

# 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.

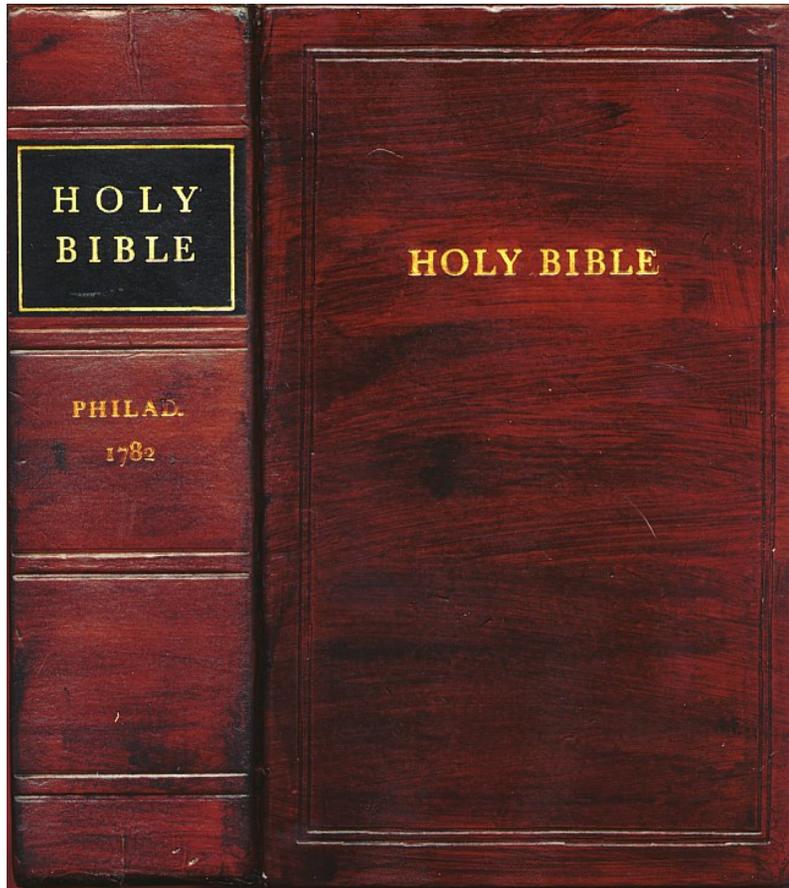
Who/What decides truth?





Catholic view:

The Church  
establishes truth



Reformation view:

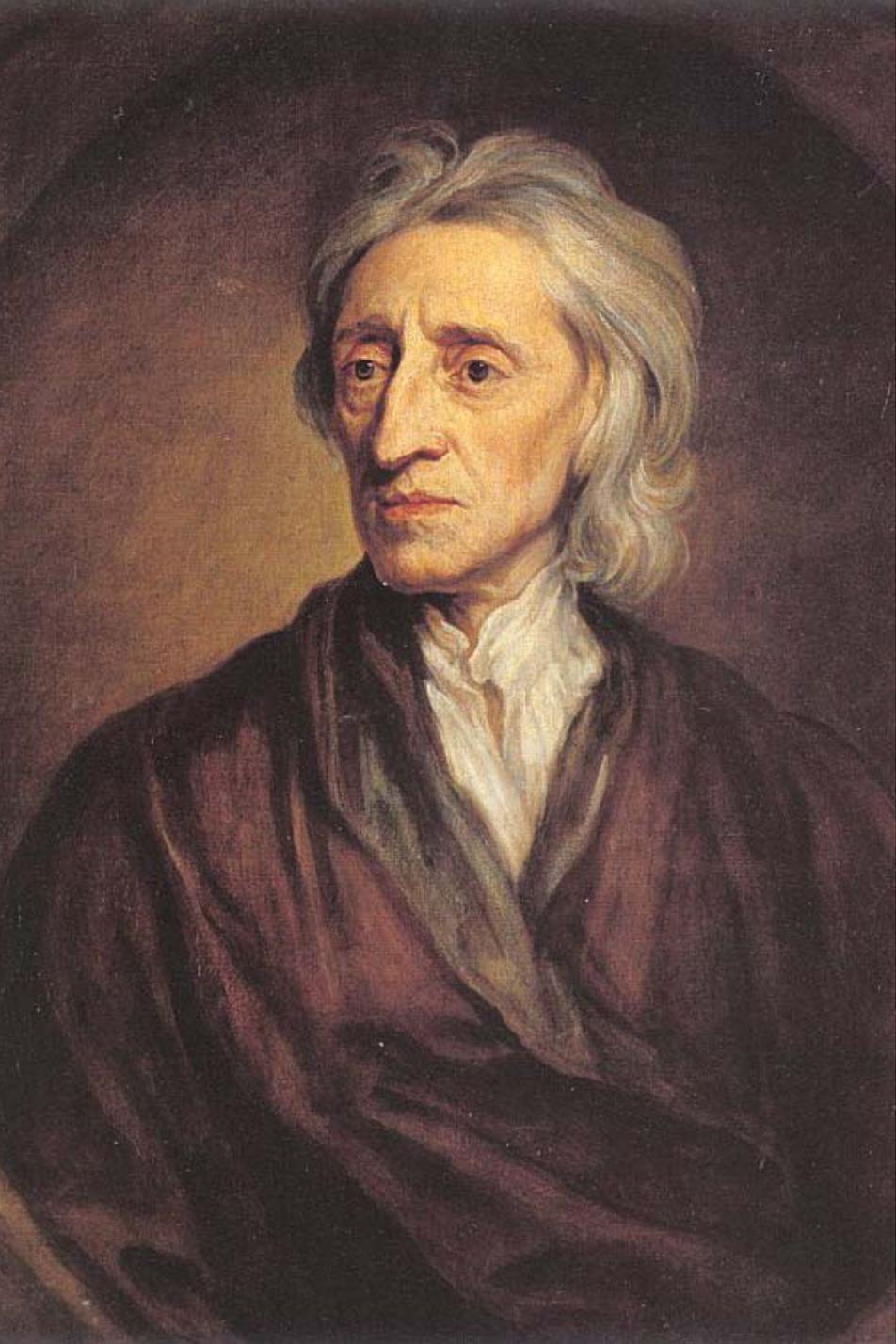
Scripture alone  
establishes truth,  
which is confirmed  
by the Holy Spirit

# Enter: Modern Man

$$2 + 2 = 4$$

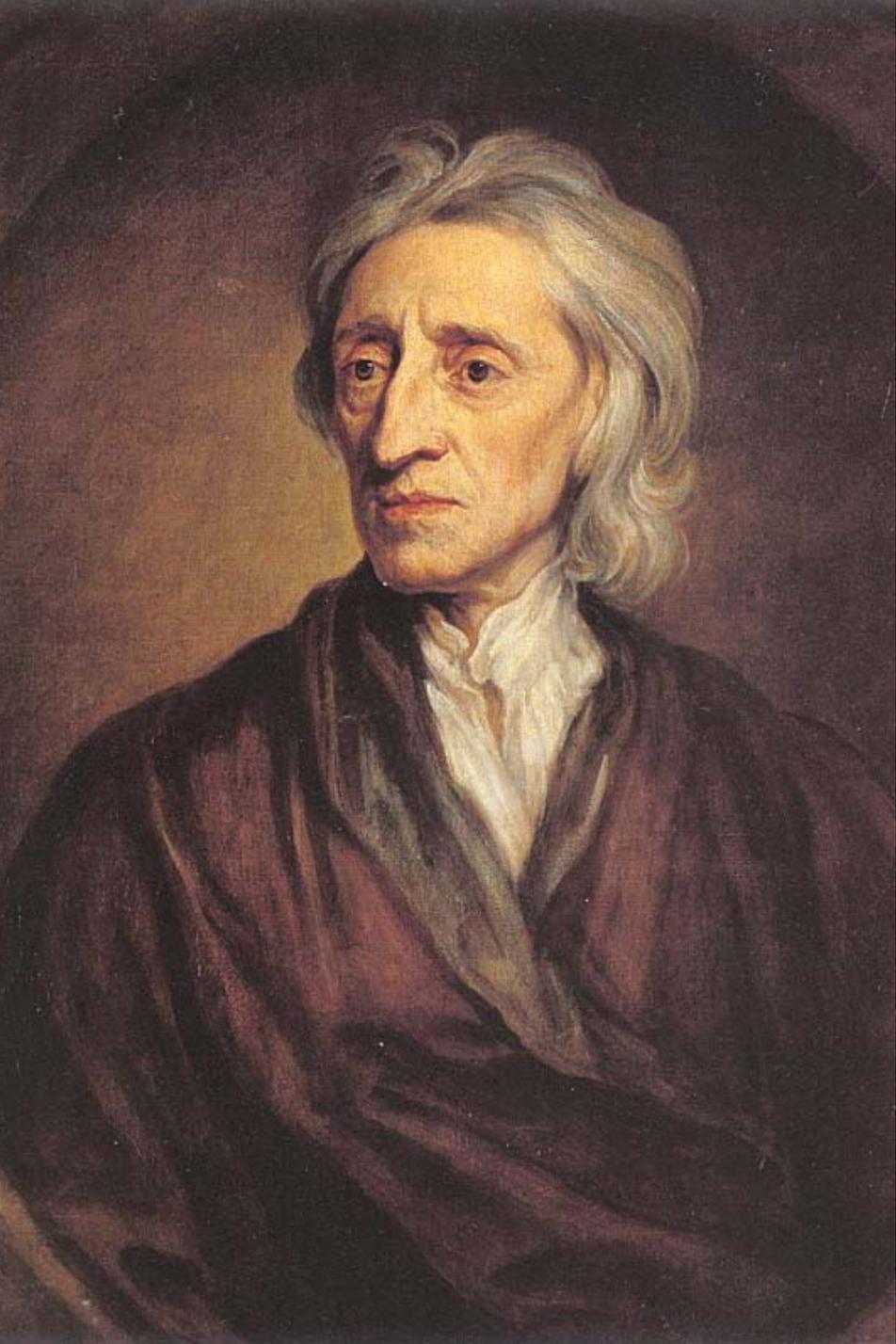
The  
Enlightenment:

Reason alone  
establishes truth

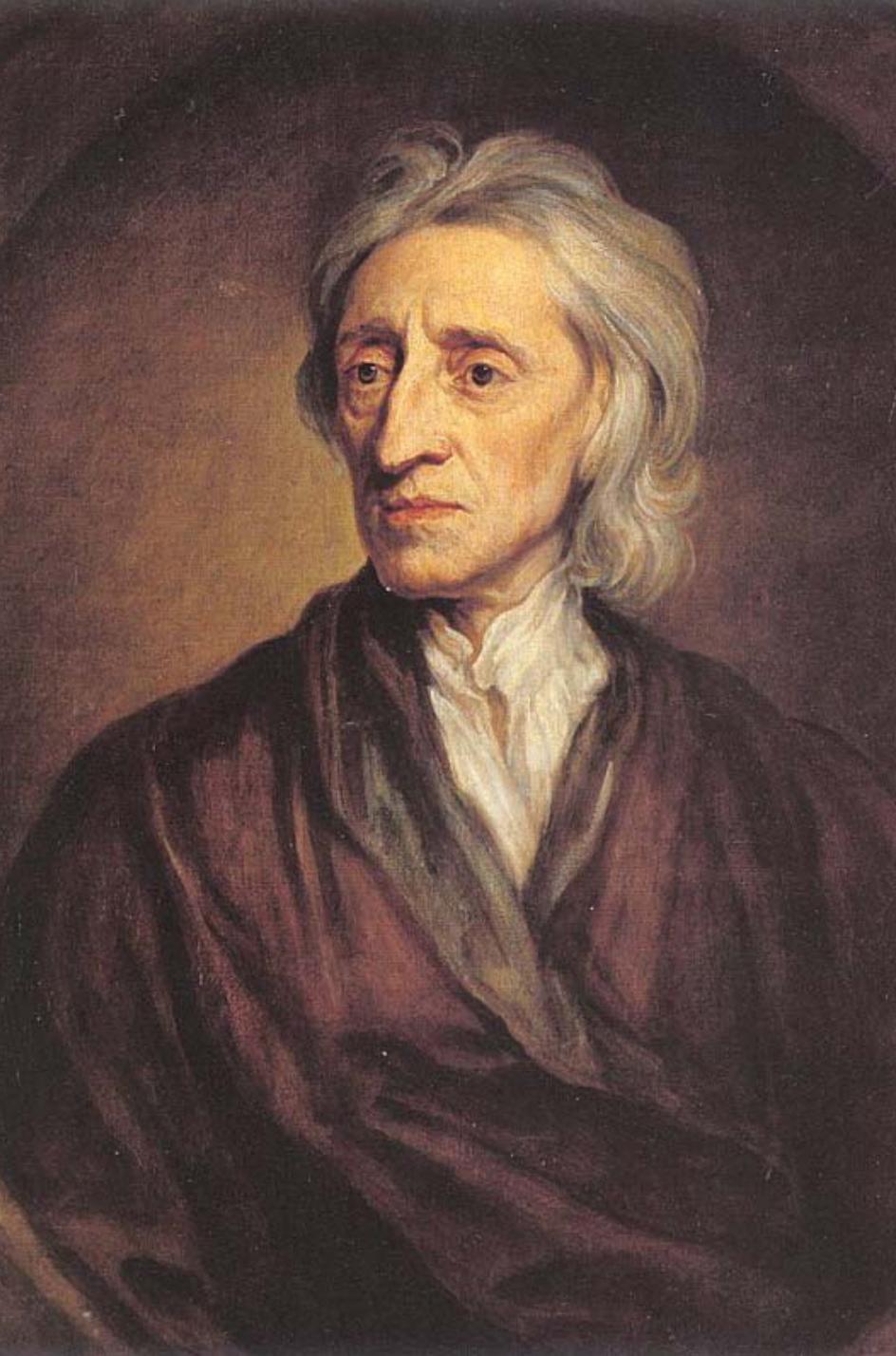


John Locke  
(1632-1704)

*The  
Reasonableness  
of Christianity  
(1695)*

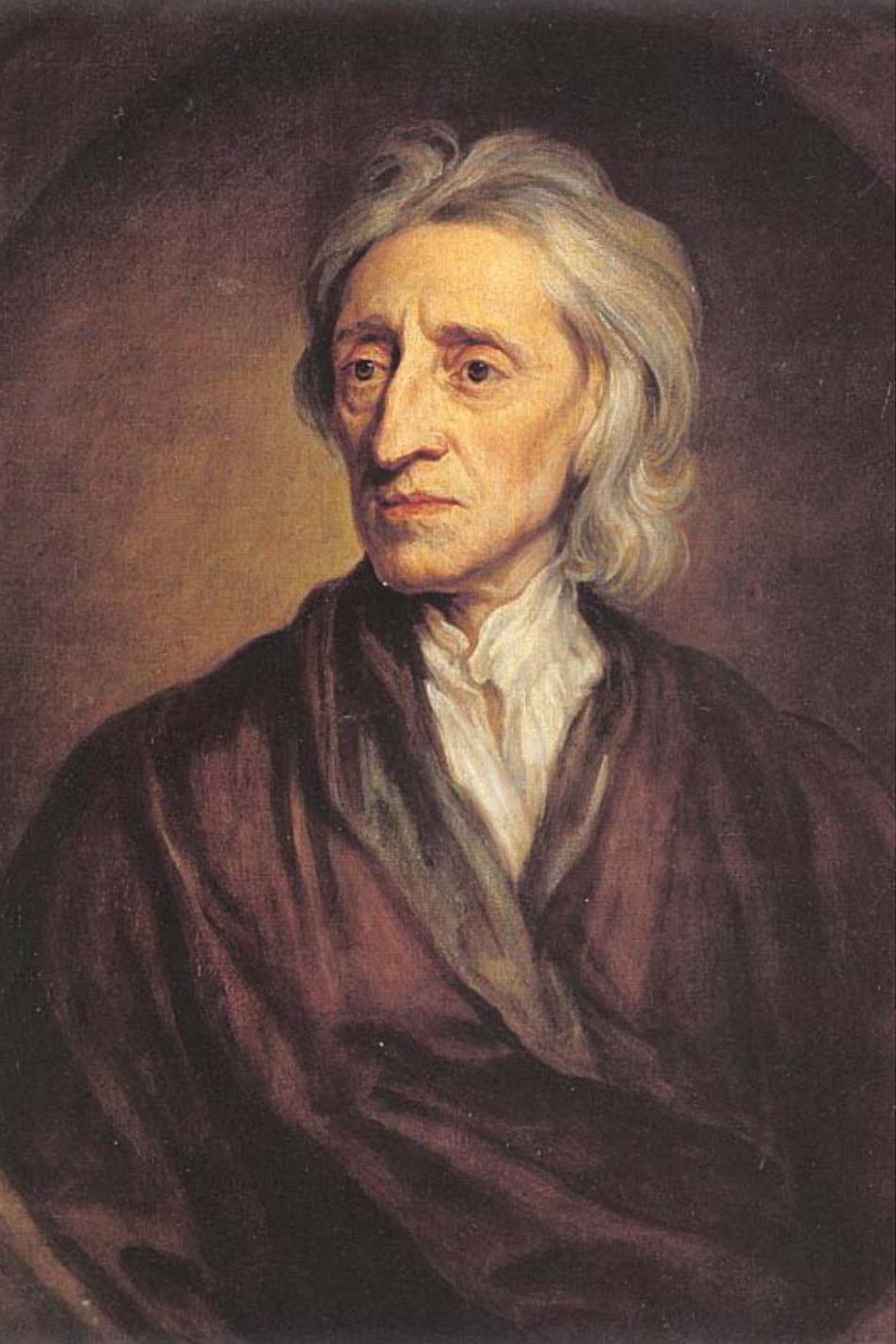


For Aquinas,  
reason was a  
tool in the hands  
of faith



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.



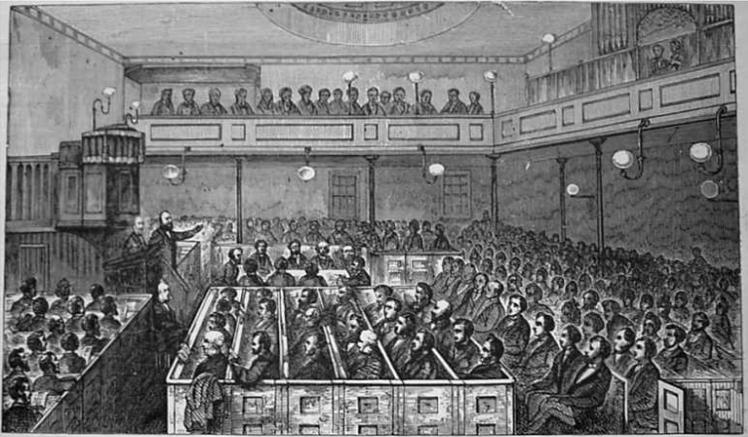
A glowing orange sphere, possibly representing a planet or a celestial body, is shown against a black background. A bright white ring or arc of light encircles the sphere, creating a halo effect. The sphere's surface has a textured, fiery appearance with variations in orange and yellow tones.

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

This appeals to the  
“Enlightened sheep”



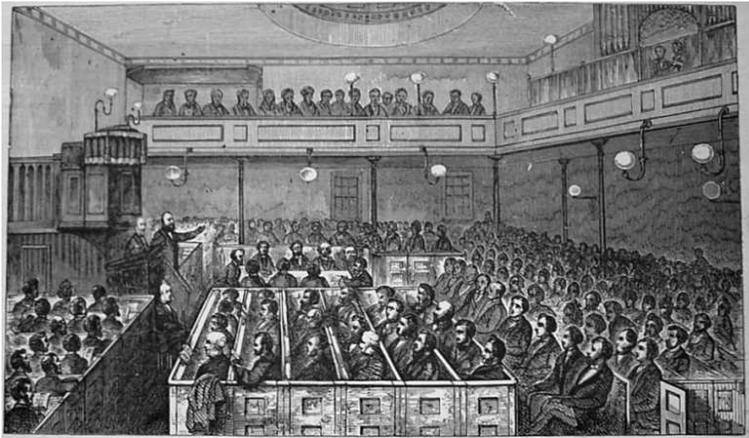
A number  
unite on such  
rational  
thoughts that  
supersede  
Christianity



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.

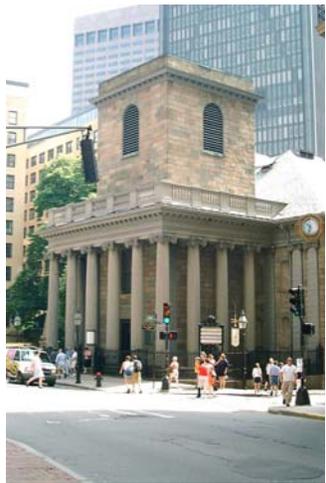
A number  
unite on such  
rational  
thoughts that  
supersede  
Christianity

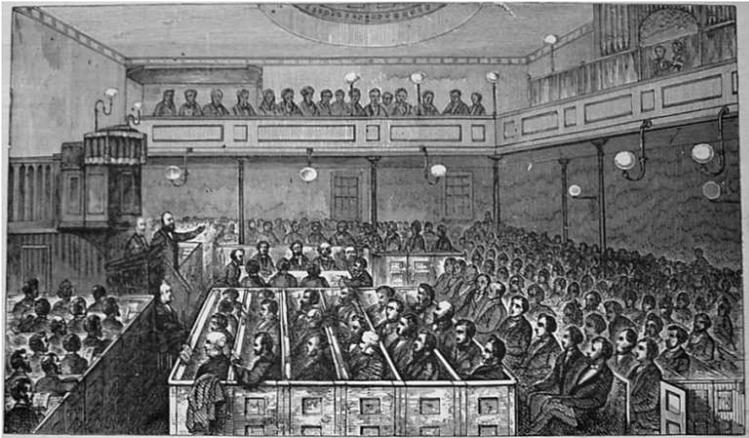


Interior of ESSEX STREET Unitarian Chapel (London).

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

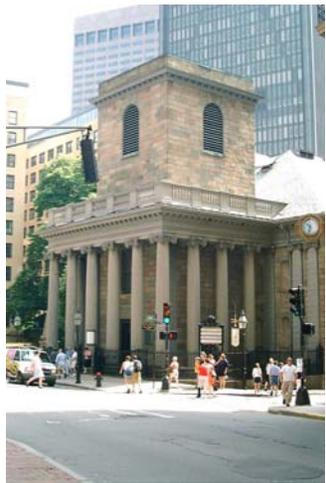




Interior of ESSEX STREET Unitarian Chapel (London).

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

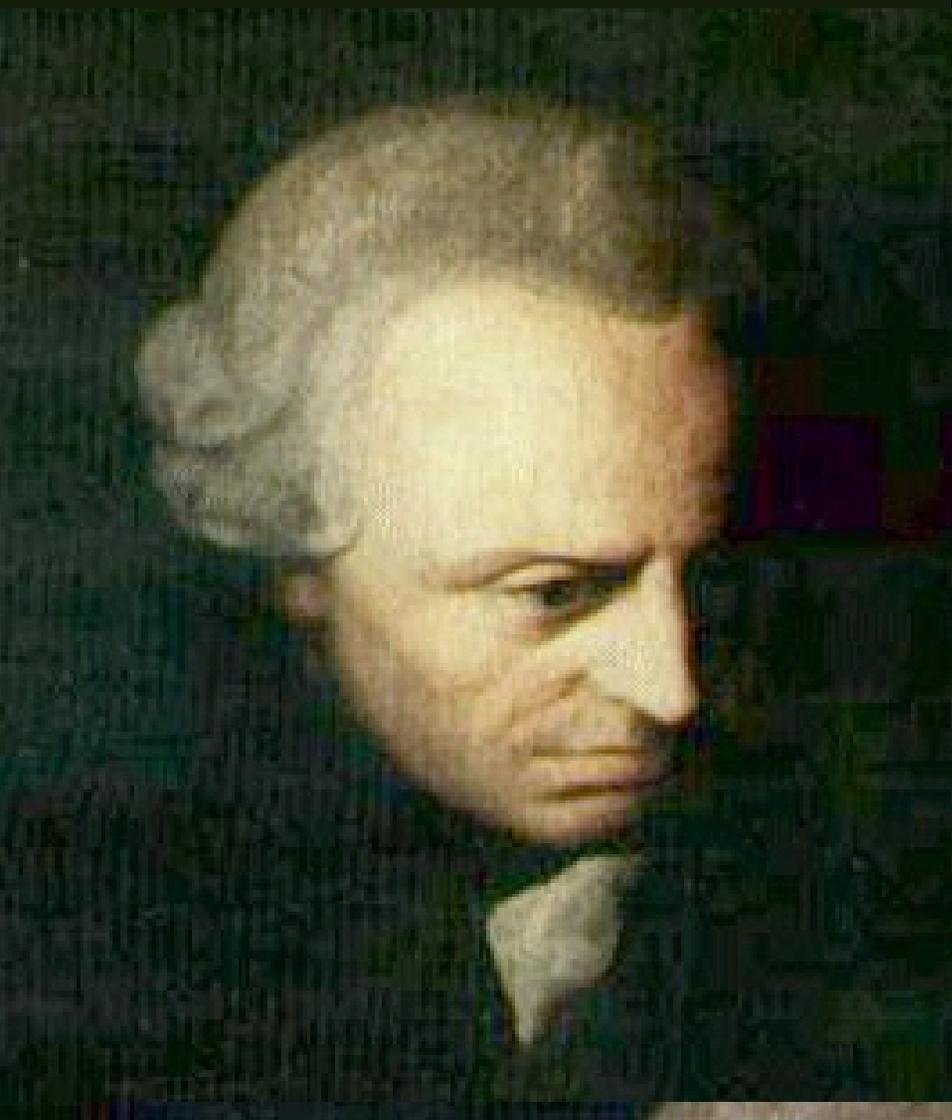




Immanuel  
Kant  
(1724-1804)



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

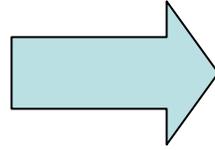


# Friedrich Schleiermacher (1768-1834)

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

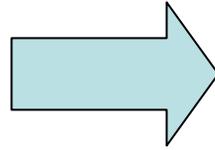
# Science and the world

Science and  
the world



Rationality

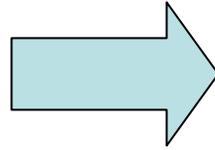
Science and  
the world



Rationality



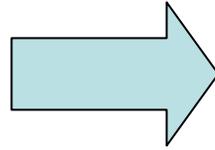
Science and  
the world



Rationality



Science and  
the world

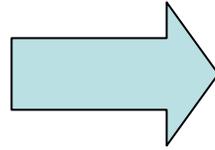


Rationality

---

Faith and  
religion

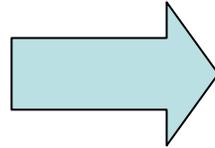
Science and  
the world



Rationality

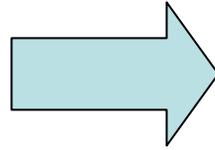
---

Faith and  
religion



Intuitive  
experience

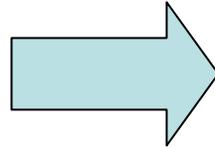
Science and  
the world



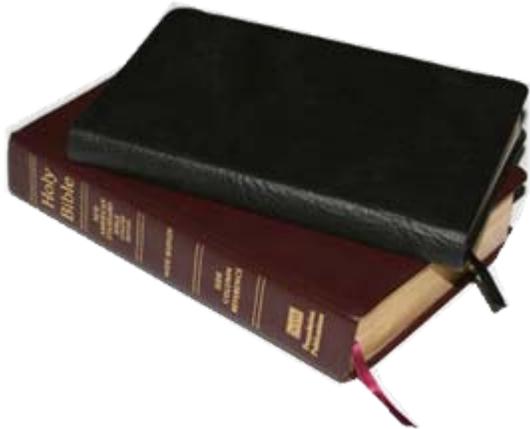
Rationality

---

Faith and  
religion



Intuitive  
experience

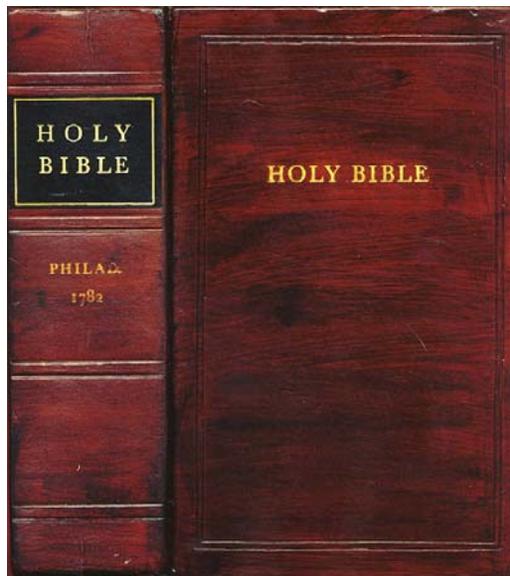


Who decides truth?

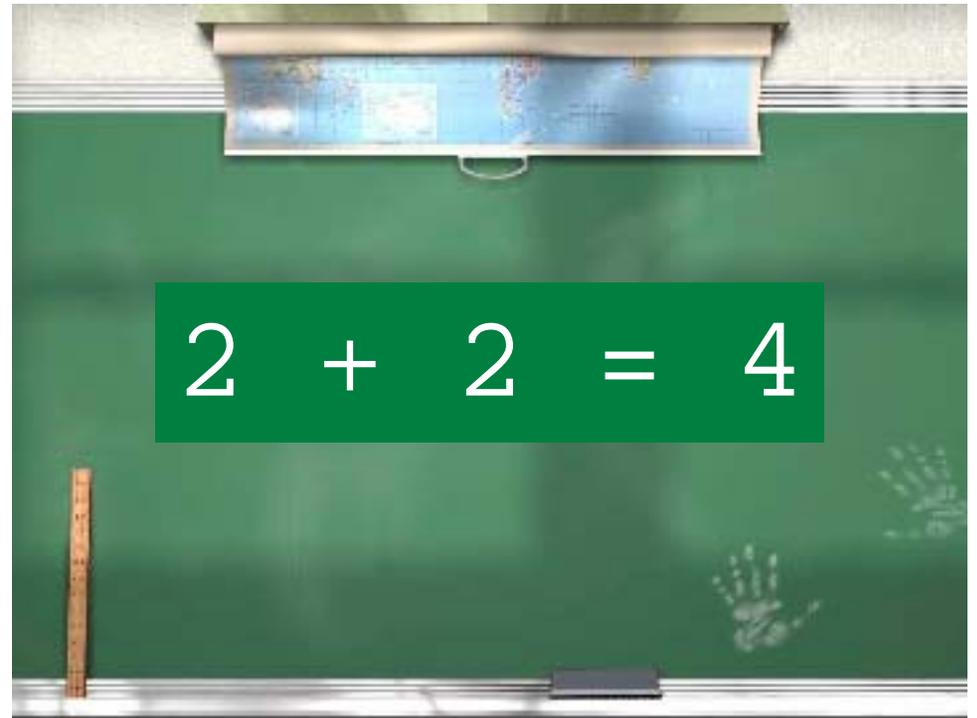
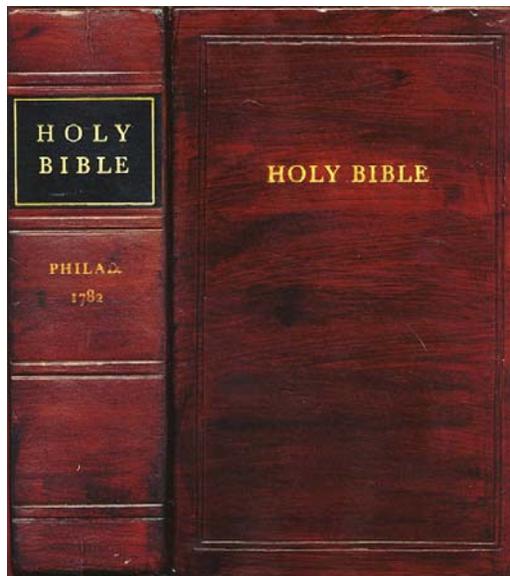
# Who decides truth?



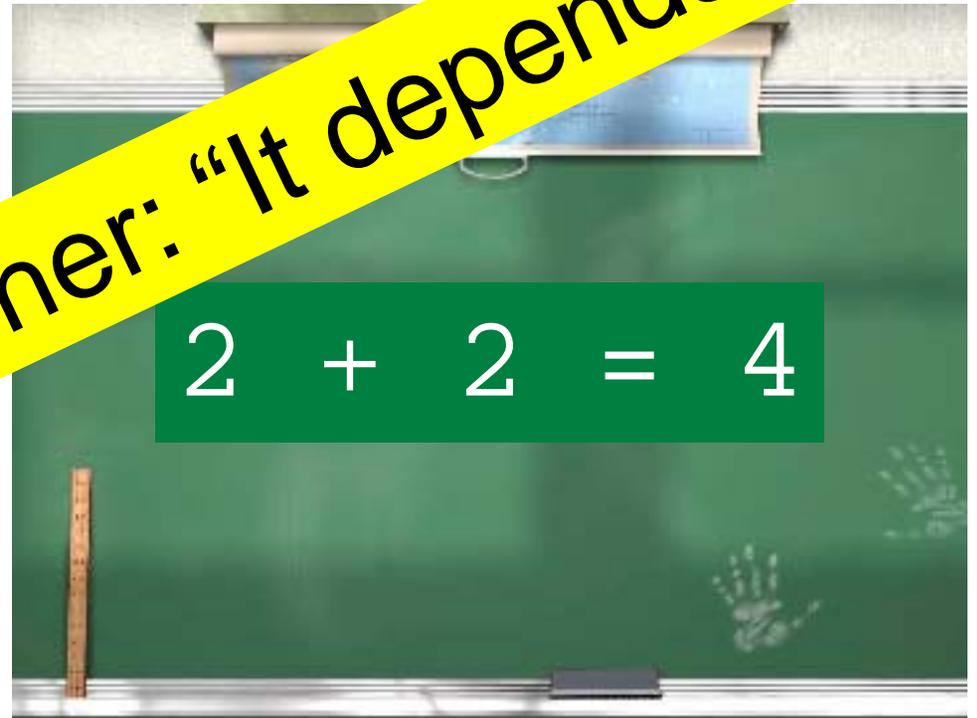
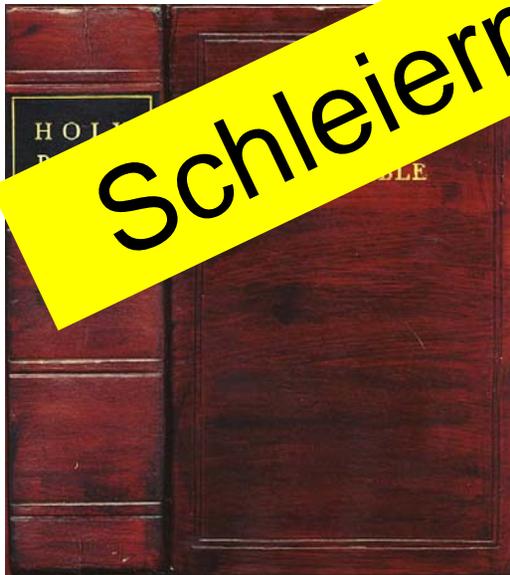
# Who decides truth?



# Who decides truth?

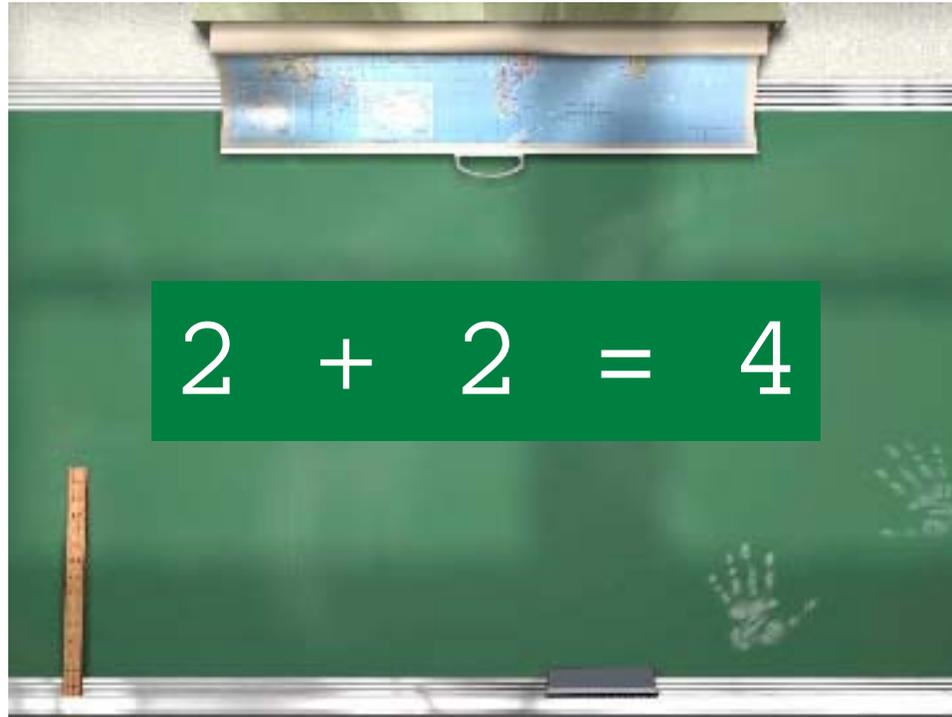


# Who decides truth?



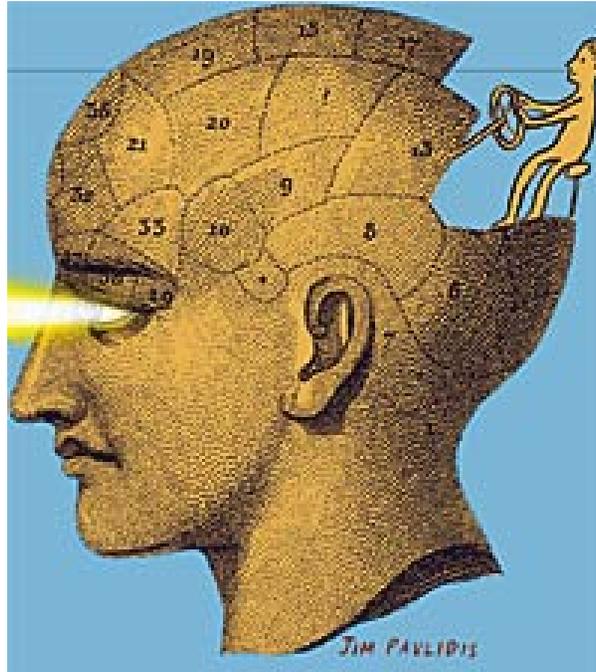
Schleiermacher: "It depends!"

# Scientific real world truth?



Reason

# Religious Truth?



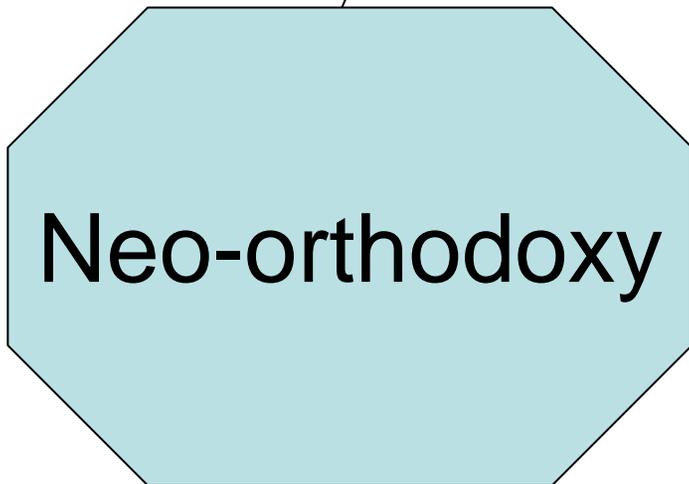
Intuitive Experience



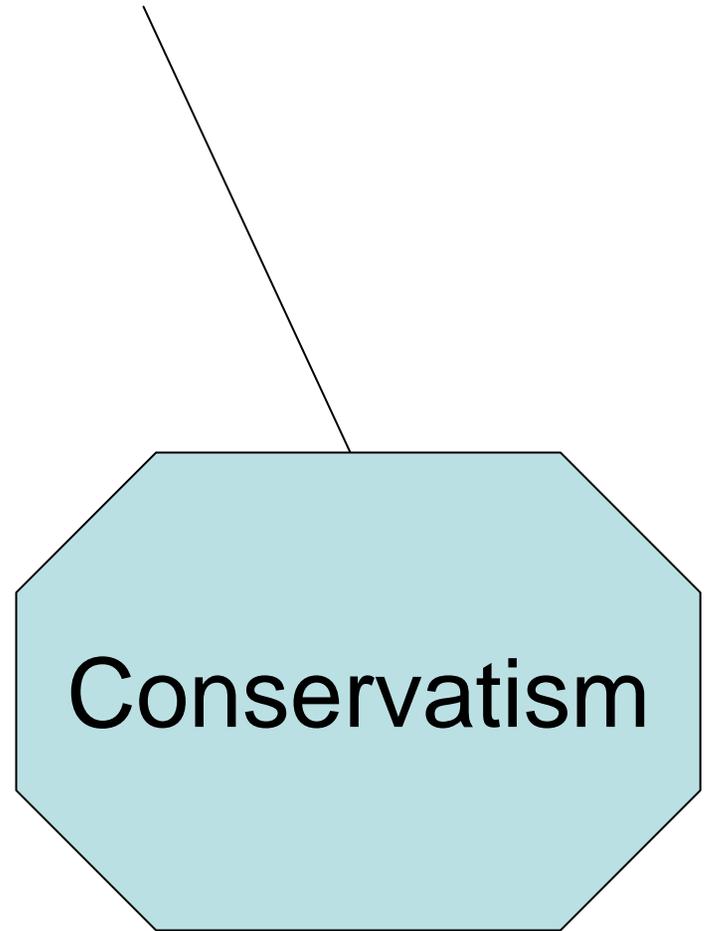
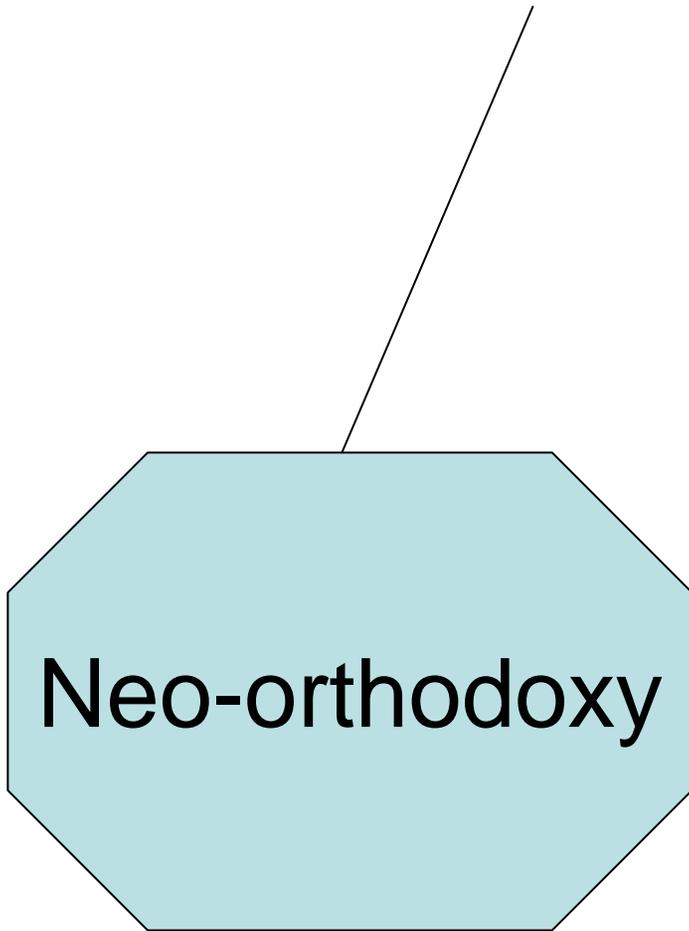
When you do  
apply reason  
to Bible  
studies....  
Julius  
Wellhausen

# Reactions to Liberalism

# Reactions to Liberalism

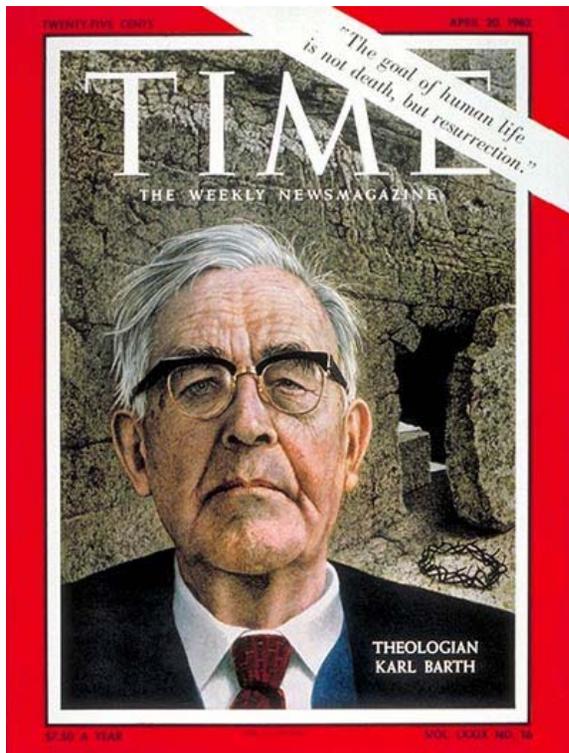


# Reactions to Liberalism



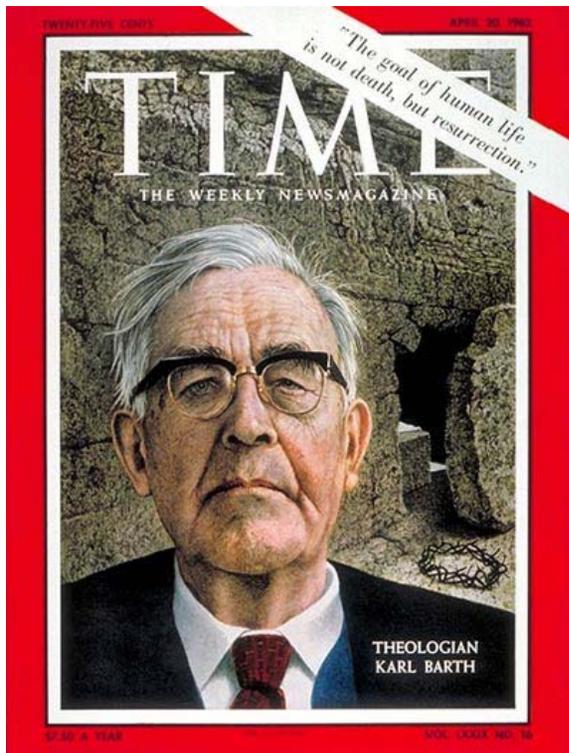
# Neorthodoxy (the “new “ orthodoxy)

# Neorthodoxy (the “new “ orthodoxy)

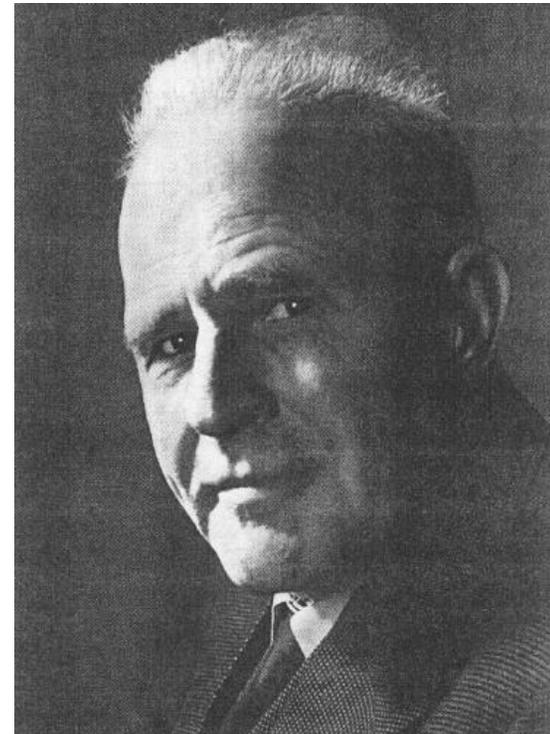


Karl Barth  
1886-1968

# Neorthodoxy (the “new “ orthodoxy)



Karl Barth  
1886-1968



Emil Brunner  
1889-1966

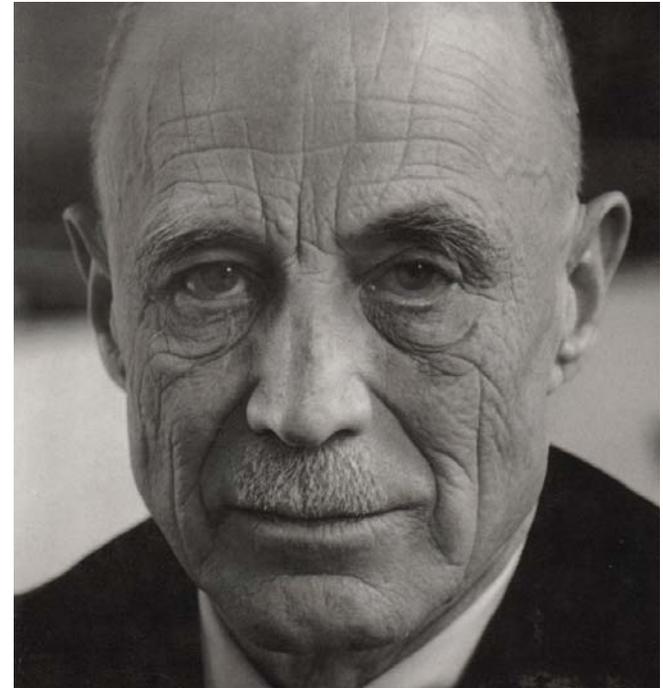
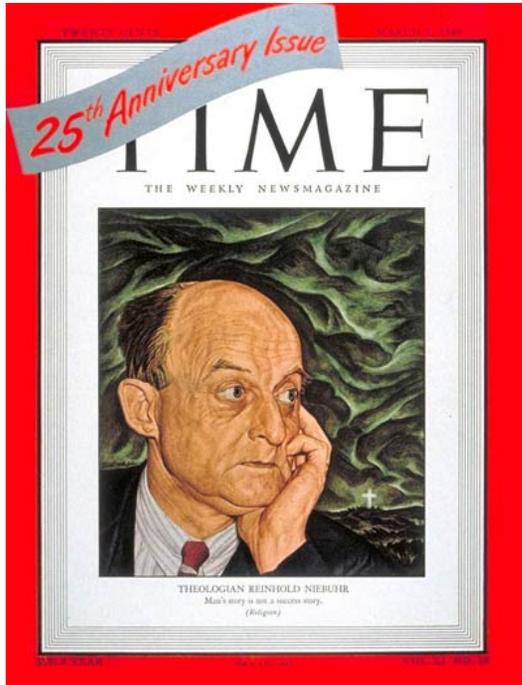
# Neorthodoxy (the “new “ orthodoxy)

# Neorthodoxy (the “new “ orthodoxy)



Reinhold Niebuhr  
1892-1971

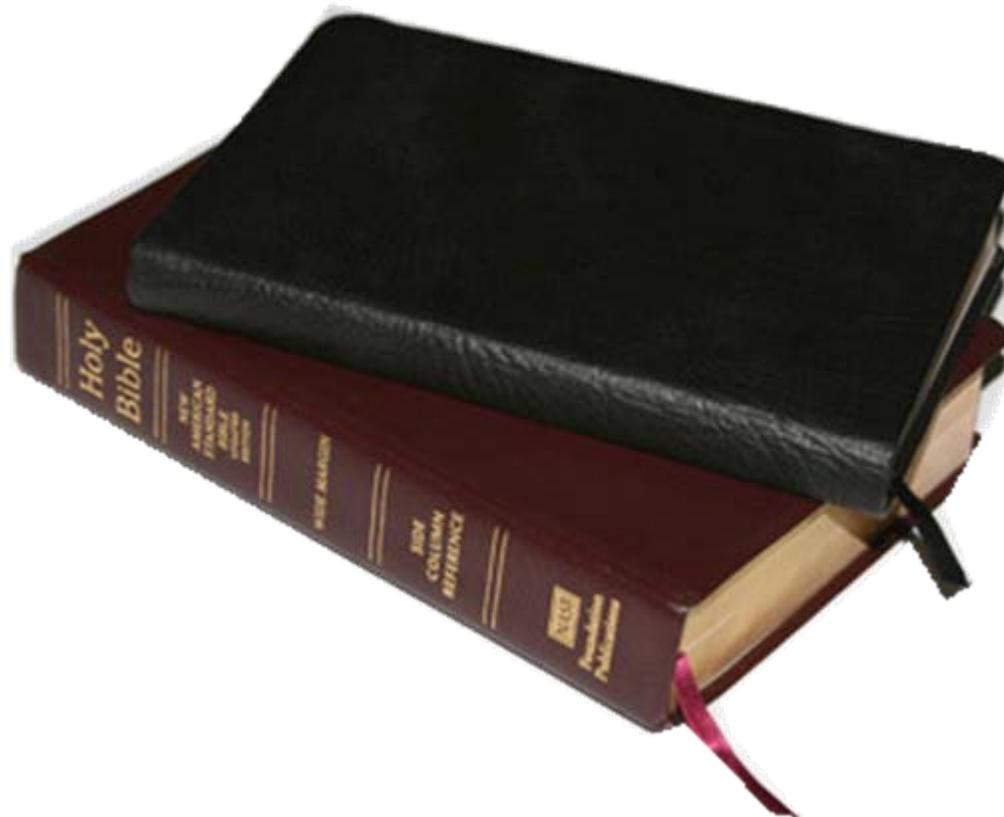
# Neoorthodoxy (the “new “ orthodoxy)



Reinhold Niebuhr  
1892-1971

H. Richard Niebuhr  
1894-1962

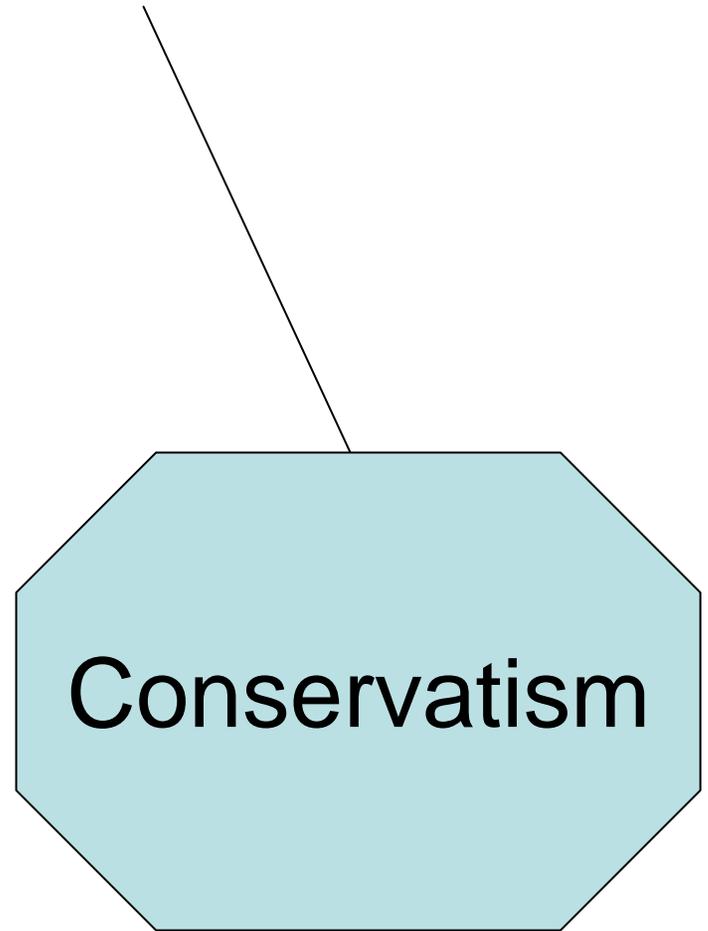
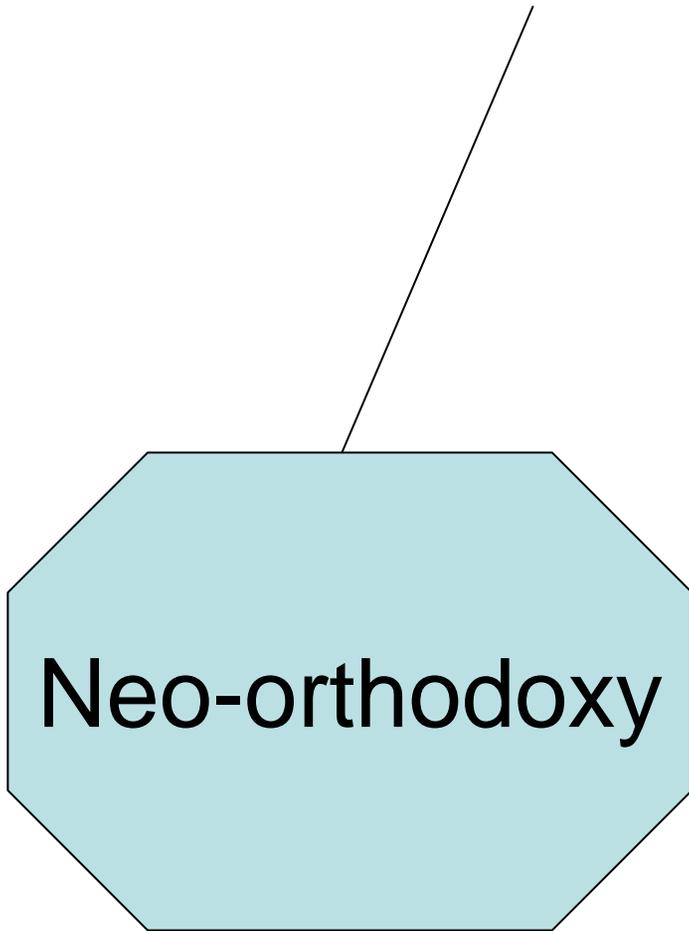
# Neorthodoxy: The Word of God is the truth?



# Neorthodoxy: The Word of God is the truth?

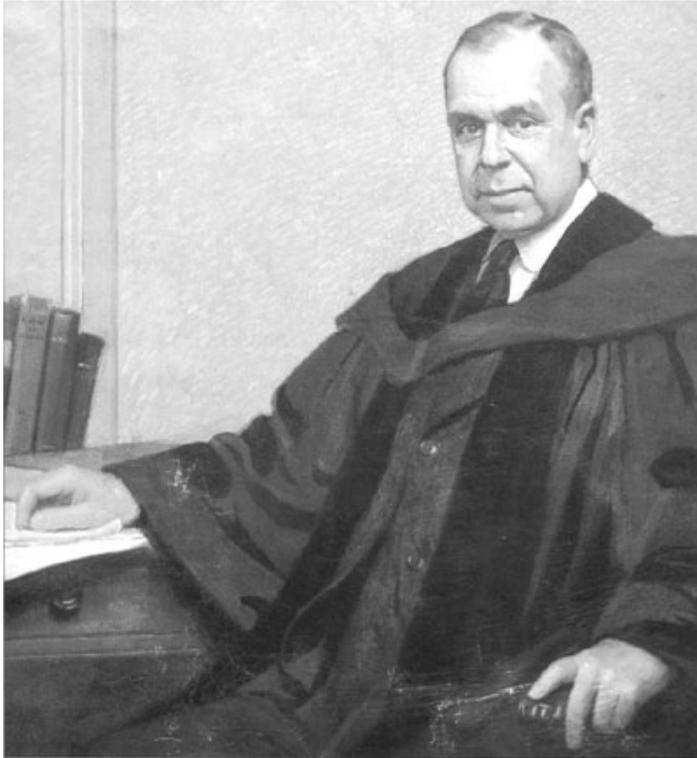


# Reactions to Liberalism



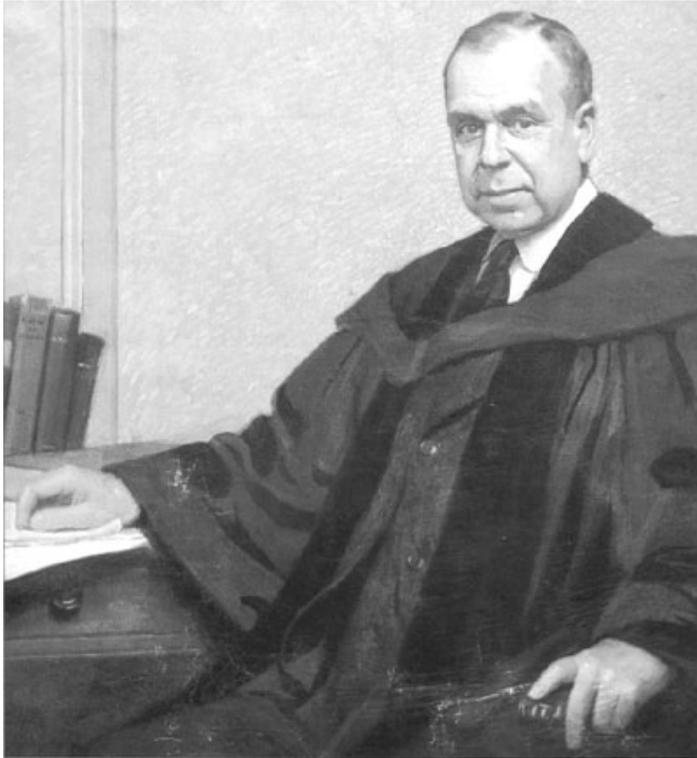
# Conservatism

# 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)