

PRESCRIPTION FOR A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW: CREATION, FALL, AND REDEMPTION

Genesis 1:1; 2:16,17; 3:9-19; Ephesians 4:17-5:2

I. DEFINITION OF A WORLDVIEW

- A. A worldview is the overall perspective from which one sees and interprets the world.
 - 1. A worldview is like the umpire at a baseball game.
 - 2. A worldview is like a pair of glasses.
 - 3. A worldview is like the picture box top that goes along with a jigsaw puzzle.
- B. Worldviews are influential in what we live for and how we live (cf. Psalm 119:59,60; Prov.21:29; Isa.56:12; 1 Cor.15:32).
- C. There are three central elements to any worldview:
 - 1. **Creation:** *Where did we come from, and who are we?* (Gen.1-2)
 - 2. **Fall:** *What has gone wrong with the world?* (Genesis 3)
 - 3. **Redemption:** *What can be done to fix the world?* (Genesis 3:15-Revelation 22)
- D. Everyone has a worldview even if they cannot explain what it is.

II. THE BIBLE STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A “BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW” (Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:17-5:2; cf. 2 Cor.10:5)

- A. “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind....” (**Romans 12:2**)
- B. The *mind* and understanding of *unbelievers* (Eph.4:17,18)
 - 1. “you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking...” (**Eph.4:17-24**; cf. Prov.26:4,5; Rom.1:28; Eph.5:8-10,17; Col.3:10)
 - 2. Unbelievers are darkened in their understanding (Eph.4:17-19)
 - 3. Unbelievers are “ignorant” (Eph.4:18)
 - a. The futility, darkness and ignorance of unbelievers leads to sin (Eph.4:19; Rom.1:21-25).
 - b. the mind/thinking of unbelievers is illogical and absurd (Rom.1:21-25).
 - i. Unbelievers will say things like “there is no absolute truth.” But then you ask them, is it truthful that there is no absolute truth?
 - ii. These same people will insist that the bombing of the WTC was wrong, but when you ask them why they can’t say for certain.
 - iii. Unbelievers will go on campaigns to save the whales or save trees, but when it comes to unborn children, they are pro-abortion.
 - iv. If a crab is not lower or less complex than a human then what would be the consequence of taking this theory to its logical conclusion?
 - v. Can life come from non-life?
 - vi. Peter Singer the inconsistent utilitarian.
 - c. Apart from the work of the Holy Spirit in the rebirth, the mind of fallen man will never be able to think its way closer to God (John 3:1-11).

C. The *mind* and of *believers* (Eph.4:20-24)

1. Christians have been “made new in the attitude of your minds (Eph.4:23)
2. “put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness” (Eph.4:24; cf. Col.3:10)

D. The three key aspects of the Christian worldview are found in Ephesians 4:

1. **Creation:** *We have been made in the image of God. There are absolutes. Truth is not relative* (cf. v.24).
2. **Fall:** effects of sin on the mind and behavior (vv.17-19)
3. **Redemption:** “new self” (v.24)

E. “lay aside the old self” and “put on the new self, created to be like God” (Eph.4:22,24)

1. lay aside falsehood...speak the truth (v.25)
2. Be angry, and yet do not sin (v.26)
3. do not steal...but give (v.28)
4. do not speak unwholesome words, but only what is good for edification (v.29)

F. The picture of putting off old garments and putting on new clothing is rooted in the priestly garments of the Old Testament (Eph.4:24; Exodus 28; cf. Eph.6:10-20).

QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:

Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer for yourself, your family, the church and/or your nation. Remember that prayer consists in Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication (Feel free to use the outline for praying).

What is a worldview?

What are the three central elements of a worldview?

Why does everyone have a worldview even if they cannot explain it?

In light of this morning’s sermon, what is the worldview of some of the people you have been or should be witnessing to? What are some non-confrontational questions that you could ask them to help them think more about the meaning and goal of life?

How do the basic elements of a worldview shape government, laws, school systems, churches, and entertainment?

Explain how the futility, darkness and ignorance of unbelievers leads to sin and absurdity.

Explain what Charles Spurgeon meant when he said that science is “the method by which man tries to conceal his ignorance.”

Prepared by Pastor Aaron Goerner (11/4/2001). See Dt.33:8-10; Ezra 7:10; Malachi 2:7; Acts 17:11; Col.1:28,29; 1 Tim.4:12-16. Questions/Comments? Website: ChristChurchReformed.com; Email: christchurch@christchurchreformed.com

ILLUSTRATIONS

Our worldview determines how we see things in the world – a worldview is like a pair of glasses. A worldview “should provide the correct "prescription" for making sense of the world just as wearing the correct prescription for your eyes brings things into focus.... An incorrect prescription can be dangerous, even life-threatening” (<http://www.leaderu.com/orgs/probe/docs/w-views.html>).

“Years ago the noted English agnostic Thomas Huxley was in Dublin, Ireland, for a speaking engagement, and when it was over he left his hotel in a hurry to catch a train. He jumped into one of the city’s famous horse-drawn taxis and, thinking the doorman at the hotel had told the driver where he was going, simply shouted to the driver to drive fast. The taxi set off at a breakneck pace, but after a few minutes Huxley realized that it was headed away from the station. “Do you know where you’re going?” he shouted to the driver. “No, your honor,” the driver answered, “but I’m driving fast.”

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