

WELCOME II BIENVENIDOS

10/13/2019

KEEP THE SEEK

THE WORD OF GOD

ACTS

### The Conversion of Saul

**9** But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest **2** and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. **3** Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. **4** And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" **5** And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. **6** But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." **7** The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. **8** Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. **9** And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

THE WORD OF GOD

ACTS

**10** Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." **11** And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, **12** and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." **13** But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. **14** And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." **15** But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. **16** For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." **17** So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." **18** And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; **19** and taking food, he was strengthened.

HAVE YOU EVER  
BEEN HUMBLLED?

# HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SHAMED?

# IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

## UNDERSTANDING

---

### LETS REVIEW

- ▶ **Metanoia** mistranslated as **Repentance**
  - ▶ The first public words of Christ's ministry containing his first command to us, mistranslated as "Repent..." Mark 1:15
- ▶ Metanoia is **NOT repentance**
  - ▶ In that it does not contain any sorrow, pain, penance, or contrition.
- ▶ So - what is **Metanoia**?
  - ▶ That's what we're going to try and figure out.

## UNDERSTANDING

---

### LETS REVIEW

- ▶ Im **NOT** saying that repentance has no place in our faith
  - ▶ Far from it. **An un-repentant heart cannot 'metanoiete.'**
- ▶ But I **AM** saying:
  - ▶ Christ's ministry did not include condemnation and shame - so neither should ours

A CHANGE WHICH....

*"...takes in the whole of life, and calls upon a person to enlarge their consciousness with the eternal...to live on the scale of another life, to let their character grow under this great knowing, to let their conduct fall in the lines of the revealed divine will."*

**Treadwell Walden in his book,  
"The Great Meaning of Metanoia"**

UNDERSTANDING

## METANOIA IS...

- ▶ A **Inspired** Change
  - ▶ Of mind (but more than intellect)
  - ▶ Of heart (but more than just emotional)

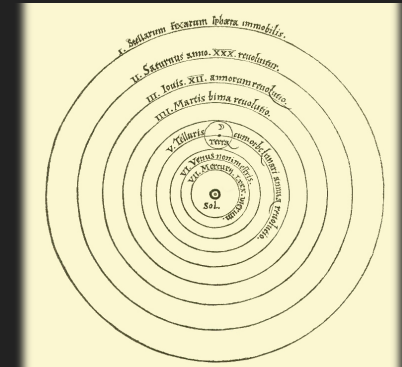
# A 'CHANGE OF MIND' – HOW DOES IT HAPPEN?

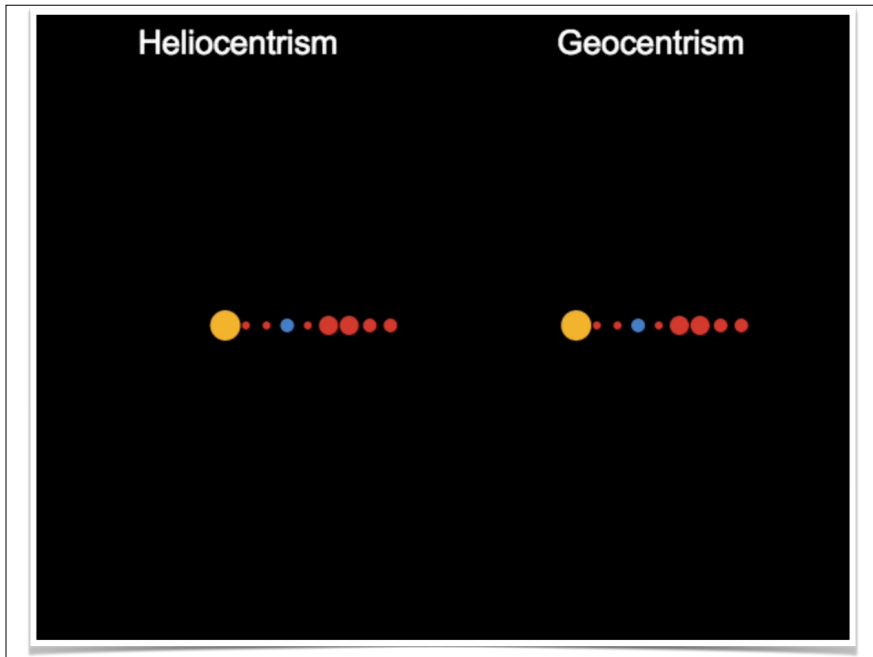
CONSIDER

## A HISTORICALLY 'WRONG' IDEA

As a whole, humanity appears to progress. However, we have had some serious 'dead ends.'

- ▶ Geocentric Universe
  - Galileo/Capernicus finally showed the earth revolves around the Sun, not the other way around.

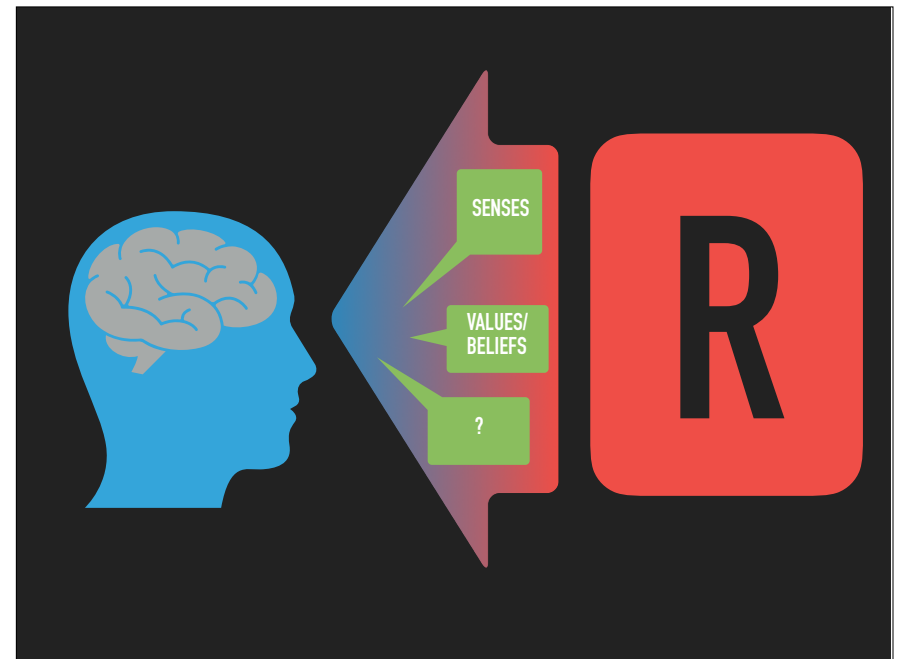
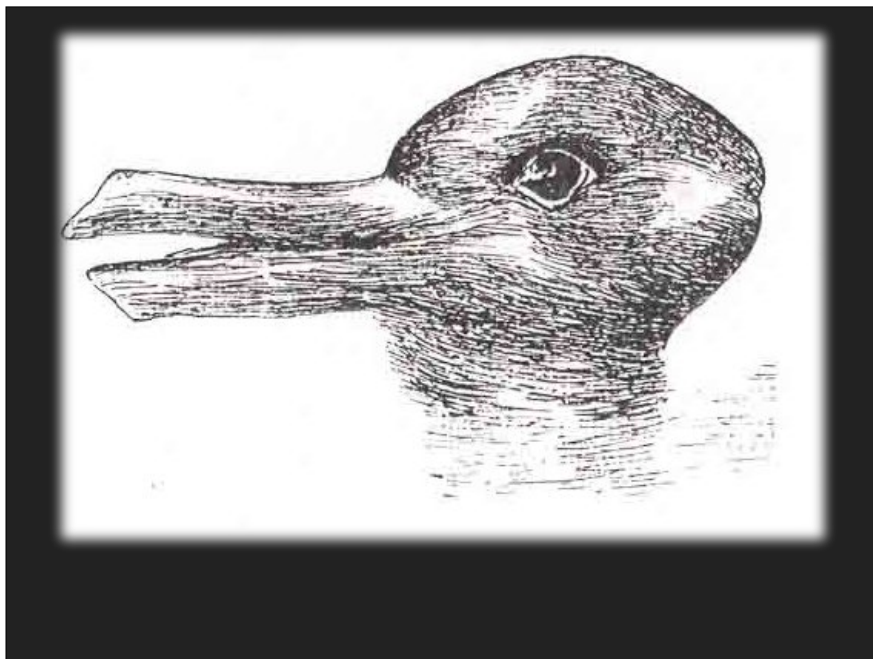




UNDERSTANDING

**FACTS VS OUR PERCEPTION**

- ▶ We have the ability (and indeed the likelihood) to hold onto our current interpretation of Reality - even in the face of evidence which challenges it.
- Important to always remember:
  - **Our Reality = Our Reality**



## PARADIGM SHIFT - A NEW WAY OF "SEEING" THE UNIVERSE

- ▶ A "**fundamental change**" in scientific discipline
  - The Copernican Revolution
  - From Newtonian Gravity to Theory of Relativity
- ▶ Has been applied to a variety of fields outside of science
  - Economics, Social Theory, Technology
  - **Hans Küng** argues that our faith has done this **five** times already, and is undergoing a **sixth**

## HUMAN BEHAVIOR STUDY

At Stanford, researches gathered together two groups of people:

- ▶ Half were in favor of capital punishment
  - believing it deterred crime
- ▶ Half were against it
  - believing it had no effect



## STANFORD STUDY CONTINUED...

- ▶ Both groups were given the same two reports
  - Report #1 - Data which supported it
  - Report #2 - Data which denied its efficacy
- ▶ Both groups were asked to rank the two reports' credibility
  - The reports were completely made-up and had been designed to be objectively 'equal' in strength
- ▶ What do you think happened?

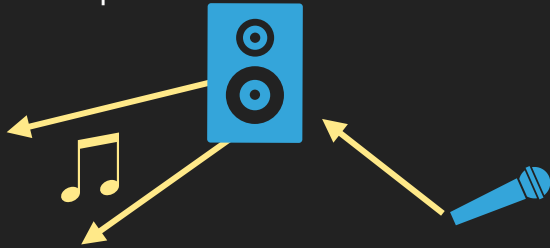
## STANFORD STUDY RESULTS...

- ▶ The "Pro" group ranked the "Pro" report as highly credible and the "Con" report as low in credibility (and visa-versa)
- ▶ Afterwards both groups were asked about their feelings on the topic:
  - The "Pro" group had become even more in favor
  - The "Con" group had become even more against

CONSIDER

## FEEDBACK LOOPS

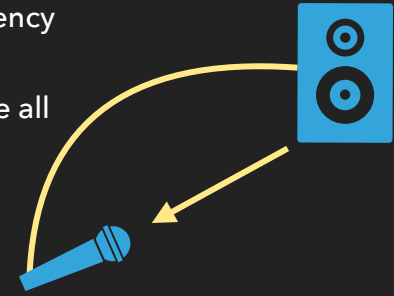
- ▶ This self-validating method of interpreting reality creates a 'feed-back loop'



CONSIDER

## FEEDBACK LOOPS

- ▶ This means that
  - ▶ It amplifies its own frequency
  - ▶ The sound we hear gets louder and higher and we all make the cringe-face



HUMAN BEHAVIOR

## COGNITIVE BIAS & "SOCIAL FEEDBACK LOOPS"

- ▶ In other words, it intensifies our feelings about a given topic, AND hardens our defenses against any opposing view
- ▶ Even though we have exponentially more choices of what to listen to/watch
  - The markets have become "niche" markets
  - One has an easy ability to create an 'echo-chamber' environment which continually re-affirms their existing ideology

## WHEN PAUL WAS SAUL

- ▶ **Phillipians 3**
  - "Hebrew of Hebrews"
  - "...as to the law, blameless"
- ▶ **Acts 7-8**
  - The stoning of Stephen
  - "...laid down their garments at Saul's feet."
  - "...and Saul approved of his execution."



# HOW DO WE CREATE OUR 'ECHO CHAMBERS'?

- 1) Timeless Methods?
- 2) New Ones?

## SHIFTING PARADIGM

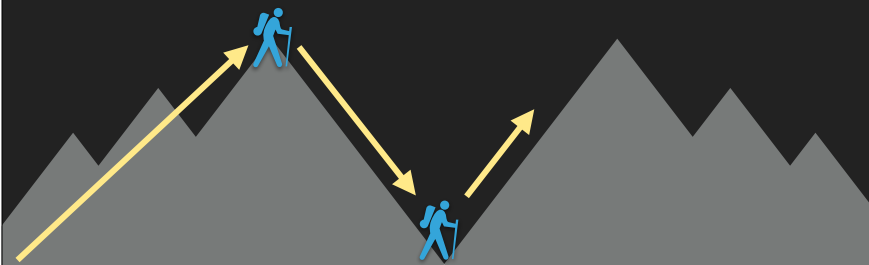
"...a new truth does not triumph by convincing it's opponents and making them see the light, but rather because it's opponents eventually die and a new generation grows up that is familiar with it."

Max Planck

## METANOIA

### A CHANGE OF MIND...

- ▶ We can't think our way there
- ▶ Usually it takes: God + 'dying'



## METANOIA

### SOMETHING HAS TO 'BREAK THROUGH'

#### Encounter the Light

- Baptism of Jesus
- Paul - Damascus Road

#### Transform

- Christ Baptized
- 'Scales' fall off

#### Suffer the Dark

- Temptation of Christ
- Paul's Blindness



**HOW CAN WE ENCOURAGE  
'METANOIA OF THE MIND?'**

PLEASE - GO FORTH AND

---

**KEEP SEEKING**