



PHILOSOPHY

LESSON 1: THREE KEY QUESTIONS

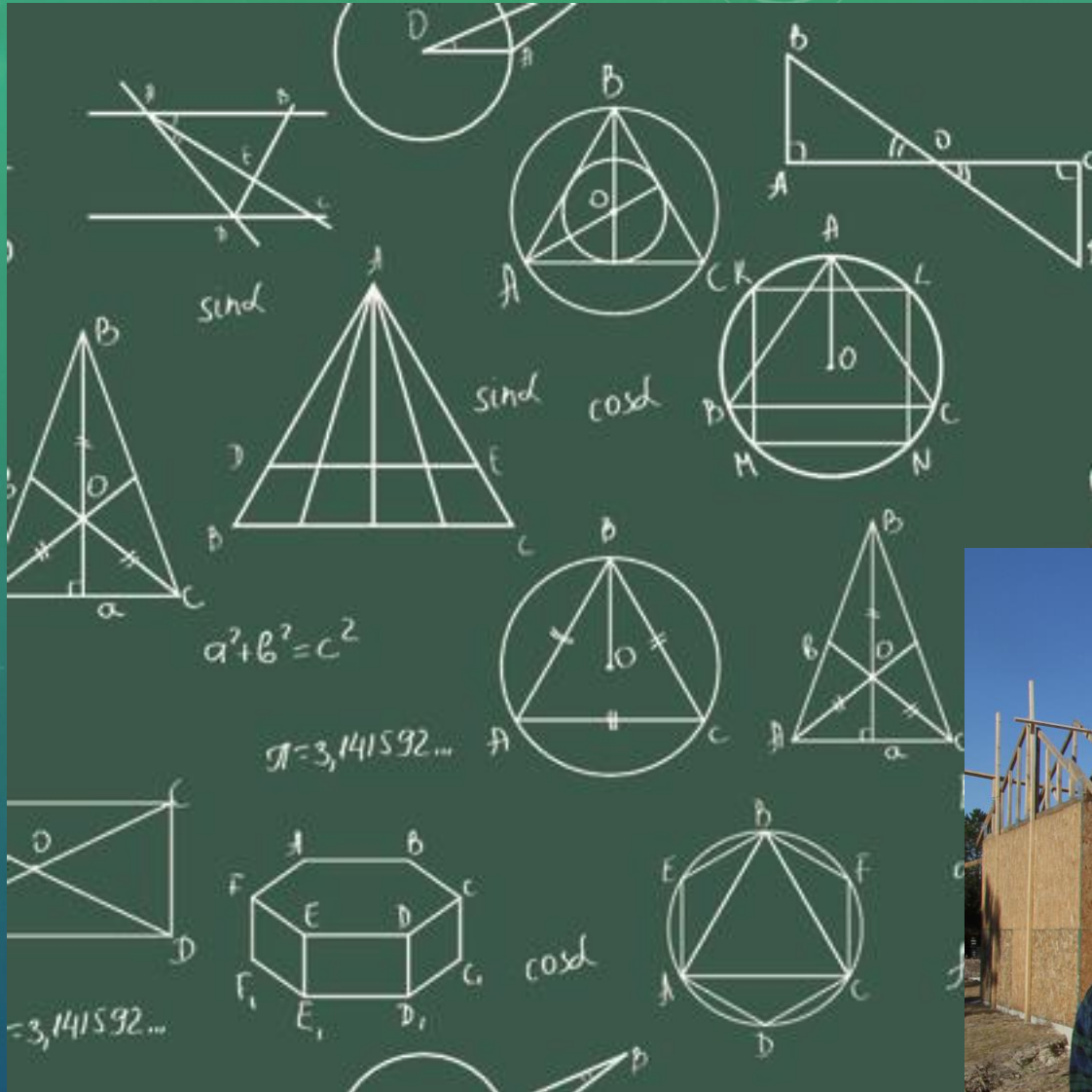
BEGINNING WORK

- Read 9.1 (page 199-201) in your textbook. (Philosophy, Chapter 9)
- On your notes page, write one paragraph answering the question, “Should Christians care about philosophy? Read Proverbs 1:20-33 for background on this question.

PHILOSOPHY: 3 KEY QUESTIONS

- Philosophy comes from the Greek words *philo* (friend) and *sophia* (wisdom)
- A philosopher is literally a “friend of wisdom”

Geometry and carpentry



THERE ARE THREE KEY QUESTIONS PHILOSOPHERS SEEK TO ASK AND ANSWER:

- What is ultimately real?
- What does it mean to know?
- With what part of our being do we contemplate these questions?

WHAT IS ULTIMATELY REAL?

- The study of ultimate reality is called metaphysics
- Some philosophers are monists (reality consists of one sort of thing)
- The most common form of monism is materialism
- Some philosophers are dualists (reality consists of two sorts of things)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO KNOW?

- Epistemology is the study of what knowledge is and how we know.
- Some believe we can only know things that are discoverable by the scientific method
- This is called scientific empiricism
- This says that only objective statements are valid



Truth

Goodness

Beauty



WITH WHAT PART OF OUR BEING DO WE CONTEMPLATE THESE QUESTIONS?

- Do we only consist of our body?
- Do we also have a soul or mind?
- This is called the mind/body problem.