

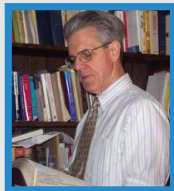
to be—the revealed Word of God—and therefore the ultimate standard of truth for every area of life, or it is false in its claims and just another ancient book of passing interest.

A vast array of influential forces suppress, distort, pervert, and resist the Word of God. Recognizing that, it becomes incumbent on Christians to think strategically about the battle for revealed truth versus the strategies of the principalities and powers who labor with brilliance to hide it. One very basic aspect of unbelief is that man is the absolute center of truth generation. In complete contrast, the Word of God presents the Triune God as the absolute center of truth generation and man as the derivative truth discoverer.

A Biblical Framework: The following (inside) page depicts the historical order of events in which the Holy Spirit revealed a progression of biblical truths. All of those truths, interconnected within a logical framework, are the focus of Biblical Framework Ministries. We want to read the Bible devotionally and inferentially as it implies godly thinking to be applied to every area of life. That is our distinction.

Charles A. Clough

A respected Bible scholar with a mathematics and science background, Charles Clough is a much-sought-after speaker and teacher. He serves on the Governing Board of Chafer Theological Seminary, where he is an adjunct professor.



Mr. Clough holds a B.S. in mathematics from MIT, an M.S. in atmospheric science from Texas Tech, and a Th.M. in Old Testament Hebrew from Dallas Theological Seminary.

He served in the U.S. Air Force as a meteorologist and recently retired as Chief of the Army Aberdeen Test Center's Atmospheric Effects Team, where he was involved with weapons testing.

A Biblical Framework for Worship and Obedience in an Age of Global Deception



an Introduction

The Framework lectures are not a substitute for your pastor's Bible studies. They are to be used to help integrate verse-by-verse Bible exegesis and exposition. Though not a world-view presentation, the series will anchor your biblical worldview in a solid framework of Truth. The Biblical Framework course has a unique structure that combines apologetics with elements of biblical and systematic theology. Truths of God and His working are set into their original niche in history to show they are as much a part of reality as any secular history or science.

The key to life is "thinking God's thoughts after Him." In an age when men despair of trying to find sense in life, Mr. Clough shows the inner coherence of God's speech to us. Each part of God's historic conversation is linked to and supported by every other part and to every truth, like the supporting girders of a tall building. Finally, the framework lectures cannot substitute for worship, praise, and prayer to our Triune God out of a regenerate heart. They can, however, help you to start conversations with Him!

Biblical Truths and modern culture are in total conflict. Either the Bible is what it claims

Presuppositions: One of the agenda items of secular humanists is to replace biblical presuppositions with counterfeit presuppositions. For almost every biblical presupposition, they proffer a counterfeit presupposition. There are scores of examples. Here are three:

Biblical: Created man recognizes a transcendent, incomprehensible, infinitely omniscient, and omnipotent God, Who created the universe, *ex nihilo*, and Who endowed man capable of *discovering* truths within that universe, including the meaning and purpose of his personal life, by observing God's general revelation of Himself in His Creation, together with God's special revelation of Himself in the written Word of God.

Humanist: History is comprised of random events, resulting from a blind, impersonal "Force," "Fate," or "Chance." One cannot trust what might happen tomorrow. One cannot know the future—suggesting hopelessness. They sometimes look to psychics, horoscopes, etc., attempting to find meaning.

Biblical: An Infinite, Personal, Self-Sufficient, Self-Revealing, and Sovereign God is in charge, at the "steering wheel" of history. In the chaos of life, Someone's in charge—history is going somewhere according to a Plan. There is reliable Hope. This Personal God may be trusted.

A Biblical Framework for Worship and Obedience in an Age of Global Deception

The Biblical Framework series is a collection of 224 downloadable lectures (in MP3 format), over 700 pages of extensively footnoted class notes, and searchable transcriptions of the lectures. The free series has a unique structure that combines elements of biblical and systematic theology with apologetics, supported by scholarly research by godly men of history, archaeology, law, art, music, literature, medicine, science, economics, and mathematics.

The Biblical Framework approach was developed by Charles Clough, in part, to deal with the hostile university culture that had taken many casualties among college students. Apparently, some unscrupulous profs consider Christian bashing to be a collegiate sport. The approach has since helped many university students to think critically, to act effectively, and to recognize the agenda-driven errors of university profs.

The Framework examines how to counter the secular agenda. Secular humanists, while claiming the neutrality and objectivity of "modern science," label all opposing viewpoint

as subjective, religious, emotional faith; interpret data with an evolutionary uniformitarian agenda; present conjecture as fact; revise history to marginalize those great Christians who founded America; and have used their ideological monopoly to make it virtually illegal for teachers to mention God or teach biblical principles in public schools. In reality, however, the secular humanist worldview has no satisfying answers to the important issues of our time and of all time, regarding origins, meaning, morality, and destiny:

- Why are we here on this planet?
- Why does evil exist all around us?
- What is truth?
- Where is security? and,
- Where is history going?

Satisfying answers to these questions, and more, can only be found in the Word of God. The Framework series leaves no privileged sanctuaries, no areas of consideration uninterpreted by the Word of God, but rather, brings into captivity every area of life to the obedience of Christ.

Humanist: Truth is a set of abstract principles—collected wisdom—ideas derived from logic—principles derived from empiricism (science) and rationalism (philosophy). In the human brain rationalism, coupled with empiricism, can *invent* truth. **Biblical:** Truth is, first and foremost, a Person (John 14:6). Truths are derived from understanding this Person as revealed in His Word. In one way or another, Truth derives from the character of God. (Social relationships derive from God's attributes of love, righteousness and justice; law, the legal system, and economics from justice and righteousness; mathematics from immutability and infinity; science from omniscience; theology from His entire Being; etc.). Rather than *invented*, Truth is *discovered*.

Humanist: Autonomous man using rationalism, empiricism, and rules of logic, considers himself capable of *inventing* truths—universals—with which he can classify and categorize all of existence (including cosmological issues) without reference to or dependence on a God, or gods, or anything else outside of himself.

Creation	Fall	Flood	Call of Abraham	Exodus	Sinai	Conquest & Settlement	David & Solomon	Exile	Birth of the King	The Cross	Resurrection	Ascension Session	Pentecost, Church Age	Second Coming	Great White Throne Judgment	Eternity
----------	------	-------	-----------------	--------	-------	-----------------------	-----------------	-------	-------------------	-----------	--------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------	-----------------------------	----------

Historical Events

Students can learn biblical truths from studying historical events. If these event-based truths are contrasted with corresponding pagan speculations, students will mature in thinking biblically about all of life. The truths have implications in all aspects of our lives—marriage, family, the arts, science, law, business, math, the environment, economics, history, logic, medicine, language ...

God's Ex Nihilo Creation of the Universe

Biblical Truths: • God is personal, infinitely superior, and sovereign over Creation. • Created in God's image, man is entirely dependent on God for acquiring Truth. • Nature and the universe are subject to God's providential control. • Marriage and family are divine institutions based on man's unique sexual design for his cultural role.

Implications: • Mankind must recognize the incomprehensible, loving, omniscient, and omnipotent God, Who created the universe, *ex nihilo*. • Man discovers truths in order to prepare for eternity, worship properly, and manage his environment wisely. Meaning and purpose in life derive from God's revelation of Himself in His Creation and His Word. The Bible is unique: Its God made covenants with His creation; The Bible records His faithfulness to those covenants.

The Fall of Mankind

Biblical Truths: • Adam, though created in God's perfect image, chose to fall from that perfect state. • God's Kingdom program, therefore, irresistibly works toward the ultimate goal of separating good and evil, of judging and saving, and of glorifying God through all things. Therefore, evil is bracketed in time; it has a beginning and an end.

Implications: • Only by divine revelation—not rationalism or empiricism—could Adam or Eve have known not to eat the fruit from "that" tree. • The greatest damage to the environment was caused by Adam's sin and the resulting curse on man and nature. • We reject the pagan view that we are victims of eternally existing evil. A condition of "enmity" existed between God and man from man's fall until reconciliation at the Cross of Christ restored "peace." Such peace could not have come through far-eastern religion, transcendental meditation, drugs, or alcohol. Some teenage and adult suicides may be attributed to the hopelessness of the pagan existential worldview. • Dealing properly with sin involves acknowledging personal responsibility.

The Noahic Flood

Biblical Truths: • After 120 years, grace came to an end. The largest geophysical catastrophe in earth history revealed God's way of both judging and saving. God provided only one way of deliverance—the Ark—from God's judgment upon man and his natural environment. Faith in the revealed judgment announcement and Ark's design were required.

Implications: • As there was only one ark, so there is only one way of salvation—an act of faith. Proposing salvation methods beyond God's revelation is arrogance. • Man's greatest achievement regarding the environment was the saving of the entire gene pool of the land-based animals aboard Noah's ark. • All living humans are from the same family—descendants of Noah—regardless of skin color. • Observations of nature ought to be interpreted in light of the creation, fall, and flood judgment.

The Call of Abraham

Biblical Truths: • God's unique contract with Abraham controls human history and continues the theme of only

one way of salvation. Only He can provide the righteousness required to enter into a contractual relationship with Himself. • God's choices—not man's—are ultimate. Therefore, man can relate properly to God only by faith.

Implications: • History can be and must be interpreted in light of God's biblical contracts. By their very nature, contracts, including the Bible, must be interpreted literally. • The Old and New Testaments are testimony to God's faithfulness to His contracts, and therefore, must be inerrant. If He fulfills His contractual promises regarding all of history, He can and will fulfill His promises to each believer in history. • We cannot know the future but we can know the trustworthiness of Him Who holds the future. God is at the steering wheel of history.

The Exodus from Egypt

Biblical Truths: • Though Moses had a speech impediment, God used him like few others in history. • Moses took almost every event in his life to God in prayer. • The only major revolt in Egyptian history—done without arms—repeated the judgment/salvation theme of the flood. To the continuing revelatory and salvation exclusivism, it added the concept of substitutionary blood atonement.

Implications: • God intended to use us the way He made us, including our impediments. • As there was only one ark, there was also only one way of avoiding death by the Angel of the Lord—placing blood on the door posts and lentils—by faith. • Blood atonement reveals the seriousness of man's sin related to God's absolute integrity. • Arbitrary forgiveness would compromise God's justice. • Human merit cannot satisfy God. • As in the Exodus, the coming judgment in history will be based upon man's response to God's provided Lamb.

The Giving of the Law at Sinai

Biblical Truths: • God's contract with Israel was implemented by publicly-witnessed, stunning, audible words. • The Law gave the ethical and legislative standard for life in a fallen world, against all competing pagan codes. • It established the custodian nation for divine revelation, culminating in our Bible.

Implications: • Law gives stability to civilization. The concept of social justice derives from just legislation and ethics which must be founded upon divine revelation, not upon the uncalibrated wants of fallen society—wants that inevitably lead to either anarchy or totalitarianism. • Israel's history is the demonstration of God's faithfulness to His contracts. • Lordship in our walk with the Lord follows salvation just as Mt. Sinai followed the Exodus. • Objective meaning in life, moral guidance and empowerment, and solid criteria for deciding truth and falsehood do exist.

The Conquest and Settlement of the Land

Biblical Truths: • The 14th century B.C. invasion of the Promised Land was a strictly-limited holy war against a specific society confirmed in evil. It revealed the divine ethics of judgment that will come upon men when grace terminates because they have chosen evil. • Making Israel's victory contingent upon obedience teaches believers about the ultimate, universal triumph of righteousness over rebellion against and defiance of God.

Implications: • The fallen world is a hostile environment ruled by the principalities and rulers of darkness. Godly living requires continual obedience to divine revelation upon the confidence of ultimate victory. • Each of us fits into a special place in the Plan of God. Different people play different roles on the team.

David and Solomon

Biblical Truths: • The triumph of the Davidic dynasty over the Saulide dynasty revealed the prerequisite character of a Messianic leader in contrast to pagan heroic hubris. Features of personal sanctification and the role of wisdom and folly in cultural development emerge in the literature of this period. • David, though having committed sins with widespread consequences, confessed his sins and never allowed them to permanently damage his relationship with God. • Solomon began the destruction of Israel by taking wives from pagan societies and adopting their pagan worldview policies. Israel never recovered from his destructive decisions.

Implications: • As believer-priests, we can restore our fellowship with God by confessing our sins directly to God the Father. • We must learn from Solomon's mistakes and avoid assimilating pagan viewpoint. • The Scriptures contain sound methods for dealing with personal crises in life.

The Exile

Biblical Truths: • The 6th century B.C. collapse of Israel and worldwide dispersion of Jews took Scripture to remote pagan civilization.

Implications: • With authority transferred from Israel to Gentiles, believers must adjust to spiritual alienation without compromise. • Boundaries of civil obedience must be sought. Confidence of the final divine intervention in history must overcome the pagan worldview. • Writings of the exile show how to live under pagan authority.

The Birth of The King

Biblical Truths: • The virgin conception made possible the incarnation of Jesus Christ, Who at once was both Creator and creature. He was then and remains both undiminished deity and true humanity, the two natures being inseparably united in one Person, without mixture, transfer, or confusion of any attributes, the union being personal and eternal.

Implications: • God did not incarnate Himself in a rock, tree, or animal but in the human nature that had been created in His image. Human language is fully sufficient for conveying God's thoughts and human life for expressing His character. • The Person of the Lord Jesus Christ is the highest manifestation—the *sine qua non*—of the revelation of God. Mankind's response to the Lord Jesus Christ reveals their attitude toward God. • As a test pilot challenges an airplane beyond any limits of normal use, our Lord Jesus lived by the power of the Holy Spirit, under testing far greater than any we will face, yet without sin. Our Lord demonstrated how we, too, can live the Christian life in a wonderful relationship with and total dependence on God.

The Cross of Christ

Biblical Truths: • Jesus began His saving work, following the Jewish calendar precisely, by entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday—the day the spotless lamb was selected for the Passover sacrifice. The night before Passover, Jesus offered Himself—as both the High Priest and the sacrifice. On the Cross, as our sins were poured out on Him, the Justice and Righteousness of God were satisfied, the barrier of enmity between God and mankind (from Adam's sin) was removed, restoring peace (reconciliation), and we were purchased from the slave market of sin (redemption). **Implications:** • Eternal life with God is as easy as receiving His free gift of salvation—by faith alone in Christ alone.

Our Savior's Resurrection

Biblical Truths: • Exactly according to the Jewish calendar, Christ's resurrection from the grave was on the feast of Firstfruits. His resurrection body comprised the first matter for the new, eternal universe—in total defiance of so-called natural law. Over 500 people witnessed our risen Lord.

Implications: • God will finally glorify Himself in man and nature such that all creatures will acknowledge His character—willingly or unwillingly. Believers will have a resurrection body just like Christ's.

The Ascension and Session of Christ

Biblical Truths: • Christ's ascension into heaven to sit at the Father's right hand brought a human being to the helm of the universe above the angels and all other creatures. **Implications:** • The cosmic "high ground" is now in human hands—invulnerable to Satanic claims. Our Lord Jesus Christ is our defense attorney before the Father's throne.

Pentecost and the Beginning of the Church

Biblical Truths: • Both the Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit to begin a new ministry with the Church, again, exactly on the correct day of the Jewish calendar. Now, believers can rely on the same power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus pioneered in His humanity, in total dependence on God. **Implications:** • Revealed truths can be understood in any human language. Divine enablement is sufficient for every believer to live victoriously.

The Second Coming of Christ

Biblical Truths: • Christ will physically return to this planet as He ascended from it in the 1st century A.D. This time, however, it will be to judge all humanity and deal with the evil that began at the fall. • While the first Adam failed God's mandate to subdue the earth, our Lord Jesus Christ, the second Adam, will rule it in righteousness and with perfect justice.

Implications: • History is going somewhere. • Christ alone, as the second Adam, will fulfill God's command to the first Adam to have dominion over the earth. He, not counterfeit messianic leaders, will ensure that justice is done on earth, at last. He alone is Lord to whom we all are accountable. • We learn obedience—sanctification—during our lives in preparation for reigning with Christ in His Kingdom.

The Great White Throne Judgment

Biblical Truths: • Everyone who has rejected God's graciously offered forgiveness and righteousness will be shown that all substitutions of human works fail to meet God's unalterable standard of simple faith in Christ's work. **Implications:** • History is moving toward a second judgment upon fallen man and the cursed natural environment. • During this life, all people choose their eternal destinies by accepting or rejecting the free gift of salvation, available to all by a simple prayer: "Father, I believe that Jesus paid the penalty for my sins and accept Him as my Savior."

Eternity

Biblical Truths: • The new universe of resurrection will have permanently fixed boundaries between creatures that God declares righteous and those who who reject Him in their unbelief. • Saved mankind will experience eternal life, worshiping and serving God, and enjoying Him forever.

Implications: • Ultimate fulfillment of man's design requires an eternal state based upon accountability to God in present life. Heaven's perfect environment will actually exist and not just as an abstract ideal.