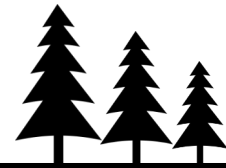
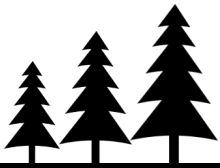




GETTING CHRISTMAS RIGHT

—TELLING GOD'S STORY AND KEEPING IT TRUE—



I. To get Christmas right and to tell God's Story, we must begin with the truth—an accurate, biblical, orderly account of the gospel.

- (Luke 1:1–4 LSB) Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile **an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us**, 2 just as those, who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, handed them down to us, 3 it seemed fitting for me as well, **having investigated everything carefully from the beginning**, to write it out for you **in orderly sequence**, most excellent Theophilus, 4 **so that you may know the certainty about the things you have been taught**.
- (John 19:33–36a NLT) But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they didn't break his legs. 34 One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out. 35 **(This report is from an eyewitness giving an accurate account. He speaks the truth so that you also may continue to believe.)** 36 These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures ...
- (John 17:17 NLT) **Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.**

II. We must start at the beginning with the bad news.

A. God began earth history by creating our world and declaring it to be very good.

- (Genesis 1:1 LSB) **In the beginning God** created the heavens and the earth.
- (Genesis 1:31a LSB) **And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.**

B. And then God cursed his very good earth.

- (Genesis 3:17 LSB) Then to Adam He said, **“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; Cursed is the ground because of you; In pain you will eat of it All the days of your life.”**
- (Romans 5:12 LSB) Therefore, just as through one man sin **entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.**

III. We must begin where wisdom and knowledge begin—the fear of Yahweh.

Epistemology is the theory of knowledge. To find wisdom and knowledge we must have a sound epistemological approach based on the fear of Yahweh.

Epistemology attempts to answer questions such as, Do we know things? And if we do, how and when do we know things? What does it mean that we know something? And to what extent can we know?

For Bible-believing Christians our epistemology is based on Scriptures such as 1 Corinthians 2:9-10.

- (1 Corinthians 2:9–10 ESV) But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, **nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him**”— 10 **these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.** For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

A. The fear of Yahweh is the beginning place of wisdom where those who follow his wise commands come to have good insight.

- (Psalm 111:10 LSB) The fear of Yahweh is **the beginning of wisdom**; Good insight belongs to all those who do His commandments; His praise stands forever.

B. The fear of Yahweh is the beginning place of a godly, disciplined field of knowledge that is despised by ignorant fools.

- (Proverbs 1:7 LSB) The fear of Yahweh is **the beginning of knowledge**; Ignorant fools despise wisdom and discipline.

C. We find Yahweh and his wisdom and knowledge when we seek him with all our heart and soul.

- (Deuteronomy 4:29 LSB) But from there you will seek Yahweh your God, and you will find Him, **for you will search for Him with all your heart and all your soul.**

D. We will stay on the path of wisdom and knowledge with the words of Yahweh on our heart when we love Yahweh with all our heart, soul and might.

- (Deuteronomy 6:4–6 LSB) Hear, O Israel! Yahweh is our God, Yahweh is one! 5 **You shall love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.** 6 **These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.**

IV. On the path of wisdom and knowledge, we know who knows the Story of God—only God himself and those to whom he reveals it.

A. We humans have only an inkling of the “big” story—God’s Story.

- (Ecclesiastes 3:11 LSB) He has made everything beautiful in its time. **He has**

also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.

B. Only God knows the entire story—the end and the beginning.

- I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 **Declaring the end from the beginning.**

C. God knows the beginning and the end because he is the beginning and the end.

- (Revelation 21:6 LSB) Then He said to me, “They are done. **I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.** I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.”
- (John 1:1–2 LSB) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 **He was in the beginning with God.**
- (1 John 1:1 NLT) **We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning**, whom we have heard and seen. **We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands.** He is the Word of life.

V. CONCLUSION: To tell God’s Story we must tell God’s Story.

There is only one Story that matters—the gospel that Paul preached.

- (1 Corinthians 15:1–4 LSB) Now I make known to you, brothers, **the gospel which I proclaimed as good news to you**, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I proclaimed to you as good news, unless you believed for nothing. 3 **For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures**, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.
- (Galatians 1:6–7 ESV) I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ **and are turning to a different gospel— 7 not that there is another one**, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.