

Salt & Light

Winter 2009

The Newsletter of the Social Concerns Ministry Team

Educating and informing the church body in light of biblical principles

You are the salt of the earth...
You are the light of the world...

Mt. 5:13-14

Editorial Note:

Our focus this time is on the concept of a worldview – and it is our hope that each of us will be inspired to consider the lens through which we view the world. Someone with a biblical worldview believes his primary reason for existence is to love and serve God. If you would like to test your worldview, a test is offered by the Nehemiah Institute for a fee, at www.nehemiahinstitute.com

What's a Worldview Anyway?

From: Dr. Del Tackett, www.thetruthproject.org/about/culturefocus/A000000048.cfm

"Worldview" is fast becoming a commonly used term. But do you know what it really means? Dr. Del Tackett shares four important points to keep in mind when seeking to understand the meaning of "worldview."

A recent nationwide survey completed by the Barna Research Group determined that only 4 percent of Americans had a "biblical" worldview. When George Barna, who has researched cultural trends and the Christian Church since 1984, looked at the "born-again" believers in America, the results were a dismal 9 percent...

1. *What's a worldview?*

A worldview is the framework from which we view reality and make sense of life and the world. "[It's] any ideology, philosophy, theology, movement or religion that provides an overarching approach to understanding God, the world and man's relations to God and the world," says David Noebel, author of *Understanding the Times*.

For example, a 2-year-old believes he's the center of his world, a secular humanist believes that the material world is all that exists, and a Buddhist believes he can be liberated from suffering by self-purification.

Someone with a biblical worldview believes his primary reason for existence is to love and serve God.

Whether conscious or subconscious, every person has some type of worldview. A personal worldview is a combination of all you believe to be true, and what you believe becomes the driving force behind every

emotion, decision and action. Therefore, it affects your response to every area of life: from philosophy to science, theology and anthropology to economics, law, politics, art and social order — everything....

2. *What's a biblical worldview?*

A biblical worldview is based on the infallible Word of God. When you believe the Bible is entirely true, then you allow it to be the foundation of everything you say and do. That means, for instance, you take seriously the mandate in Romans 13 to honor the governing authorities by researching the candidates and issues, making voting a priority.

Do you have a biblical worldview? Answer the following questions, based on claims found in the Bible and which George Barna used in his survey:

- Do absolute moral truths exist?
- Is absolute truth defined by the Bible?
- Did Jesus Christ live a sinless life?
- Is God the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe, and does He still rule it today?
- Is salvation a gift from God that cannot be earned?
- Is Satan real?
- Does a Christian have a responsibility to share his or her faith in Christ with other people?
- Is the Bible accurate in all of its teachings?

Did you answer yes to these? Only 9 percent of "born-again" believers did. But what's more important than your yes to these questions is whether your life shows it. Granted,

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we are all sinners and fall short, but most of our gut reactions will reflect what we deep-down, honest-to-goodness believe to be real and true.

3. *How does a biblical worldview get diluted?*

Here is the big problem. Nonbiblical worldview ideas don't just sit in a book somewhere waiting for people to examine them. They bombard us constantly from television, film, music, newspapers, magazines, books and academia.

Because we live in a selfish, fallen world, these ideas seductively appeal to the desires of our flesh, and we often end up incorporating them into our personal worldview.

Sadly, we often do this without even knowing it....

4. *Why does a biblical worldview matter?*

If we don't really believe the truth of God and live it, then our witness will be confusing and misleading. Most of us go through life not recognizing that our personal worldviews have been deeply affected by the world.... "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2).

Dr. Del Tackett is president of the Focus on the Family Institute. He is also the visionary and teacher for Focus on the Family's The Truth

Project—a nationwide initiative designed to bring the Christian worldview to the body of Christ.
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**If we don't really
believe the truth of
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The Truth Project

From: Marc Fey, www2.focusonthefamily.com/focusmagazine/christianliving/A000000190.cfm

In 1991, President George H. W. Bush appointed Del Tackett — now Focus on the Family Institute President — as the director of technical plans at the White House for the National Security Council. During this time of serving as the White House's liaison to federal agencies, Del often noticed three murals — memorials to America's foundations — in the Capitol's rotunda.

The first was the landing of Columbus, the second the Christian baptism of Pocahontas, and the third the Pilgrims as they paused for prayer on their leaky ship Speedwell with the Bible open, eyes uplifted to heaven. Del saw other signposts of faith: the inscription "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free" above the CIA headquarters, the stone tablet of the Ten Commandments in the Supreme Court and the many Bible verses on the Library of Congress and on the steps of the Washington Monument.

One evening, Del stood in the state dining room in the White House and read the prayer that John Adams had carved into the marble over the fireplace. Everywhere Del looked, a story was being told about

America's foundation; it was a story he knew but had not heard acknowledged in Washington — an overwhelming testimony to the presence and leadership of Almighty God in the lives of those who founded America.

Del realized the founding men and women knew God was sovereign over all of life. They saw a larger story, understanding that underneath their individual lives was a deeper foundation, a deeper meaning, a deeper purpose. Del thought, These men and women knew God was real. In everything, they acknowledged God's influence and involvement.

"My eyes were opened, and I hungered to know what a true Christian worldview was," Del says. "I spent years in biblical study and realized that a biblical worldview applies to every aspect of life." He also realized many Christians did not understand this truth....

What about today?

"The Truth Project" is a DVD seminar that imparts truth and reintroduces believers to the context of Christianity in all its purity and power. On this project and in his teaching, Del covers three main

truths that many Christians miss:

1. Living from a Christian worldview means that what you do aligns with what is true, and the Scriptures are the ultimate authority on Truth.
2. God's Truth lays a design for every area of life. Whether for economics, history, politics, family or church, God has given us a design, governed by His nature and Truth, that we are to follow. When we follow His design, we can discern what is good and right and holy. When we don't, suffering and immorality result.
3. The process of transformation occurs through the renewing of our mind, and in that process we learn to discern between good and evil. As Romans 12:2 tells us, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will."

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Marc Fey is the director of Christian Worldview at Focus on the Family and "The Truth Project." ✠

What is a Christian Worldview?

Article excerpts by Israel Wayne, an author and conference speaker who writes and speaks on Christian Apologetics, A Biblical View of Education, Discipleship, Preparing for Marriage and Worldview Training. www.christianworldview.net/

The purpose of our Christian Apologetics ministry is equip people to think and live with a consistent and cohesive Biblical worldview. We believe that God exists (Heb. 11:6) and that He is the standard by which we measure everything else. God created everything that exists (Gen.1:1) and everything is held together by Him (Col. 1:17). We believe the Bible is God's divinely inspired Word, revealed to mankind (2 Tim. 3:16). We believe that the fullness of God

came to earth and lived in the human body of Jesus Christ of Nazareth 2,000 years ago (Col. 1:19). We believe that mankind chose to rebel against God in the Garden of Eden and because of that act of rebellion, sin and death entered the world (Rom. 5:12-14). We believe that believing in (John 3:15-19, 5:24), and obeying (Luke 8:21, John 3:20, John 14:21, 23-24), Jesus Christ is the only way to have eternal life or to be reunited with God (Acts 4:10-12).

We hope that the resources offered through this website [www.christianworldview.net/] will help you to understand that the Christian faith is reasonable and makes sense in a world that has lost its moral compass. Truth is absolute, not relativistic, and can only be understood by submitting to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the one who said "I am the way, the Truth and the life, no one can come to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) †

Whose Law Is It Anyway?

From: Chuck Colson, *BreakPoint Commentaries*, www.pfm.org/listingarticle.asp?ID=3510, 9/25/1995

... law schools today teach a view heavily influenced by former Supreme Court justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. Holmes was a convinced Darwinist, who believed that Darwinism is not just about biology but also entails a complete,

naturalistic world view: that there is no God, that nature is all that exists. And if there is no God, then obviously a nation's laws cannot be based on divine decrees. Darwinism implies that justice and morality are merely ideas that the human mind

invents when it has evolved to a certain level. Laws are based on the moral ideas of whoever has the most power.

Might makes right. †

What's the Connection?

From: Chuck Colson, *BreakPoint Commentaries*, www.breakpoint.org/listingarticle.asp?ID=2995, 2/5/1998

Darwinian evolution purports to show that the appearance of living things on earth can be explained by natural causes alone—that we don't need God to explain life. Darwinism thus acts as the linchpin in a philosophy known as naturalism: nature is ultimately all there is. And if nature is all there is, then there is no God, and ethical ideals and standards are not based on what God says; instead they're based on what human beings think. †

What is Your Worldview?

By guest columnist Clyde F. Autio, Major General, U.S. Air Force (Ret.), www.answersingenesis.org/docs2005/0502worldview.asp,

A person's worldview, whether it be Christian, humanist or whatever is a personal insight about meaning and reality. It is how a person interprets, through his or her own eyes, a personal belief about the world. A person's worldview tries to give reasons for how the facts of reality relate and tie together. The summation of these facts provides the big picture into which the daily events of a person's life should fit. †

Worldview and Culture

From: Focus on the Family's Issues Analysis www.citizenlink.org/FOSI/worldview/

The Christian worldview can be summed up in a single phrase: "Jesus is Lord" -- which is the first creed of Christianity. Understanding Christ's lordship over all of life is no easy task. Yet, once we begin to understand that *all* of life--not just "church" life--is of intense interest to God, we are able to bring a renewed sense of purpose to our lives and faith. The Lordship of Christ does not allow us to ignore art, politics, or literature, any more than it allows us to ignore the lost, hungry, sick, or the poor. Only by seeing the world through God's eyes, or what we call "thinking Christianly," will we understand our mandate to redeem the fullness of our culture and reach out to a dying world. Bottom line: our interests can be no smaller than God's. †

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Question: What is a Christian Worldview?

From: www.gotquestions.org/Christian-worldview.html

Answer: *Weltanschauung* is the term we have borrowed from the Germans to describe one's perspective on life.

Weltanschauung literally means "world view." It refers to a comprehensive conception of the world from a specific standpoint. A Christian worldview, then, is a comprehensive conception of the world from a Christian standpoint.

An individual's worldview is

his "big picture," a medley of all his beliefs about the world. It is his way of understanding reality. A worldview is the basis for daily decisions and is therefore extremely important.

An apple sitting on a table is seen by several people. A botanist looking at the apple sees an "angiospermous pome" and classifies it. An artist sees a still-life and draws it. A grocer sees an asset and inventories it. A

child sees lunch and eats it. How we look at any situation is influenced by how we look at the world at large.

Every worldview, Christian and non-Christian, deals with at least these three questions:

- 1) where did we come from? (And why are we here?)
- 2) what is wrong with the world?
- 3) how can we fix it? †

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