

**Bible Conference**  
**Kaysville Bible Church, Kaysville, UT**  
**May 21–22, 2022**

*A Biblical Worldview in a Wicked World*

**May 21 (Saturday), 9:30–10:30 AM: Session #1:**

**What Is a Biblical Worldview?**

**Introduction**

- Why do we need to talk about a worldview?
- Can the Bible provide us with the foundation for developing our worldview?

**I. Definition of Worldview**

- First use of the English term came in 1848 (German: *Weltanschauung*).
- Worldviews can be complicated.
- Simple definition: Our personal worldview includes how we perceive the world and how we develop our philosophy of life.

**A. Driven to Faith by Origins**

**B. Drawn to the Scriptures for Authority and Absolute Truth**

**II. Naturalism vs. Supernaturalism**

- All evidence must be interpreted before it can be applied.
  - We all come to the evidence wearing different glasses through which we observe and interpret the evidence.
- A. Naturalism:** The object of faith in naturalism consists of present physical processes. Naturalism bases its worldview upon perception, observation, and experience — mainly empirical and physical evidence.
1. This gives rise to a uniformitarian approach to origins — *the present is the key to the past*.
  2. Some adherents within this viewpoint will agree to accept the supernatural miracles of the virgin conception and physical resurrection of Jesus, but they

resist making anything else miraculous, since miracles do not exist in their worldview.

3. Secular scientists interpret the empirical evidence through the lens of naturalism. Richard Dawkins: “Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist.”<sup>1</sup>

**B. Supernaturalism:** The object of faith for the supernaturalist’s worldview is God Himself.

Two different types of supernaturalism reveal themselves in how we deal with the Bible:

1. The view that takes the Bible as purely a religious and spiritual book devoid of any historical accuracy, because it and its writers are considered to be pre-scientific.
2. The view that takes the Bible as God’s inerrant Word characterized by total accuracy in matters of history and reality. This gives rise to a fully biblical approach to origins — *the past is the key to the present*.

### III. The Bible

**A. Cognitive Distance**

**B. Conscious Disobedience**

**C. Concrete Documentation**

Essentially, one’s treatment of Scripture depends upon their overall philosophy regarding spiritual authority. Pache identifies three different forms:<sup>2</sup>

- (1) the authority of the Lord *and* His written revelation,
- (2) the authority of the church *and* its “infallible pope(s),” and
- (3) the authority of human reason *and* its self-styled sovereignty.

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<sup>1</sup> Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker* (New York: Norton, 1987), 6.

<sup>2</sup> René Pache, *The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture*, trans. by Helen I. Needham (Chicago: Moody Press, 1969), 132.

**D. Critical Dissent****E. Conflicting Doctrines**

- Each of the topics addressed in Genesis 1–11 possesses sufficient significance to impact many other teachings in Scripture.
- Our understanding of Genesis 1–11 can affect even how we interpret the teachings of Jesus and the apostles in the NT.

**IV. Created in God's Image****A. The Divine Image (Genesis 1:26–27)**

1. What it is not.
2. What it is.

**B. The Designed Relationship**

1. Filling the earth requires two genders—thus God provided the woman for the man (Genesis 1:27–28; 2:18–23).
2. The union of man and woman involved the establishment of the institution of marriage (Genesis 2:24–25; Mark 10:6–9).

**C. The Destined Coregency (Genesis 1:26b)**

1. God confirmed the ruling role of mankind at the close of the Flood (Genesis 9:2).
2. God affirmed mankind's position again in the time of David (Psalm 8:3–8).

**V. Original Sin**

One of the most significant areas of difference between the biblical and secular viewpoints involves the doctrine of the Fall and sin, especially original sin.

### A. Conflict with the Bible

- In the realm of the doctrine of original sin evolutionary biology, evolutionary psychology, and behavioral genetics attribute sinful behaviors to genetic adaptation for survival (heritage + environment).
- The Bible's key message involves the doctrine of redemption/salvation through Jesus Christ.
- However, if sin is not sin, but merely natural behavior, where is the need of a Savior?
- If "sin" is a purely biological matter, then there is no room for human freedom or responsibility.

### B. Conflict with Christ

- If Jesus had a human father, He would be a sinner by nature.

## VI. Resolving Conflicting Worldviews

### A. **Options:** How should Christians react to the growing dominance of the evolutionary worldview?

1. Hard concordism — seeking to harmonize both worldviews, even if it means reinterpreting Scripture and revising our theology at the expense of biblical inerrancy and biblical authority.
2. Yield control to secular science. A word of warning here: "Theology married to science in one generation will be widowed in the next."<sup>3</sup> Science changes.
3. Maintain a consistent view of biblical authority and inerrancy.

### B. **Objectivity:** We must approach the conflict by addressing each particular issue on a case-by-case basis.

### C. **Optimism:** In truth, the Bible and objectively pursued scientific method will ultimately harmonize — at least in part.

## Conclusion

- Everyone has a worldview.

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<sup>3</sup> Hans Madueme, "The Most Vulnerable Part of the Whole Christian Account": Original Sin and Modern Science," in *Adam, the Fall, and Original Sin*, ed. by Hans Madueme and Michael Reeves (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014), 240.

- Each must choose between naturalism and supernaturalism as part of their worldview.
- The authority of Scripture remains a critical issue for developing one's worldview.
- When it comes to the doctrine of original sin, we need to establish biblically, as well as scientifically, the factors that are truly biological.
- We should approach conflicting worldviews with objectivity and optimism.

**May 21 (Saturday), 11:00 AM–12:00 PM: Session #2:**

**How Does My Worldview Affect My Faith?  
Matthew 5**

**Introduction**

- When Jesus spoke to His disciples in the Sermon on the Mount, He spoke about what true godliness looked like.
- Claiming that we have faith is quite different from living by faith.
- Living by faith requires a long discipleship under Jesus' teaching that lives out what He teaches.
- The Sermon on the Mount reveals the worldview Jesus Himself stated we should have.

**I. Jesus' Worldview Revealed in the Beatitudes (vv. 3–12)**

The Beatitudes establish our Lord's spiritual standards and expectations for us. These teachings present a radical reversal of the world's values.

**A. Three Beatitudes regarding a disciple's humility (vv. 3–5)**

1. "poor in spirit" (v. 3)
2. "mourn" (v. 4)

See Romans 12:15 and 2 Corinthians 1:3–7.

3. "meek" (v. 5; 4x in NT: Matthew 5:5; 11:29; 21:5; 1 Peter 3:4)

**B. Two Beatitudes regarding a disciple's active spirituality (vv. 6–7)**

1. "hunger and thirst for righteousness" (v. 6)
2. "merciful" (v. 7 = "being concerned about people in their need; sympathetic, compassionate; 2x in NT, see Hebrews 2:17)

**C. Three Beatitudes regarding a disciple's cultural interactions (vv. 8–12)**

1. "pure in heart" (v. 8); compare Psalm 24:4
2. "peacemakers" (v. 9 = peace makers, not peace keepers)

3. “persecuted for righteousness’ sake” (vv. 10–12)

## **II. Jesus’ Worldview Revealed in the Law (vv. 17–48)**

### **A. Jesus Came to Fulfill the Law (vv. 17–20)**

1. The Law will be fulfilled (vv. 17–18)
  
2. Obeying the Law vs. disobeying the Law (v. 19)
  
3. The need for righteousness (v. 20)

### **B. Jesus Focused on Internal Obedience (vv. 21–48)**

1. The Value of Life (vv. 21–26; Exodus 20:13; Genesis 9:5–6)
  
2. The Sanctity of Marriage (vv. 27–32)
  - a. Adultery (vv. 27–30; Exodus 20:14)
  
  - b. Divorce (vv. 31–32; Deuteronomy 24:1–4)
  
3. The Integrity of Words (vv. 33–37)
  
4. The Response to Evil People (vv. 38–48)
  - a. Retaliation (vv. 38–42)
  
  - b. Love (vv. 43–48)

## Conclusion

- The Beatitudes present a radical reversal of the world's values — God's values differ from the world's values.
- Jesus' worldview stands firmly on the Hebrew Scriptures.
- The Word of God must be obeyed.
- Our internal obedience is just as important as our external obedience to the Scriptures.
- The law of Moses sets specific standards of morality and ethics.



**May 22 (Sunday), 9:30–10:30 AM: Session #3:**

**The World's Wicked Worldview  
1 Corinthians 1:18–31**

**Introduction**

- Biblically, two worldviews vie for supremacy.
- Postmodernism's positives:<sup>4</sup>
  - It challenged modernism (naturalistic humanism) as the highest worldview.
  - It produced skepticism about the efficacy and inerrancy of human reason.
  - Science cannot claim exclusive ownership of objectivity and certainty.
  - Postmodernism exposed the influence of our culture in developing our worldview.
- Postmodernism's negatives:
  - Denial of all objective truth.
  - Elimination of all ultimate values.

**I. The Foolishness of the World's Wisdom (vv. 18–25)**

A. The Powerful Message (vv. 18–19)

1. The message of the cross is “moronic” to the world (v. 18a).
2. The message of the cross is “the power of God” to the saved (v. 18b).
3. The basis for these declarations occurs in Isaiah 29:14 (v. 19).

B. The “Foolish” Message (vv. 20–21)

1. Paul's rhetorical questions (v. 20)
  - a. Where is the wise?
  - b. Where is the scribe?
  - c. Where is the “debater” of this age?
  - d. Hasn't God made this world's wisdom “moronic”?
2. Transitory human wisdom vs. the eternal God (v. 21)
  - a. Contrasting wisdoms
  - b. God's pleasure/will to use “moronic” (μωρία) preaching to save those who believe — see v. 18

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<sup>4</sup> W. Gary Phillips, William E. Brown, and John Stonestreet, *Making Sense of Your World: A Biblical Worldview*, 2nd ed. (Salem, WI: Sheffield, 2008), 84.

### C. The Cross-centered Message (vv. 22–24)

1. Two contrasting cultures (v. 22)
2. A very different worldview — the Christian gospel “Christ crucified” (vv. 23–24)
  - a. For the Jews: “a stumbling block” (23a)
  - b. For the Gentiles/Greeks: “foolishness” (23b)
  - c. For the Christians: “Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God” (24)

### D. The Superior Message (v. 25)

1. Superior knowledge/wisdom (25a) — humanism vs. theism
2. Superior power/strength (25b) — naturalism vs. supernaturalism

## II. The Focus of the Lord’s Wisdom (vv. 26–31)

1. Called in grace (v. 26)
  - a. Look at ourselves.
  - b. Ours is a calling of grace — unmerited divine favor.
2. Chosen by God (vv. 27–29) — 3x ἐξέλεξατο ὁ θεός
  - a. **God chose** the foolish — to put the wise to shame (27a)
  - b. **God chose** the weak — to put the mighty to shame (27b)
  - c. **God chose** the base “not of noble birth”) and despised (no merit or worth, being beneath one’s consideration, and of no significance, thus worthy of maltreatment) — to bring the status quo (“the things that are”) to nothing (28)
  - d. He chose these — to remove boasting (29)

### B. Our Christ-centeredness (vv. 30–31)

1. What Christ became (v. 30)
  - Wisdom
  - Righteousness

- Sanctification
- Redemption

2. What Christ receives: Glory — because we cannot boast (v. 31)

### **Conclusion**

- The Christian worldview has its basis in the message of the gospel concerning Jesus Christ.
- The Christian worldview is cross-centered.
- The Christian worldview is counter-cultural.
- The Christian worldview is God-centered, not man-centered.

**May 22 (Sunday), 11:00 AM–12:00 PM: Session #4:**

## **The Believer's Faith-Driven Worldview**

### **Introduction**

- We should live all our life in accord with biblical principles.
- The Bible teaches that truth is objective — not subjective or relative.
- A Christian/biblical worldview includes:<sup>5</sup>
  1. Jesus Christ lived a sinless life.
  2. God is the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe and He still rules it today.
  3. Salvation is a gift from God and cannot be earned.
  4. Satan is real.
  5. Christians have a responsibility to share their faith in Christ with other people.
  6. The Bible is accurate in all of its teachings.

### **I. Staying Focused on Christ**

A. Christ's Teaching Instructs Us How to Live (Matthew 5)

B. Christ's Gospel Distinguishes Our Worldview from Other Worldviews (1 Corinthians 1:18–31)

### **II. Thinking Rightly about God**

A. God Is Our Creator (Genesis 1)

B. God Is Our Lord (Psalm 8)

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<sup>5</sup> Tim Challies, *The Discipline of Spiritual Discernment* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2007), 44.

C. Fearing God Is Our Wisdom and Knowledge (Job 28:28; Proverbs 1:7)

### **III. Emphasizing God's Gift of Salvation**

A. Christians Have Experienced Salvation (Romans 10:5–13; Ephesians 1:13–14)

B. Salvation Can Be Obtained Only through Christ (Acts 4:12)

C. Salvation Comes Only by Means of the Gospel (Romans 1:16; 2 Timothy 3:15)

D. Christians Must Take the Gospel of All Peoples (Matthew 28:18–20)

### **IV. Recognizing the Reality of Satan**

A. Evil Is a Reality in the World (Genesis 3)

B. Satan Opposes the Work of God and the People of God (Zechariah 3; Job 1–2; 1 Peter 5:8)

### **V. Standing on the Foundation of Biblical Accuracy**

A. Biblical Truth Matters (John 8:32, 44; 14:6; 15:26; 16:13; 17:17; 2 Timothy 2:15)

B. Biblical Inerrancy Matters (Psalm 119:160; Proverbs 30:5; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19–21; 1 Thessalonians 2:3; 1 John 4:6)

C. Biblical Authority Matters (Matthew 28:18; Romans 6:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:14; 1 Peter 1:22–25)

Remember what we spoke about in our first session on this topic:<sup>6</sup>

- (1) the authority of the Lord *and* His written revelation,
- (2) the authority of the church *and* its “infallible pope(s),” and
- (3) the authority of human reason *and* its self-styled sovereignty.

## Conclusion

- A biblical view must arise out of Scripture.
- A biblical worldview must be lived, not just thought.
- A biblical worldview must actually change how we live.
- A biblical worldview must continue to be developed the longer we live.

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<sup>6</sup> Pache, *The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture*, 132.

## Resources

Bertrand, J. Mark. *Rethinking Worldview: Learning to Think, Live, and Speak in This World*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007.

Challies, Tim. *The Discipline of Spiritual Discernment*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007.

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