

A Biblical Worldview

By Al Felder

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 2:5)

The way that we view things is very important. The way that we view reality makes up our worldview. How do we make sense of life and the world around us? Well, that depends on our worldview or the basis of our worldview. Do we have a biblical worldview or a secular worldview?

A worldview is the combination of all that you believe to be true. It is the driving force behind every decision, emotion, and action you take. It affects your response to every area of life as you make decisions on a daily basis. To put it simple, it's the reason why you do the things that you do.

When it comes to ones worldview, there really are only two choices. We can have a biblical worldview or a secular worldview. Christ made this clear in his teachings. *“He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”* (Matt. 12:30) If our worldview is not based upon the word of God, it is based upon the teachings of man. These two sources bitterly oppose each other.

There was a time not too long ago when the decisions that most people made were based in some sense on the teachings of God's word. People had a sense of right and wrong that was based on the bible. For instance, behaviors such as fornication, adultery, homosexuality, drunkenness, abortion, pornography, and public nudity were considered to be wrong. Today, public opinion on these behaviors is rapidly changing.

How did we go from a society that believed such behaviors were wrong to one that embraces these and other sinful acts? People quit believing the bible. The Barna Research Group conducted a study and determined that only 9% of Americans had a biblical worldview.¹ Although most Americans own a bible, they do not know how to internalize its teachings to govern their life. It no longer influences the decisions that they make.

The fact that most Americans do not see the world through the teachings of the bible is the result of a calculated effort on the part of those who do not believe in God. For years the history that is recorded in the bible has been attacked. As a result, generations of young people have been brought up thinking that the bible is a book containing many interesting stories and religious teachings, but it has no connection to real life.

¹ **Barna Research Group. 2009.** The Barna Group. Ltd. *Barna Group Website*. [Online] March 6, 2009. [Cited: June 2, 2015.] www.barna.org.

Man has said that there is no God. The world continues just as it always has since its beginning. God foretold this reasoning of man in His word.

³Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lust, ⁴And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. ⁵For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: ⁶Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: ⁷But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.” (2 Peter 3:3-7)

In His word, God teaches us that He created the world, destroyed it with a global flood due to the wickedness of man sparing only Noah, his family, and two of every kind of animal, and He will judge it by fire in the future. Man denies this and has put his own ideas in place of biblical teachings.

Instead of believing that God created, generations of young people have been taught that the world evolved over the course of billions of years. They have been ingrained with a secular worldview that is enforced with television, film, music, newspapers, magazines, and books. Through the media and other influences, the secularized worldview has a profound effect on peoples thinking. Many people believe that the bible cannot explain such things as dinosaurs, fossils, death, suffering, and many other topics that relate to the real world.

This process has led to the removal of Christian absolutes as the basis of our society. If there is no God then why should people follow the bible? Christian teachings are no longer accepted as the only way of doing things. Now we live under the claim that all religious beliefs and ways of life are to be tolerated.

Without biblical absolutes right and wrong changes with the views of society. It is similar to the condition of Israel after the time of the judges had ended. *“In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”* (Judges 21:25) Outside of biblical absolutes we are left with our opinions. People reason with their opinion when they make statements such as “I feel” or “I think”. They may also come up with an endless scenario of “what if’s”. In the end popular opinion wins the day.

God has spoken about such reasoning. *“O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”* (Jer. 10:23) Man left to his own devices will follow a path that becomes increasingly wicked. It leads away from God and away from His word.

God in His word gives us a description of this moral descent of man. *“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”* (Rom. 1:21) The rest of the chapter

gives a troubling account of the depths of wickedness that man attains when he rejects God as creator.

One thing that we must understand is that our belief about where we came from affects our worldview. Did God create or did man evolve? The answer to such a question will determine how people view themselves, others, and the world around them.

The bible makes it very clear how everything originated. *“In the beginning God created.”* (Genesis 1:1) The bible begins with God being the source of all things. By Him all things are made and through Him all things remain.

“¹God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, ²hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; ³who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.” (Heb. 1:1-3)

According to the bible everything starts with God, is sustained by God, and is for God. He created all things and they continue to exist because of Him. It is also through Jesus that salvation is possible. If, however, we give into the world’s way of looking at things all of the bible loses its meaning and does not have an impact on our life.

In order to have a biblical worldview we must believe what the bible says in Genesis. *“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”* (Psalm 11:3) The book of Genesis provides a basis for every area of human existence. It provides a foundation for the origin of everything.

Within the book of Genesis man’s questions can be answered. Is there a God? What is the origin of man? What is the origin of the universe? What is the origin of the family? What is the origin of clothing? Where does knowledge come from? What is the basis of right and wrong? Why do people die? What about the dinosaurs? What about the fossils?

Without a foundation what can we do? If we do not believe the bible in its beginning how will we believe the rest of it? How will it impact our life if we view it as a book that cannot be trusted? Do we believe what the bible teaches about origins or do we believe what man teaches? The answer to that question will determine our worldview.

During His earthly ministry Jesus stressed the importance of the writings of Moses. *“⁴⁶For had you believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. ⁴⁷But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?”* (John 5:46, 47) At this time, Jesus was speaking to a group of Jews. He made it very clear that the writings of Moses are important. In fact, He told His audience that the reason why they did not believe Him was because they did not believe the writings of Moses. The writings of Moses foretold the coming of Jesus.

Genesis is the beginning of Moses' writings. In fact, it is the book of Moses that is referred to more often than any other throughout the rest of the bible. The book of Genesis is quoted in other Old Testament books as well as the New Testament. There are at least 165 passages in Genesis that are either directly quoted or referred to in the New Testament. More than 100 of the quotes and references are from Genesis chapters 1 through 11.

Jesus Himself often made reference to the book of Genesis. *"But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female."* (Mark 10:6) In this verse of scripture Jesus accepts the historical accuracy of Genesis. In this verse He confirms the fact that God made the man and the woman in the beginning. Notice man did not evolve from some lower life-form over billions of years, the bible says that God created them in His image. To deny the origin of man as taught in the bible is the equivalent of denying Jesus.

God gives a warning against being deceived by the teachings of man. *"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."* (Col. 2:8) It really does come down to who do we trust, the word of God or the theories of man? One was actually there and gives an account of how everything originated while the other theorizes and supposes that this is how things must have been. Yet, some may argue that science has disproven the bible. Not so. We will examine this idea more closely in future sermons.

When a person accepts the bible as God's infallible word, a door is opened that leads to greater understanding, reasoning, and purpose. You see, once you believe the bible and its account of how we got here, you realize that God made man for a purpose. In His word you find that He has supplied the basis for every area of human existence – family, the church, government, agriculture, law, and medicine – every aspect of life. In other words, there is a whole biblical way of thinking.

In order to gain access to this way of thinking you must be familiar with the word of God. *"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."* (Rom. 12:2) Listen, God has given us His word in order to guide our thoughts and actions. We have access to absolute knowledge. All we have to do is study it.

Once we study the word of God our way of thinking is transformed. We no longer look at things the way that we once did. We see things in a different light. The bible becomes the foundation of everything we say and do. We no longer reason with "I feel" or "I think". Instead, our reasoning turns to "the bible says".

When we diligently learn and apply God's truths we begin to develop a faith that can stand against the unrelenting tide of our culture's unbiblical ideas. *"¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."* (Col. 3:16,

17) Once we capture and embrace God's worldview through study of His word it will influence the way we live our lives whether it's communicating with members of our family, raising our children, our performance at work, or our choices in recreation. Knowledge of the bible can help us make the right decisions and form the appropriate response to questions on abortion, same sex marriage, the use of drugs, and personal responsibility. In the end our actions will reveal what we truly believe.

What is the basis of your worldview? Why do you do the things that you do? Is it man's word or is it God's word? The answer to such a question has eternal implications. Which one will you chose?