

UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES

Developing a Biblical Worldview

How a Biblical Worldview Impacts the Way We See God and the Way We View Reality

Introduction: This Sunday, the second in our series of six sermons on developing a Biblical worldview, we explore the ramifications on the first two of ten disciplines: Theology and Philosophy.

I. How a Biblical Worldview Impacts Theology

- A. A simple definition of the Biblical view of Theology: Theism—the belief in a supernatural God.
- B. How God reveals Himself:
 1. General Revelation: God’s communication, through nature and conscience, regarding His existence. (Romans 1: 18-20)
 2. Special Revelation: God’s more specific communication—through the Bible and Jesus Christ—about salvation and His nature. (Matthew 16: 15-17)
- C. The foundational belief of a Biblical worldview is the divine inspiration of Scripture. (II Timothy 3: 16)
- D. What special revelation tells us about God:
 1. God is knowable
 2. God is personal
 3. God is Judge
 4. God is Redeemer

II. Comparative Worldviews: Islam and Secular Humanism

- A. Islamic worldview is Theistic but Unitarian (*vis-à-vis* Trinitarian)
- B. The Five (or Six) Pillars of Islam delineate its basic tenets.
- C. The essence of Secular Humanism’s worldview:
 1. Atheism: the denial of the existence of a supernatural God.
 2. Humanism defined: the belief that humanity is the highest of all beings and truth and knowledge rest in science and human reason.
 3. Humanist Manifesto: the central theme in all three versions is the elaboration of a philosophy and value system that does not include belief in God.
- D. In the secular humanist mind, reality is composed solely of matter, and whatever exists is explained by natural causes. Thus, the supernatural cannot exist.

III. How a Biblical Worldview Impacts Philosophy

- A. Philosophy is the pursuit of wisdom, a search for a general understanding of values and reality by chiefly speculative rather than observational means. It is that branch of knowledge devoted to the systematic examination of basic concepts such as truth, existence, reality, causality, and freedom.
- B. The single most important philosophical truth in the Bible is John 1: 1-4.
- C. Conclusions about Christian philosophy:
 1. Many hold the Christian view of philosophy to be the most rational.
 2. A Biblical worldview on philosophy requires no more faith than any other philosophy.
 3. The Christian explanation for the world of matter and nature is that the supernatural created the natural.

Conclusion: “Those who ultimately seek truth will find themselves face-to-face with the God of the Bible.” - David Noebel

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16-17

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
Hebrews 4:12

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

John 1: 1-4

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.
Colossians 2:8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.) Why is a supernatural God so elementary to a Biblical worldview?
- 2.) **Read Romans 1: 18-20.** What does this Scripture passage tell us about God's general revelation to us? (General revelation refers to the means by which God reveals Himself to mankind through the physical universe and the moral order.) How does this compare to God's special revelation (see below) about Himself?
- 3.) God's special revelation refers to God's more specific communication—through the Bible and Jesus Christ—about salvation and His nature. Are there Scriptures that come to mind that illustrate this point? (see Matthew 16)
- 4.) Why is belief in the divine inspiration of the Bible so important to a Biblical worldview?
- 5.) What are some things that special revelation tells us about God? Is there one verse that best sums it up for you?
- 6.) What philosophical elements (e.g., truth, existence, reality, etc.) do you find in John 1: 1-4 when the Apostle John talks about Jesus as *Logos*?
- 7.) What do the Five Pillars of Islam tell you about that religion? Is it works-based or is there grace involved?

BARNA'S CRITERIA FOR A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

- Someone who believes in absolute moral truth
- The source of that moral truth is the Bible
- The Bible is accurate in all the principles it teaches
- Eternal salvation cannot be earned
- Jesus lived a sinless life
- Every person has a responsibility to share their religious beliefs with others
- Satan is a living force, not just a symbol of evil
- God is the all-knowing, all-powerful maker of the Universe who still rules creation today

THE FIVE (OR SIX) PILLARS OF ISLAM

1. Confession: "There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet."
2. Prayer five times a day facing Mecca.
3. Fasting during Ramadan.
4. Almsgiving: 2.5% of income to the poor.
5. Pilgrimage to Mecca at least once during their lifetime.
6. *Jihad*: Personal battle against sin and temptation and against the enemies of the faith.

NOTES
