

WAR OF THE WORLDVIEWS #2

“I’m Saved! So What’s Next?”

Testimony:

I was radically born again in 1971. The first thing I knew to do was a no-brainer. Find a good church and get baptized. We never missed a service. From the beginning, I paid my tithes. I read my Bible an hour or two every day. And drove my Pastor nuts!

I was so on fire for God and loaded with questions. Every time I saw Pastor Paul I had a question. “What does the Bible mean about this?” “What does the Bible mean about that?” I’d read about the miracles, speaking in tongues, and praying for the sick and ask, “Why don’t we do that?”

All my questions could be summed up this way: “OK, I’m saved! What’s next?

All he could tell me was miracles and speaking in tongues had passed away and that I basically just needed to relax and wait for the “rapture”. Bless his heart; that’s all he knew to tell me. Because all the emphasis in that church was to get you to “receive Christ as your personal Savior”. Once you were saved, no one could tell you what to do next!

“This emphasis (making Christ your personal Savior) can also be our greatest weakness because it may prevent us from seeing God’s plan for us beyond personal salvation. Genuine Christianity is a way of seeing and comprehending all reality. It is a worldview.”

Chuck Colson, “How Now Shall We Live?”

I look back wondering why didn’t someone tell me this right off the bat? How much did I miss?

It feels like when I go out to the Little Course in Franklin and see all the young junior golfers. And all I can think is...

“I wish someone had taught me the game when I was young!”

Thank God He sent some good teachers our way! We were baptized in the Holy Spirit and we did see miracles, healings, and deliverance! The Lord allowed us to experience so much of what we might have missed if we had gotten STUCK in a Church that didn't believe in the gifts of the Holy Spirit!

These denominational people were precious; but they just missed out on so much. But after being with spirit-filled, Pentecostal people now for over 40 years...I have to say that there is so much *we* have missed out on...

Because no one ever taught us that the basic business of a born-again believer is to systematically develop a biblical worldview!

II. DEVELOPING A BILICAL WORLDVIEW

A. What's Next? The Missing Ingredient

1. We spent all of last year studying the Sermon on the Mount: what the “normal Christian life” looks like.
2. This year, we’re going to take some time to study the next step: what the normal Christian life *thinks* like!
3. We begin with a very familiar text...

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5:17 NRSV

a. The Greek word translated “behold” in the KJV and “see” in the NRSV is a verb in the imperative tense; it is always a COMMAND!

4. IF you are saved, you ARE a new creature in Christ. So what’s next?

BEHOLD! SEE! All things are become new!

5. The first thing God wants us to do when we are saved is to “SEE” all things differently!

6. How we see “all things” is called a “worldview”. The word isn’t in the Bible; but that’s what Paul means when he says that being saved, being in Christ, comes with a command to “Behold” or “See” all things are become new.

7. To be saved means to see everything different than before! To be a Christian means having a “biblical worldview”.

B. So What is a Worldview?

“A worldview is the way a person looks at and evaluates the world in which they live.”
Gary DeMar

1. This means we are to see “*all things*” with “new eyes”! It is like putting on a pair of sunglasses. You see everything through a new lens. It is comprehensive.

“A Worldview is a set of beliefs which define the ways we understand reality”
Freddy Davis

2. To be a Christian means more than just believing in Jesus; if you stop there you’ll get “stuck”. In Christ we are given a new “set of beliefs”. Being saved will affect everything we believe about everything we see!

“A worldview is simply the sum total of our beliefs about the world, the ‘big picture’ that directs our daily decisions and actions. And understanding worldviews is extremely important.”
Charles Colson

3. Our worldview is important because it colors everything we *believe*; how we see morality and sexuality; economics and politics. Our worldview affects every decision we make. And everybody has one!

“Whether we know it or not—whether we like it or not—each of us has a worldview. These worldviews function as interpretive conceptual schemes to explain why we “see” the world as we do, why we often think and act as we do. Competing worldviews often come into conflict.”

Ronald H. Nash

4. Our series is about the “War of the Worldviews” because all the warfare in the world is really a culture clash between opposing worldviews.

a. The devil wants to keep us confused; he gets us fighting so many single battles that we fail to remember we’re in a war.

“The culture war is not just about abortion, homosexual rights, or the decline of public education. These are only the skirmishes. The real war is a cosmic struggle between worldviews—between the Christian worldview and the various secular and spiritual worldviews waged against it.”

Chuck Colson

5. Think of it this way. The Christian church in America is fighting on many fronts. We fight for religious freedom. We fight against gay marriage. We fight for the rights of the unborn. We fight against racial prejudice. We’re fighting so many fights we fail to forget that all of these fights are part of a larger war.

6. No one ever told us that we can win a few fights and still lose the war! The real war is bigger than any single battle! The real war is over which *worldview* will win!

“The world is a battlefield in the arena of ideas. The prize is the heart and mind of mankind.”

Ronald H. Nash

7. There is a worldview behind racial prejudice. There is a worldview that says abortion and gay marriage should be legal. There is a worldview that believes sex outside of marriage is OK.

8. If we fail to fight the worldview behind the conflict, we could win a battle here and there and still lose the war!

a. Imagine winning the battle over abortion. The Supreme Court finally overturns Roe v. Wade. Millions of unborn babies will be saved. What a victory! We have won the *legal* battle. But have we won the *real* war? Have we defeated the idea contained in the worldview that made abortion possible in the first place?

b. Imagine winning the battle over the legalization of gay marriage. The Supreme Court rules that marriage is between a man and a woman and the Congress amends the constitution to say the same. We call it a battle won. But have we won the war? Have we defeated the worldview of those who say “gay is OK?”

9. Winning legal battles falls far short of winning the war of the worldviews.

C. Developing a Biblical Worldview

1. Right about now, the devil is putting thoughts in your mind that you’re not up to this; not spiritual enough; it’s “over your head. But he is a LIAR.

2. In our text, the Apostle Paul said **“If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creature; then he commanded all the Corinthian believers to “Behold, all things are become new”**. If you are “in Christ” *you already have the basics of a biblical worldview!*

3. What comes next is the need to *develop* that biblical worldview. And where do we *begin*?

a. You’re thinking, “Well, it seems that a *biblical* worldview has to begin with the *Bible*!” And you would be right!

4. The ONLY way that a Christian can develop a biblical worldview upon the *presupposition* that there is a God and that the Bible is the Word of God.

C. An Introduction To Presuppositional Thinking

1. A “presupposition” refers to that which we believe, suppose, or take for granted *in advance*.

“By presuppositions we mean the basic way an individual looks at life, his basic worldview, the grid through which he sees the world. Presuppositions rest upon that which a person considers to be the truth of what exists.”

Francis Schaeffer

2. Presuppositions lie at the foundation of every worldview, whether biblical or not!

“A presupposition is the elementary assumption, basic commitment, or foundational perspective in terms of which particular experiences or events are interpreted.”

Gary DeMar

3. Everyone has a worldview whether they know it or not. Everyone approaches every question and every issue out of their presuppositions; the things they believe or suppose in advance.

a. Example: The presupposition of an atheist is that there is no God. He cannot *prove* there is no God but he *believes* that there is no God. His worldview is based on the presupposition that there is no God and he will interpret every issue and every question through that lens.

b. But the presupposition of the Christian is that there IS a God. He cannot *prove* that there is a God but He *believes* there is a God. The Christian worldview is based on the presupposition that there is a God and he will interpret every issue and question through that lens.

4. These worldviews will always collide because the Christian believes there is a God and that He has defined good and evil through the revelation of His word. The atheist has no God so he will have to get his definition of right and wrong from somewhere else; even if it is *himself!*

5. The biblical worldview of God includes God's definitions of good and evil, of right and wrong. The atheistic worldview has no God so there is no absolute truth about good and evil or right and wrong.

a. For us there is a God and He calls us to keep His commandments; atheism has no God, so as the great Russian/Christian novelist Dostoevsky said...

“If there is no God, everything is permissible.”

Feodor Dostoevsky

6. Christianity begins with God. All other worldviews begin with man; what Charles Colson called, “most significant clash of worldviews today, the conflict between ‘Theism and ‘Naturalism’.”

“Theism is the belief that there is a transcendent God who created the universe; naturalism is the belief that natural causes alone are sufficient to explain everything that exists.”

Chuck Colson

- a. Theism presupposes a transcendent God who created everything; Naturalism presupposes that everything can be explained in other ways.

“The most significant clash of worldviews is not between traditional religions or cultures; it is between classic Christian theism and naturalism—in both its modernist and its rapidly growing postmodernist forms.”

Chuck Colson in “How Now Shall We Live?

7. There are almost infinite implications to the warfare between these 2 worldviews. And no better place for us to begin to develop our biblical worldview to maturity.

8. The title of this teaching is, “I’m saved! What’s next?” The answer is “develop a biblical worldview”. Next question: “Where do I begin?” The answer is, “Begin at the beginning”...with the most important verse in the Bible.

**In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.
Genesis 1:1**

III. Conclusion

A. The Most Important Verse in the Bible

1. Let’s begin where God begins; “In the beginning...”
2. Every worldview has a set of presuppositions; some are more important than others. For the Christian, Genesis 1:1 is what’s called an “ultimate presupposition.”

“An ultimate presupposition is a belief over which no other takes precedence.”

Dr. John M. Frame

4. The foundation of a biblical worldview is the presupposition that there is an infinite, all-knowing, omnipotent God and that He is the Creator of all things. We will start here and go forward. Join us for the journey!