

## Reasoning Out of the Scriptures

- I. This study sets forth the Biblical method for arriving at truth, our chief pursuit. **PRO 23:23; 4:7.**
- A. It sets forth the importance of linear, connected thought that produces sound conclusions as opposed to scattered, disconnected thought that produces invalid or indeterminate conclusions. This may be expressed:
1. Valid premise + valid reasoning = valid conclusion.
  2. Valid premise + invalid reasoning = invalid conclusion.
  3. Invalid premise + valid reasoning = invalid conclusion.
  4. Invalid premise + invalid reasoning = indeterminate conclusion.
- B. It sets forth the necessary subjugation of emotion to logic.
- C. It sets forth the method of Paul, our pattern. **ACT 17:2-3; 18:4-5.**
1. This implies that his hearers recognized the Scriptures as having merit.
  2. Mind that Paul never reasoned from rabbinical traditions/the oral law.
  3. He reasoned from philosophy or the creation among those who had no history with the Scriptures. **ACT 17:22-31.**
  4. Before you can reason with some *from* the Scriptures, it may be necessary to reason them *to* the Scriptures: setting forth the necessities of First Cause/Creator, communication in language via recorded revelation, evidences in creation and history or from your personal salvation that Scripture is true, etc. But mind that reasoning is still here a requirement.
- II. reason: *intr.* To think in a connected, sensible, or logical manner; to employ the faculty of reason in forming conclusions (in general, or in a particular instance).
- A. The word *logic* comes from the Greek word *logos*, which means *word, speech, discourse, reason*.
- B. The same Greek word *logos* is translated *Word* in **JOH 1:1, 14.**
- C. The Word, Jesus Christ, is the highest expression of reason/logic.
- D. His testimony is the spirit of prophecy, i.e., He is the author of all Scripture. **REV 19:10.**
- E. In order to think logically you do not need to learn all the forms and figures of correct thinking taught in books on logic. You need only learn to think Biblically.
- F. If one has the mindset of Jesus Christ, which is laid out in the Scriptures, he will think logically. **PHI 2:5-8.**
- G. The mind of Christ is humble submission to God. Such a mindset is essential to the discovery of truth. **PRO 11:2.**
- H. With the mind of Christ one is equipped to judge all things, to arrive at correct conclusions. **1CO 2:15-16.**
- I. God has so structured the creation that it cannot be rightly comprehended without Jesus Christ.
1. All things are created by and for the Lord Jesus Christ and God has given Him preeminence in all things so that He is the unifying whole into which all facts are fitted and related. **COL 1:16-19; 2:3.**
  2. Therefore, in the absence of the divine revelation that centers in the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the truth (**JOH 14:6**), all reasoning no matter how sound will fall short of leading the mind to the ultimate knowledge of truth.
  3. For example, with just the world to study and no Bible to read, man cannot find out the beginning or the ending of the world. **ECC 3:11; HEB 11:3; 2PE 3:5-8.**
  4. There are things that man cannot discover with just his senses and reasoning power. **1CO 2:9-10.**

5. If a man rejects Scripture and relies solely on his own reasoning, he is doomed to folly and vanity, that is, so much money and time wasted on education that gets him nothing but a Doctor of Delusion degree from Damn U.  
**ROM 1:21-22; 1CO 1:20-21; 3:18-20; 2TH 2:11-12.**
6. Not even God the Father can be known without Jesus Christ Who declares Him.  
**JOH 1:18; MAT 11:27; 1JO 2:23.**
7. Recognizing Jesus Christ the *Logos/Word* as the Beginning, Ending, Center and Pinnacle of everything is the key to sound reasoning.
8. “The nature of Christ’s existence is mysterious, I admit;...Reject it and the world is an inexplicable riddle; believe it and the history of our race is satisfactorily explained.” (Napoleon Bonaparte)

III. Emotional thinking interferes with rational faith that is fixed on truth.

- A. emotion: *Psychology*. A mental ‘feeling’ or ‘affection’ (e.g. of pleasure or pain, desire or aversion, surprise, hope or fear, etc.), as distinguished from cognitive or volitional states of consciousness...
- B. faith: Belief, trust, confidence. Confidence, reliance, trust (in the ability, goodness, etc., of a person; in the efficacy or worth of a thing; or in the truth of a statement or doctrine).
- C. We are to believe truth and not believe error. **2TH 2:11-14; 1JO 4:1.**
- D. Therefore, Biblical faith requires one’s reason to discern the truth that is to be believed.
  1. By logic, we arrive at the knowledge of the truth we are called to believe.
  2. Hence, Paul reasoned out of the Scriptures in an effort to persuade men to believe the truth of Jesus Christ.
  3. Those who have no faith in the truth are *unreasonable*. **2TH 3:2.**
- E. When emotions dominate, they obstruct the attainment and exercise of rational faith.
  1. We probably have all experienced moments of intense excitement, joy, sadness, distress or fear, etc., where our rational thinking shut down. Ever come under the sway of an expert salesman who knew how to get you “under the ether” emotionally?
  2. Fear and joy confounded the disciples’ belief in what they saw. **LUK 24:36-41.**
  3. The fool, who is not rational, is characterized by the uncontrolled emotion of anger. **PRO 12:16; 14:17; ECC 7:9.**
  4. When the disciples were full of fear because of the storm, they had *no faith*. **MAR 4:35-40.**
  5. Rhoda’s excitement caused an irrational response. **ACT 12:13-14.**
  6. Those who “...have pleasure in unrighteousness...” (**2TH 2:12**) *believe not the truth*.
    - a. They would rather feel good even if it is something wrong.
    - b. This is the dangerous power of positive emotions for emotion’s sake.
    - c. A country song said, “If lovin’ you is wrong, I don’t want to be right.”
  7. Emotion should properly respond to truth (**PSA 119:128, 162; 2KI 22:11**), not be the determiner of truth.
    - a. Truth must be determined rationally, not emotionally.
    - b. Emotions need to be brought under control of the *logos*, i.e., the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the ultimate expression of *logic*.  
**1CO 9:27; EPH 4:17.**