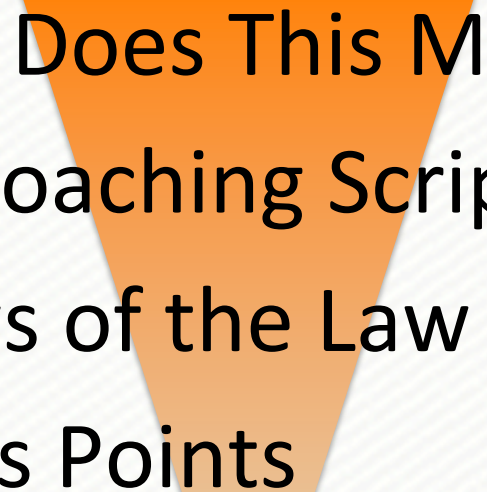


Intro and Law Primer

Broad Perspective

- 
- Why Does This Matter?
 - Approaching Scripture
 - Views of the Law
 - Focus Points

Particulars

- Aren't we saved by grace?
- Christian Ethics – How Should We Live?

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV):

- *8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,*
- *9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.*
- *10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

But What Are They, Exactly, and How Do We Know?

2 Timothy 3:16-17

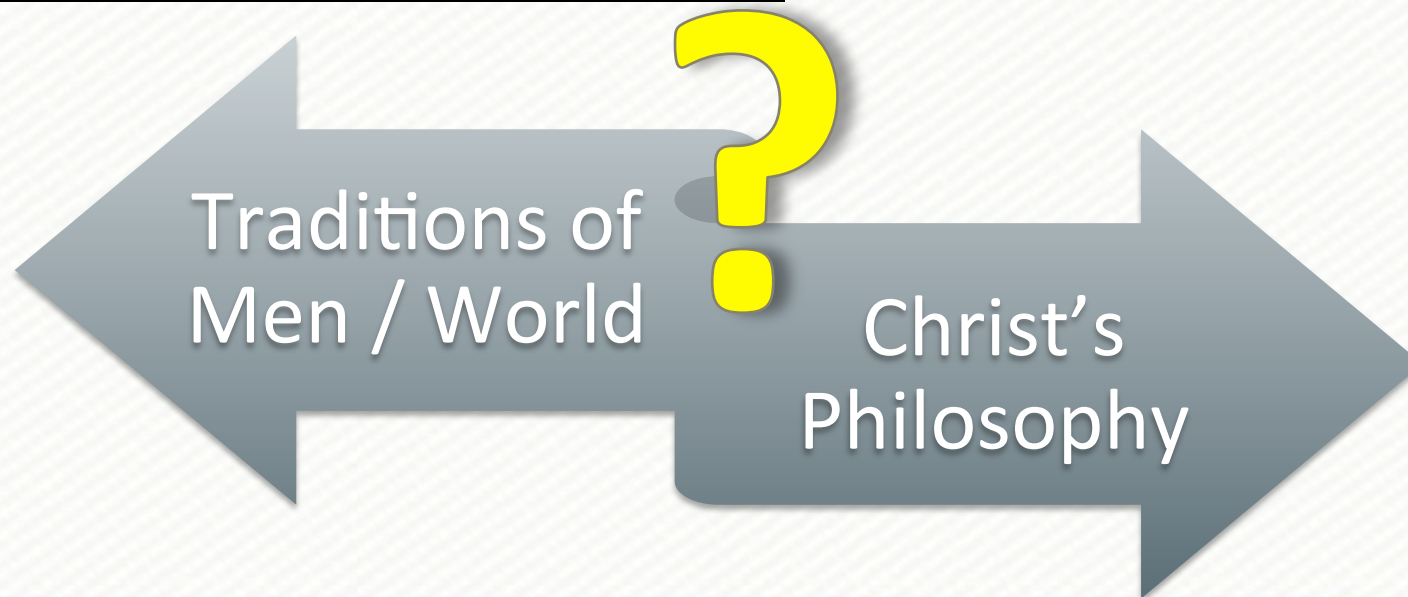
All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.



How Do We Know?

Colossians 2:8

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

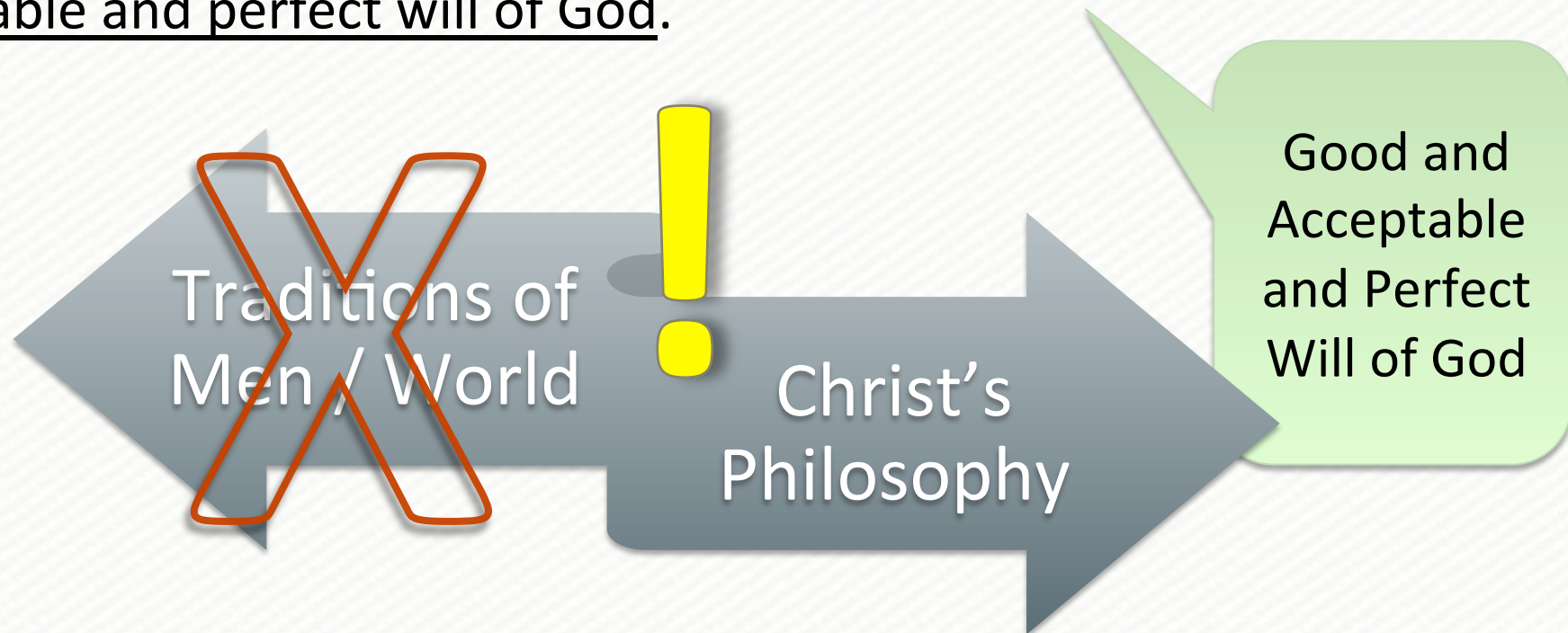


How Do We Know?

Romans 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.



Renewing of Our Minds

Preparation:

Matthew 4:1-4 (NKJV)

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Groundwork:

(Beattitudes,
Salt and Light,
And then...)

Matthew 5:17-20 (NKJV)

17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

19 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Details:

Matthew 5:21+ (NKJV)

"You have heard it said...

But I say unto you...

"You have heard it said...

But I say unto you...

"You have heard it said...

But I say unto you...



Question: Did Jesus
Diminish or Emphasize
the Law's Relevance?

Significance:

Matthew 7:21-23 (NKJV)

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice... lawlessness!

Law Certainly Mattered to the Lord Jesus Christ...

*Why So Much Divergence of Opinion and Disunity In the Professing Church?
As individuals we have:*

**Things We THINK We Know, but
often haven't examined so carefully...**

Things We Know...

- Triune God
- Inerrancy of Scripture
- Born in Sin into a Fallen World
- Christ as Redeemer
- Saved By Grace Through Faith on the grounds of Christ's Finished Work at the Cross Only
- Christ Will Come Again
- Core Christian Creeds

**End Times, Rapture,
Anti-Christ**

**Ethics and the
Law of God**

'Free Will'

**Kingdom of God: When,
Where, What?**

**Satan's Rule, 1000 yrs,
and Binding**

Israel

Things We Know We
Don't Know...

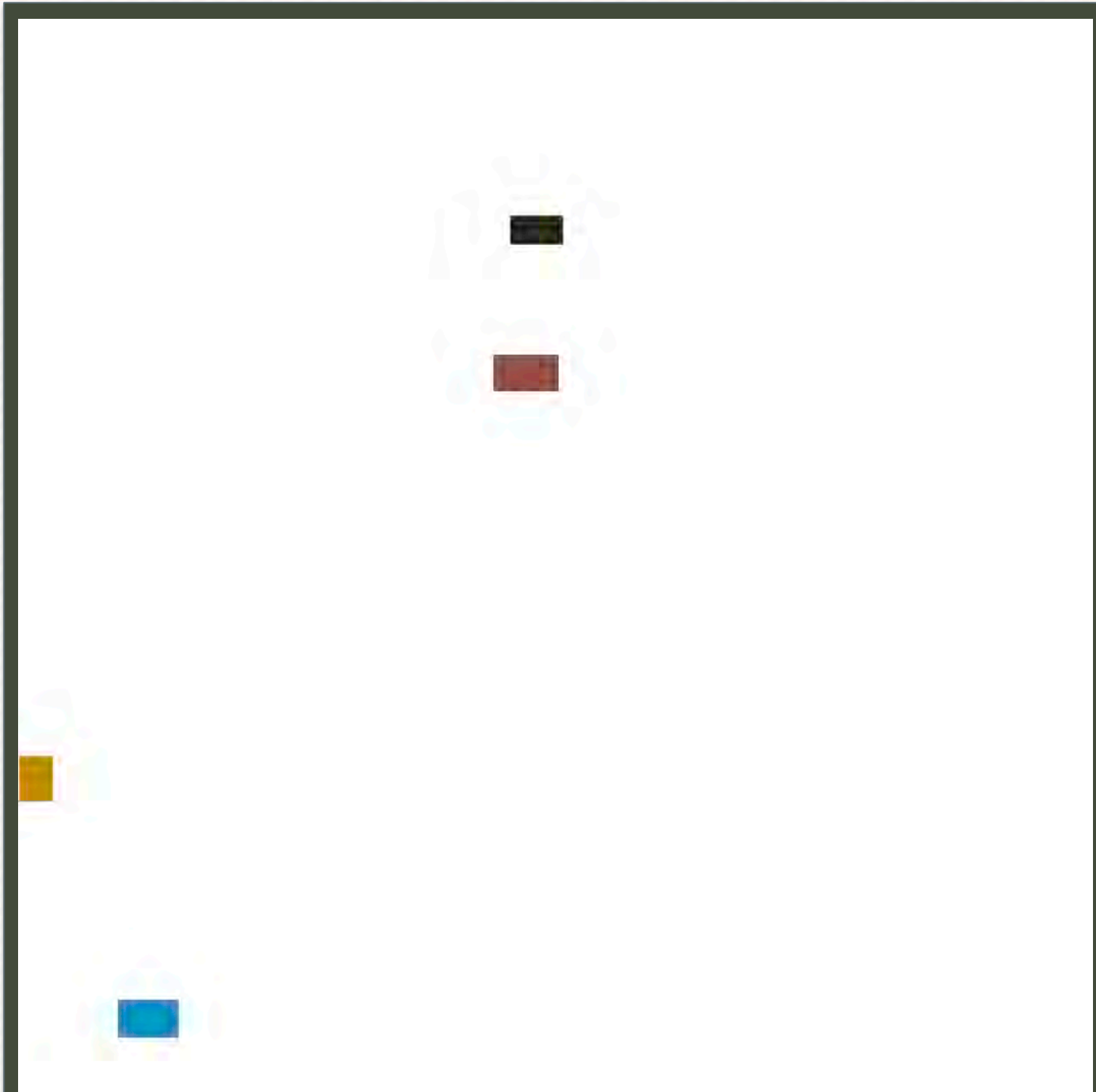
- Details of Biblical History
- More involved principles and terms
 - Perspicuity
 - Propitiation
 - Covenant
 - The Ascendency and Reign of Christ ('Christ is Lord')
- God's Secret Counsel

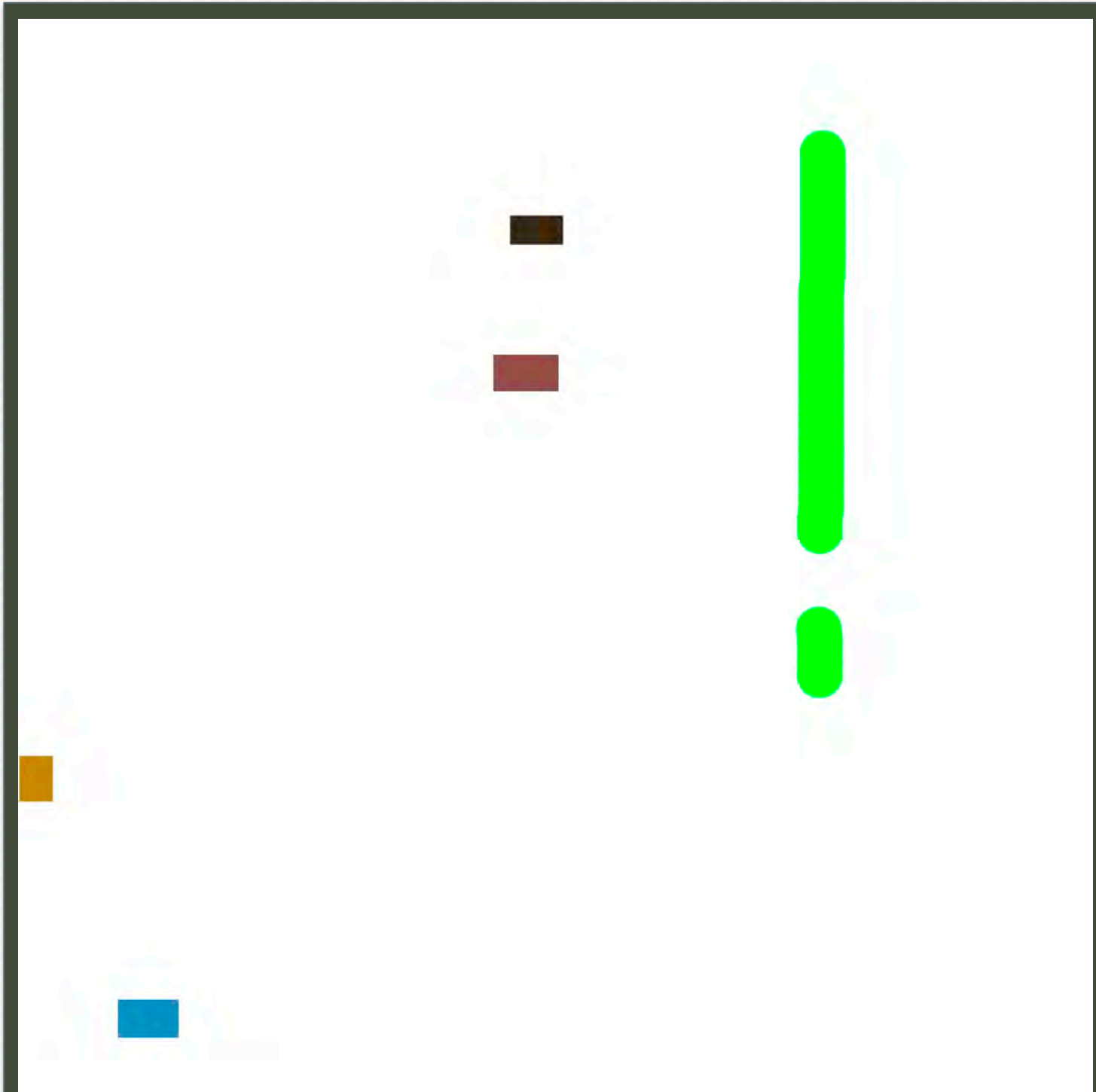
Trained to Believe What we Believe Because We Believe
It Rather Than Because We Have Examined It

A Tale of
Two
Tapestries

By Every Word

Sees Some True Colors







Starts with a
'Pretty Good' Idea
of What It's
'Supposed' to be

After all, the Colors
Seem to Fit Pretty
Well



Chinatown Street Market San Francisco, CA

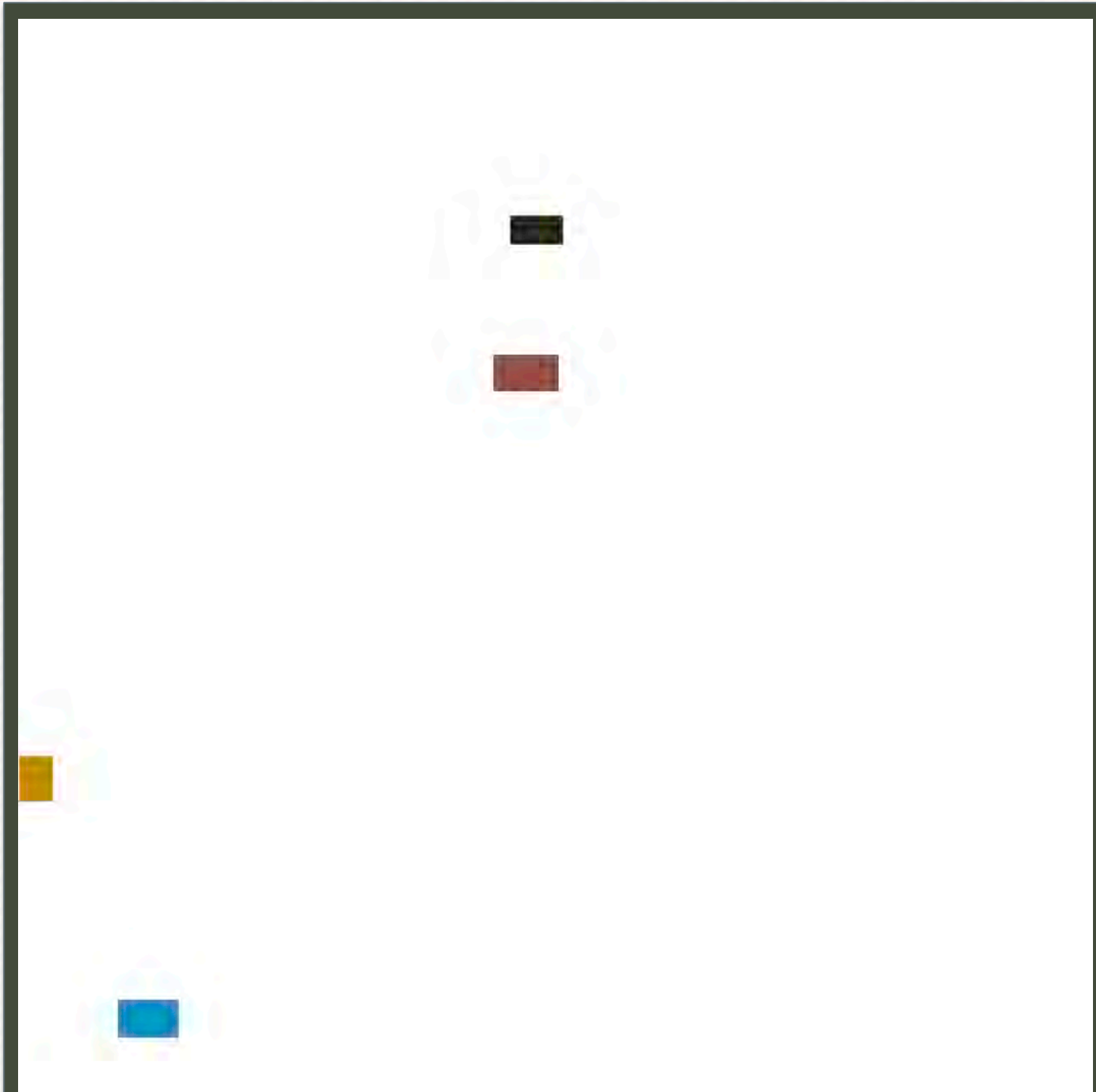


By Every Word

But What About Someone Else?

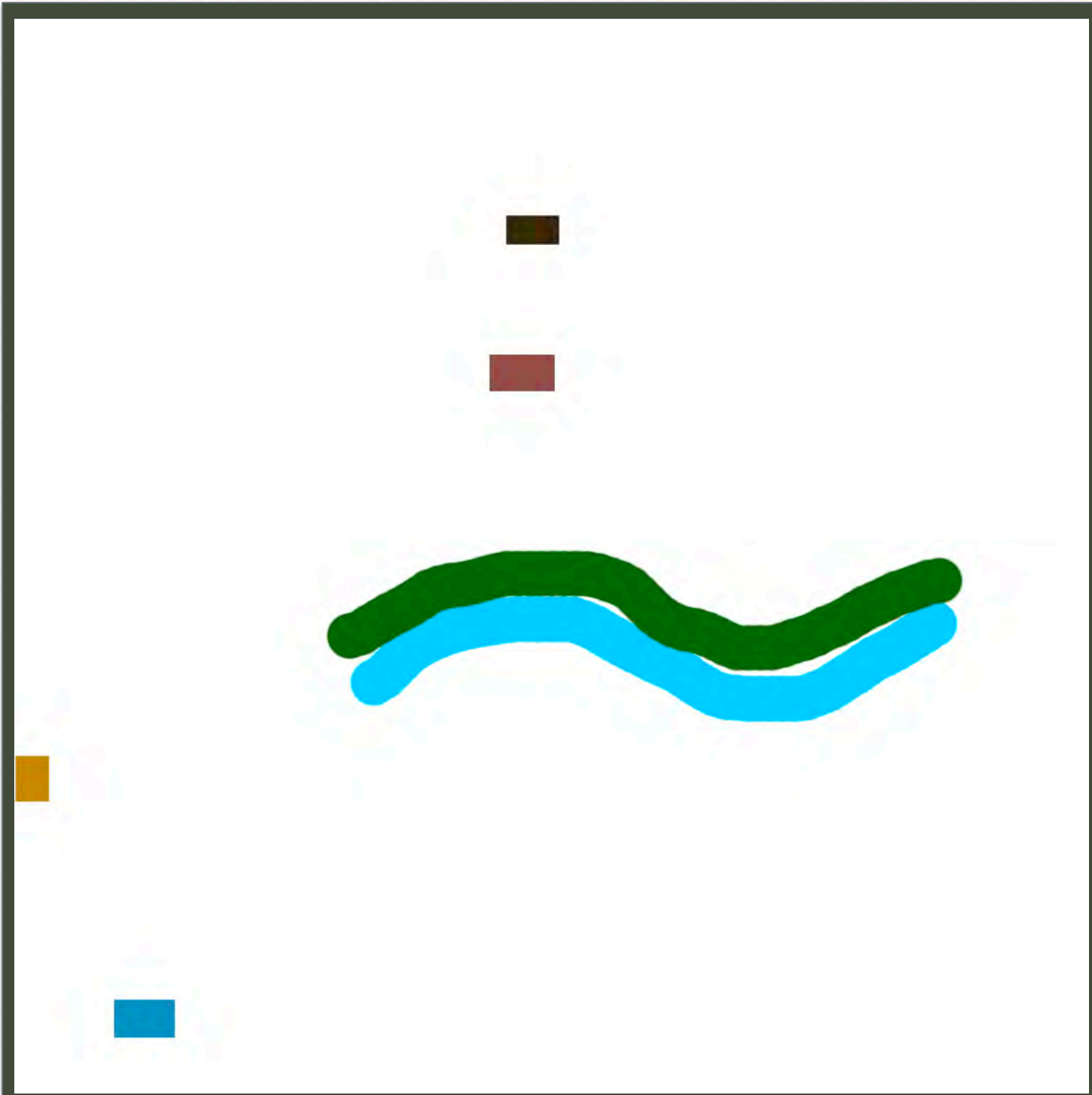
By Every Word

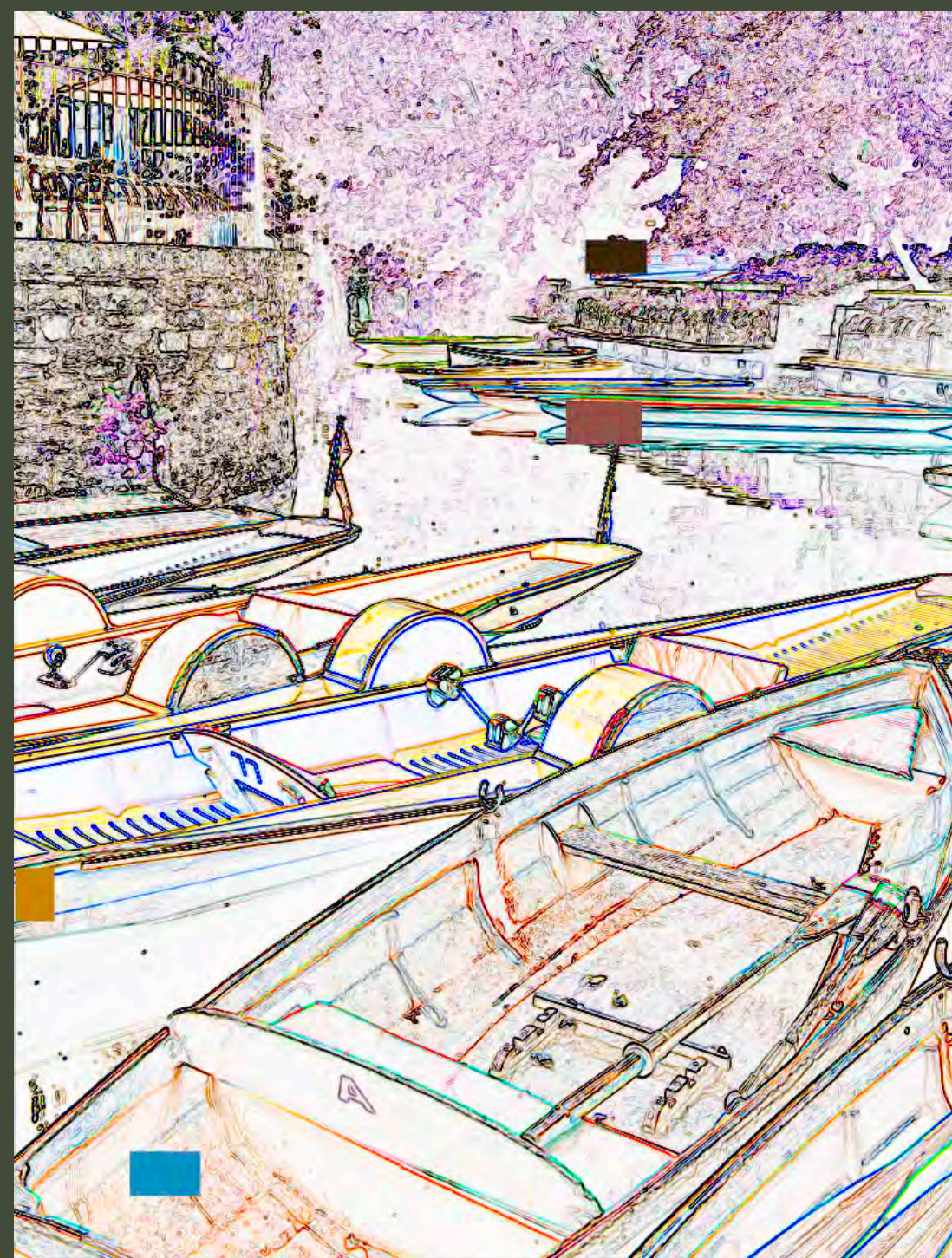
They Might Look At the Same Colors



By Every Word

But Have a 'Serene' Outlook





Starts with a
'Pretty Good' Idea
of What It's
'Supposed' to be

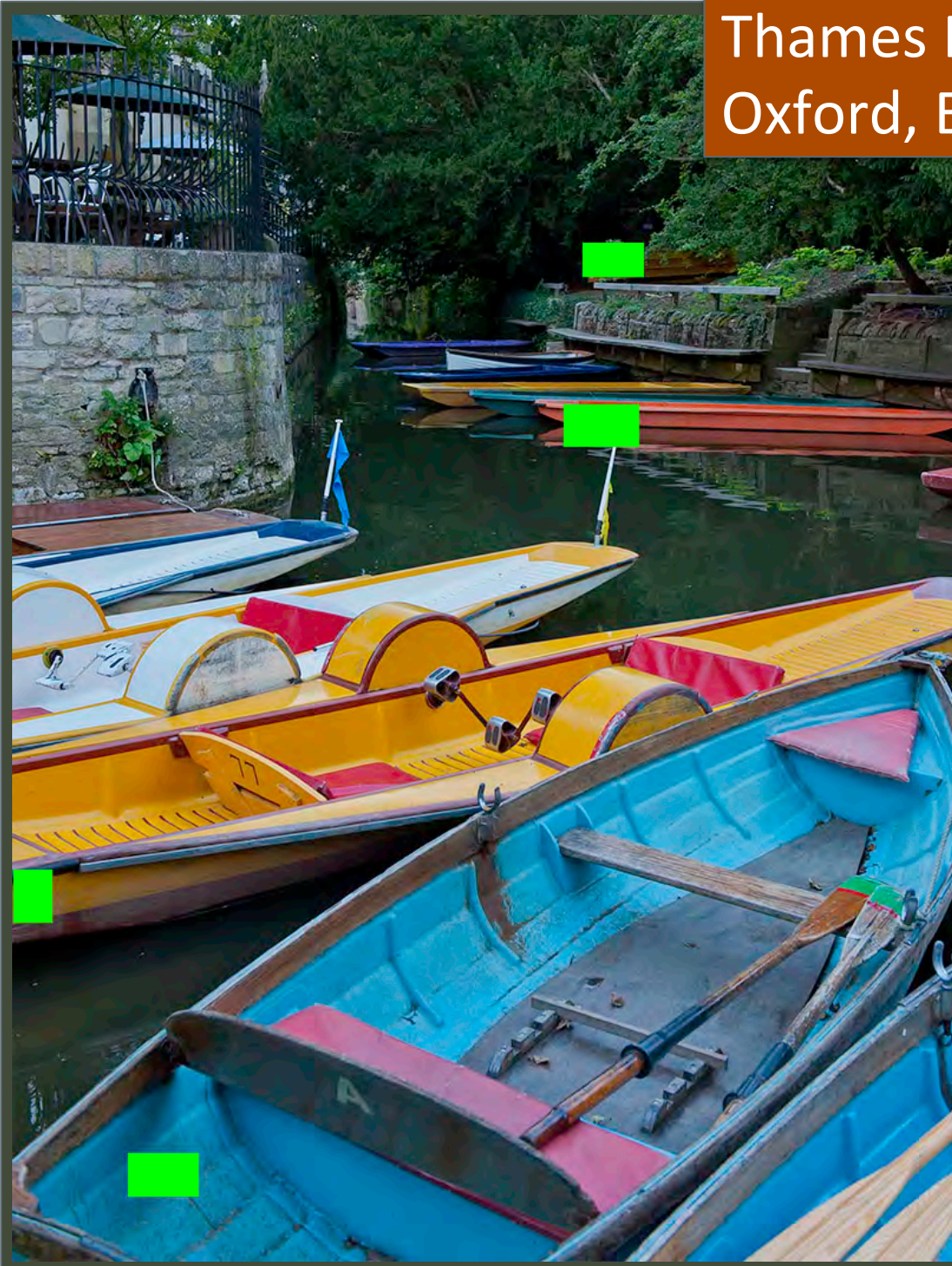
After all, the Colors
Seem to Fit Pretty
Well

By Every Word

Peaceful Country Scene with 'Proof Colors'



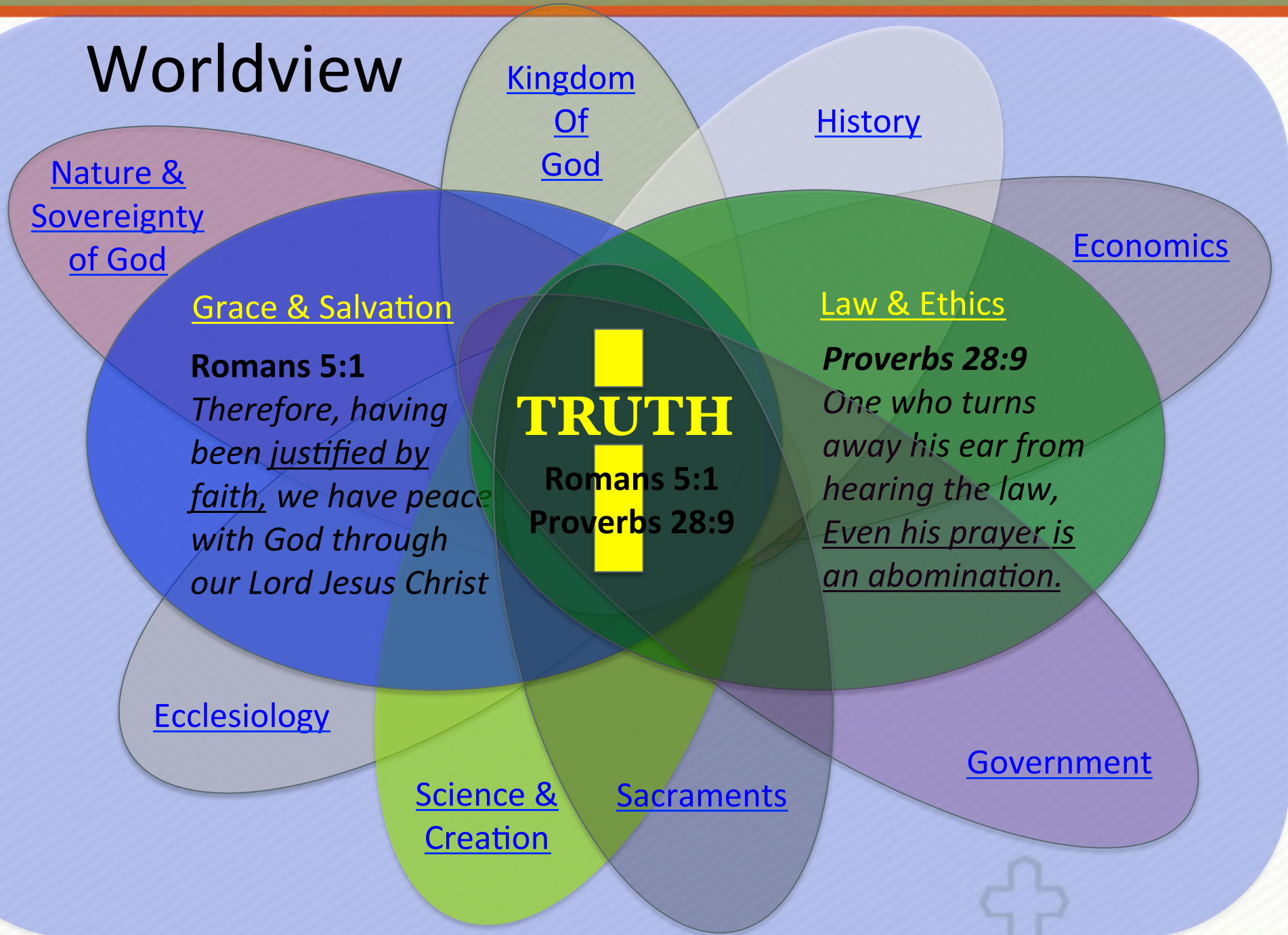
Thames River – Isis Branch
Oxford, England, UK



- Convictions/understanding often informed by too little scripture (or parsed away)
- Bring our own expectations (or imaginations)
 - Tradition
 - Experience (or ‘Culture’)
 - News Media
- Our ideas often filter out or discard scriptures that challenge them (or maybe we are just unaware)

Become Self-Consciously Biblical

Worldview



- Low (or Negative) View
- Presumptive View
- Limited View
- Fullness View

Romans 6:14 (NKJV)

~~For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.~~

Themes:

- No Longer Applies - Ro 6:14
- Only Applied to Israel
- Not Culturally Relevant Today
- Law-Grace Tension
- Ten Commandments Only

Challenges:

- Romans 6 Full Context
- Based Upon?
- Why Relevant to Corinth?
- Opposite of Law Not Grace, but...**Lawlessness**
- Why, and How Applied?

Romans 2:15 (NKJV)

...who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)

Themes:

- Law Written on Hearts
 - Romans 2:14-15
- Indwelling Spirit Leads
- God's Image-Bearer
- Spirit Testifies to Truth
- Know In My Heart

Challenges:

- What Law Is Written?
 - Does It Differ From Revealed Law?
- New Word or Revealed?
- Sin-Stained
- Test the Spirits (1 Jo 4:1)
 - Against What?
- Cult-Appeal; Heart is Deceitful (Jer 17:9)

Luke 17:20-21 (NKJV)

Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

Themes:

- Church Yes, Society No
- Personal, Not Corporate
- Spiritual, Not Visible

Challenges:

- Limits of Christ's Lordship
- Covenantal Language
- Christ's Expectations
 - Great Commission Succeed?
 - 'Disciple the Nations'

Matthew 5:17-20

"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

Themes:

- God's Word the Standard
 - Matthew 5:17-19
- Revelation, not Autonomy
- Details Can Be Difficult
- Disciple the Nations
- Continuity with Prescribed Discontinuities

Challenges:

- Application to Civil Laws
 - Principles in Action
- How Fine-Grained?
- Justice; Today's Culture?
- Light in a Dark World
- Hermeneutically Consistent

- God's Law-Word Reflects His Unchanging Character:
 - *But You are the same, And Your years will have no end*
(Psalm 102:27)
 - *Behold, I long for Your precepts; Revive me in Your righteousness.* (Psalm 119:40)
- God's Word Endures Forever:
 - *The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*
(Deuteronomy 29:29)
 - *Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.* (Luke 21:33)

- What is the testimony of Scripture regarding the Law of God?
- What is the attitude of the Lord Jesus Christ regarding the Law of God?
- What does using the Law of God lawfully mean?
- If not God's Law, *whose?*

"Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you. You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal Peor; for the LORD your God has destroyed from among you all the men who followed Baal of Peor. But you who held fast to the LORD your God are alive today, every one of you. Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'

For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day? "Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren, especially concerning the day you stood before the LORD your God in Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.'

Then you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the midst of heaven, with darkness, cloud, and thick darkness. And the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of the words, but saw no form; you only heard a voice. So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone. And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that you might observe them in the land which you cross over to possess.