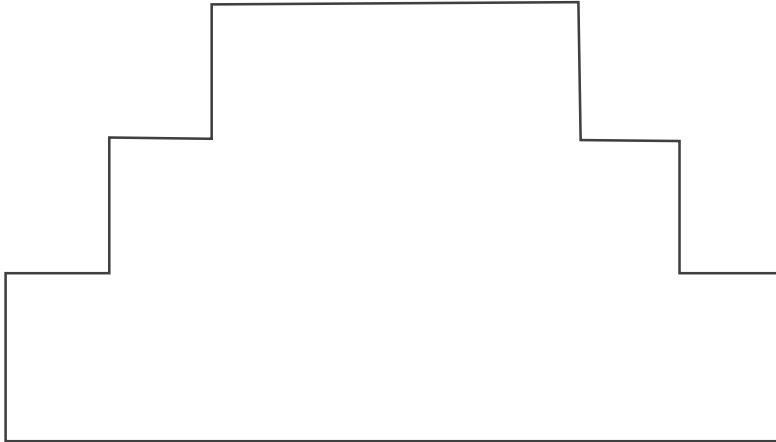


Colossians Complement #4

Bad Theology

How is theology built?



1. Bad Theology Example – JW views on Jesus as a created being

Sources: - <https://www.jw.org/en/library/bible/study-bible/books/>
 - <https://www.jw.org/en/bible-teachings/bible-verses/john-1-1/>
 - <https://www.jw.org/en/bible-teachings/bible-verses/john-3-16/>

Col. 1:16-17 – New World Translation	Col. 1:16-17 – New King James Version
¹⁶ because by means of him all other things were created in the heavens and on the earth, the things visible and the things invisible, whether they are thrones or lordships or governments or authorities. All other things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ Also, he is before all other things , and by means of him all other things were made to exist,	¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things , and in Him all things consist.

NWT Study Notes on Colossians 1:15-17—

- **“the firstborn of all creation:** That is, the first creation by Jehovah God.”
- “Jesus was Jehovah’s firstborn Son and the only one created directly by God.”
- “A literal rendering of the Greek text would be “all things.” (Compare *Kingdom Interlinear*.) However, such a rendering could give the impression that Jesus was not created but was the Creator himself.”
- “Although... Jesus, is here said to have been involved in the creation of all things, the Scriptures do not call him the Creator.”

2. Bad Theology Example – Eternal salvation is received by faith plus ongoing good works. (multiple sources)

- “Something more than believing in Christ is necessary to ensure the soul’s reaching heaven”
- “Saving faith is no simple thing. It has many dimensions. ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus’ is a massive command. It contains a hundred other things. Unless we see this, the array of conditions for salvation in the New Testament will be utterly perplexing.”
- “the instrumental cause [of justification] is the sacrament of baptism, which is the sacrament of faith, without which [faith] no man was ever justified...
If any one shall assert that the righteousness received [in justification] is not preserved and also increased before God by good works; but that good works are only the fruit and signs of a justification already attained, and not the cause of an increase of justification: let him be accursed.”
- “The meaning of this term (exercising faith) often goes beyond mere belief or recognition that someone exists. It includes the idea of faith and trust that lead to obedient action. Jesus obviously refers to a life characterized by faith, not just a single act of faith... Jesus concluded by explaining that to get life, we have to show faith and do works that please God.—John 3:17-21.”

Discussion Questions

1. Which verse stood out to you tonight? Why?
2. What are some dangers of using a systematic theology to interpret the Bible?
3. Do you know someone who has been blinded to the gospel because of religion?