



Lesson 2: Natural and Positive Law

LAW



Beginning work: (read Romans 1:21-25)

- What kind of actions did those who knew God but did not glorify him do?
- What were the consequences of their actions?
- What did they exchange?
- What do you think it means that “their thinking became nonsense”?

Natural Law

- “Men cannot make principles, he can only discover them.” -Thomas Paine
- “Our political way of life is by the laws of nature, of nature’s God, and presupposes the existence of God, the moral ruler of the universe; a rule of right and wrong, of just and unjust, binding upon men, preceding all institutions of government.” - Alexander Hamilton

Natural Law

- Law should be based on an internal morality which all men possess.
- Law is discovered
- Jeremiah 31:33 *“Instead, this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days” the Lord’s declaration- “I will put my teaching within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people.”*

Legal Positivism (Positive Law)

- Law is what those who have authority agree to do
- Law is made
- There is no inherent connection made between law and morality



Nuremberg Trials

- The question of legal positivism was answered definitively at Nuremberg.