

A Reasonable Faith: Christian Apologetics

Part 2

October 3, 2017

This I Believe

Our Father everlasting

The all creating One

God Almighty

Through Your Holy Spirit

Conceiving Christ the Son

Jesus our Savior

I believe in God our Father

I believe in Christ the Son

I believe in the Holy Spirit

Our God is three in One

I believe in the resurrection

That we will rise again

For I believe in the Name of Jesus

**Our judge and our defender
Suffered and crucified
Forgiveness is in You
Descended into darkness
You rose in glorious life
Forever seated high**

I believe in God our Father

I believe in Christ the Son

I believe in the Holy Spirit

Our God is three in One

I believe in the resurrection

That we will rise again

For I believe in the Name of Jesus

I believe in You

I believe You rose again

I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord

I believe in You

I believe You rose again

I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord

**I believe in life eternal
I believe in the virgin birth
I believe in the saints' communion
And in Your holy Church
I believe in the resurrection
When Jesus comes again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus**

I believe in God our Father

I believe in Christ the Son

I believe in the Holy Spirit

Our God is three in One

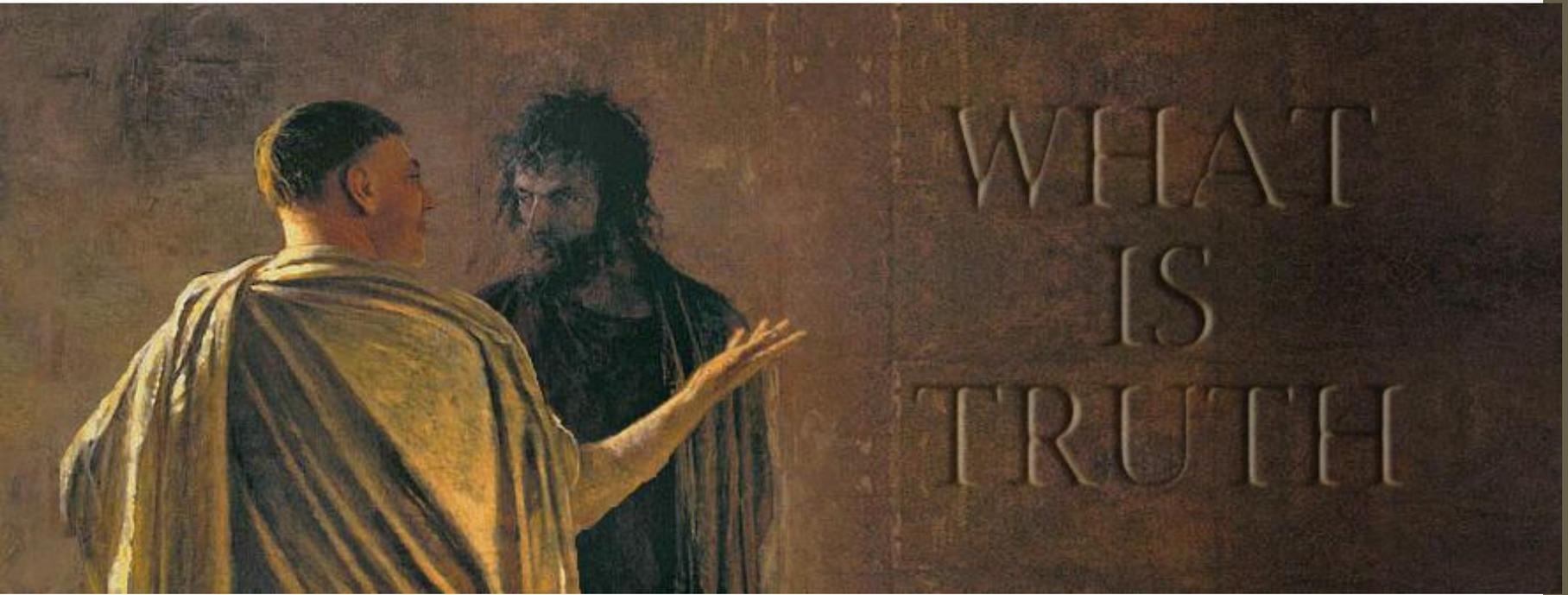
I believe in the resurrection

That we will rise again

For I believe in the Name of Jesus

For I believe in the Name of Jesus

For I believe in the Name of Jesus



John 18:33-36

³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

³⁴ “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

³⁵ “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

³⁶ Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

John 18:37-38

³⁷ “You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

³⁸ “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him.

Review from Session 1

- The Mission Field Today
 - Post-Christian
 - Modern
 - Postmodern
- The purpose of Christian apologetics



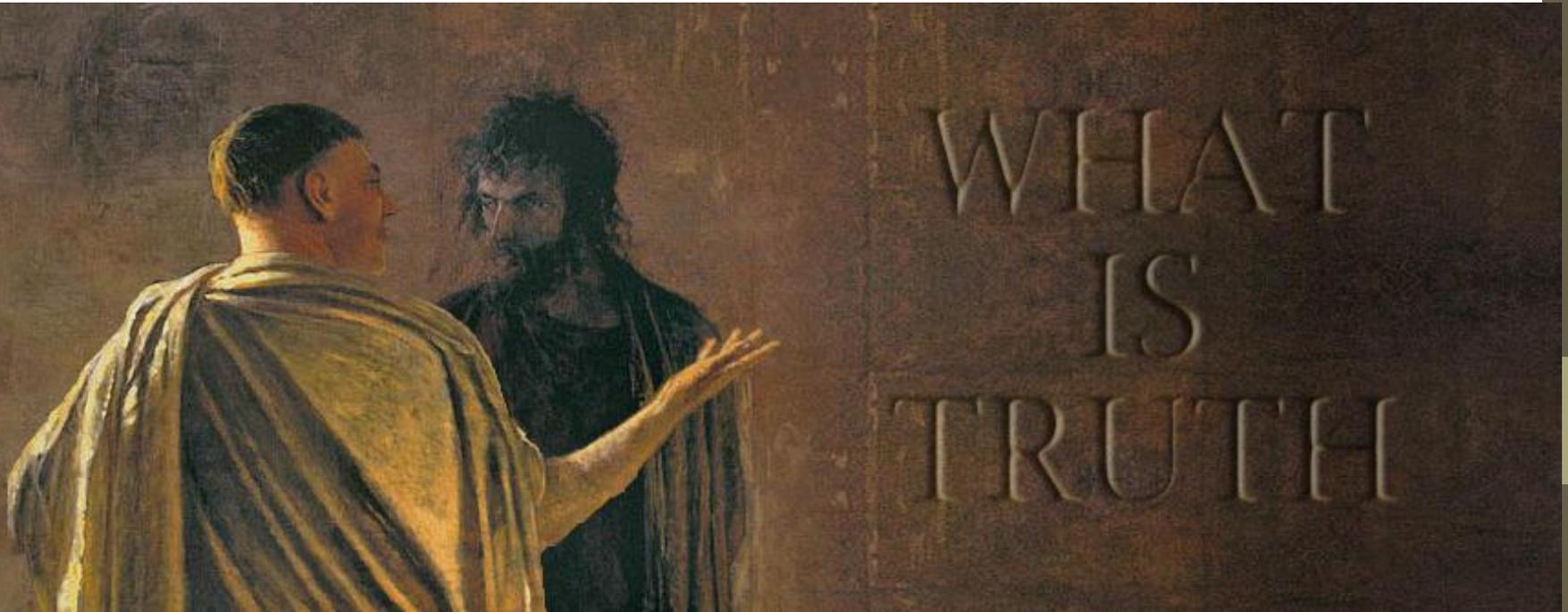
Review from Session 1

- The most important apologetic evidence:
 - The behavior of Christians
- How then should we live:
 - Humble Servants
- Discipleship
- And always: Pray!



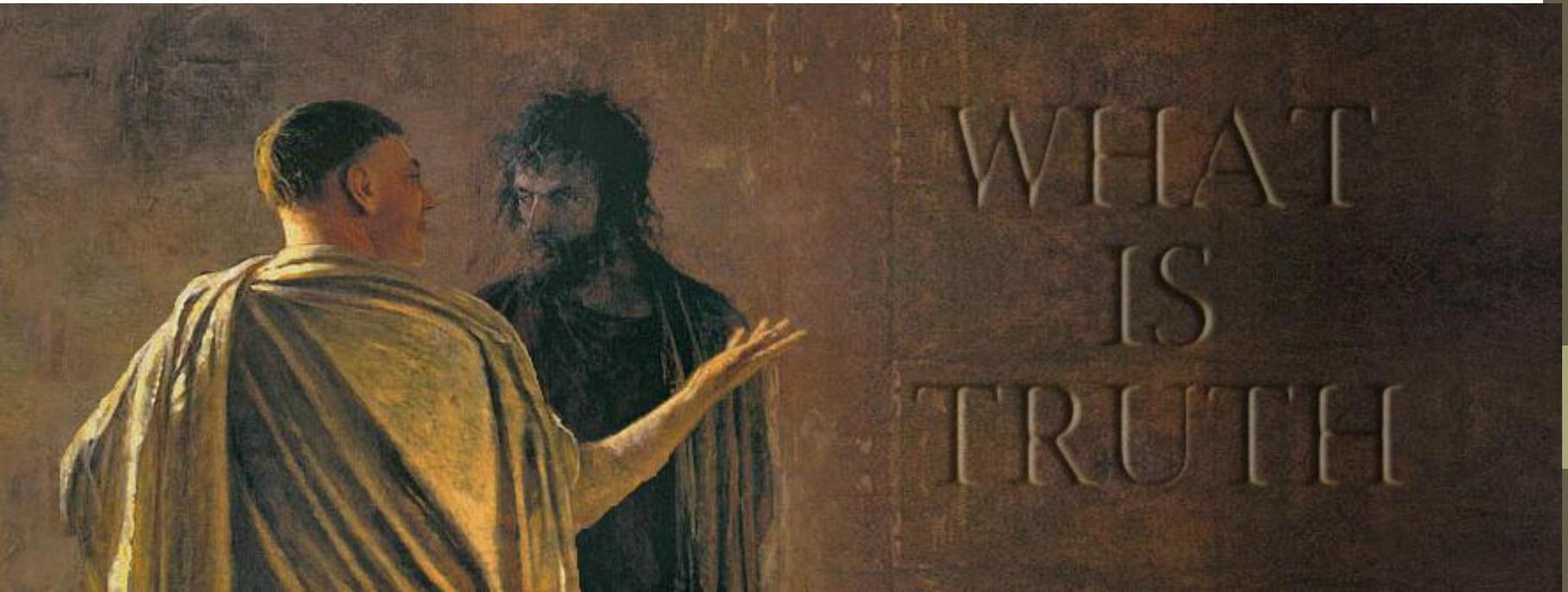
Metanarrative and Truth

“Metanarrative” is an overarching story or storyline that gives context, meaning, and purpose to all of life.



The Christian Metanarrative

- Creation
- Fall
- Redemption
- New Creation



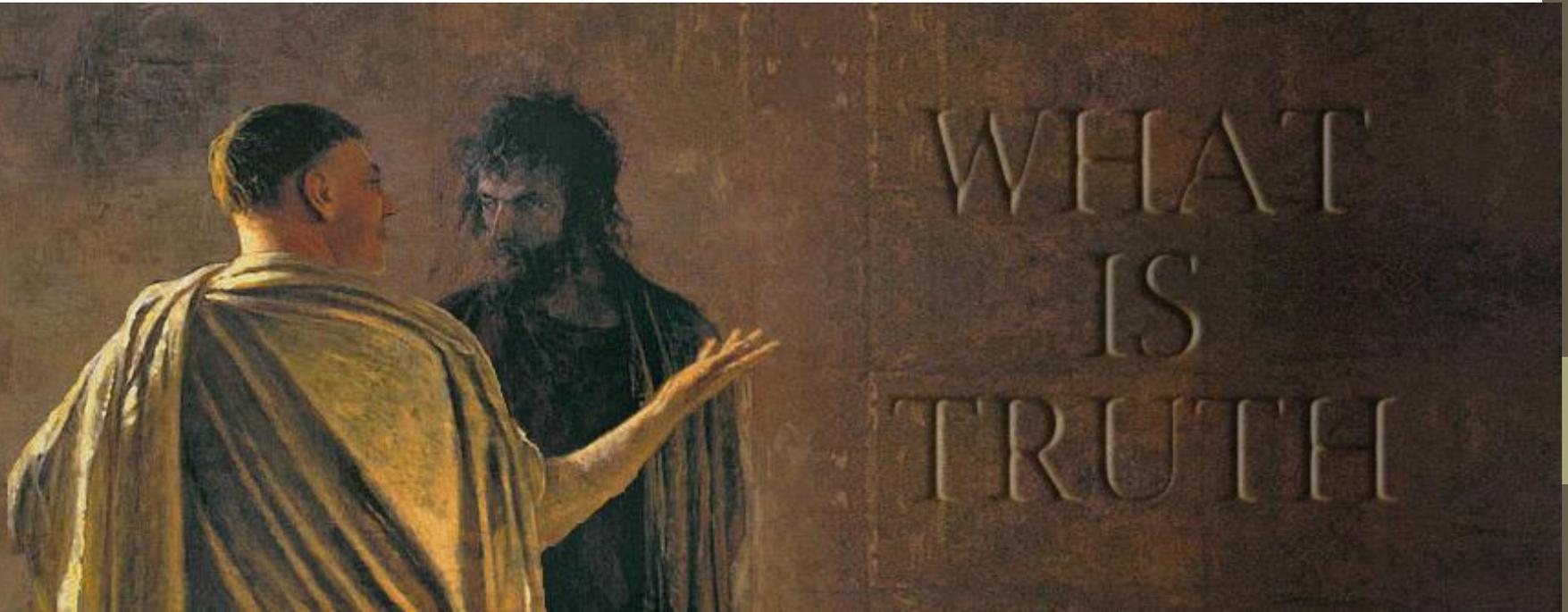
The Metanarrative of Modernity

- Two key elements: Reason and Progress
- A metanarrative without a metanarrator.



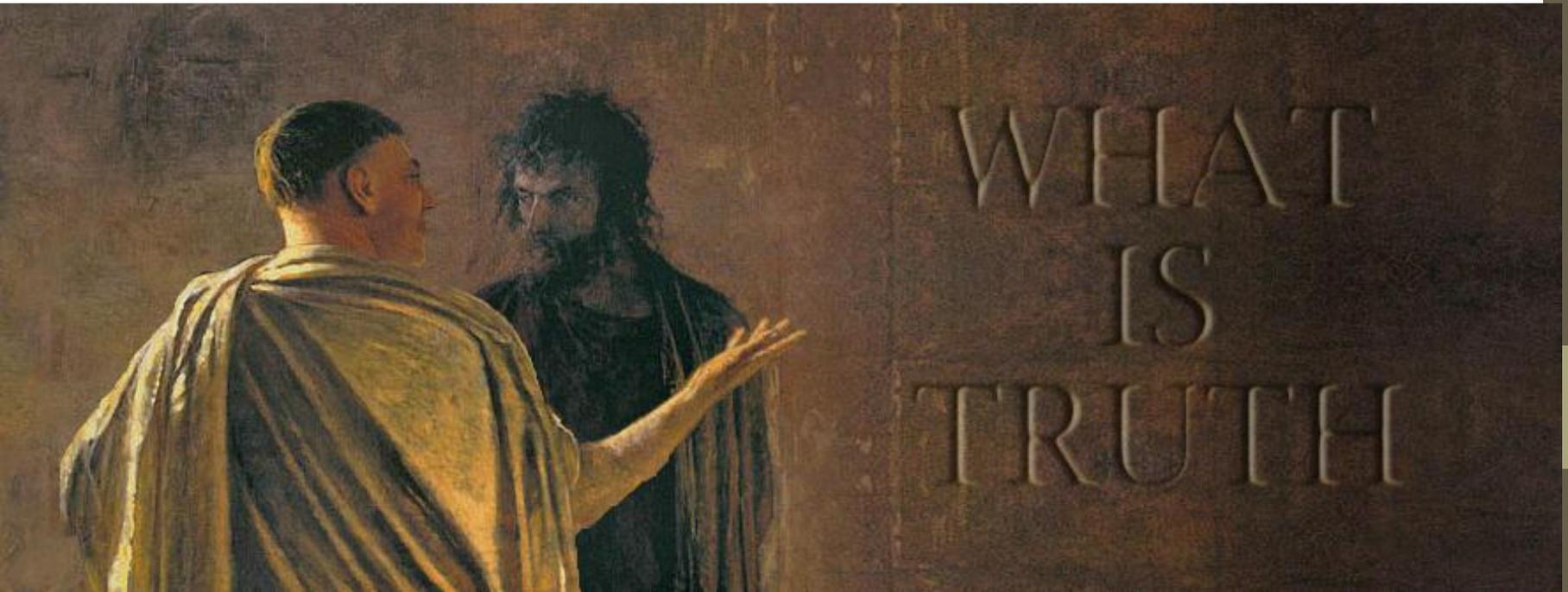
Postmodernism

- There is no metanarrative
- There is no metanarrator
- There is only your narrative
- Truth and metanarratives are really about power.



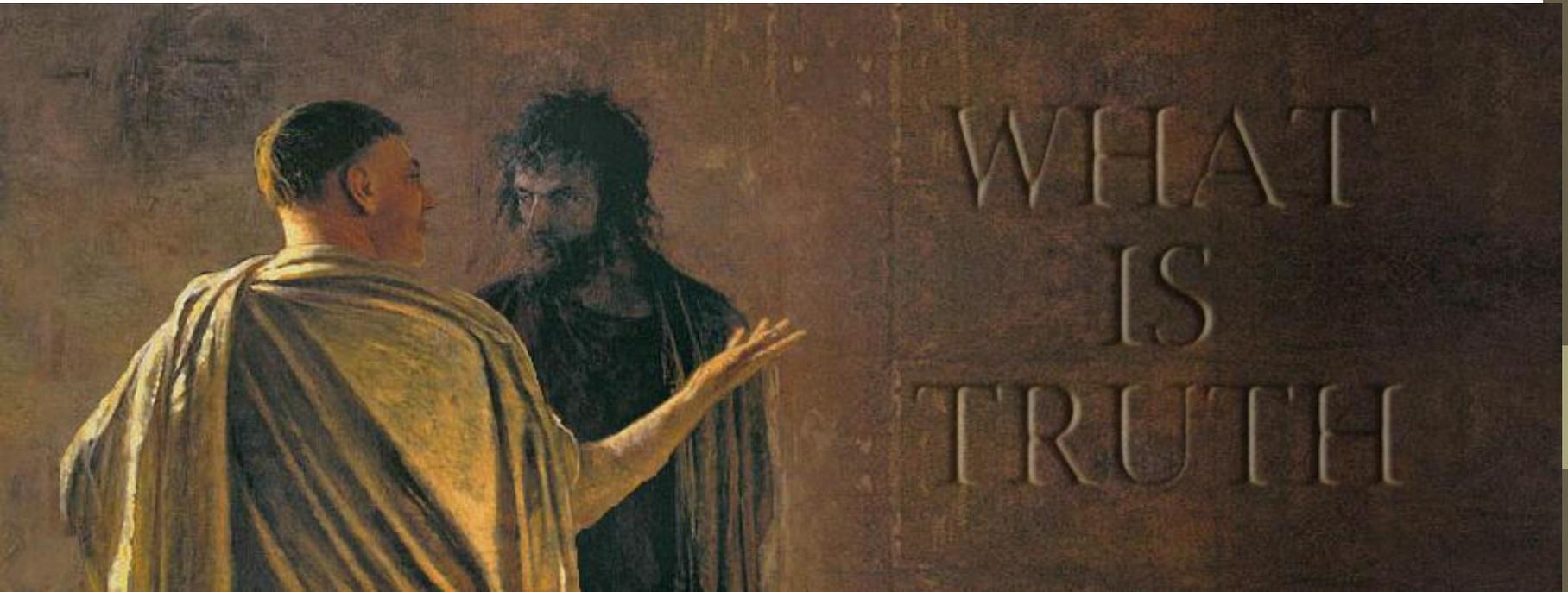
Metanarrative and Truth

- “If I gave you proof for what I believe, would you believe it?”



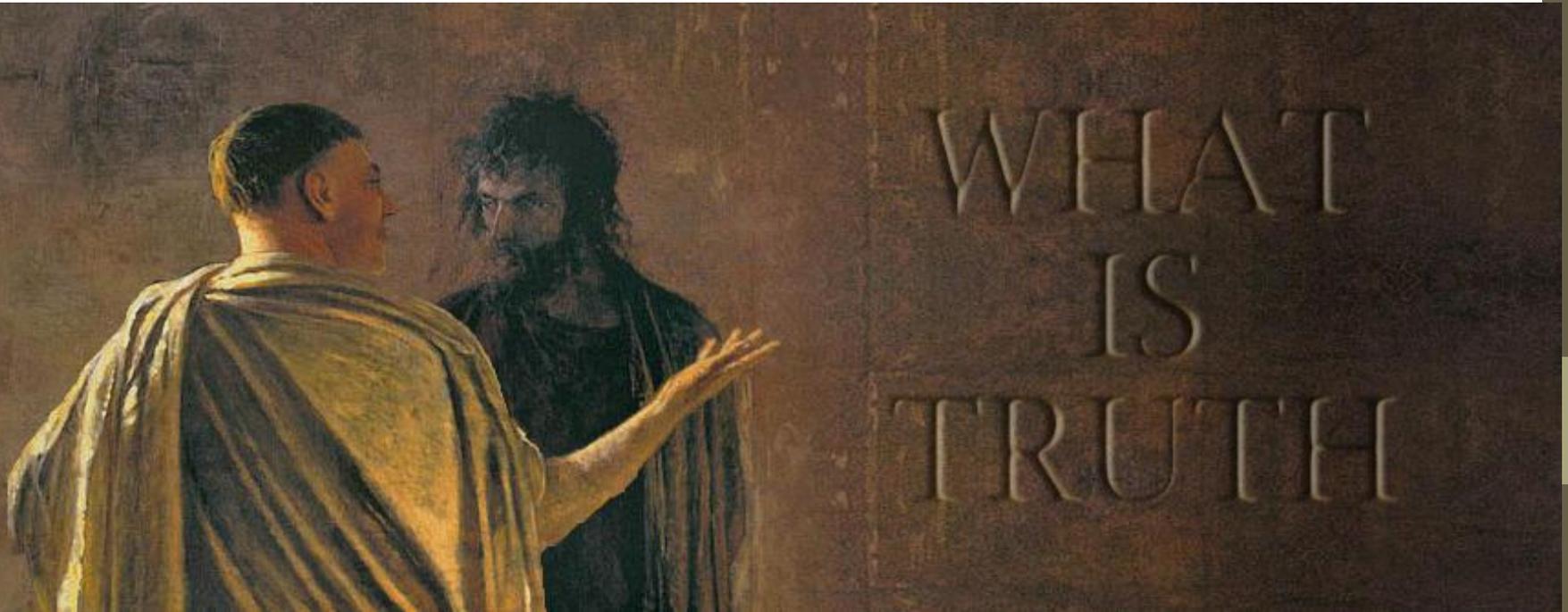
Metanarrative and Truth

- A biological male identifies as female



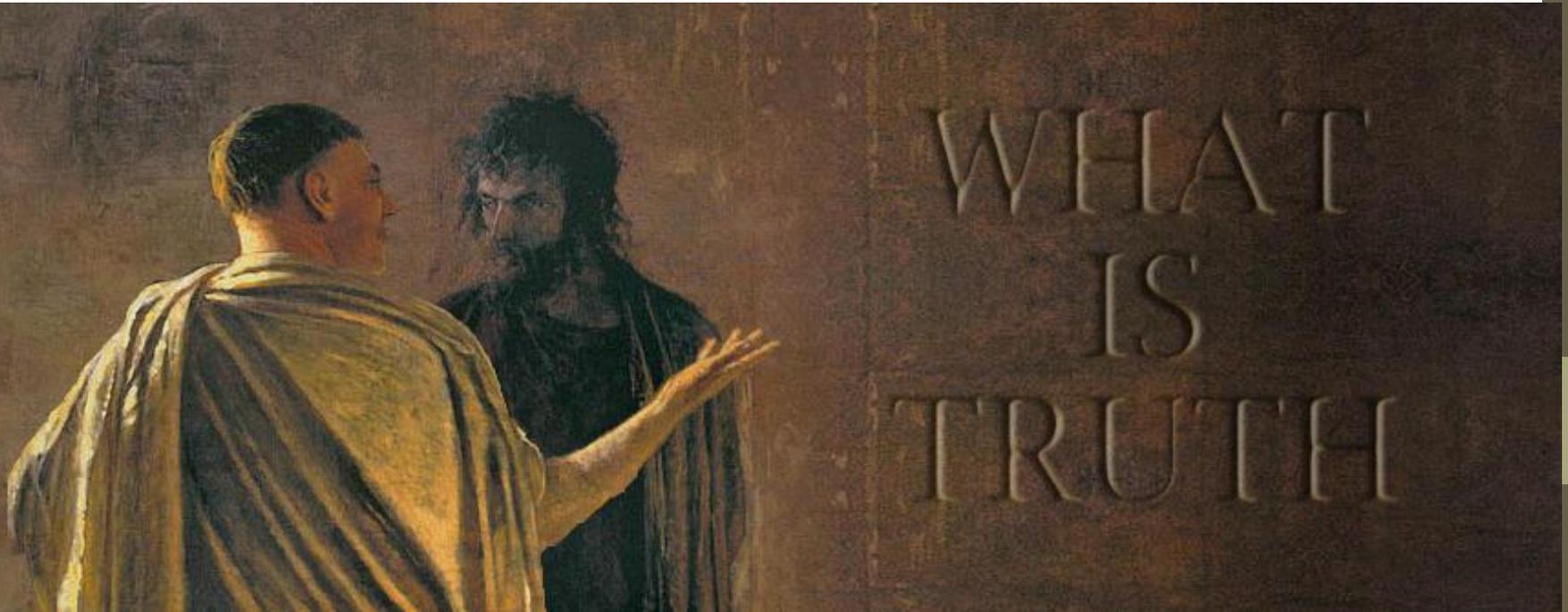
Metanarrative and Truth

- Star Trek
 - Spock
 - Data



Metanarrative and Truth

- Star Trek
 - Spock: Modern
 - Data: Postmodern



Metanarrative and Truth

- There are positive and negative features to all cultures and worldviews.
- All worldviews and cultures give expression to these two things:
 - Make in the image of God
 - Fallen Humanity



Metanarrative and Truth

- What is positive in modernism?
- What is positive in postmodernism?



Metanarrative and Truth

Both modernism and postmodernism deny a metanarrator, so presenting the case for the existence of God is critical. But the objections may be different.



Metanarrative and Truth

- Most people are a mixture of philosophies
- Most people have not examined why they believe what they believe.
- Postmodern teaching:
 - Media
 - Universities
 - (especially non-Christian)



The Approach: Asking Questions

- Seek to understand before being understood
- Seek to find out what people believe
- Ask questions to encourage them to critically articulate why they believe it.



Things To Listen For

- Logical Inconsistencies



Logical Inconsistencies



“There is no such thing as absolute truth.”

Logical Inconsistencies



“We should only believe things that can be proven empirically.”

Logical Inconsistencies



“All you need is to love one another. All the problems happen when we start asserting doctrine as true.”

Things To Listen For



- Logical Inconsistencies

- *What is the inconsistency in these statements?*
- *What questions can be asked to invite critical reflection?*

Things To Listen For



- Logical Inconsistencies
- Philosophy presented as science

Philosophy Presented as Science



“There is nothing
beyond the physical
natural world”

Philosophy Presented as Science



“No supernatural
cause for any natural
phenomenon is
possible.”

Philosophy Presented as Science



“The laws of science
are unchanging and
constant.”

Things To Listen For



- Logical Inconsistencies
- Philosophy presented as science

What questions can be asked to invite critical reflection?

Things To Listen For



- Logical Inconsistencies
- Philosophy presented as science
- Trying to prove the unprovable

Trying to prove the unprovable



- The existence of God
- The origin of species
- Evolution applied to morality, ethics, sociology, and more

Things To Listen For



- Logical Inconsistencies
- Philosophy presented as science
- Trying to prove the unprovable

What questions can be asked to invite critical reflection?

Next Session: The Evidence for Theism

- Cosmological Evidence
- Design Evidence
- Moral Evidence
- The Evidence of Beauty and Art



Homework

- Look for evidence of modern/postmodern thinking on Television shows and movies
- Scripture Memorization
 - Psalm 25:4-5
 - John 8:31-32
- Passages to Study
 - John 8:12-59
 - Genesis 1-3
 - John 1



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