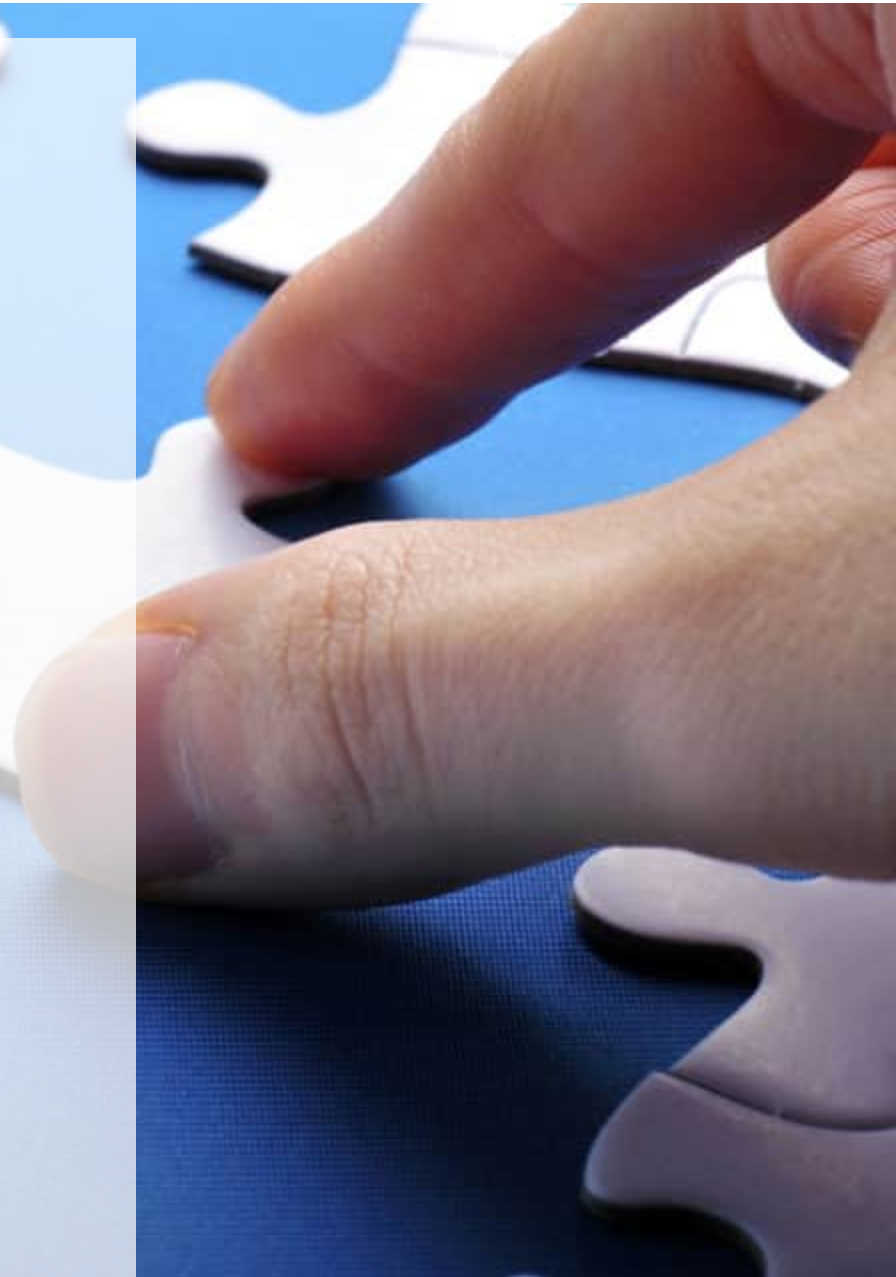




Matter – No box, just puzzle pieces

Mind – No puzzle pieces, just box

Biblical – Box with a picture on it and an artist behind the box



The bible is the story of reality.
If we look at it, understand it,
and apply it, it works

Acts 17:22-32

22 “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. 26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, 28 for “‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’ 29 Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. 30 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.”

1. God is There

- The Heavens Declare it and our Hearts declare it
 - (Psalm 19:1, Romans 1:20, Romans 2:15)

There is a sense of “oughtness” in all of us. Things ought to be a certain way.

2. Everything, Everyone Belongs to Him

We were made for God.

In the biblical story we are more than matter and dust. We are special. We have innate value. We are special in quality not just quantity.

People as a part of God's creation are not just objects for our pleasure or obstacles to our happiness, they are priceless treasures.

3. God Has Not Left Us Alone

- a. He's given us each other
- b. He's given us the Scripture
 - a. Accurate in **Prediction**
 - b. Accurate in **Description**
 - c. Accurate in **Prescription**
- c. He's given us the Holy Spirit
- d. He's given us Jesus

3. God Has Not Left Us Alone

JESUS – Fully God and Fully Man

Romans 1:4 – Came back to life.

Will Durant Pulitzer Prize author of
The Story of Civilization.

No one reading these scenes (NT) can doubt the reality of the figure behind them. . . . After two centuries of higher criticism, the outlines of the life, character and teachings of Christ remain reasonably clear and constitute the most fascinating feature in the history of Western man.

3. God Has Not Left Us Alone

Problem - If God has not left us alone, why do I feel so alone at times?

Why does the world seem hopeless and full of hurt?

Acts 17:30 “The times of ignorance God overlooked but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.”

Ignorance - ignore the knowledge you have.

(The heavens declare, our hearts testify)

REPENT

“Change of Mind”

Train for Trust

- 1 Acknowledge Ownership
- 2 Give Thanks
- 3 Faithfully Steward

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The pieces we've been given

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The pieces we've been given

The pieces we desire

Train for Trust

- 1 Acknowledge Ownership
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The pieces we've been given

The pieces we desire

The pieces we want taken away