

World View

Sermon prepared for WellSpring Church

January 23, 2011

Primary Scriptures: Psalm 73:14; Isa. 6; Rev. 1; 19:6-8; 21:1-8

Introduction: “Mine!”

What is the Connection between these words? Kuyper, Kuhn

Paradigm—Thomas Kuhn

Weltanschauung—Sigmund Freud

Worldview—Abraham Kuyper, Francis Schaeffer

metanarrative--Postmoderns

Review: We have begun this new year Thematically

You have everything you need! Intentional Growth and Spiritual Transformation:

II Peter 1 Jan. 2, 2011

All is done for the Glory of God Jan 9, 2011

Seeking the reach and teach the next Generation to know, love and serve Christ.

Psalm 78:1-8 Jan. 16, 2011

Preview:

What I have been trying to do is review and expose us to the basic elements of the Vision of WellSpring Church

***WellSpring Church is a diverse worshipping community in downtown Springfield, Massachusetts pursuing intentional spiritual growth, equipping the next generation to know Christ, and engaging our culture with a Biblical worldview for the glory of God.***

Today introduce the basics of a Biblical World View-the very basics. To introduce, define, explain and apply all that is involved in understanding a Christian World View would take several weeks. In fact we will be beginning a Sunday school class in two weeks title Your Word is Truth for Youth and Adults that is a 40 lesson curriculum on establishing a biblical world view. What is a World View?

**A comprehensive world view (or worldview) is the fundamental cognitive orientation of an individual or society encompassing natural philosophy; fundamental, existential, and normative postulates; or themes, values, emotions, and ethics.**

Albert Wolters, “The Comprehensive framework of one’s basic beliefs about things” (Creation Regained)

It is the grid through which we interpret the world around us, our life in general, and the grid through which we make decisions.

“Certainly it is true that most people would not have an answer if they were asked what heir worldview is, and matters would be made worse if they were asked about the framework of their basic beliefs about things. Yet their beliefs would quickly

emerge.” (Wolters)

Big Idea: It is only when we look at the world through God’s eyes that we see it, and live in it, properly.

Let’s look again at Psalm 73:1-3, 12, 16-17 (Who is this man Asaph?)

The premise stated—God is Good

The problem Asaph had—The wicked prospered

The temptation to doubt—it doesn’t make sense, it doesn’t pay to serve God

The turn around from doubt—I entered the sanctuary and I saw...

The Longing—the life style—the world view. You are my portion

What happened when Asaph went into the Sanctuary Asaph had his worldview reoriented. v. 17 “until I entered the sanctuary” What happened?

CHS *Until I went into the sanctuary of God.* His mind entered the eternity where God dwells as in a holy place, he left the things of sense for the things invisible, his heart gazed within the veil, he stood where the thrice holy God stands. Thus he shifted his point of view, and apparent disorder resolved itself into harmony. ...‘Then understood I their end.’ He had seen too little to be able to judge; a wider view changed his judgment; he saw with his mind's enlightened eye the future of the wicked...No envy gnaws now at his heart, but a holy horror both of their impending doom, and of their present guilt, fills his soul. He recoils from being dealt with in the same manner as the proud sinners, whom just now he regarded with admiration. (Treasury of David)

He went to the place where the law and doctrine were taught (Calvin)

He saw the sacrifice being burned—

“..in the Sanctuary Asaph came to see everything from God’s perspective rather than from his own limited and sinful worldview. That is, he came to see the lives of the wicked and also his own life from the perspective of eternity he experienced a paradigm shift.” (Boice, *Psalms* II:613)

This is much the same as when we read Isaiah’s great vision in chapter 6

This is much the same as when we read of John on the Isle of Patmos...Rev 1:1-18 and then throughout the book...

If we are to properly live our lives, if we are to properly engage and impact the world around us; if we are to help the next generation live for God; if we are going to continue to grow in our own walk and life with God; if we are going to properly honor God and enhance his reputation and extend his fame in this world—that is Glorify him—then we will need to have a Biblically based and biblically informed World View.

**Big Idea: It is only when we look at the world through God’s eyes that we see it, and live in it, properly.**

Redefined

Albert Wolters, “The Comprehensive framework of one’s basic beliefs about things”

It is the grid through which we interpret the world around us, our life in general, and the grid through which we make decisions.

Questions that must be answered to when establishing a world view:

There are various answers to this

Middleton and Walsh give us four in their book The Transforming Vision

Who am I? - what is the nature, task and significance of human beings?

Where am I? - what is the origin and nature of the reality in which human beings find themselves?

What's wrong? - how can we account for the distortion and brokenness in this reality?

What's the remedy? - how can we alleviate this brokenness, if at all?

James Sire gives us seven in his book, The Universe Next Door

Albert Wolters condenses the questions to three categories in Creation Regained

Creation

Fall

Redemption

The Barna Group “A person with a biblical worldview experiences, interprets, and responds to reality in light of the Bible’s principles. What Scripture teaches is the primary grid for making decisions and interacting with the world. For the purposes of our research, we investigate a biblical worldview based on eight elements.

A person with a biblical worldview believes that Jesus Christ lived a sinless life, God is the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe and he still rules it today, salvation is a gift from God and cannot be earned,

Satan is real,

a Christian has a responsibility to share his or her faith with other people,

the Bible is accurate in all of the principles it teaches,

unchanging moral truth exists,

and such moral truth is defined by the Bible.” *Unchristian* p. 75

According to the polls taken by the Barna Group “Of those who say they have made a commitment to Jesus (95 million = 2/3 of young people), only 3% have a biblical world view based on the Barna definition.

Some variation on these questions, which are the essence of understanding life.

What are some of the worldview elements of our contemporary Western Culture?

There is no Personal, active, communicating God—and if there is a personal God,

He is not working through what we call the supernatural, there are no interruptions of natural law and the course of things by such things as we have traditionally called miracles. The idea of god is an irrational and subjective human construct.

Human Reason is God

Science and Scientific inquiry is the only way to know and to define reality.

There is no external source of knowledge

All knowing come through observation and experimentation using the five senses.  
(Although in our day we might add the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> senses of feelings and paranormal experiences)

What exists came to be by a combination of some sort of primeval substance, time and chance.

Human beings are a result of evolution

Human beings have no inherent worth or dignity

Human beings are no better or worse than animals

Human beings survive in the same way as the rest of animal life—the survival of the fittest

Human being are organic machines

Human being create their own meaning, morals and ethics according to their time and place—there are no external nor absolute standards (truth does not exist)

This life is all the life that there is.

Meaning is found in one's self—therapeutic, psychology

We are each one victims of this cruel, heartless, self-centered world and therefore deserve whatever good things we want or desire—we are entitled to it.

What are the contours of a Biblical/Christian World-View?

There is a God who has revealed himself to us both in Words spoken (Human Speech) and in his works of Creation and Providence) This God of creation is absolutely powerful, He does as he wishes. All of his works are according to his good and holy purposes.

Then Came the Fall

There is a solution—Redemption. This solution is the Work of Jesus on the cross which will ultimately bring all things in subjection to Himself and restore the creation to its original order.

Question #1 Where are we, who are we, how did we get here? “He is creator”

Creation by God

These are the first words of Scripture

Nearly every book in the Bible speaks of God as creator

“There is not one part of our world of thought that can be hermetically separated from the other parts, and there is not an inch in the entire area of our human life of which Christ, who is sovereign of all, does not cry, ‘Mine!’” Abraham Kuyper”

There is a God! What is He like?

Holy

All Powerful

Wise

Truth

Pure

All-knowing

Loving

Just

Good

Purposeful

Working yet Today

We know this God because he has spoken truthfully, faithfully, trustworthily and infallibly in his Word and shows his nature in his works. When we say this we also say that our worldview must be based upon Scripture—we are after all Reformation people who claim to live by the dictates of *Sola Scriptura*, or Scripture Only

“What, then is the relationship of worldview to Scripture? The Christian answer to this question is clear: our worldview must be shaped and tested by Scripture. It can legitimately guide our lives only if it is scriptural. This means that in the matter of worldview there is a significant gulf between those who accept this Scripture as God’s Word and those who do not. It also means that Christians must constantly check their worldview beliefs against the Scriptures, because failing that there will be a powerful inclination to appropriate many of our beliefs, even basic ones, from culture that has been secularizing at an accelerating rate for generations.” (Wolters, p. 6)

It is very easy for us to live in a bifurcated world, one that has religious things in one box and the rest of life, real life, in another box.

“This is dangerous error. To be sure, we must be taught by Scripture on such matters as baptism, prayer, election, and the church, but Scripture speaks centrally to *everything* in our life and world including technology, and economics and science. The scope of Biblical teaching includes such ordinary ‘secular’ matters as labor, social groups, and education. Unless such matters are approached in terms of a worldview based squarely on such central scriptural categories as creation, sin, and redemption, our assessment of these supposedly nonreligious dimensions of our lives will likely be dominated instead by one of the competing worldviews of the secularized west.” Wolters p. 7

Al Mohler has recently written:

Once our dependence upon the Bible is made clear, the importance of affirming the total inspiration and truthfulness of the Bible is apparent. Affirming the inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible is not merely a matter of articulating a high view of Scripture. The affirmation of the Bible’s total truthfulness is essential for believers to have an adequate confidence that we can know what God would have us to know. Furthermore, our affirmation of the inerrancy of Scripture is based, not only in Scripture’s internal claims, but also in the very character of God. The God who knew us and loved us long before we came to know him is the God we can trust to give us a completely trustworthy revelation of himself.

And then what are we?

Image bearers

we are not Zeroes, we have worth, dignity, meaning, purpose

We are not the result of chance

we are certainly not mistakes!

Abortion

1.37 mil per year USA

42 Mil world wide

USA only 3% of total!

5 Nazi Holocausts every year!

exploitation

sexual abuse

but we are creatures—dependent upon God and owing him allegiance, honor,

obedience

Question # 2 What went wrong? What is the problem? “The Fall”

Adam and Eve rejected the good life God had given them

What is sin?

What are the consequences?

Now we are in a fallen world

Evil exists

People are fully infected with sin—this is the doctrine of Total Depravity, we are not basically good, we are not in need of an education, or jobs, or money, we are in need of a complete and radical transformation of our entire persons.

every aspect of the human person and nature are debased. This is not only a moral statement; it is a physical and mental statement.

This is the causes of wars, fighting, misunderstanding quarrels

“...there is no sin that does not touch the lives of others. Even secret sins of the heart and mind adversely affect others, since by subtly changing me, they change my relations with others. Secretly nurtured lust, for instance, soon affects a man’s or woman’s relations with spouse and other human beings.” (D.A. Carson *Christ and Culture Revisited* p. 48

“Christian cannot long think about Christ and culture without reflecting on the fact that this is *God’s* world, but that this side of the fall in this world is simultaneously resplendent with glory and awash with shame, and every expression of human culture simultaneously discloses that we were made in God’s image and shows itself to be mis-shaped and corroded by human rebellion against God.” (49)

The only creature made in God’s own image rebelled against him and sought to rob him of his own glory. The nature of sin is just this—we would deny the Creator his rightful glory and would seek this for ourselves

Our understanding of the Fall and of the sinfulness of humanity is absolutely necessary for any adequate understanding of the human condition. We cannot possibly understand human existence without reference to sin. The Bible steadfastly refuses to allow us to find the cause and substance of the human problem outside of ourselves. Instead, the Bible points directly to our individual culpability, even as it affirms that every single human being inherits Adam’s sin and guilt. The complex of human sinfulness is so vast that it encompasses every individual human sin and the totality of human depravity as demonstrated in the rise and fall of nations

and the course of human history.

In other words, the Christian account of humanity and human behavior runs into direct collision with all other worldviews. This is particularly evident when we compare the Bible's account of human sin with contemporary attempts to explain the brokenness of humanity by means of economic, sociological, political, or psychotherapeutic explanations. The Bible affirms the inherent goodness of humanity in terms of the pristine goodness of God's creation as it was in the beginning. But the Bible also explains that, after the Fall, every single human being is, in his or her own way, a rebel and insurrectionist who is attempting to dethrone God and take his glory as our own. (Mohler)

but so does God's common grace to all,  
and so does God's specific grace to his people shown in  
His purposes  
His goodness  
his power

### Question #3 What is the solution? Redemption and Restoration

Every worldview must explain if there can be some rescue from the human predicament, however that predicament is described. The master narrative of Christianity defines that predicament in straightforward terms — we are lost, dead in our sins, and the very enemies of God. But, thanks be to God, we are not left there. The Gospel of Jesus Christ declares salvation and redemption to all who believe in him.

Our salvation is not a matter of therapy or technique. There is nothing we can do to earn or to deserve God's salvation. But what we were powerless to do, God did in Christ. No other promise of salvation will do. The Christian master narrative excludes all other means of rescue and redemption. This central truth explains why the Christian worldview is filled with such hope and grounded in such humility. God is saving a people from every tongue and tribe and people and nation, and the story of our redemption is the great turning point in the narrative.

Gen 3

John 3

Applications

Every thing we do and think and say, every goal needs to be informed and controlled by a Biblical World View

"Our future may look fearfully intimidating, yet we can look up to the Engineer of the Universe, confident that nothing escapes His attention or slips out of the control of those strong hands." -Elisabeth Elliot

*It is because we cannot be robbed of God's providence that we know, amid whatever encircling gloom, that all things shall work together for good to those that love him. It is because we cannot be robbed of God's providence that we know that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ—not tribulation, nor anguish, nor persecution, nor famine, nor nakedness, nor peril, nor sword. Were not God's providence over all, could trouble come without his sending, were Christians the possible prey of this or the other fiendish enemy, when perchance God was musing, or gone aside, or on a journey, or sleeping, what certainty of hope could be ours? "Does God send trouble?" Surely, surely. He and he only. To the sinner in punishment, to his children in chastisement. To suggest that it does not always come from his hands is to take away all our*

*comfort.*

“The greatest religious height will be reached by him who, at every point of his horizon, views God as God by honoring him in all things as the almighty Creator who has made all things for his own sake, who, as God, is not bound by anything but himself and determines for every creature both its being and the laws [it must follow], now and forever more. Not only *Deo Gloria* [to God be the Glory] but *Soli Deo Gloria* [to God alone be the Glory], and before his adorable majesty let every creature, prince or pauper, be as the small dust of the balance, a drop of a bucket, nay, be counted less than nothing.” (Abraham Kuyper, quoted in *Abraham Kuyper, God’s Renaissance Man* 102-103)

The transformation of culture will only happen as we each one seek to live according to a biblical world view.

Conclusion

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