

Preface

The ideas of this book are intended to be an introduction to philosophy and they were developed as I taught such a course in philosophy at Brigham Young University. But this is not a typical introduction to philosophy. The usual approach is to feature individual philosophers of the long history of philosophy. My approach is rather to assist persons to communicate better by understanding more about how people think, if they wish to think more profoundly.

Everyone who communicates does so out of a background of their personal beliefs and values. To understand the possibilities for those believings and valuings enables one to read and hear with greater comprehension and grasp true and full meaning better, including the communications of the traditional philosophers. Concern about beliefs and values is a form of philosophizing.

Philosophizing is important because no one communicates in a vacuum. The frame of the communication of each of us is often more potent and meaningful than what we actually say or hear. Not to understand the frame is not to understand the communication and the communicator. This work thus has as its goal the enhancement of communicative skills through understanding of frames of communication.

Some persons find it difficult to plow through the two chapters on epistemology. I encourage every reader to pay diligent attention to those chapters, because they are important to everything we think. To master epistemology is an absolute essential for good thinking.

The heart of this book is the chapters on worldviews and cornerstones, Chapters 7 and 8. The preceding chapters are intended to make the discussion of worldviews and cornerstones more understandable.

I hope that you, my reader, will see what I have written as common sense assertions about the matters I take up. These ideas are common sense within the framework of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. These ideas are not common sense in the world. To show the contrast between the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ and the world is one of the purposes of this book, and seeing that contrast is key to being able to think independently.