

1 John Series

Lesson #044

November 18, 2001

Dean Bible Ministries

www.deanbibleministries.org

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**Modernism and
Post-Modernism;
1 John 2:15**

- **66% believe no such thing as absolute truth exists.**
- **72% of those between 18–25.**
- **53% of evangelicals believe there are no absolutes—not even Christ is absolute.**

- a. The collapse of the importance of religious belief.**

- b. Globalism**

- c. Now fragmentation and polarization have left us in culture wars.**

MODERNISM

Immanuel
Kant:
Subjectivism

RATIONALISM
EMPIRICISM

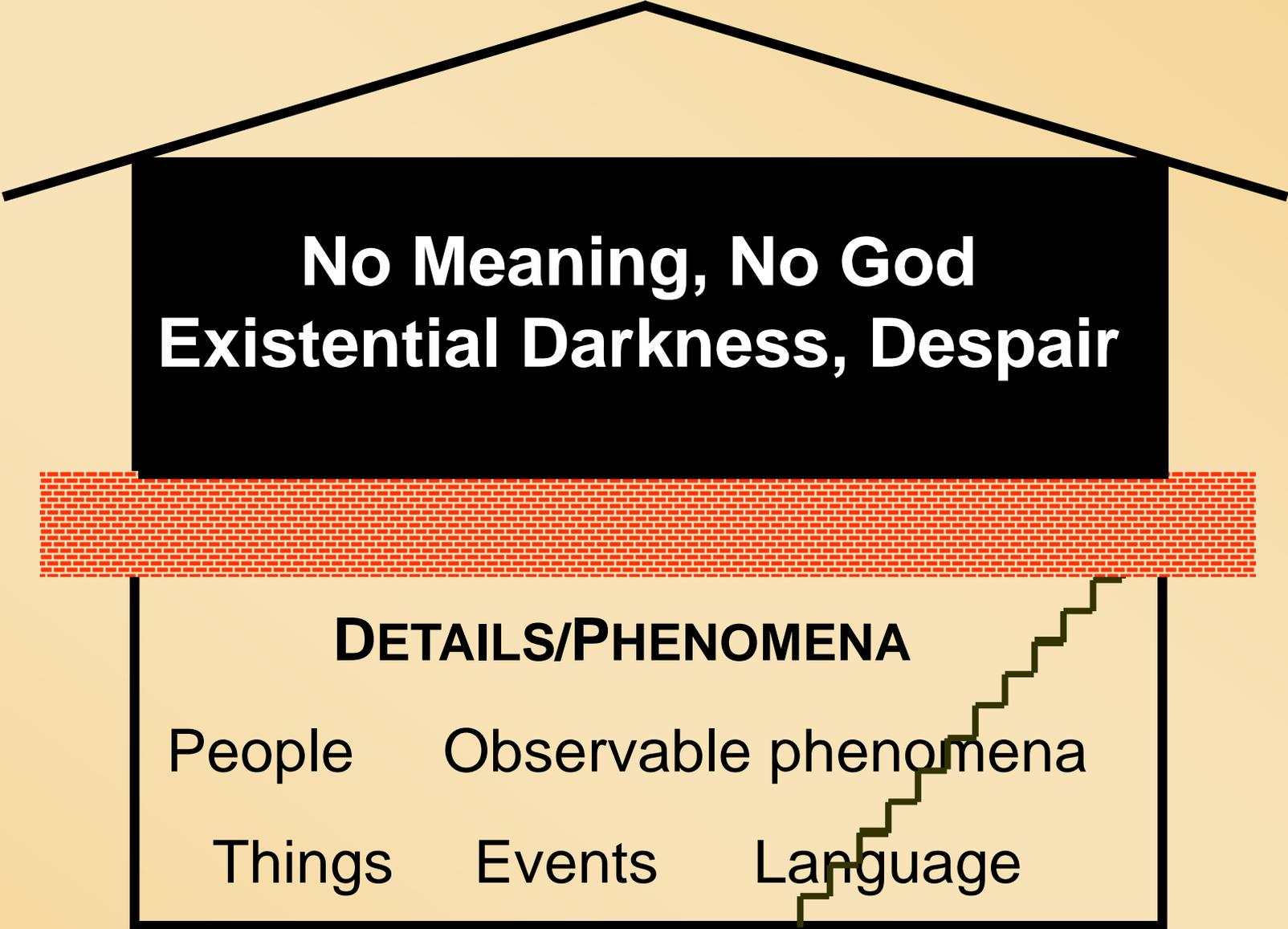
SKEPTICISM
EXISTENTIALISM

19TH-20TH
Centuries

Descartes
Locke

The Enlightenment ca 1640–1780

Post-
Modernism
(1900–present)



**No Meaning, No God
Existential Darkness, Despair**

DETAILS/PHENOMENA

People Observable phenomena

Things Events Language



Comparison of Modernism, Postmodernism and Biblical Christianity

Subject

B-C

Modernism/

Postmodernism

Human nature

Mankind is in the image of God; spiritual and physical

Humans are material machines. No opinion; suspicious of any dogmatic assertions. The universe is purely physical. Nothing exists beyond our senses.

Comparison of Modernism, Postmodernism and Biblical Christianity

Subject

B-C

Modernism/

Postmodernism

**Free
will**

**Diminished by sin;
still morally
responsible.**

**Autonomous and
self-governing.
People are
products of their
culture and only
Choose their own
direction.
imagine they are
self-governing.**

Comparison of Modernism, Postmodernism and Biblical Christianity

Subject

B-C

**Modernism/
Postmodernism**

**View of
reason**

Reason is necessary but not the basis for understanding reality; it discover some truth, but revelation is also needed.

Rationalism and empiricism are the only basis for discovering truth. Denies objective reason, rationalism is a myth.

Comparison of Modernism, Postmodernism and Biblical Christianity

Subject

B-C

**Modernism/
Postmodernism**

**View of
progress**

Mankind isn't progressing toward anything; advances are positive, but there is no utopia brought in by man.

Mankind is progressing by using science and reason. Denies objective reason, rationalism is a myth.

4. Christianity: Truth is objective and can be known.

PM:

Human beings make up their own reality; multiple realities are equally true.

PM:

**Meaning is created by a social group
and its language.**

**5. It is impossible to know God,
history, or reason.**

6. It is impossible to communicate truth because:

7. Since there are no absolutes behind language, then each person is trapped and imprisoned by their own language or culture or group that seeks to marginalize them. For example in PM reasoning.

“How old are you?”

“I'm seven and a half exactly!”

“You needn't say exactly,” the Queen remarked, “I can believe it without that. Now I'll give you something to believe. I'm just one hundred and one, five months and a day.”

“I can't believe that,” said Alice.

“Can’t you?” the Queen said, in a pitying tone, “Try again: draw a long breath, and shut your eyes.”

Alice laughed. “There’s no use trying,” she said, “one can’t believe impossible things.”

“I daresay you haven’t had much practice,” said the Queen. “When I was your age, I always did it for half an hour a day. Why, sometimes I’ve believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.”

8. All knowledge and all language depend on the validity of logic.

9. With no absolutes, no objective Truth, the rasion is replaced by the aesthetic, we believe what we like, what appeals to us, it is a matter of taste, pleasure. Since belief is personal preference, then criticism is a personal attack. Persuasion becomes difficult i.e., that just isn't true for me.

10. Information is in overload and knowledge is scarce.

**11. Provides rationalizations for
the sin nature.**