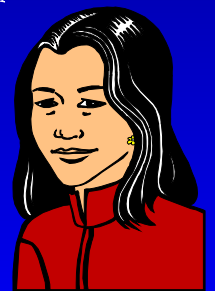


Finding Wisdom

How do we
find wisdom?

For Lansdale Presbyterian Church
Vern Sheridan Poythress, Ph.D., Th.D.
Westminster Theological Seminary





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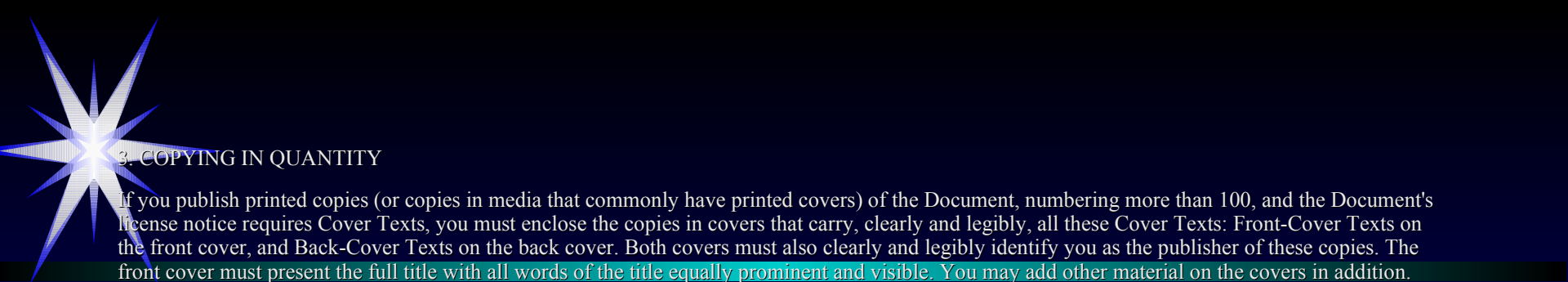
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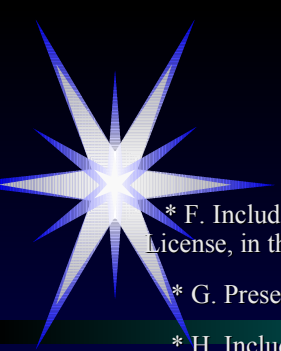
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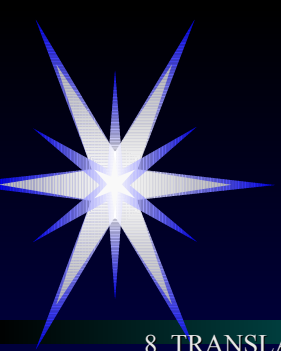
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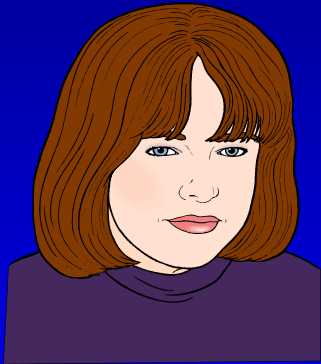
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Challenge: Wisdom

How can I find
meaning in my life?



God gives
wisdom.





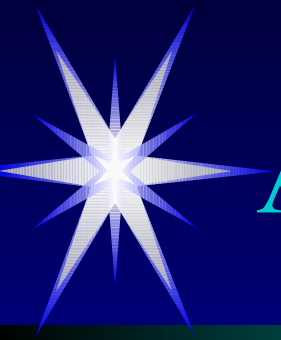
Resources

campus.wts.edu/homepages/VPoythress/

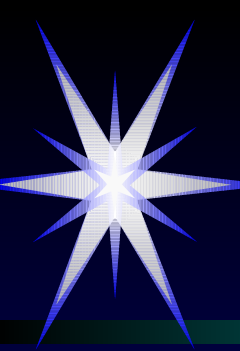
www.frame-poythress.org

Sunday school:

campus.wts.edu/homepages/VPoythress/ss/ss.html



A. Seeking Wisdom



Seeking to Understand

meaning for life
wisdom



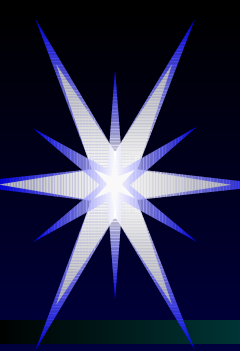
who am I?



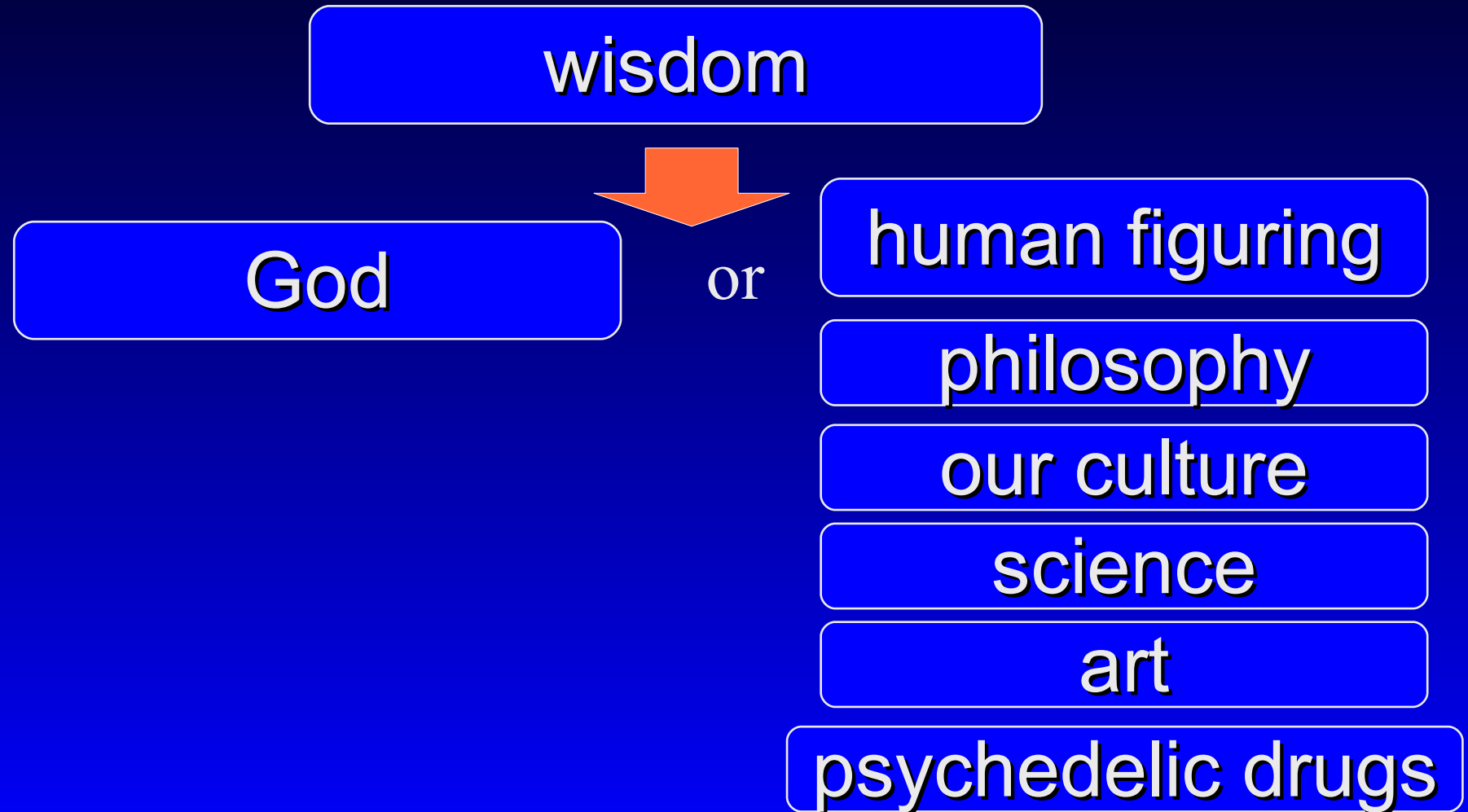
God speaking

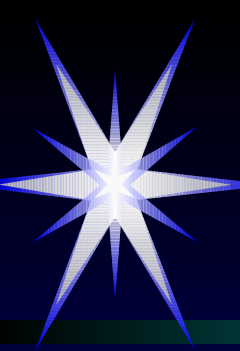
or

human figuring

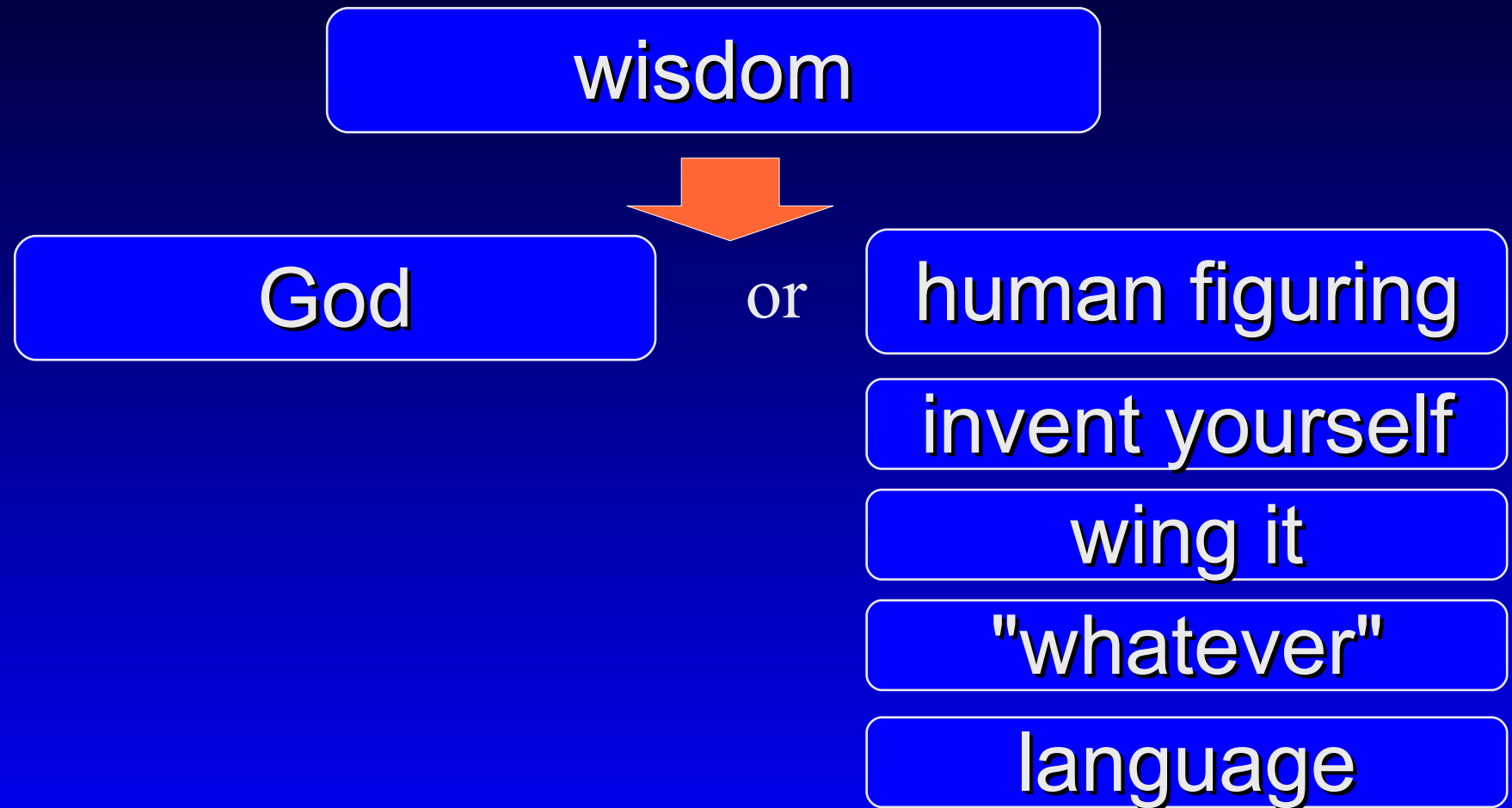


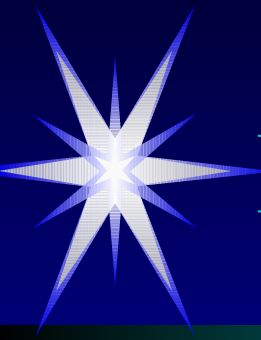
Sources of Wisdom



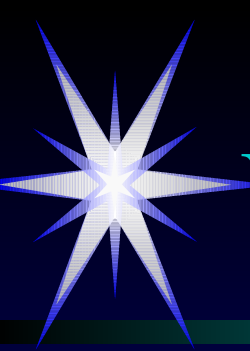


Sources of Wisdom (2)





B. God Is Wise



Wisdom from God

With God are wisdom and might;
he has counsel and understanding.
-- Job 12:13



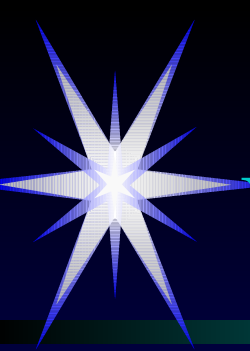
Wisdom in God

But where shall wisdom be found?
And where is the place of understanding?
Man does not know its worth,
and it is not found in the land of the living.
The deep says, "It is not in me,"
and the sea says, "It is not with me."
It cannot be bought for gold,
and silver cannot be weighed as its price.
-- Job 28:12-15



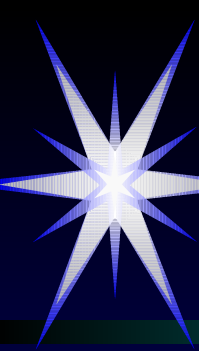
Wisdom in God (2)

From where, then, does wisdom come?
And where is the place of understanding?
It is hidden from the eyes of all living
and concealed from the birds of the air.
Abaddon and Death say,
"We have heard a rumor of it with our ears."
God understands the way to it,
and he knows its place.
For he looks to the ends of the earth
and sees everything under the heavens.
-- Job 28:20-24



Wisdom in God (3)

When he gave to the wind its weight
and apportioned the waters by measure,
when he made a decree for the rain
and a way for the lightning of the thunder,
then he saw it and declared it;
he established it, and searched it out.
And he said to man,
"Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom,
and to turn away from evil is understanding."
-- Job 28:25-28



Wisdom from God: Frustration

The words of Agur son of Jakeh.

The oracle.

The man declares, I am weary, O God;

I am weary, O God, and worn out.

Surely I am too stupid to be a man.

I have not the understanding of a man.

I have not learned wisdom,

nor have I knowledge of the Holy One.

-- Prov. 30:1-3



Wisdom from God: Frustration (2)

Who has ascended to heaven and come down?

Who has gathered the wind in his fists?

Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment?

Who has established all the ends of the earth?

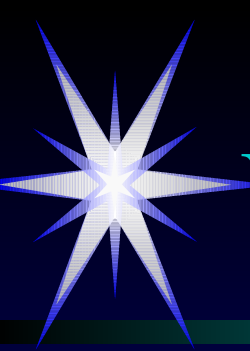
What is his name, and what is his son's name?

Surely you know! --Prov. 30:4

Every word of God proves true;

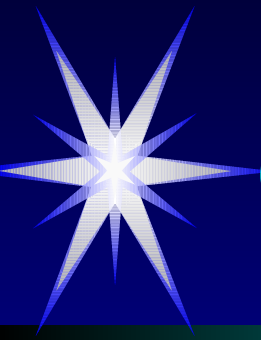
he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

-- Prov. 30:5



Wisdom from God: Answer

"For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend to heaven for us' and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it." -- Deut. 30:11-14



C. Christ as Fulfillment



Christ as Ascending

Therefore it says,

"When he ascended on high he led
a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men."

(In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean
but that he had also descended into the lowest
parts of the earth? He who descended in the
one who also ascended far above all the
heaven, that he might fill all things.) -- Eph.
4:8-10



Christ as Our Wisdom

Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

-- Col. 2:2-3

He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. -- 1 Cor. 1:30

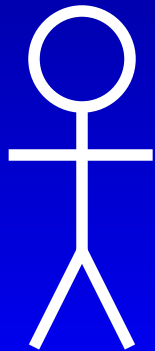


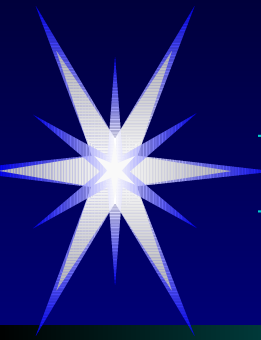
Christ Giving Access

God

heavenly wisdom

in Christ





D. Counterfeit Wisdom



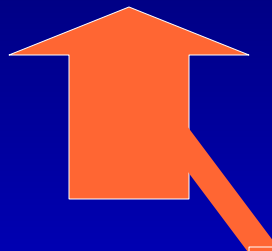
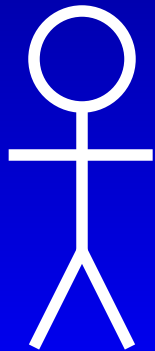
Forms:

goodness

justice

friendship

piety



insight through
reason, dialogue



Immanuel Kant

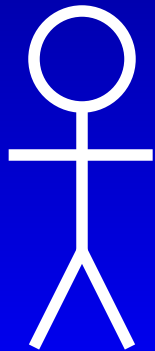
Reality:

God

morality

Appearance:

ordinary
experience

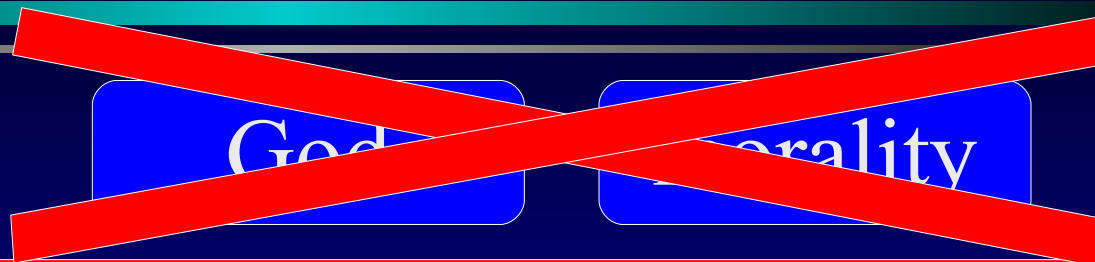


insight through
Kant's philosophy

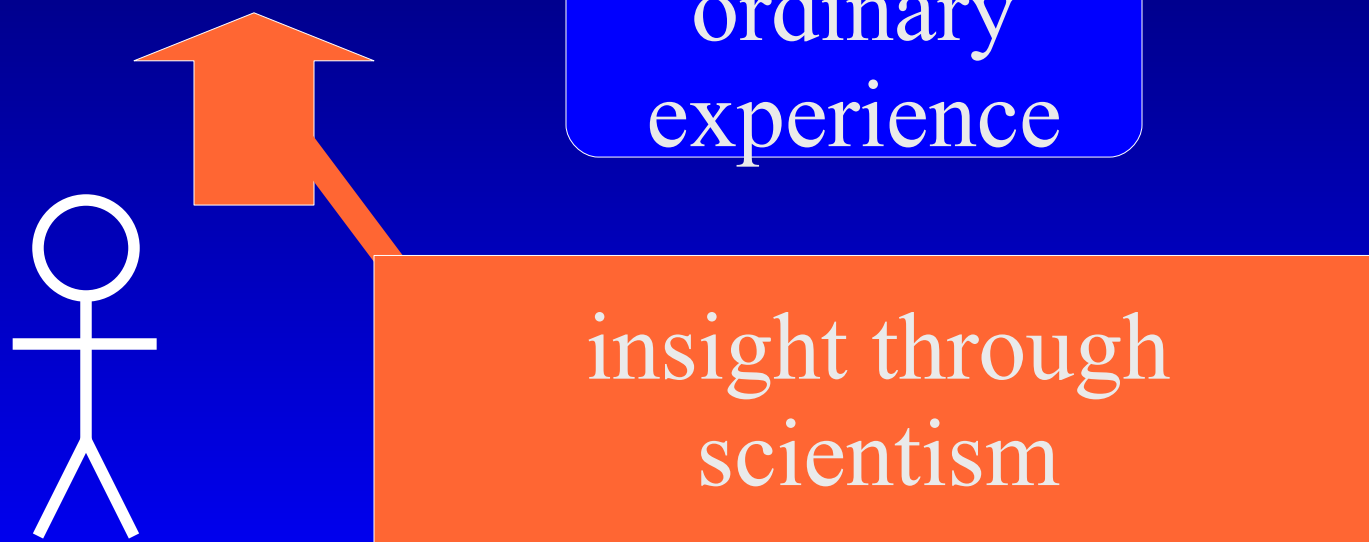


Evolutionary Materialism

Irrelevant
or illusion:



Material world:





Evolutionary Materialism

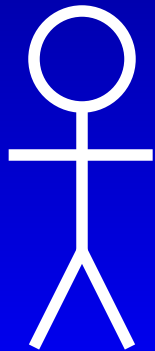
Irrelevant
or illusion:

God

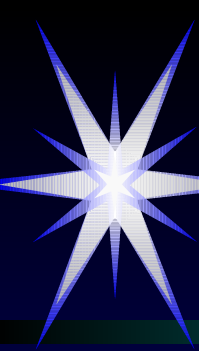
morality

Material world:

ordinary
experience



insight through
science



Postmodern relativism

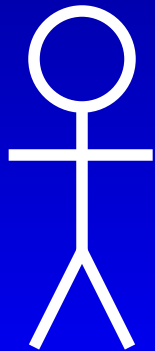
Culturally
generated:

God

morality

Material world:

ordinary
experience



insight through
social science,
language



Ways of Salvation

wisdom



God

or

human figuring

Christ as

our provision

our wisdom