

UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES

Developing a Biblical Worldview

How a Biblical Worldview Leads Us To The Cross

Introduction: In this Post-Christian world of today with all its competing philosophies, it is easy to misunderstand what is meant by a “biblical worldview” and the role it plays in the way we go about living our lives from day-to-day. Today we seek to better understand where a worldview that is rooted and grounded in God’s Truth leads us as followers and disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I. Broadening Our Understanding of a Biblical Worldview

- A. A basic definition: any ideology, philosophy, theology, movement, or religion that provides an overarching approach to understanding God, the world, and man’s relation to God and the world (Dr. David A. Noebel).
- B. The essence of a Biblical Worldview: ... *But we have the mind of Christ.* (I Cor. 2: 16)
- C. Can we truly claim to be followers of the Lord Jesus Christ if we neglect—or even worse, refuse—to see things the way that He sees things?

II. What a Biblical Worldview Means With Respect to Discipleship

- A. We begin by making a basic choice: Is Jesus Lord or is He something else?
- B. We need to have a clear view on what discipleship really means.
 1. Jesus spared no details in Matthew 16: 24; Mark 8: 24; and Luke 9: 23. “*If anyone would come after me ...*”
 2. *Let him “Deny himself ... take up his cross ... and follow Me ...”*
- C. These are actions that are counterintuitive in our secular humanistic world.

III. How a Biblical Worldview Leads Us to the Cross

- A. The cost of discipleship: “When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die.”
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- B. The way of the cross has always been purposed to lead to the death of self (Romans 6: 6; Galatians 2: 20)
- C. The way of the Cross is not an easy or comfortable path—no more today in our age of comfort and religious liberty than it was in Roman time.

IV. The Old Cross and the New

- A. Consider A. W. Tozer’s perspective on the “Old Cross” versus “The New Cross.”
- B. The article was written for the *Alliance Weekly* in October, 1946 and reprinted many times over the years. It still bears a profound witness of the difference between the “old cross and the new.”

Conclusion: The purpose of a biblical worldview is not just to enable us “*to make a defense to everyone who asks us to give an account for the hope that is in us*” (I Peter 3: 15), nor is it meant solely to equip us to “*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) The goal, the reason, and indeed the purpose of a biblical worldview is to lead us to a more intimate relationship with our Lord so that we bear witness to Him in every aspect of life. May we understand that the cost is not cheap.

And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.”

Mark 8:34

And He was saying to *them* all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”

Luke 9:23

“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

Luke 14:27

“And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.”

Matthew 10:38

knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;

Romans 6:6

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Galatians 2:20

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.) In your own words, how would you explain to an unbeliever what a biblical worldview is and what significance it has in the way you live your life.
- 2.) C. S. Lewis used a succinct saying to describe our basic choices regarding Jesus Christ. Can you remember the quote? How would you explain it to a non-believer.
- 3.) What did Jesus have to say about the cost of discipleship? What was significant about it?
- 4.) Share with your small group what discipleship means to you personally.
- 5.) What four verbs stand out in the synoptic gospels when Jesus spoke to His followers about discipleship? (See the Scriptures quoted in the sidebar on Page 1.)
- 6.) What did the article written by A. W. Tozer say to you personally? How relevant do you think it is today?

“... Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.

Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock.

Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: "ye were bought at a price," and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: *The Cost of Discipleship*

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