

BUILDING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

Message 1: The What and the Why

Colossians 2:8 (ESV)

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

Remember:

Colossians 2:2-3 (ESV)

² ... the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, ³ in whom are hidden **all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**.

What is a "Biblical Worldview"?

A Biblical worldview is *not* ...

... merely holding to Christian _____.

... just living life with _____ attached.

... _____ from being "saved".

... Christian _____.

A worldview comprises one's collection of presuppositions, convictions and values from which a person tries to understand and make sense out of the world and life.

"A worldview is a conceptual scheme by which we consciously or unconsciously place or fit everything we believe and by which we interpret and judge reality."
- Ronald H. Nash, *Faith and Reason*

"A worldview is, first of all, an explanation and interpretation of the world and second, an application of this view to life."
- W. Gary Phillips, and William E. Brown, *Making Sense of Your World from a Biblical Viewpoint*

"A Christian worldview is not built on two types of truth (religious and philosophical or scientific) but on a universal principle and all-embracing system that shapes religion, natural and social sciences, law, history, health care, the arts, the humanities, and all disciplines of study with application for all of life."

- James Orr, *The Christian View of God and the World*

Ecclesiastes 12:13 (ESV)

¹³ The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

What is **unique** about a biblical worldview?

- 1) A **Biblical worldview is** _____.
- 2) A **Biblical worldview is** _____.
- 3) A **Biblical worldview is defined by** _____.

6 Presuppositions of a Biblical Worldview:

1. The Bible is the _____.
2. There is only _____.
3. God is _____.
4. God made _____ in His image.
5. _____ has affected the entire cosmos.
6. _____ is the theme of history.

Why is a Biblical worldview so **important**?

1. It shapes our sense of _____.
2. It enables us to understand _____.
3. It gives us _____ in the midst of struggle.
4. It gives us _____ for the future.
5. It provides a foundation for _____.
6. It provides a framework for _____ thinking.
7. It enables us to see God's plan and purposes in the world, thus giving our lives _____ and _____.

How can I analyze/evaluate my worldview?

Ravi Zacharias offers what he calls the **3-4-5 Method** of analyzing worldviews.

First, there are **three tests** that a worldview must pass. It must be:

1. **logically consistent** – Its teachings cannot be self-contradictory.
2. **empirically adequate** – Its teachings must match what we see in reality.
3. **existentially relevant** – Its teachings must speak directly to how we actually live our lives.

Second, each worldview must address the following **four ultimate questions**:

1. **origin** – Where do the universe and human beings come from?
2. **meaning** – What is the meaning or purpose of life?
3. **morality** – How do we know what is right and what is wrong?
4. **destiny** – What happens to us after we die?

Third, there are **five academic disciplines** that must be employed to study a worldview:

1. **theology** – the study of God
2. **metaphysics** – the study of what is ultimately real
3. **epistemology** – the study of how we can know things
4. **ethics** – the study of moral right and wrong
5. **anthropology** – the study of what and who humans are