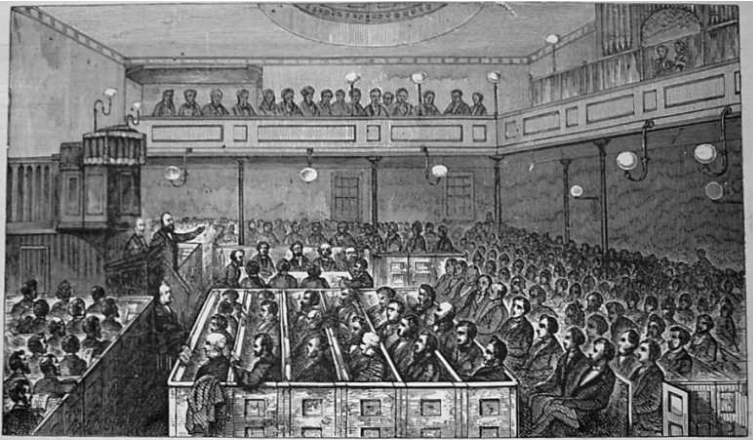
A glowing orange sphere, possibly representing a planet or a celestial body, is shown against a black background. A bright white ring or arc of light encircles the sphere, creating a halo effect. The sphere's surface has a textured, slightly grainy appearance with variations in orange and yellow tones.

And if reason
has been
around since
the dawn of
time.....

This appeals to the
“Enlightened sheep”



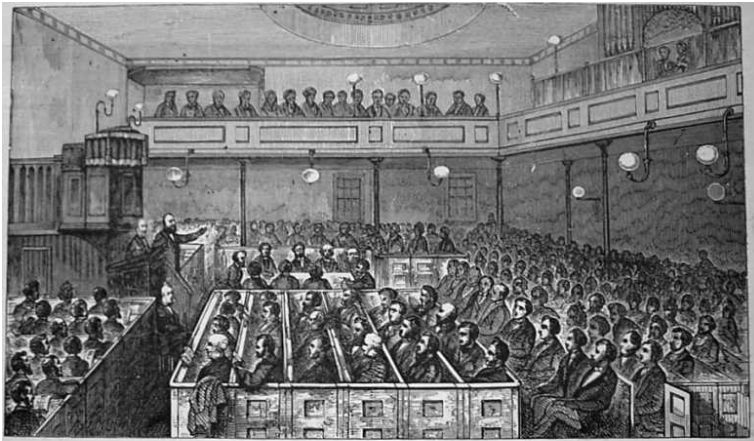
A number
unite on such
rational
thoughts that
supersede
Christianity



Interior of ESSEX STREET Unitarian Chapel (London).

As it appeared at the Centenary Meeting in 1874. This Church was opened in July, 1774, by the Rev. Theophilus Lindsey, who gave up his living of Catterick, in Yorkshire, and came to London to preach his new faith.

A number
unite on such
rational
thoughts that
supersede
Christianity

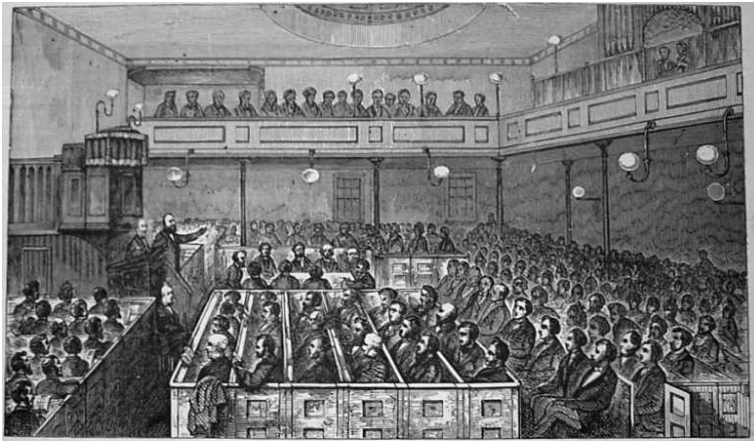


Interior of ESSEX STREET Unitarian Chapel (London).

As it appeared at the Centenary Meeting in 1874. This Church was opened in July, 1774, by the Rev. Theophilus Lindsey, who gave up his living of Catterick, in Yorkshire, and came to London to preach his new faith.

A number
unite on such
rational
thoughts that
supersede
Christianity





Interior of ESSEX STREET Unitarian Chapel (London).

As it appeared at the Centenary Meeting in 1874. This Church was opened in July, 1774, by the Rev. Theophilus Lindsey, who gave up his living of Catterick, in Yorkshire, and came to London to preach his new faith.

A number
unite on such
rational
thoughts that
supersede
Christianity





Immanuel
Kant
(1724-1804)



We do not know
for certain there is
a God or an
afterlife



We do not know
for certain there is
a God or an
afterlife

But reason does
teach the value of
moral duty

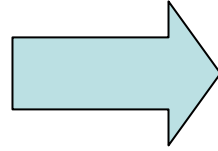


Friedrich Schleiermacher (1768-1834)

Wrote of humanity's
“God consciousness”
and reinterpreted
Jesus, the Bible, and
the Christian faith

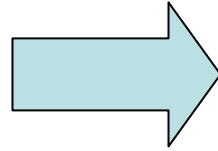
Science and the world

Science and
the world



Rationality

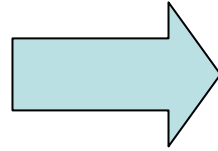
Science and
the world



Rationality



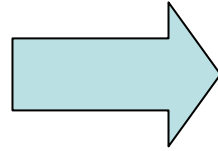
Science and
the world



Rationality



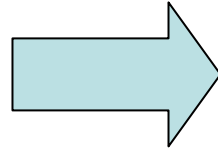
Science and
the world



Rationality

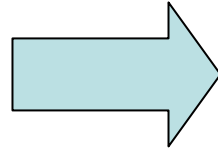
Faith and
religion

Science and
the world



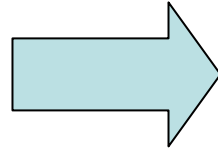
Rationality

Faith and
religion



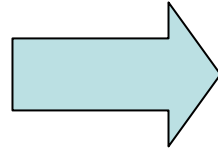
Intuitive
experience

Science and
the world



Rationality

Faith and
religion



Intuitive
experience

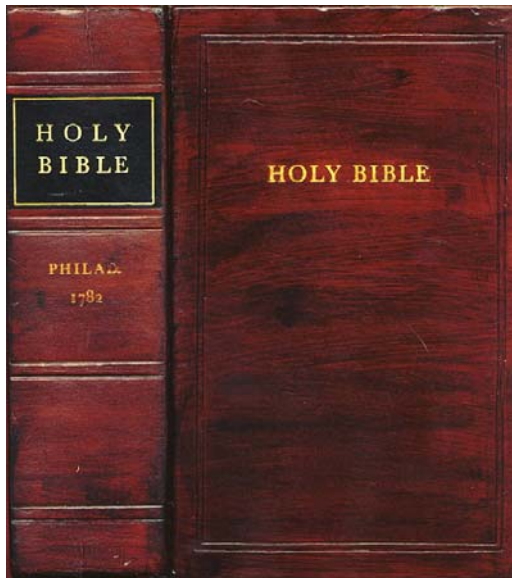


Who decides truth?

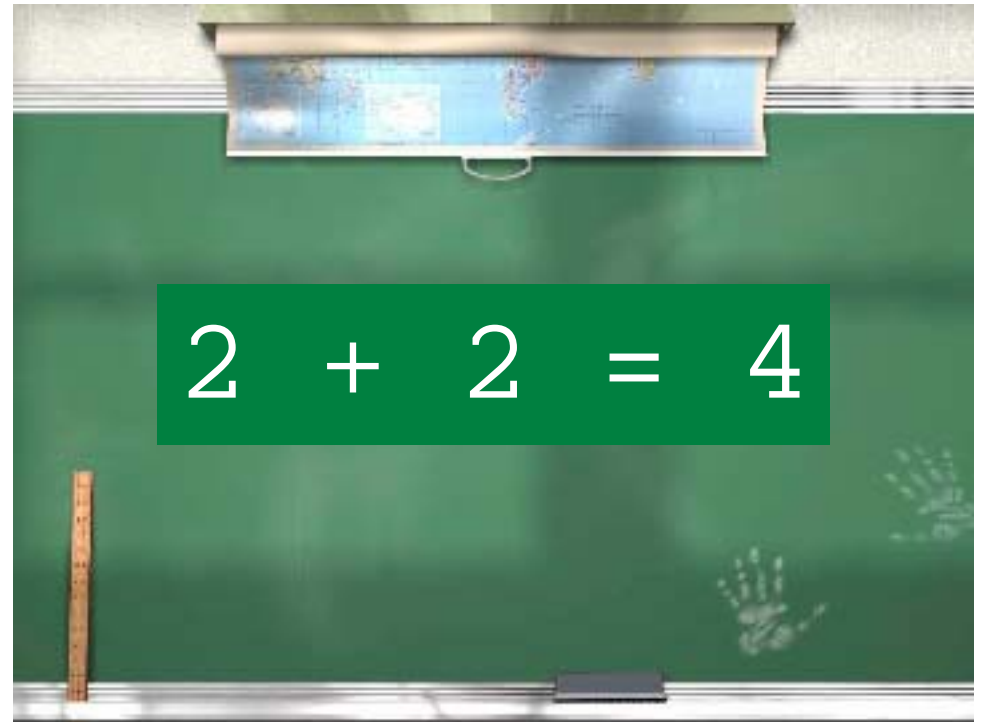
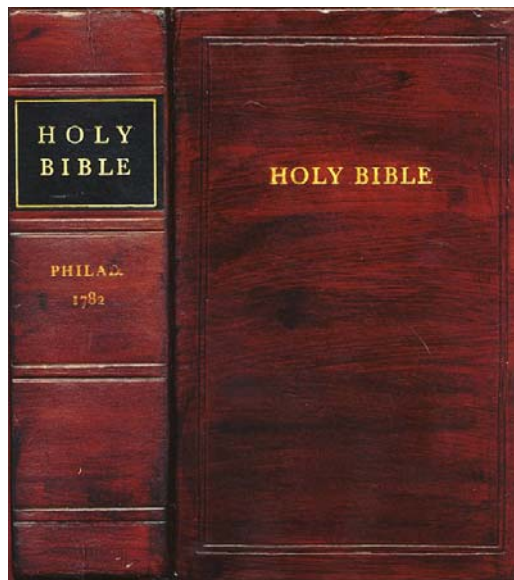
Who decides truth?



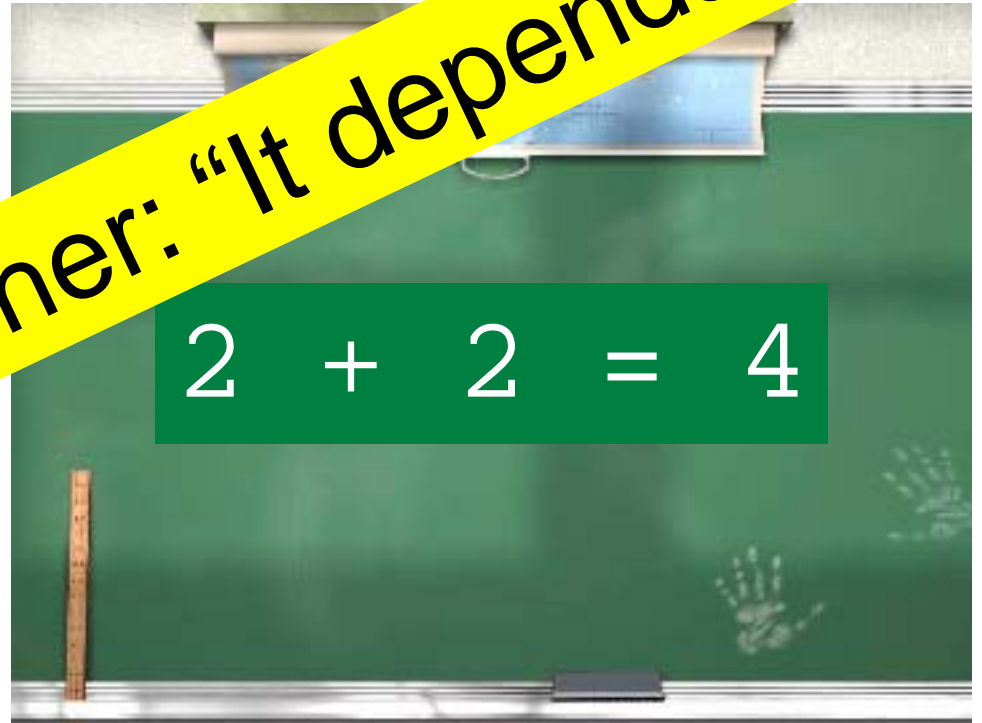
Who decides truth?



Who decides truth?

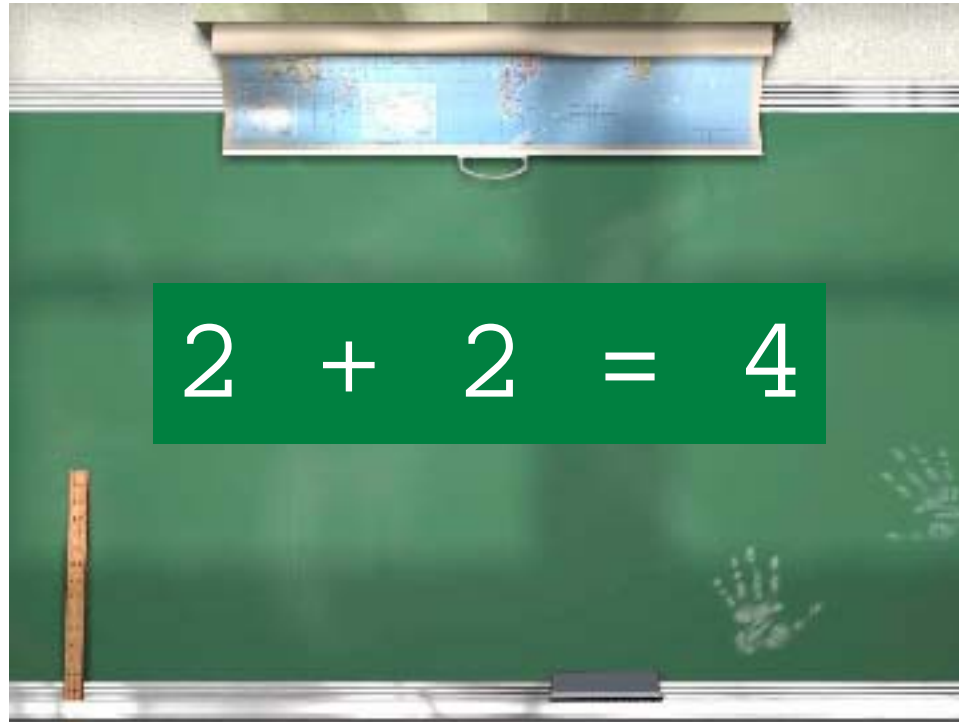


Who decides truth?



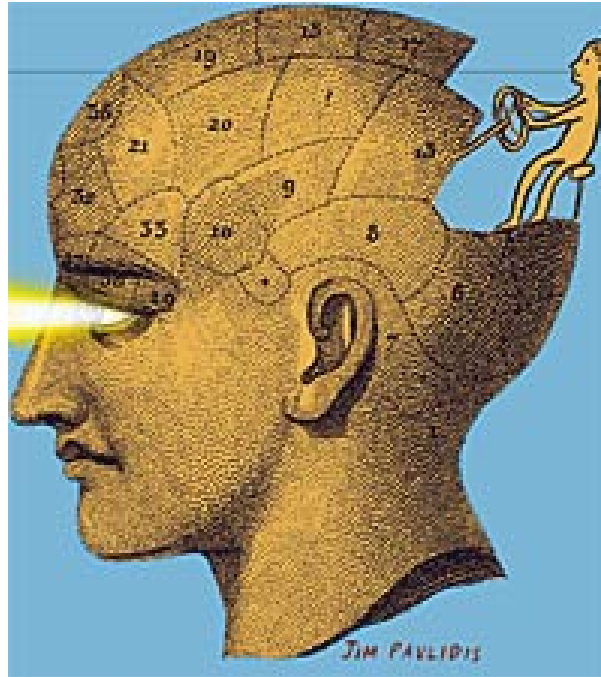
Schleiermacher: "It depends!"

Scientific real world truth?



Reason

Religious Truth?



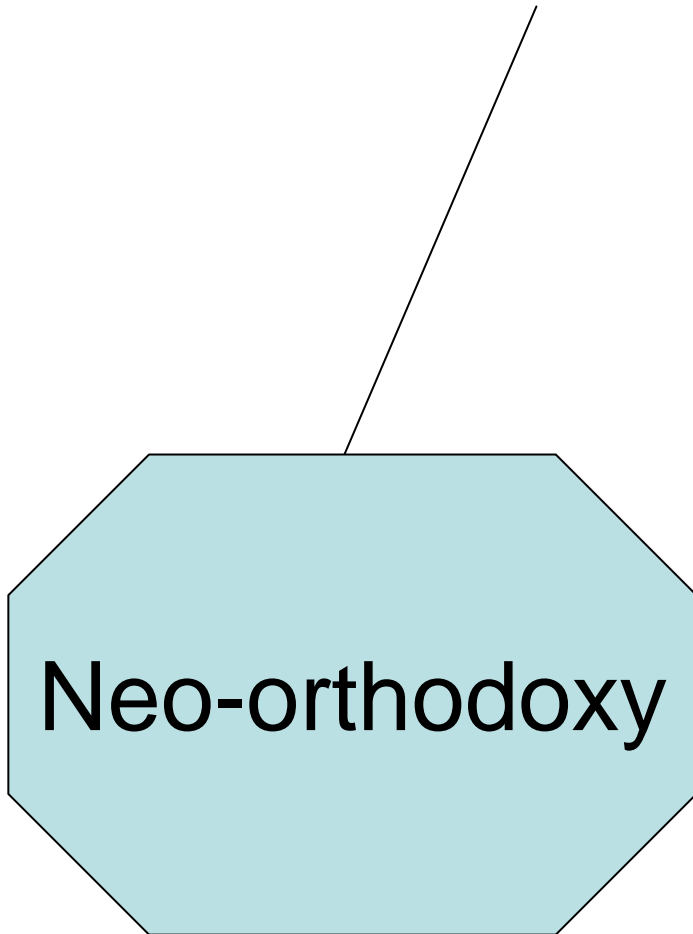
Intuitive Experience



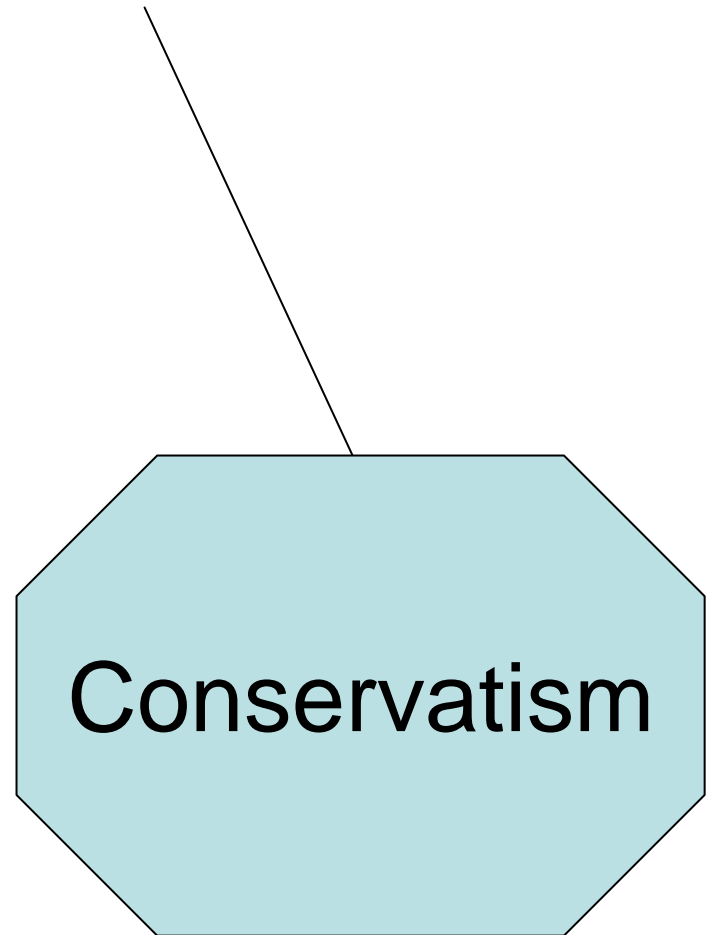
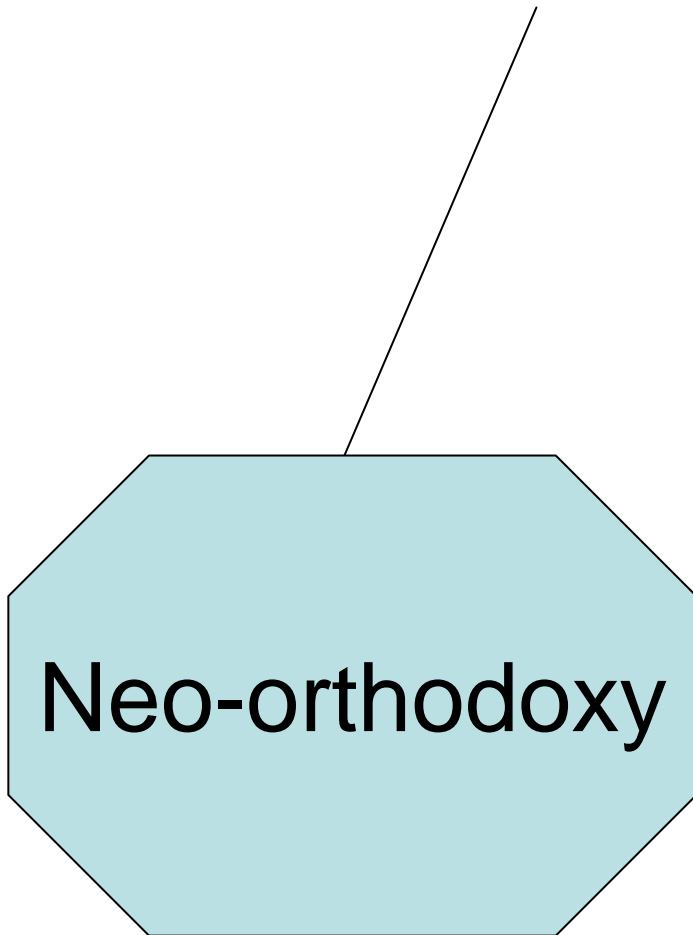
When you do
apply reason
to Bible
studies....
Julius
Wellhausen

Reactions to Liberalism

Reactions to Liberalism

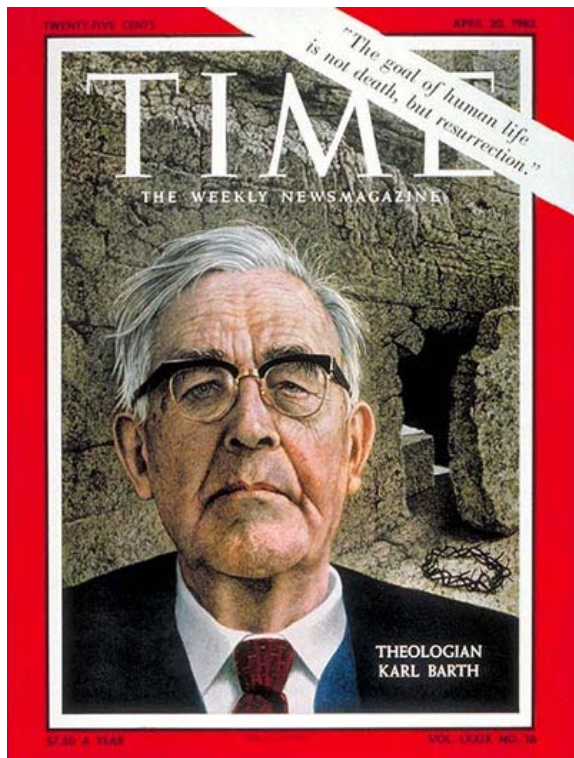


Reactions to Liberalism



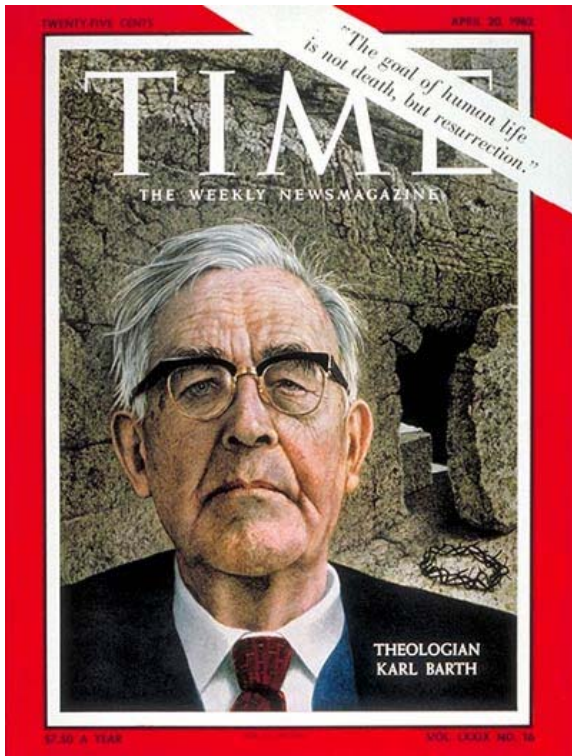
Neorthodoxy (the “new “ orthodoxy)

Neorthodoxy (the “new “ orthodoxy)

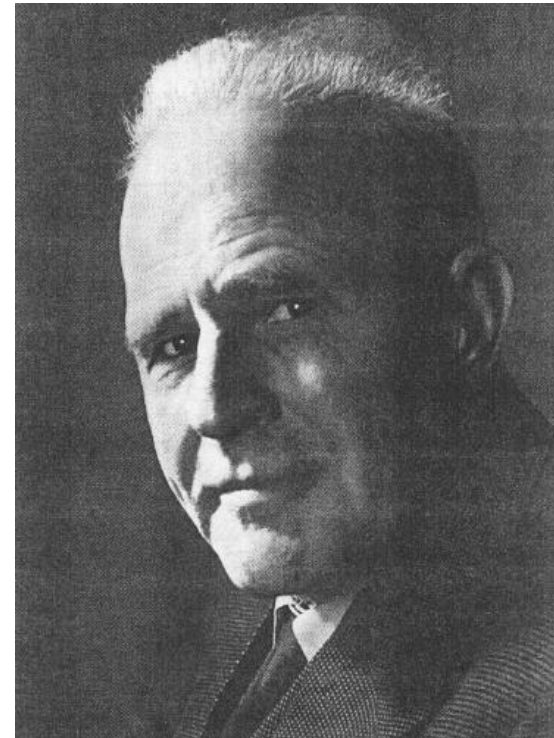


Karl Barth
1886-1968

Neorthodoxy (the “new “ orthodoxy)



Karl Barth
1886-1968



Emil Brunner
1889-1966

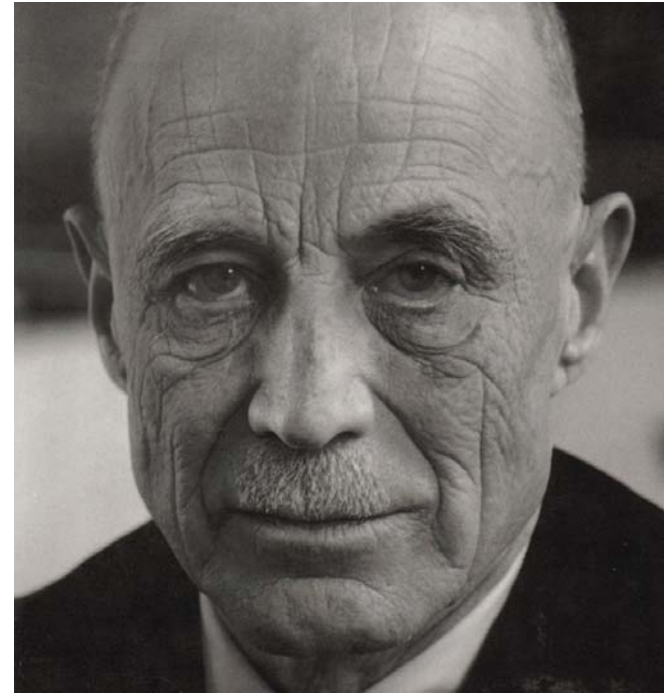
Neorthodoxy (the “new “ orthodoxy)

Neorthodoxy (the “new “ orthodoxy)



Reinhold Niebuhr
1892-1971

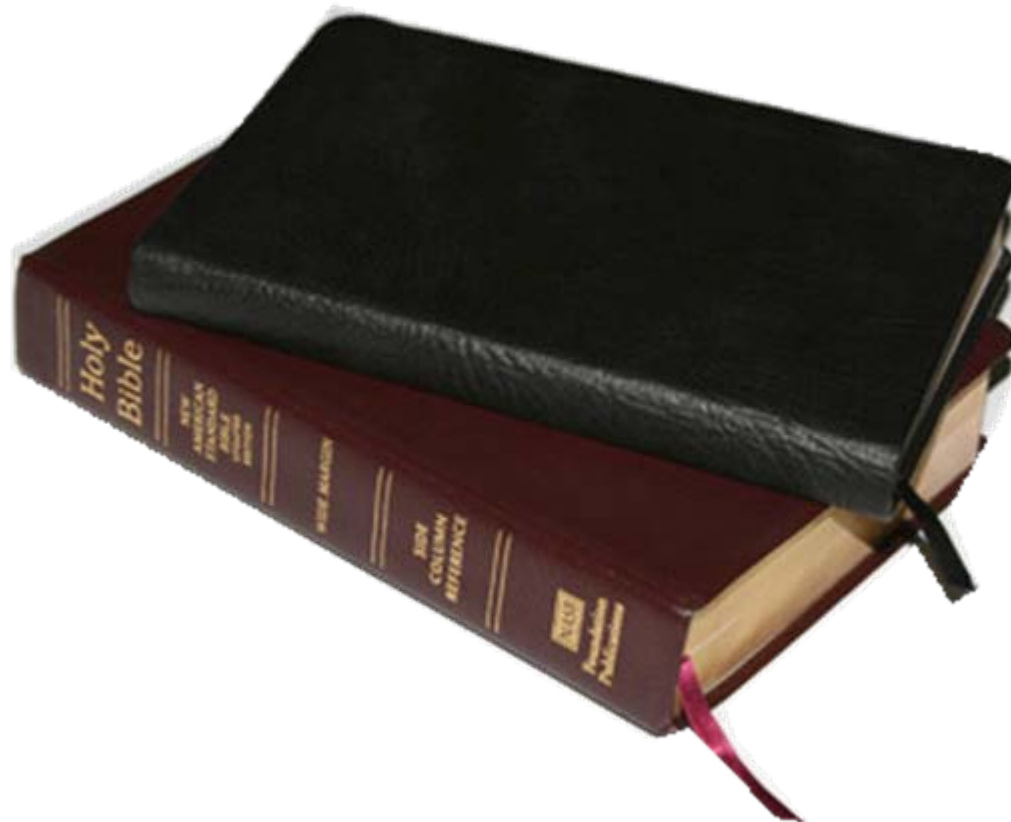
Neorthodoxy (the “new “ orthodoxy)



Reinhold Niebuhr
1892-1971

H. Richard Niebuhr
1894-1962

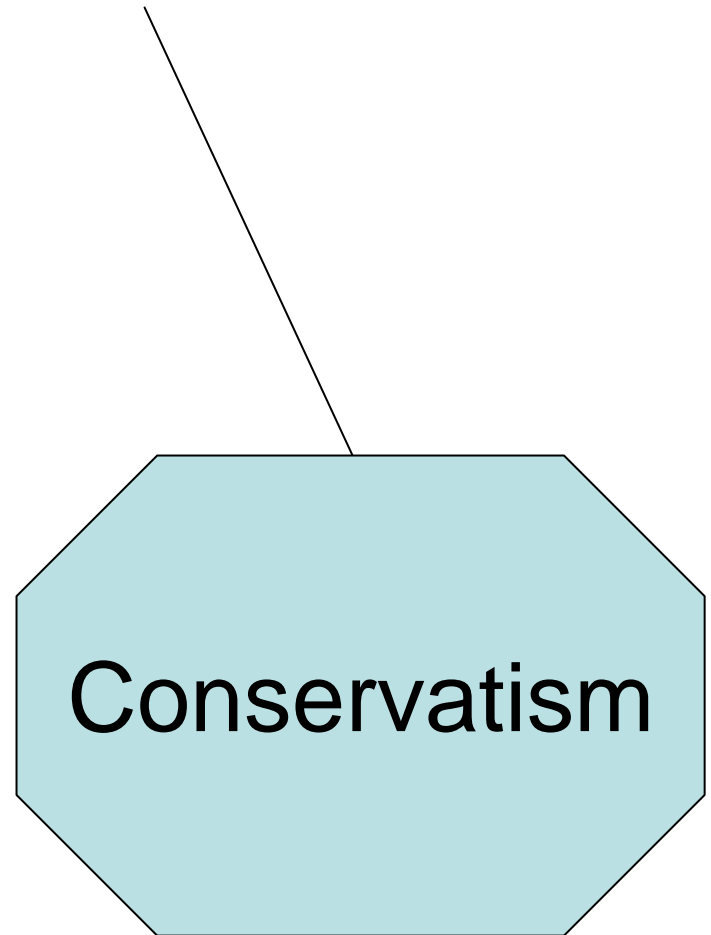
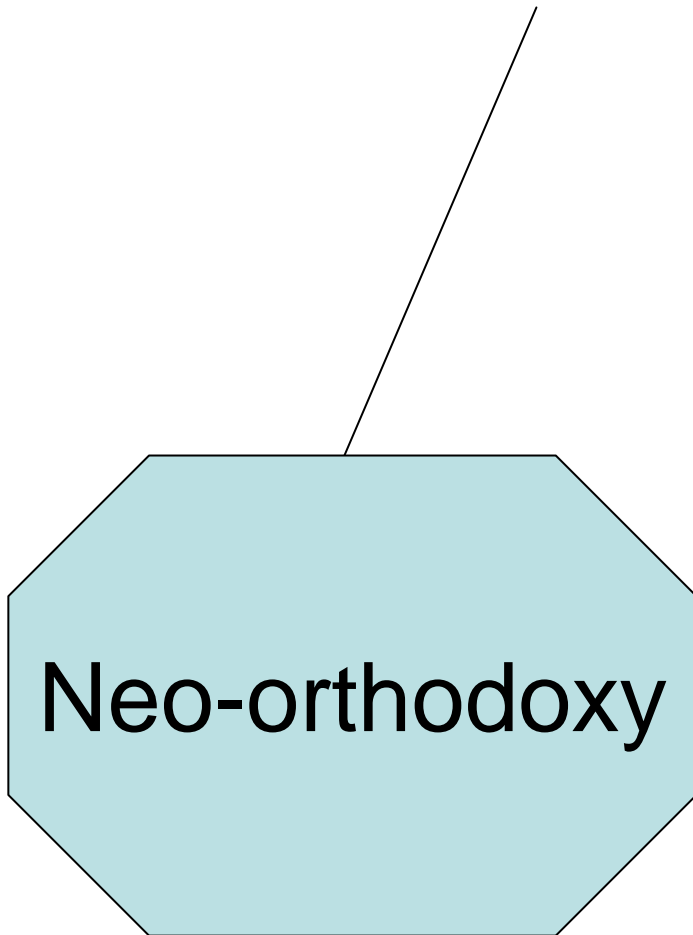
Neorthodoxy: The Word of God is the truth?



Neorthodoxy: The Word of God is the truth?

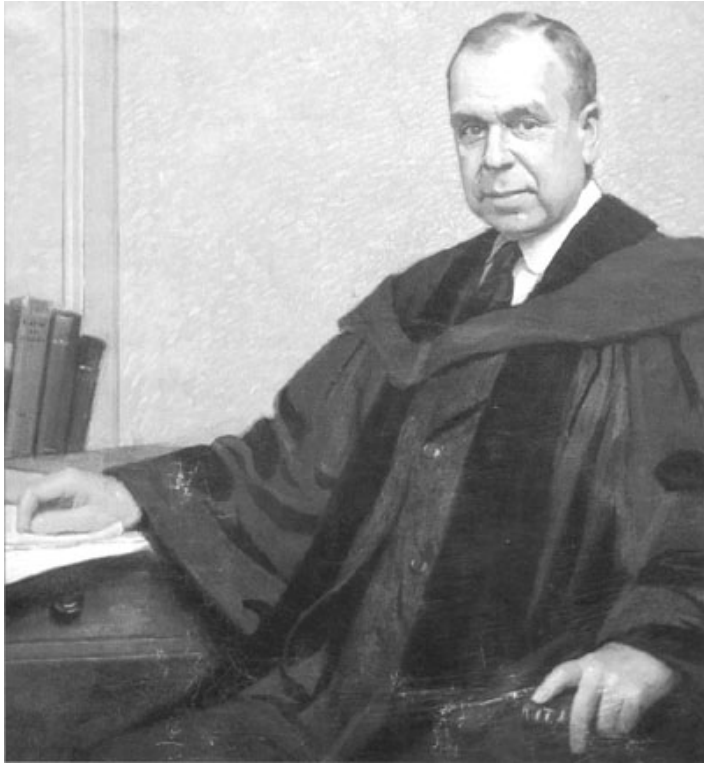


Reactions to Liberalism



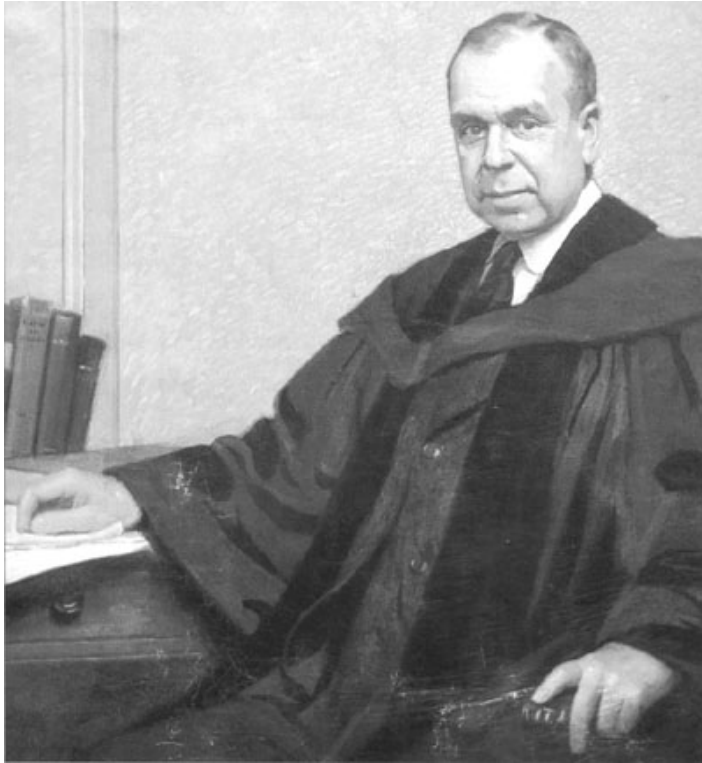
Conservatism

Conservatism



J. Gresham Machen
1881-1937

Conservatism



J. Gresham Machen
1881-1937



Francis Schaeffer
1912-1984

Points for Home

- Scripture makes bold claims for itself

Points for Home

- Scripture makes bold claims for itself

“All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim. 3:16).

Points for Home

- Scripture makes bold claims for itself

So we should study those scriptures and do our “best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who *correctly handles the word of truth.*” (2 Tim. 2:15).

Points for Home

- See snippets of truth, so vet what we hear: measure it by God's word, see the world view of the teacher, look for spiritual discernment.

Points for Home

- See snippets of truth, so vet what we hear: measure it by God's word, see the world view of the teacher, look for spiritual discernment.

“see to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.” (Col. 2:8).

Point for Home

- Watch current thought come and go, but Jesus Christ remain “the same yesterday and today and forever.”
(Heb 13:8)