

A Biblical Worldview – Lesson 2

Review – Our minds require transformation from the earthly to Biblical

²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Rom. 12:2

The transformed and renewed **mind** is the mind saturated with and controlled by the Word of God. It is the mind that spends as little time as possible even with the necessary things of earthly living and as much time as possible with the things of God. It is the mind that is set “on the things above, not on the things that are on earth” (Col. 3:2). Whether good or bad, when anything happens in our lives, our immediate, almost reflexive response should be biblical. ... Only the mind that is constantly being renewed by God’s Spirit working through God’s Word is pleasing to God. Only such a mind is able to make our lives “a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is [our] spiritual service of worship.” MacArthur's New Testament Commentary: Romans 9-16

Review – Worldview

A worldview is a commitment, a fundamental orientation of the heart, that can be expressed as a story or in a set of presuppositions (assumptions which may be true, partially true, or entirely false) which we hold (consciously or subconsciously, consistently or inconsistently) about the basic constitution of reality, and that provides the foundation on which we live and move and have our being. James Sire, “The Universe Next Door”, page 17.

Attach on the Biblical Worldview

We are all constantly bombarded by non-biblical worldview ideas from television, film, music, newspapers, magazines, books, advertisements and secular academia. Because of our intrinsic sinfulness, these ideas seductively appeal to our sinful nature and we often incorporate them into our personal worldview, often without even knowing it. Paul said, “*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will*” (12:2).

Romans 12:1 says, “...*Don’t let the world squeeze you into its own mold...*” (J.B. Phillips) Most people go through life not recognizing that their personal worldview has been deeply affected by the world. The secular humanistic view of the world affects our thinking more than we realize. We then are taken “*captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ*” (Col. 2: 8). Steven C. Riser - What’s the Big Deal About Worldview?

How do we know what we know?

Rationalism – The mind is the center of our source of knowledge. Some things are known deductively.

Empiricism – The source of our knowledge is found in the senses. We know only what is perceived.

Revelation – We know some things only because we are told. A transcendent source is necessary.

At the beginning of a Biblical worldview is the Scripture. In our study we will assume:

The Bible, composed of the 39 Old Testament books and the 27 New Testament books, constitutes God’s only written revelation to mankind. It is the inspired, plenary, verbal, infallible, inerrant in the original manuscripts Word of God.

The Holy Spirit superintended (directed, but did not dictate to) the human authors (2 Pet 1:20-21) so that, using their own personalities and styles, they composed and recorded without error in the original manuscripts God’s specific revelation to mankind. As such, the Bible is inspired (2 Tim 3:16) or God-breathed and exhibits His qualities of inerrancy (without error) and infallibility (trustworthy). This inspiration is verbal (extending to the very words) and plenary (including all of the words, inspired in equal parts) (2 Tim 3:16, 2 Pet 1:20-21). This is shown by the Lord Jesus’ and Apostle Paul’s statements, usage, and arguments (Matt 5:18; 22:31-32; Gal 3:16).

The Content and Basics of a Biblical Worldview

1. Is there a God and what is He like?

- Some non-Biblical worldview ideas: Atheism, Deism,
- There is one God who is revealed in general in His creation and specifically in Scripture. He is (a limited list):
 - infinite – Freedom from limits or bounds (1 Kings 8:27; Isa 40:12-26; 66:1). He is not limited by space (everywhere in His fullness continually) or time (there is no “present moment” into which he is locked as we are). As he upholds everything in being, so he has everything everywhere always before his mind, in its own relation to his all-inclusive plan and purpose for every item and every person in his world (Dan. 4:34-35; Eph. 1:11).
 - personal – He desires a relationship with His creatures. (Matt 11:28)
 - omni-present, -scient, -potent
 - sovereign – God’s dominion is total: he wills as he chooses and carries out all that he wills, and none can stay his hand or thwart his plans.
 - ¹⁰...In Him ¹¹also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, Eph. 1:10-11
 - immutability – God never changes.
 - ¹⁷Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. James 1:17
 - good – The essence of God’s character. Of particular interest is His righteousness, holiness, and love. There is an absolute standard of right and wrong, God is separated from that which does not meet His standard, and God will not abandon those He loves.
 - ⁵This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5

2. What is the origin and nature of the universe?

- Some non-Biblical worldview ideas: Big bang, Evolution
- God created perfectly, by His word, everything that exists out of nothing (ex nihilo).
 - ¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...³¹God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. Gen. 1:1,31a
- God created space and time orderly and to operate within His natural laws. Yet God is not contained in either space and time.
- All that has been made is continually held together and upheld by God.
 - ¹⁶For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.
 - ¹⁷He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. Col. 1:16-17
 - ³And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. Heb. 1:3a
- God is continually at work in His creation by direct hand, angelic servants, or His children.
 - ⁴⁴“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.* Matt. 5:44-45
 - ¹²Then he said to me, “Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding *this* and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. ¹³“But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. Dan. 10:12-13

3. What is the origin and nature of man?

- Some non-Biblical worldview ideas: Blank slates, Inherent goodness, Evolved social animal
- Man was created in God's image.

²⁶Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Gen. 1:26-29

God's image in man at Creation, then, consisted (a) in man's being a "soul" or "spirit" (Gen. 2:7, where the NIV correctly says "living being"; Eccles. 12:7), that is, a personal, self-conscious, Godlike creature with a Godlike capacity for knowledge, thought, and action; (b) in man's being morally upright, a quality lost at the Fall that is now being progressively restored in Christ (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10); (c) in man's environmental dominion. Usually, and reasonably, it is added that (d) man's God-given immortality and (e) the human body, through which we experience reality, express ourselves, and exercise our dominion, belong to the image too. Packer, J.I. - Concise Theology: A Guide To Historic Christian Beliefs

- Man is endowed with dignity

³When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; ⁴What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? ⁵Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty! ⁶You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, ⁷All sheep and oxen, And also the beasts of the field, ⁸The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas. Psalms 8:3-8

- Man fell into sin and has been separated from his Creator.

¹²Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned— Rom. 5:12

¹Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short That it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. ²But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden *His* face from you so that He does not hear. Isa. 59:1-2

- All men are without excuse.

¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. ²¹For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. ²⁵For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. Rom. 1:18-25

4. What happens to a person at death?

- Some non-Biblical worldview ideas: Extinction, Reincarnation
- Humans are unidirectional immortal. Death is a door to perfect fellowship with God in heaven or to absolute tormented separation from Him in hell. Once the door is entered the path is set.

The New Testament views hell (*Gehenna*, as Jesus calls it, the place of incineration, Matt. 5:22; 18:9) as the final abode of those consigned to eternal punishment at the Last Judgment (Matt. 25:41-46; Rev. 20:11-15). It is thought of as a place of fire and darkness (Jude 7, 13), of weeping and grinding of teeth (Matt. 8:12; 13:42, 50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30), of destruction (2 Thess. 1:7-9; 2 Pet. 3:7; 1 Thess. 5:3), and of torment (Rev. 20:10; Luke 16:23)—in other words, of total distress and misery. Packer, J.I. - Concise Theology: A Guide To Historic Christian Beliefs

²⁷And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment, Heb. 9:27

5. How do we know what is right and wrong (the basics of ethics and morality)?

- Some non-Biblical worldview ideas: Relativism
- We have consciences which are tainted by and can be seared by sin.

¹⁴For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, ¹⁶on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus. Rom. 2:14-16

²by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, 1 Tim. 4:2

- The truth is found in God's word.

¹⁷“Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. John 17:17

- The word is what shows us what is good.

⁶⁶Teach me good discernment and knowledge, For I believe in Your commandments. ⁶⁷Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word. ⁶⁸You are good and do good; Teach me Your statutes. Psa. 119:66-68

6. What is the meaning of human history?

- Some non-Biblical worldview ideas: Purposeless
- History begins with God (Gen 1:1) and ends with the fulfillment of His purpose and the ultimate judgement of sin and ushering in of eternity (Rev 21-22).

²⁸And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. Rom 8:28

Areas of influence of a Biblical Worldview

Sociology – Institutions ordained by God – family, church, state

Politics – Government's responsibility and response to Government

Economics – Work and stewardship of property