

## COMPARATIVE GLOSSARY & NOTES, 22 pgs

**Abstraction** is a form of **reductionism**, as both cognitive processes simplify complex realities by disregarding specific details to focus on essential, fundamental elements, patterns, or principles. Abstraction reduces concepts to their core, "ideal" essence. It is the process of **generalizing rules and concepts from specific, literal, tangible, real, concrete things**. Abstracting a leather soccer ball to the more general idea of a ball selects only the information on general ball attributes and behavior.

**Accretion** is the gradual increase, extension, expansion, growth, or accumulation of material through external addition rather than internal growth. It describes both the act of growing and the added material itself.

To be **affiliated** means to be **officially connected, associated, or linked with a larger group, organization, or cause**, often in a subordinate or dependent way, sharing goals but not necessarily being fully controlled by them. It signifies a formal relationship, like a local sports team affiliated with a major league, a doctor affiliated with a hospital, or a person supporting a political party.

The **analogy of faith** is a Protestant hermeneutical principle stating that **Scripture is its own best interpreter**, as it is harmonious, consistent, and without contradiction. It requires interpreting obscure or difficult passages in light of clearer, foundational doctrines. This method ensures that individual interpretations align with the overall, unified message of the Bible. It is not simply looking up cross-references, but rather **ensuring the interpretation fits within the entire, cohesive framework of biblical theology**. It is sometimes confused with the **analogy of Scripture**, which is more **focused on comparing different accounts of the same historical event** rather than the overall thematic harmony.

**Antithesis** is a figure of speech involving a seeming contradiction of ideas, words, clauses, or sentences within a balanced grammatical structure. **Parallelism of expression serves to emphasize opposition of ideas**. An antithesis must always contain two ideas within one statement [cf **Cause & Effect, p.1; Both – And, p.1**].

### ARGUMENTS

**Proposition:** A statement that can be true or false. It is **the building block of arguments**. **Premise:** A proposition that is **used as evidence to support an argument**. It acts as a starting point of reasoning, and is assumed to be true in the argument.

**Axiom:** A statement accepted as true without proof, serving as a fundamental building block. **Axiomatic** means taken for granted, self-evident.

An **hypothesis** is **the starting point of investigation** - a proposed idea to be tested, while a **theory** is a comprehensive explanation for why something is true or happens, supported by data.

**Laws** describe how nature acts; **theories** explain why it acts that way. **Theories explain, while laws summarize observations**.

**Presumption and assumption** both involve taking something as true without absolute proof, but they differ in confidence and evidence. A **presumption is an informed guess** based on reasonable evidence or probability. An **assumption is a guess made with little or no evidence**, often based on

feelings or beliefs.

An **assumption** is something accepted as true without proof, a starting point for reasoning. In logic, it's a **premise**; in everyday life, it's a **belief taken for granted**. A **premise** is a statement or idea that you assume is correct to base your argument on.

Logical Deduction (**Deductive Reasoning**): A general to specific or **top-down logic** method where if the premises are true, the conclusion must be true (All humans are mortal; Socrates is a human; therefore, Socrates is mortal) deductive reasoning moves from general, true premises to a specific, necessary conclusion, while **inductive reasoning** uses specific observations to form probable, broader generalizations (assuming all swans are white after only seeing white ones, specific to general, **bottom-up logic**). **Deductive conclusions** are certain if premises are true; **Inductive conclusions** are only probable despite true observations. Deduction tests existing theories; Induction builds new theories.

**Thesis:** The main argument, assertion, or conclusion of a piece of writing or an argument. It is the final position, often supported by multiple **premises**. A proposition and a thesis are closely related, often interchangeable terms representing the central argument or claim of a paper. Both are debatable, specific, and require evidence to support a viewpoint. While a **thesis** is the main, controlling idea of an **essay**, a **proposition** is a broader term for any declarative statement.

**Thesis Statement:** The central, controlling argument or main idea of an academic paper that is argued throughout the work. **Proposition:** A statement that affirms or denies something, often used interchangeably with a thesis, but can also refer to any declarative sentence in logic that is either true or false. A **proposition** is often used in formal logic or as a working thesis, whereas a **thesis statement** is specifically the finalized, polished, and argumentative core of an essay.

A **corollary** is a proposition or idea that follows directly and naturally from an established proof, theorem, or fact. It acts as an immediate deduction or a natural consequence, often serving to extend a proven result without requiring additional, lengthy proof.

**Principles** are fundamental truths, beliefs, or rules that act as foundations, guiding a system, behavior, or reasoning, providing core values and standards for decisions, actions, and understanding in ethics, science, business, or personal life, helping to create structure and meaning. They are **basic truths or propositions** upon which other ideas or systems are built, basic, governing ideas or a core standards for conduct or understanding. They apply across various fields, from scientific laws (conservation of mass) to ethical conduct (like honesty). Principles are the fundamental how-to guides for living, thinking, and operating effectively in the world, whether personally or professionally.

## TYPES OF WRITING

An **article** informs, entertains, or reports news to a wide audience. Audience: General public (readers of newspapers, magazines, websites). Usually objective, factual, or narrative. Shorter paragraphs, engaging hook, often uses inverted pyramid or storytelling format; can be informal. Examples: News reports, feature stories, blog posts, magazine features.

An **essay** is a formal, subjective piece for analysis, often academic, focusing on the writer's **thesis**; a **research paper** is a more extensive, evidence-heavy document using external sources for a conclusion, often academic; while an **article** is generally objective, shorter, and published for a broad audience (news, magazines) to inform or entertain. **Essays use personal voice, articles aim for objectivity**, and papers synthesize research to form a conclusion, differing mainly in purpose, audience, and structure.

An **essay** explores a topic, analyzes an idea, or persuades the reader through the author's perspective. It is subjective, analytical, often personal. Standard **intro-body-conclusion with a thesis statement**; **uses few sources**, sometimes none. Examples: Literary analysis, personal reflection, argumentative essay. **Essays are subjective** (author's viewpoint); **articles are objective** (facts/news); **papers are objective (data-driven conclusions)**. Audience: Essays (academic/specific), Articles (broad/general), Papers (scholarly). **Papers are deepest, articles shortest, essays in between**.

A **Research Paper** presents findings or arguments based on extensive research, using facts and data. Formal, objective, evidence-based. **Detailed, often with headings, comprehensive citations, and a conclusion derived from data**, not just opinion. Examples: Scientific reports, theses, scholarly journal submissions.

In the OT, **atonement** was the divinely ordained **process of restoring relationship with a holy God**, primarily achieved through a system of sacrifices (blood offerings) that covered, cleansed, or made amends for sin and defilement, with **the annual Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) being the central ritual for national cleansing**, using blood to purify the Tabernacle and symbolically carry sins away. This sacrificial system, including burnt, sin, and guilt offerings, provided temporary reconciliation, foreshadowing a deeper, lasting atonement.

In the NT, **atonement** means **the reconciliation and restoration of a broken relationship between sinful humanity and a holy God**, primarily achieved through Christ's sacrificial death, which pays the penalty for sin, satisfies divine justice, and makes people "at-one" (united) with God. **It involves cleansing from sin, satisfying God's justice, and restoring fellowship**, a concept rooted in OT sacrificial systems but fulfilled uniquely through Jesus.

**Augment** means to increase the size, amount, or strength of something already in existence, while **supplement** refers to **adding something extra to complete, enhance, or fill a deficiency**. Augment focuses on enlargement (boosting income), whereas supplement focuses on filling gaps.

A **central rule** typically refers to **a core principle**. A **basic rule** refers to a fundamental, straightforward, or foundational **guideline**. **Central rules are about core control**, whereas **basic rules are about foundational requirements** (driving a safe speed).

**Chattel** is an antiquated catch-all category of property associated with movable goods. It included anything other than real property - leases, people (slaves, wives), animals, and money.

**Common sense** is the practical, immediate judgment used to navigate everyday life safely, while **wisdom** is a deeper, experience-based understanding of life that guides long-term decisions and

moral choices. Common sense is knowing to look both ways before crossing the street, and wisdom as knowing when to take a life-changing risk. Common sense is for immediate, mundane situations, whereas wisdom applies a broader, "big picture" view to life's complexities. **Common sense keeps you out of trouble, while wisdom guides you to the best possible outcome.**

**complement means something that completes or enhances something else,**

**Conscientious:** Guided by one's conscience, or sense of right and wrong, particularly when acting in accordance with it. **Integrity** is doing what is right or fair when no law exists, or when the law is not sufficient. It is often described as **doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.** **Equity:** **In a legal or philosophical sense,** this refers to applying **fairness based on the specific, unique circumstances of a case** rather than just strict, literal laws, **GT#2, p.3.**

A **consequence** is **a direct result or outcome of an action or event** (like the consequence of speeding), while a **conclusion** is **the final judgment, decision, or summary reached** after thinking or reasoning, or simply the end of something. **Action leads to consequence, while analysis leads to conclusion.** **Consequence:** Something that follows as an effect or result of a cause, event, or action. The outcome itself, the what happens next. **Conclusion:** A judgment or decision reached after consideration; the end or final part of something; a summary. The final thought, decision, or ending (the conclusion of the report is that the project was successful). **A consequence is the what happens because of something, linking cause and effect** (He got wet as a consequence of He went out in the rain). A conclusion is the what you decide or end with, a final reasoned outcome or the end point.

**Context-Dependent:** The meaning can vary based on individual or collective interpretation.

**Covenant** refers to a formal description of the **relationship between God and his people.** The Old and New Testaments form the contexts for their respective covenants, that is, the **testaments relate the historical setting of each covenant.** They are the surrounding body of literature (canons) within which the covenants are embedded. [**cf New Covenant Theology & Baptist Distinctives**]

**Conviction** is **staying committed to a goal or core principle,** even under pressure, while remaining open to changing tactics based on new data. **Stubbornness** is **rigidly holding onto a specific idea or decision out of ego or fear of being wrong,** often ignoring reality or feedback. Conviction builds bridges, while stubbornness breeds conflict. A person with conviction stays flexible on the how (the route) but firm on the what (the mission). A stubborn person refuses to change, even when the strategy fails. Conviction encourages listening to feedback to refine the path. Stubbornness views advice as a threat, leading to defensiveness. Conviction aims for impact and positive outcomes. Stubbornness prioritizes being right over achieving the best result. **Conviction is driven by purpose. Stubbornness is driven by ego** and a refusal to feel a loss.

**Creativity** is the generation (conceiving) of new, imaginative ideas, while **ingenuity** is the clever, resourceful application of those ideas to solve complex, practical problems. **Innovation** takes these creative, ingenious solutions and scales them into value-generating products or processes. Think of **creativity as envisioning, ingenuity as designing the solution, and innovation as launching it.**

**Definite** means **clear, certain, explicit, or precise,** while **definitive** means **final, authoritative,** or the

best example of its kind, often implying a **conclusive** resolution or standard that can't be surpassed, making **definitive a stronger, more conclusive term than just definite**. Use definite for something known for sure (a definite time) and definitive for **something final or ultimate** (a definitive answer/ ruling). **Determinative** refers to the influencing (decisive, controlling, determining) factor that shapes an outcome, while **definitive** refers to a final, authoritative, and complete result.

**descriptive vs. prescriptive:** separates **what the Bible describes was happening (narrates events, historic occurrences, cultural practices)** from **what it prescribes (commands, moral/ethical instructions) for (A) people under the OC or (B) believers today under the NC**.

**Descriptive principles** **explain how things are or work**, observing reality without judgment (Grass grows from the ground). **Prescriptive principles** dictate **how things should be, ought to work**, setting rules or moral guidelines (**General principles or those that apply to or govern a given situation** may be addressed either descriptively or prescriptively; descriptive passages (like the Book of Acts) show what was, while prescriptive passages (like the Ten Commandments or Paul's letters) show what should be for the people being addressed. Confusing them leads to misinterpretation, **like thinking all early church practices** (selling all property) **are commands**, when they're just historical descriptions.

**Destiny** is the predetermined destination or **ultimate outcome of your life**, often viewed as a fixed, final result. **Purpose** is the reason for your existence—the "why" behind your actions, passion, and daily journey. While **destiny is the "where" you are going, purpose is the "how" you live**. Destiny is the final destination (the "what"). Purpose is the reason for being (the "why"). Destiny focuses on the end result or **destination**. Purpose focuses on the journey, process, and daily actions. Purpose provides the pathway to fulfill your destiny. Purpose is the daily work you do, while destiny is the ultimate outcome of that work.

**Egoism** means that a person is **motivated by self-interest**. Egotistical people lack empathy and have an exaggerated sense of their own importance. They believe themselves to be superior to others in skill and intelligence. They are excessively conceited or absorbed in themselves. **[GT Appendices, last pgs]**

**elaboration** (**adding details or explanation**) includes, explains, expands, balances, develops, details, clarifies, expands upon, fleshes out, amplifies, and expounds, with specific choices depending on whether you mean **to add complexity or detail, or simply to explain further** **[which complicates]**.

**Entice, provoke, and incite** all mean to spur action, but differ in method and intent. **Entice lures** with temptation or appeal (positive/neutral). **Provoke causes** an angry or sudden reaction (usually negative). **Incite stirs up** intense, often violent or unlawful action (strongly negative/forceful). **Entice** (Tempt/Allure): Focuses on persuasion through appeal. A scent may entice you to enter a bakery. **Provoke** (Anger/Stir reaction): Tends to be a direct action against an individual, resulting in anger or a fight. **Incite** (Rouse/Instigate): Often involves encouraging a group to act, frequently inciting a riot or violence. It is often aimed at a group, with the actor seen as an ally.

**Ethics** is knowing the **difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do**. **Ethi-**

**cal:** Adhering to standards of fairness and morality that often transcend what is merely legally permitted. **Equity and Good Conscience:** A legal phrase used to describe decisions made based on moral rightness and fairness rather than formal, established laws. **Integrity (Moral):** Acting according to strong moral principles and an internal compass rather than external rules.

**Extra-biblical** means outside the Bible or beyond the Bible, referring to any writings, teachings, or information not included in the accepted biblical canon (scripture) but related to religious, historical, or theological topics, such as apocryphal texts, church traditions, or scholarly commentary, which aren't considered divinely authoritative.

**Facts** are objective, verifiable pieces of information (what happened), while **truth** is the broader understanding, meaning, or reality derived from interpreting those facts, often involving beliefs, values, and context (the why or whole story). **Facts are like puzzle pieces, but truth is the completed picture**, revealing the bigger picture and significance (the red car was a getaway vehicle). **Facts** can be proven with evidence, data, or observation. Specific: Single, discrete pieces of information (a date, a measurement). Context-Independent: Exist regardless of belief. **Truth** is Subjective & Interpretive: Deals with meaning, beliefs, and perspective, even when based on facts.

**Faith and understanding** have a reciprocal relationship. Faith is a necessary first step that provides the framework for understanding and understanding substantiates faith. The Christian idea that the universe is rational kick-started early modern science.

**Fear** is a natural response to a specific, immediate threat, while **panic** is a sudden, overwhelming surge of intense fear, often without a clear danger, disrupting reason and leading to a powerful fight-or-flight reaction with severe physical symptoms like a racing heart, shortness of breath, and dizziness, often peaking quickly and then subsiding. Essentially, panic is an extreme, sometimes irrational, form or amplification of fear, characterized by its sudden onset and overwhelming intensity, distinct from the more sustained, anticipatory feeling of general anxiety.

Fearing to not do something implies a fear of facing negative consequences or repercussions for inaction. Fearing not to do something indicates a fear of missing out on a desired outcome - wanting something and being afraid we won't get it for various reasons, GT Apx, p.3.

### Figures of Speech

**Formulaic language** is a term for prefabricated phrases and sequences of words (expressions) used as a single unit, rather than being generated from scratch with grammar rules.

**Parabolic language** uses simple, allegorical stories (parables) to teach complex moral, spiritual, or universal truths, often hiding deeper meanings within earthly narratives, like Jesus's parables of the Good Samaritan or the Prodigal Son, to reveal truth to the receptive while concealing it from the indifferent. It's a symbolic form of speech, casting a relatable story alongside a profound concept for deeper understanding.

An **expression** pictures, represents, or symbolizes a particular word, phrase, or sentence. Catch cold is an **idiomatic expression** - a showing of feeling, character, ie. laughter as an expression of happiness or joy. **If the shoe fits, wear it** is an **idiom** meaning if a criticism or description applies

to you, you should own it, accept it as true, even if it's unpleasant; it's about acknowledging a correct assessment of your character or actions, often used when someone points out a fault. It's an encouragement to look inward and accept the truth about oneself.

**Two sides of the same coin** is an idiom that refers to two seemingly different or opposite things that are, in fact, closely related, interconnected, or two aspects of the same situation. It implies they cannot exist without each other and are essentially part of the same whole, (faith & works; hearing & doing; repent & believe; conformed & transformed).

**Antinomies** [cf Both-And] are not strictly the same as "two sides of the same coin," though they share the concept of dual, connected aspects. An antinomy is a fundamental, logical contradiction between two principles that both appear equally reasonable and true. While a coin represents two sides of the same, non-contradictory entity, an antinomy presents a paradox where both conclusions cannot logically exist together.

A **gesture** is a form of nonverbal communication or non-vocal communication in which visible bodily actions communicate particular messages, either in place of, or in conjunction with, speech.

**Symbolism** is a literary device where characters, objects, actions, or ideas are ingrained or associated with a deeper meaning beyond the literal sense. Symbolism is the idea that things can represent other things.

**Spiritualizing:** Finding hidden, symbolic, or mystical meanings beyond the plain words, often pointing to spiritual truths or Christ. Uncover deeper, divine meanings God invested in the text, even beyond the human author's awareness. Applying symbolic interpretation, moving from the literal event to spiritual realities (the literal city in **Rev.11:8** is also spiritually Sodom and Egypt).

An **allegory** is an extended, narrative-driven story or artwork where characters and events symbolize a deeper, often moral or political, meaning (Animal Farm represents the Russian Revolution). The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe is a Christian allegory, with Aslan representing Christ. A **metaphor** is a direct, concise figure of speech comparing two unrelated things to highlight a shared quality (*Life is a journey*).

**Metaphors** in the Bible include the *Lord is my shepherd*, Jesus calling himself (*I am*) *the bread of life*, *the light of the world*, and *the true vine*. People are compared to *sheep*, the church to a *vineyard* and *field*, etc.

A **euphemism** is a figure of speech that replaces a harsh, direct, or unpleasant term with a milder, more indirect expression, aims to be delicate, polite, or tactful. Euphemisms help us talk about uncomfortable topics in a way that avoids causing offense or discomfort. **Hyperbole** is an extreme exaggeration used for emphasis (I've told you a million times), while a **euphemism** is a mild or indirect phrase used to replace a harsh, unpleasant, or embarrassing term (passed away instead of died). **Hyperbole** magnifies reality for dramatic effect, aims to make a strong impression clearly not meant to be taken literally. It is a literary device or figure of speech that uses extreme, often impossible, exaggeration, whereas euphemism softens a point to make it more polite. **Sarcasm** is a form of verbal irony used to mock, ridicule, or convey contempt. While hyperbole is about magnifying

a feeling or situation, **sarcasm** is about **stating the opposite of what is meant in order to imply disdain.**

**Similes:** figures of speech involving the **comparison** (like or as) of one thing with another thing of a different kind, used to make a description more emphatic or vivid. The phrase *The kingdom of God is like ...* **begins a series of parables Jesus used to explain his kingdom** to his followers. These parables describe the kingdom as having small beginnings that grow to be great (mustard seed, leaven), as a hidden treasure that is extremely valuable, as being **pervasive yet not always apparent**, and as ultimately containing both the righteous and the wicked until they are finally separated.

**Idiomatic** relates to **expressions that cannot be understood according to their literal meaning**, like it's raining cats and dogs or bite the bullet. An **idiom** is a turn of phrase, like saying a restaurant has gone to the dogs, which has nothing to do with dogs but means the restaurant has seen better days.

An **idiom** is a phrase or expression that largely or exclusively carries a figurative or non-literal meaning, rather than making any literal sense, ie, thorn in the flesh. Categorized as **formulaic language**, an idiomatic expression's meaning is different from the literal meanings of each word inside it like **Bite the bullet**. To endure something unpleasant or difficult. to bravely endure a difficult or unpleasant situation, often one you've been avoiding. **Peter out** means **to gradually diminish, weaken, and eventually come to an end or stop**, like a dwindling supply or fading enthusiasm, often used for things like energy, interest, or a physical flow (a stream, a strike, a conversation). The phrase suggests a slow cessation, similar to the last drops of water from a hose or ore thinning in a mine. **Swallow your pride** means to **suppress your ego or sense of self-importance** to do something that feels embarrassing, humbling, or difficult, often to achieve a better outcome, fix a mistake, or help yourself or someone else. It's about **putting aside feelings of shame or being "wrong" or fearing to do what's necessary, like apologizing, asking for help, or admitting fault.**

**Humbling yourself:** You set aside your ego, arrogance, or stubbornness. Acting despite embarrassment: You do something you'd rather not because of how it makes you look. Focus on the goal: The motivation is often to **move past the awkwardness for a greater purpose**, like resolving a conflict or learning from a mistake.

**Slang:** Using trendy, informal words that can function euphemistically, such as pissed for angry or in hot water for in trouble.

**Indirection:** Shifting focus from the unpleasant reality, such as make love for sex or let go for fired.

**Mispronunciation:** Altering a word's sound to make it less offensive, such as frigging for f\*\*\*ing.

**Modification:** Changing a harsh noun into a milder adjective, as in he has foolish beliefs instead of he's a fool.

-----

**Gratitude** is a deep, lasting attitude of appreciation and state of being, regardless of circumstances. **Thankfulness** is a temporary, often automatic, emotional response to specific positive events or actions. While thankfulness is often fleeting (saying "thank you"), gratitude is a mindful, enduring mindset. **Gratitude is appreciation for a gift or situation, while thanksgiving is directed toward the**

**giver or orchestrator**. While **praise** honors God for who He is (sovereign, loving, gracious), **thanks-giving** focuses on what He has done.

**Gullible and naive** both describe people who are easily fooled, but **naive** implies a lack of experience or innocent ignorance, while **gullible** refers to being overly trusting or uncritical, often leading to being tricked repeatedly. Naive is a state of inexperience; **gullible is a vulnerability to deception**. a **naive** person **might not know better**, whereas a **gullible** person **should know better** but still falls for the trick. **Naive** (Innocent/Inexperienced): Often implies a youthful, innocent, or sheltered perspective. A naive person does not realize they are being misled because they lack knowledge of the world's complexities. **Gullible** (Easily Tricked): Implies a deeper susceptibility to being fooled, often regardless of experience. A gullible person takes things at face value, acts too quickly, or is too eager to believe, making them a soft touch.

A **hallmark** is a distinctive characteristic of something or someone.

**Holiness** - set apart, distinct, and **morally pure**, representing God's transcendent, incomparable nature. **Godliness** is the practical, daily expression of that holiness, signifying a life lived in god-likeness or conformity to God's character. **Holiness is the state; Godliness is the action**. Holiness is being set apart (positional), while godliness is living out that separation (practical), **2 Pt.3:11-12**.

**Holistic**: Encompasses the relationship between facts to form a complete understanding.

**Implication** is a meaning **implied or suggested derived or hinted at from clues as naturally to be inferred or understood** without being directly stated. (You were the only one there implies you took the wallet). An **allusion** is a brief, indirect reference to a famous person, place, or event (like calling someone Einstein) that **relies on the audience's existing knowledge to make a connection**, adding depth or context. The key difference: **implication is a deduction from words; allusion is a shortcut to a shared idea**.

**Inference vs. implication** is about the difference between giving and receiving suggested meaning: **Imply** means **to hint at or suggest something indirectly** (the speaker's action), while **infer** means **to deduce or conclude that suggested meaning from clues** (the listener's action). An **implication** is the hidden meaning planted by the sender, and an **inference** is the educated guess or conclusion drawn by the receiver.

**Legalism** often stems from religious contexts (like misinterpreting Old Testament law), while moralism is a broader cultural tendency to equate goodness with good behavior. **Legalism** is a noun referring to the **strict, excessive adherence to law, rules, or moral codes**, often neglecting the spirit of the law for the letter of the law. **Legalistic** is the adjective describing behavior or a person characterized by this strict, rigid, and often **judgmental**, rule-following approach.

**Legalism in some Baptist churches** often manifests as enforcing strict, man-made rules—such as prohibitions on dancing, alcohol, or specific attire—as standards for spiritual maturity or, incorrectly, for salvation. **It turns personal convictions into obligations, fostering a judgmental environment** that replaces grace with performance-based righteousness. Legalism is defined as adding to the gospel by believing salvation or spiritual growth can be earned through obedience to rules. **Le-**

**legalistic tendencies** often focus on external behaviors: **abstaining from** alcohol, movies, or certain music; strict dress codes; and mandatory participation in specific church activities. **It confuses justification by faith with sanctification by works**, leading to a "poisonous" culture of judging others for not meeting self-imposed standards. Legalism prioritizes following a checklist over a personal, grace-driven relationship with God. While some Baptist churches hold high standards of holiness, **legalism occurs when these convictions are imposed upon others as divine commands**. Some Independent Baptist or **Fundamentalist churches** are more prone to legalism, often resulting in a "toxic" atmosphere that can stifle joy and create a judgmental, "us vs. them" mindset. Legalism fails to recognize that true righteousness comes through faith in Christ alone, rather than personal effort. While **not all Baptist churches are legalistic**, those that are often emphasize external conformity over inward transformation.

**Literal** refers to the most basic, non-figurative meaning of words, while **literalistic** describes **a rigid adherence to the literal sense of words** without considering context or authorial intent. A **literal** interpretation aims to understand **what the author intended**, whereas a **literalistic** translation **focuses solely on the face value of the words**, potentially leading to a misunderstanding of figurative language like **metaphors** or **hyperbole**. This raises the question of **what drives your translation and understanding? The passage, or your theological bent?**

**Longsuffering, patience, and perseverance** are **overlapping virtues of endurance**, with distinct focuses: **longsuffering** is **emotional restraint**/slow anger toward people, restraining anger and retaliation. Holding back a "hot" temper when wronged, mistreated, waiting on someone or dealing with difficult people over a long time. Longsuffering is patience with people, while patience is generally associated with circumstances.

**patience** is **calm endurance of difficult circumstances** or delays; bearing up under trials, delays, or suffering. A calm, quiet attitude while experiencing misfortune or waiting for a promise, healing, or enduring hardships; remaining under pressure without becoming agitated. Patience is often passive (bearing a situation), while perseverance is active (acting despite a situation).

**perseverance** is **active, steadfast effort to continue despite obstacles**. Active persistence; moving forward despite discouragement or trials. The determination to keep going, not giving up, and maintaining steady effort in working toward a long-term goal or overcoming adversity.

**Messianic Judaism** is a movement of Jewish people who believe Jesus is the Messiah, **blending Jewish traditions** (like observing Shabbat, holidays, keeping some kosher laws) **with core Christian beliefs** (Jesus as divine Son of God/Trinity). They see themselves as a unique form of Judaism. They worship in Messianic synagogues, often blending Hebrew and English, using Jewish liturgy with New Testament readings, focusing on Jesus's fulfillment of prophecy. **They identify culturally as Jewish but spiritually as followers of Jesus.**

**Moralism** focuses on **outward behavior and personal betterment through self-effort**, reducing faith to a set of ethical rules, while **legalism** emphasizes adherence to a strict system of rules and regulations, often ignoring grace and context; both often become self-righteous substitutes for genuine faith, though **moralism is more about "being a good person" and legalism about "following the rules,"**

they often look similar in practice, focusing on works over grace and connection to the Gospel. **Trying to be a good person or achieve salvation/acceptance through self-striving and adherence to moral codes is often detached from a deeper spiritual reality or God's grace.** Proper external behavior, personal character, and living up to human or societal standards. It's a works-based system that can create self-righteousness without transforming the heart, as it lacks the power of the Gospel. A system of rules and regulations, often biblical, treated as the primary means of pleasing God or achieving righteousness, emphasizing the letter of the law. Strict observance of rules, duties, and rituals, often neglecting the spirit or purpose behind them (e.g., grace, love). **It reduces faith to a checklist,** leading to judgment, hypocrisy, and a focus on tradition over transformation, similar to moralism but often more rule-focused.

A **paradigm shift** is a fundamental change in basic concepts, assumptions, or practices that replace an old framework with a new one.

**Paramount** means supreme, highest in rank, or overriding all others, while **primary** means first in order (a sequence), main, fundamental, chief.

**Philosophical materialism is humanism**, the concept of the uniformity of natural causes in a closed system is also **naturalism**. **Determinism** is the philosophical view that all events, including human actions and choices, are inevitably determined by previously existing causes and natural laws. Every event has a cause, and everything in the universe is governed by causal laws. Because of prior conditions and laws, events cannot happen in any other way than they do. **Determinism** suggests the future is fixed by the past, meaning only one outcome is possible in any given situation ∴ (therefore) **free will is an illusion, and people lack moral responsibility for their actions.** It is based upon the notion that the universe is a sealed box with no god capable of acting into it from the outside and that Man is stuck on the inside totally enmeshed in the machinery of it.

**Pietistic** means **excessively or hypocritically pious**, characterized by exaggerated, showy, or affected religious devotion, often seeming self-righteous or holier-than-thou. Essentially, it describes **someone whose piety seems overdone**, insincere, or overly emotional.

**predilection** a preference or special liking for something; a bias in favor of something.

**Race** is often about physical traits (skin, hair) and socially imposed, while **ethnicity** is about shared culture, history, language, and traditions, often self-defined; **race** is external perception, **ethnicity** is internal identity, and while **race** is considered a social construct, **ethnicity** is rooted in cultural heritage, though they overlap and can be complex.

**Rationalization** is a defense mechanism where people create logical-sounding but false reasons to justify unacceptable behaviors, thoughts, or feelings, protecting their ego from guilt, shame, or cognitive dissonance. Instead of facing the real, uncomfortable truth, **individuals invent plausible excuses** (I failed because the test was unfair) **to maintain self-esteem and avoid difficult emotions**, often involving blaming others or minimizing consequences.

The real **difference between an excuse and a reason is the motivation behind each.** **A reason is an explanation** for taking a certain course of action. The intention of an explanation is to pro-

vide context and clarify, while an excuse aims to avoid and deflect blame. **An excuse is used to escape an obligation, expectation, or penalty** for failing to follow orders. It attempts to justify or deflect one's culpability by blaming external factors. An excuse is a pretense or subterfuge for covering up disobedience or bad decisions. A person explaining his actions accepts personal responsibility for them and associated consequences. **Reasons become excuses when they are used to avoid personal responsibility.**

While **both criticize**, a **rebuke** is a sharp, stern, often immediate disapproval of an action, while a **reprimand** is more formal, official, and often documented, usually from a superior to a subordinate, carrying official consequences like being put in a file. A **rebuke is a strong verbal dressing-down** (eg, teacher to student), whereas a **reprimand is an official disciplinary action** (e.g., boss to employee). A **rebuke** as a strong telling-off and a **reprimand** as a formal disciplinary note in a file—the reprimand is a more serious, official step.

**Reconciliation** is the **process of restoring harmony and friendly relations** between parties in conflict, involving mutual understanding, forgiveness, and a commitment to moving forward, often **requiring significant change and addressing past wrongs for lasting peace, not just ending the dispute.** It's about moving from alienation to unity, acknowledging hurts, seeking truth, and rebuilding trust to create a healthier, more unified future. **Restoration:** Bringing back together what was broken or alienated, creating accord from discord. **Forgiveness:** Letting go of resentment and extending grace, which is often **a prerequisite but not the end goal**, aims to build a new, positive relationship, not just return to the past, Involves acknowledging wrongs, taking responsibility, **confession** and demonstrating changed behavior.

**Repentance** and **forgiveness** are intrinsically linked as **complementary actions in a restorative process**, where **repentance** (acknowledging wrong and changing, often called "a new mind") **acts as the necessary human response to receive the gift of forgiveness** (letting go of resentment). Repentance is the action of turning away from sin, while **forgiveness is the act of releasing guilt**, giving up your right to hold the debt against the person who wronged you. **Repentance serves as a precondition to experiencing the fullness of God's forgiveness**, as it signifies a genuine desire to mend relationships. Repentance involves acknowledging, feeling remorse, and taking steps to make amends.

**Regalia** refers to the special, **ceremonial clothing or insignia** signifying rank, status, or office. It represents authority, achievement, identity, or tradition.

**Resilience** is the psychological and behavioral ability **to adapt well in the face of adversity, trauma, or stress and bounce back** from difficult experiences.

**Sacerdotalism** is **the religious belief or system emphasizing that ordained priests are essential mediators between God and humanity.** It posits that divine grace is conferred through the church's sacraments administered by a specialized priesthood. Common in Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Anglican traditions, **it emphasizes ritual over direct individual access to God.** Priests act as necessary intermediaries, often offering sacrifices (like the Eucharist) and granting absolution. Belief that ordained priests hold unique, divinely granted authority to perform sacraments. **Emphasizes a distinct, ordained class essential to worship**, often focusing on apostolic succession, **cf Religious**

## Practices, p.16-17.

A **shrine** is a sacred space dedicated to honoring a deity, saint, ancestor, or significant person/event, serving as a focal point for prayer, remembrance, reflection, and devotion, often containing relics or symbolic objects. Shrines vary widely, from elaborate temples housing idols (like Shinto shrines with torii gates) to simple home altars or roadside memorials, and are found across cultures and religions (e.g., Catholic, Hindu, African traditions)

**Simple** means clear, uncomplicated, and easy to understand (often positive), while **simplistic** means overly simplified, ignoring crucial details, and lacking nuance (always negative). The key difference is that a simple solution or explanation is elegantly direct, whereas a simplistic one is deceptively basic and incomplete.

**Sorrow** is a deep, emotional sadness regarding loss, grief, or life's challenges, focusing on the pain of a situation. **Regret** is a cognitive, often self-focused feeling of guilt or disappointment, focusing on wishing a past action or inaction could be undone. Sorrow accepts what happened, while regret agonizes over changing it. Sorrow is often directed outward at a loss or circumstance; Regret is inward-looking, focusing on personal mistakes. Sorrow is a passive state of grieving; Regret is an active, often repetitive thought process of what if?. Unresolved regret can lead to shame, self-pity, or self-destructive behavior. Sorrow, when processed, leads to acceptance. Sorrow: Associated with mourning, emotional pain, and sadness over events you could not control. **Regret** is Associated with guilt over one's own actions or inaction, often centered on how a decision affected themselves. **Remorse** is a deeper, more active guilt focused on the harm caused to others, whereas regret is often more focused on one's own disappointment. Sorrow is sadness for what is lost, while regret is sadness for what you did or failed to do.

**Spiritualism** focuses on direct communication with spirits and life after death, often through mediums, finding personal meaning outside organized faith. **Christianity** is a structured religion centered on faith in Jesus Christ, the Bible, and salvation. **Spiritualism** emphasizes personal experience with the spirit world, whereas Christianity offers a defined path through God's revelation, with traditional teachings warning against spirit communication as deceptive.

**Sulking** is the act of being silently angry, upset, or sullenly aloof, usually to express resentment or to elicit sympathy after feeling wronged. It involves withdrawing by refusing to talk or smile—to punish others for a perceived slight. Common synonyms include pouting, brooding, and being in a huff. It is a way to express anger without directly discussing the issue. It is frequently used when one is simply unhappy with a situation.

Religious **syncretism** is more than coexistence; it's the integration of ideas - the blending or merging of different religious beliefs, practices, and traditions, creating new, hybrid forms, common when cultures interact, leading to practices incorporating elements like festivals, saints, or rituals from various sources.

To be **tailored** means to be custom-made, adapted, or modified to fit specific needs, requirements, or a particular person or situation, much like a tailor adjusts a suit for an individual's measurements, resulting in a perfect fit or perfect suitability. It implies precision, personalization, and a high level of

**suitability**, moving beyond a one-size-fits-all approach.

**Tenor** refers to **the general, continuous tone, drift**, or meaning of something (the tenor of the conversation) **Tenet** is **a principle, belief, or doctrine** held as true, often by a group (a core tenet of democracy). **Tenor** Focuses on the "course," "spirit," or general drift of a statement. **Tenet** Refers to a core, fundamental belief, often within a system, philosophy, or religion.

**Understood** means something is grasped, agreed upon, or implied, acting as an adjective for something known without being stated (an understood **rule or premise**). It signifies **an accepted, unwritten condition**.

**NOTES**, see Religious Practices

### **ENGLISH usage errors**

Phrases such as *the reason why*, *the reason is because*, and *the moment when* are **usage errors due to redundancy**, **not strictly grammatical errors**. Though they are common in speech and appear in published writing by reputable authors, but they are generally avoided in formal or academic contexts where **conciseness and economy of speech are preferred**.

**Redundancy (Tautology)**: The word reason coupled with the words why or because essentially **convey the same idea of a cause or explanation**, making the expression **repetitious**.

### **Scripture Notes**

**how the meaning of passages is disguised or used to point to Christ and his work, from Understanding the Book of Revelation**

*1:1 The revelation<sup>A</sup> of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show<sup>A</sup> His slaves the things that must take place quickly, and He signified,<sup>B</sup> having sent forth through His angel to His servant John,<sup>2</sup> who testified to the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ—to all that he saw.<sup>C</sup> <sup>3</sup>Blessed is the one reading, and the one hearing the words of this prophecy and keeping the things having been written in it, for the time is near. **Rev.1:***

<sup>A</sup> *Revelation, Gk. **Apocalypse**, refers to the removal of a veil or covering. The purpose is "to show" (1:1) so what had been concealed and hidden is no longer secret as in unseen or unknown, though it may remain a mystery as in puzzling or unexplained.*

<sup>B</sup> ***Signify means to communicate by using symbols** – to symbolize in a stylized manor, ie, made to conform to a particular style or format – that style being the fantastic images, scenes, beasts, and battles of **apocalyptic literature**. In Revelation as in many other places in the Bible **things are not what they seem**. **The true character** of events, individuals, and forces, is quite different than it appears on the observable physical plane. Symbols such as **the harlot Babylon (Rev.17)** exactly represent the true nature of the subject. **Revelation's symbols make things appear as they really are. God portrays them to emphasize their wickedness and his way of defeating it.** Smyrna appears poor but is rich; Sardis has a reputation for life but is dead; **it appeared** that nothing could prevent **the red dragon** from devouring the woman's child (**Rev.12**), but *the child was caught up to God and to his throne.**

**A symbol is figurative language such as a visual metaphor** [word substituted for what is actually being spoken of]. One common metaphor in the NT is the word **blood** used in referring to Christ's **death** to connect it to the sprinkling of the blood for cleansing required by OT animal sacrifices (**Heb.9:11-14; 1 Jn.1:7**). A halo or rays of light emanating from the head representing holiness, deity, and the divine is a common symbol in paintings. **Many of the symbols in Revelation are dynamic with moving pictures like changing scenes in a movie.** Sometimes the symbols are explained - *the seven lampstands [represent] the seven churches* (**Rev.1:12, 20**).

<sup>c</sup> **The visual mode of the message "to show" (1:1) or "he saw" (1:2) is used 52 times of John in Revelation combined with what he heard (1:10; 22:8) represents first-hand knowledge.**

**So Rev.1:1** actually says that Jesus disclosed the deep realities of many of the very things the NT had already clarified (*made known, Eph.1:7-9* below) by communicating them on a visceral level in the form of apocalyptic images and scenes. **In other words, Jesus both revealed truth by giving John visions and kept it secret by encoding it in symbolic form.** It's like a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma or an autostereogram - a single-image stereogram designed to create the visual illusion of a three-dimensional scene from a two-dimensional image (aka **Magic Eye**). The illusion is one of **depth perception** arising from the different perspective each eye has of a three-dimensional scene. Not everyone can see the 3-D image.

**Most translators don't recognize a difference between the Gk word translated "signify" (1:1) and the common word for imparting knowledge, make known (Eph.1:9).** Some translations that do make this distinction are DLNT, YLT, NTE, WYC, ASV, KJV, NKJV (*biblegateway.com*). EHV has *Christ expressed this revelation by means of symbols ...*

-----

**Be** (*is, am, are*) refers to a current, static state of existence or being (I am a teacher), while **become** (*became, came to be*) describes a process of change, transformation, or development into a new state (I became a teacher). **Use be for status and become for the transition.** *Is* describes a condition that already exists (She is warm). **Became** highlights the transformation (She became cold) and (Now she is cold). **Be** (*am, is, are, was, were*) is a linking/stating verb. **Become** (*becomes, became, becoming*) is an action verb, cf **Religious Practices, p.22.**

*Responding to a complaint by the Judeans. Jesus said, before Abraham came into being [became, change of status, aorist (aor) tense], I am [always was, imperfect (impf) tense, Genesis in Space & Time, p.22]! Jn.8:58. The Greek verbs and tenses are in stark contrast with each other: Abraham had a beginning, but Christ always existed [cf. Rev.1:8]. In Jn.1:1, the Word who [already] was is used 3 times, and again in v.2. V.3 uses the word became [came into being] 3 times to describe the creation of all things.]*

**Beating the air** refers to **1 Cor.9:26-27**, where Paul compares the Christian life to athletics (running and boxing). Here he uses a boxing metaphor (shadowboxing) **to describe his purposeful, disciplined ministry** compared to ineffective, aimless efforts. He emphasizes disciplining his body **to maintain focus on his mission** - directing spiritual energy toward a clear goal rather than wasting effort, ensuring he is not disqualified in his faith.

**Circumcision of the heart** is a biblical, spiritual metaphor (**Rom.2:29**) representing the internal purification, transformation, and consecration of a person to God by the Holy Spirit, rather than a physical mark. It signifies removing sinful, fleshly attitudes—such as fear, mistrust, and selfishness—to love God wholeheartedly. It is an inward change of the heart, prioritizing faith over legalistic adherence to ritual.

**Daystar arises in your heart** is a phrase from **2 Pt.1:19**, meaning believers should pay attention to prophetic scripture as a light guiding them through darkness until they fully experience the dawn of Christ's presence, a personal revelation of Jesus as the ultimate source of hope and truth within their lives. It signifies an inner dawning of spiritual understanding, faith, and the presence of the living Christ, moving from scriptural knowledge to experiential reality.

**Anointing with Oil:** A symbolic act of anointing the sick in Jesus' name. **Confession & Intercession:** Stresses the importance of confessing faults and praying for others to foster spiritual and relational healing. In essence, **Jas.5:15** offers comfort that through faith, prayer, and communal action (confession and prayer), a path to both physical restoration and spiritual cleansing (forgiveness) is available.

**Keys of the Kingdom**, see **Religious Practices**, p.11-12.

The **saints under the altar** in **Rev.6:9-11** reveals heaven's perspective of intense persecution on Earth - martyrs who died for their allegiance to God and faith in Jesus, whose souls are seen in heaven beneath the heavenly altar, symbolizing their lives being poured out as sacrifices at the altar's base in OT tradition signifying they are near God and accepted as offerings. They cry out for divine justice, **Gen.4:10**, asking God how long until He judges those on Earth. They are given white robes and told to *rest a little while longer* until the number of other martyrs to be killed is complete, representing a pause before God's final judgment. *White robes* symbolize purity, righteousness, and vindication, given to them by God.

A **yoke** was a wooden beam used to harness oxen together for performing tasks requiring physical exertion, metaphorically representing heavy burdens, control, and forced labor. The **yoke of slavery** in the Bible symbolizes harsh bondage, oppression, and forced submission to a master, commonly representing Israel's captivity in Egypt (**Lev.26:13**) or Babylon. In the New Testament, specifically **Gal.5:1**, it refers to the spiritual bondage of trying to earn salvation through legalistic obedience to the Mosaic Law rather than relying on grace. While the **yoke of slavery** represents the burden of sin and legalism, Jesus offers a yoke that is easy and light, representing a relationship of grace and rest (**Mt.11:29-30**).

The Old Testament Usage represents oppression by foreign powers or unjust labor, such as in Egypt. Breaking this yoke symbolizes divine liberation. The New Testament Usage shifts the focus to spiritual bondage. Paul uses it in **Gal.5:1** to warn against returning to legalism (trying to keep the Law for salvation) after being freed by Christ. It is described as a dreadful struggle and a burden that cannot be borne.

**Acts 15:10:** Peter refers to the Law as a yoke that neither their ancestors nor they could bear.

**Rom.6:** Paul explains that people are slaves to whichever master they obey—either sin (leading to

death) or obedience/righteousness.

In **Mk.8:15**, Jesus warns his disciples to *beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of Herod*, referring to **the pervasive, corrupting influence of hypocrisy, legalism, and unbelief**. Just as a small amount of yeast spreads through a whole batch of dough, Jesus warned that **the attitudes of religious legalism and worldly compromise** could corrupt his followers.

As detailed in **Lk.12:1**, **the leaven of the Pharisees is primarily hypocrisy**—pretending to be **righteous while having corrupt hearts** and focusing on outward rituals over true faith. The Pharisees added restrictive, human-made rules to God's laws, creating a burdensome system rather than focusing on God's grace. **Despite seeing miracles, the Pharisees demanded more signs, showing a hardened refusal to believe**, even when faced with truth. **The leaven of Herod represents the corrupting influence of secular power, immorality, and political opportunism.**

### **Church Distinctives**, partial list

The practice of selling **indulgences** was officially abolished in the **Catholic Church** by the **Council of Trent** in the 16th century, though the underlying theology of indulgences remains, with the Church granting them for specific prayers, pilgrimages, or acts of charity, but not for money. **Catholic indulgences** are **acts of faith that remit temporal punishment for sins**, classified as either plenary (total) or partial.

### **Major plenary indulgences**, partial list

**Praying the Rosary** in a group, 30 minutes of **Eucharistic Adoration**, Spending at least 30 minutes reading or listening to Holy Scripture in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, or the **Stations of the Cross**, requiring sacramental confession, **Holy Communion**, detachment from sin, and prayer for the Pope.

**At the Point of Death:** A priest may grant a plenary indulgence to a dying person who has been in the habit of praying.

### **Specific Occasions and Feasts**, partial list

**All Souls Day** (Nov 2): Visiting a church or oratory to pray for the souls in Purgatory.

**Cemetery Visit** (Nov 1-8): Praying for the dead while visiting a cemetery.

**Jubilee Years:** Special plenary indulgences are announced during Holy Years.

**Partial indulgences** remit part of the temporal punishment. Examples include:

**Devotional Prayers:** Reciting the Memorare, Magnificat, or Litany of the Sacred Heart.

**Acts of Charity/Faith:** Giving to the needy, volunteering, or **abstaining from a pleasure**.

**Prayers for the Dead:** Reciting the Eternal Rest (Requiem aeternam).

**Sign of the Cross:** Devoutly making the sign of the cross.

To obtain a **plenary indulgence**, **the following conditions must be met**, usually within 20 days: **Sacramental Confession**. Eucharistic Communion. **Prayer for the Pope's Intentions** (an Our

Father and Hail Mary). **Detachment from Sin:** Complete detachment from all sin, even venial sin. If the, detachment from sin is not complete, the indulgence is partial.

Catholic **Last Rites** are a set of **pastoral care rituals for the dying**, typically including Penance, Anointing of the Sick, and Viaticum (Eucharist) to prepare a person for death and eternity. Administered by a priest to Catholics in danger of death, these rites provide spiritual strength, mercy, and peace.

**Anointing of the Sick** by using blessed oil strengthens the soul and body, offering healing and forgiveness of sins.

**Viaticum:** Known as *food for the journey*, this is the final Holy Communion, representing the body and blood of Christ for the transition to eternal life.

**Confession/Penance:** Provides final absolution of sins.

**Apostolic Pardon:** A special blessing for the forgiveness of all sins and the remission of temporal punishment.

**Purgatory:** **a state of final purification for those who die in God's grace and friendship** (the elect) but are not yet perfectly cleansed from venial sins or the temporal punishment due to forgiven sins. It is not a second chance at salvation, but a, sometimes painful, preparation to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. **It is entirely distinct from the eternal punishment of hell.** It acts as a cleansing process where souls are purified to become holy, sometimes referred to as a *purifying fire*. Those in purgatory are assured of salvation; they will eventually enter heaven. **Purgatory is viewed as a testament to God's mercy**, ensuring that no one enters heaven with *filthy rags* or unfor-given of minor attachments to sin.

The concept is **supported by the practice of praying for the dead** (2 Maccabees 12:46) **and the mention of cleansing fire (1 Cor.3:15)**. While traditionally depicted as a place, it is often understood as a state of being. **Prayers and sacrifices from the living can assist souls undergoing this purification.**

**Absolution** is the formal release from guilt, obligation, or penalty, commonly referring to a priest or bishop declaring God's forgiveness of sins, particularly **in Catholic, Orthodox, and Anglican traditions**. It represents the remission of sins, often granted during the sacrament of penance or reconciliation. **Roman Catholic theology** views it as a sacrament of penance, **in Lutheran and Protestant contexts**, it is a declaration of divine forgiveness for the penitent.

Orthodox Christianity, primarily the **Eastern Orthodox Church**, is one of the oldest Christian traditions, tracing roots to the Apostles, emphasizing continuity with early Christianity, and focusing on **salvation as a transformative journey towards union with God** through faith [by means of], **sacraments (Mysteries), prayer, fasting, and living holy lives** within the Church community. It's characterized by **Salvation: A lifelong process of becoming holy and united with God, achieved through God's grace and human effort** (faith, prayer, good works) **becoming more righteous as you age**. The Bible is **interpreted within the context of Holy Tradition** (teachings of Church Fathers, Ecumenical Councils). It is **Believe to be the original**, unbroken Church founded by Christ, preserving the authentic faith. There are **Seven core sacraments**, including Baptism, **Chrisma-**

tion, and the Eucharist. **Divine Liturgy**: A central worship service featuring chanting, incense, icons, and deep reverence, focused on the Eucharist.

The **Anglican clergy hierarchy** is a three-tiered system of ordained ministry: Bishops, Priests (Presbyters), and Deacons.

**Protestantism**: Views salvation as a process of synergy (cooperation with God) rather than solely *faith alone*, and emphasizes Tradition alongside Scripture, cf **Religious Practices**, p.1-4.

**Shabbat** is the Jewish day of rest, observed from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset, that commemorates God resting on the seventh day after creation. It is a weekly observance of rest and spiritual enrichment and a reminder of freedom from slavery, as it is mentioned in the Ten Commandments.

**Religious rites and rituals** are repetitive, patterned actions or symbolic behaviors prescribed by a religion to communicate with the divine, mark life transitions, or express beliefs. Examples include rites of passage like baptism or communal worship and prayer such as the Christian Eucharist, and commemorative events.

**Rites of passage**: Ceremonies that mark a significant transition in a person's life, such as birth, puberty, marriage, and death.

**Christianity**: Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage ceremonies, Funeral rites, Corporate worship, the Eucharist.

**Communal worship and prayer**: Formal sequences of actions and prayers performed by a group.

**Fasting**, neither eating nor drinking, wearing sackcloth & sitting in the dust and bowing are gestures, expressions of repentance and seeking gods [Jnh.3:5-9], but **true repentance is a matter of the heart**: Strict, structured fasting periods (like Lent) are integral to spiritual discipline, though making oneself miserable by punishing oneself or denying legitimate physical needs or desires have nothing to do with commending one to God.

**Religious relics are sacred objects**, like body parts or possessions, connected to holy figures (Christ, saints, prophets) that are venerated for their spiritual significance, believed to have miraculous powers, and serve as tangible links to the divine, with major world religions having traditions of collecting and honoring them, such as the Shroud of Turin (Christ). **Relics** are housed in special containers called reliquaries and are categorized: 1st class: body parts; 2nd class: possessions; 3rd class: touched to first/second.

**Veneration: Believers use relics & icons** [sacred images of Christ, Mary, and other deceased saints] to honor the holy person and connect with God, often believing they facilitate miracles or blessings by **interceding for the faithful**, **Religious Practices**, p.16-17. They are not worshiped.

A **religious icon is a sacred statue, image, or symbol**, most often a painting, that represents a holy figure like Christ, the Virgin Mary, or saints, and is used in worship to aid prayer and meditation. These icons are considered to be windows into heaven or doorways to the sacred, conveying spiritual truths and helping believers connect with the divine rather than being worshiped themselves. In traditions like the **Eastern Orthodox Church**, icons are venerated for their sacredness

[???] but are not worshiped themselves.

**Religious tokens** are tangible, pocket-sized items used for daily encouragement, prayer, or as commemorative gifts for milestones like Confirmation or Baptism. Common forms include metal coins, engraved pocket stones, wooden crosses, and saint medals, often featuring scripture or inspirational messages. They serve as portable reminders of faith.

**Priests**, particularly in the **Catholic** tradition, are believed to **have the authority to forgive sins** by acting in the person of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, as passed down from the apostles via **apostolic succession**. This allows priests (**presbyters**) to act in the person of Christ to administer God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).

**Catholic/Orthodox View:** The authority given to the Apostles was passed to their successors (bishops) and then to priests through ordination, cf **Religious Practices, p.15-16**. Priests act as Christ's representatives. Confession is seen as a divine gift, a practical **way for penitents to receive the full forgiveness Christ offers, with the priest acting as God's instrument of mercy**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAYaXdvzbGU> What A Friend We Have In Jesus

*My Greek has long been forgotten but the following resources have been most useful in keeping me able to get at the sense of the New Testament meaning. GR*

<https://www.biblegateway.com/> **New English Translation** (NET) has the most extensive notes

The NIV [New International Version] Study Bible, Zondervan, 1985 [very good notes & cross references]

The RSV Interlinear Greek - English New Testament (the Nestle Greek Text with a Literal Translation, Zondervan edition, 1973)

The Analytical Greek Lexicon, revised, Zondervan, 1977 [Once you learn the Gk alphabet, you can look up any tense, voice, mood, case, person, or number of the word (see brief discussion below). The important thing is what that particular form refers to or conveys. English Grammar comes in very handy at this point.]

An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words with their precise meanings for English readers by W.E. Vine, 1966 <https://www.studydrive.net/dictionaries/eng/ved.html> [A new edition is available & an Old Testament edition as well.]

### **The 24 letters of the Greek Alphabet (in order)**

**Alpha** (Αα), **Beta** (Ββ), **Gamma** (Γγ), **Delta** (Δδ), **Epsilon** (Εε), **Zeta** (Ζζ), **Eta** (Ηη), **Theta** (Θθ), **Iota** (Ιι), **Kappa** (Κκ), **Lambda** (Λλ), **Mu** (Μμ), **Nu** (Νν), **Xi** (Ξξ), **Omicron** (Οο), **Pi** (Ππ), **Rho** (Ρρ), **Sigma** (Σσ/ς), **Tau** (Ττ), **Upsilon** (Υυ), **Phi** (Φφ), **Chi** (Χχ), **Psi** (Ψψ), **Omega** (Ωω), [cf **Commands in Scripture**].

**TENSES** <https://ezraproject.com/greek-tenses-explained/>

**Greek tenses** focus primarily on the aspect (kind of action—continuous, simple, or completed) rather than just the time of action. Unlike English, Greek uses a "snapshot" vs. "video" approach,

separating simple past actions (**aorist**) from continuous ones (**imperfect**).

**Aspect:** Describes if an action is ongoing (linear/continuous), finished (perfected), or just a simple occurrence (punctiliar). **Time** (when the action occurs): Most evident in the indicative mood.

**Present** Indicates continuous or habitual action (I am writing / I write).

**Imperfect** Describes ongoing or habitual actions in the past (I was writing / I used to write).

**Aorist** Focuses on a simple, completed past action without focusing on duration, like a snapshot (I wrote).

The Aorist indicates **what happened** (simple); the Imperfect indicates **how it happened** (ongoing/habitual).

**Simple Future:** Used for a one-time action.

**Continuous Future:** Used for repeated or ongoing future actions.

**Perfect:** Represents an action completed in the past with results that continue into the present (I have written).

**Pluperfect:** Indicates an action completed in the past with ongoing results at that past time (I had written).

Greek lacks a direct equivalent to the English infinitive (to do), relying on conjugated forms or particles instead. It often uses the first-person singular present tense (I write) rather than the infinitive (to write) **to define a verb**.

## VOICES

Greek **verb voices** indicate the relationship between the subject and the action. The **active** voice shows the subject doing the action. The **passive** shows them receiving it, while the distinct **middle** voice signifies the subject acts for their own benefit or upon themselves. **Active Voice:** **The subject performs the action** (I wash). It is used for direct action, similar to English. **Middle Voice:** **The subject performs the action upon themselves or for their own interest** (I wash myself or I get myself a drink). This voice often implies personal involvement or benefit. **Passive Voice:** **The subject is being acted upon by an external agent** (I am washed by another).

Ancient Greek originally functioned as an **active-middle system**, where **the middle voice often covers what English speakers would consider passive or reflexive actions**. **Deponent Verbs** appear only in the middle or passive form but **have an active meaning** (I come).

The core distinction in Greek is often how much the subject is "affected" by the action, with **middle voice showing high personal affect**.

## MOODS

Greek verb **moods** indicate the speaker's attitude toward an action, primarily defining it as real/factual (**indicative**) or potential/hypothetical (**subjunctive**, **imperative**, **optative**). These four finite moods express whether an action is a certain statement, a command, or a desire.

**Indicative Mood:** Used to represent an action as real, actual, or factual. It is the mood of assertion,

used for statements of fact or direct questions (he is going). It is the only mood that regularly designates time (past, present, future).

**Subjunctive Mood:** Used to express potential, probable, or desired actions. It is often used in conditional clauses (if...), purpose clauses (in order that...), or to express doubt and obligation.

**Imperative Mood:** Used to issue direct commands, requests, or prohibitions [cf **Commands in Scripture**].

**Optative Mood:** Used to express wishes, hopes, or remote possibilities.

### Additional Verb Forms

**Infinitive:** Acts as a verbal noun to express action abstractly (to love).

**Participle:** Acts as a verbal adjective (running, cf **Great Commission**).

**Time vs. Aspect:** Outside the indicative mood, verbs do not primarily indicate when an action happens (time), but rather the type of action (aspect)—whether it is ongoing, completed, or a simple event.

### CASES

**Greek cases** are grammatical forms that change the endings of nouns, articles, adjectives, and pronouns based on their role in a sentence. **Nominative** (subject), **Accusative** (direct object), **Genitive** (possession), and **Vocative** (address). They are essential for understanding sentence structure as they indicate relationships, rather than relying solely on word order. The **Dative** case, was used for indirect objects. Flexible word order, enables emphasis through placement.

**Nominative:** The naming case, used for the subject of the sentence or a predicate noun/adjective with a linking verb (God).

**Genitive:** Generally indicates possession ("of") or describes a noun ("what kind").

**Dative:** Represents the indirect object ("to" or "for") or the means/instrument ("with").

**Accusative (Direct Object):** The object receiving the action of the verb. It is also used to express duration of time or limit.

**Vocative:** Used to directly address or calling someone.