WHAT'S YOUR WORLDVIEW? Part 1 (Overview)
Biblical Answers to Life's Key Questions
(1 Chron. 12:32; Rom. 12:2; Col. 2:8)

INTRO: As Christ followers it is important to know *what* we believe, *why* we believe it, *where* it's found in Scripture, and most importantly to consistently, actually *live it*! This is what worldview is all about.

SERIES GOAL: develop a biblical worldview on life's key questions

STATS: Barna Research group and American Worldview Inventory (2023). Only 4% of American adults possess of biblical worldview, whose choices and actions are fundamentally based on scriptural teachings. In 2020 that was 12%! Among self-described born-again Christians it is 9% (still dismal). Generationally, PPT…

We have a problem, heading in bad direction. Now, 91% of teens hold to no absolute truth! We must do better as adults, esp. Christians, and hopefully pass down to generations following.

I. WORLDVIEW DEFINITION: WHAT IS IT?

A. Practical Description - one's answers to life's biggest questions (5-8)

B. Working Definition – Our worldview is the set of beliefs we hold (whether we know it or not) that determine our view *OF* and *FOR* the world. Our view *OF* the world gives us an explanation and interpretation of life and events. Our view FOR the world is the result of our view of the world (how we live). Do we actually consistently live, not just profess, what we say we believe and value? A triangle visualizes it: worldview (what we think) brings what we believe and value which results in chosen attitudes and actions. A believer with a Christian worldview fundamentally bases their choices on scriptural principles. Notice, our worldview is a combination of what we think (head) and how we feel and act (heart). *Everyone* has a worldview. It's our story of what we believe about life. The question isn't, "Do I have a worldview, but what is mine, is it true, esp. according to Scripture?" Our worldview serves as a lens or filter as we choose the attitudes we hold and the actions we do.

II. WORLDVIEW FORMATION: WHEN AND HOW FORMED?

A. WHEN? Generally, our worldview is formed between 15-18 months and 13 years of age. After that (ages 14 to early 20's) it is only refined (more set in stone). After early 20's it takes a "rewiring of what and how we think" to altar how we view life moving forward.

B. HOW? Several contributing factors: Upbringing (parents, family), culture, education, associations, media, religion, etc.

III. WORLDVIEW FOUNDATION: WHAT ARE KEY QUESTIONS?

A. "Where did we come from?" ORIGINS (Cosmology)

B. "Why are we here?" PURPOSE (Teleology)

C. "Who are we?" IDENTITY (Anthropology) – includes what went wrong?

D. "How should we live?" AUTHORITY and MORALITY (Ethics)

E. "Where are we going?" DESTINY (Eschatology) – What happens when we die? Is there any hope?

IV. MAJOR WORLDVIEW OPTIONS

A. *Naturalism*, which includes materialism, Social Darwinism, Secular humanism, Marxism (Socialism) – Everyone and everything is result of natural process. No supernatural. Science and human reasonings decide truth. We create our own meaning in life. Death ends it all.

B. *Postmodernism* – Mostly skepticism and relativism about everything. All truth is self-chosen; no universal truth

C. *Syncretism* – a mixture of the previous and perhaps more. Everything is based on personal preferences. This is the predominant worldview today.

D. *Theism*, which includes Christianity, Islam, etc. Theism is a broad view, holding that a supreme being or divine reality created and sustains the universe, providing moral guidelines and ultimate purpose. Theism and biblical worldview are not the same, Theism believes in a god or gods, but doesn't specify which god, what text is holy, or how that deity interacts with humanity. A theist could be a Christian, Muslim, Hindu, polytheist, etc. *A biblical worldview is a specific view that uses the Bible as the ultimate authority for truth, morality, human purpose, and reality.* It centers on a creation story, the fall of humanity, redemption through Christ, and future restoration. Our study will examine reality answering life's key questions from a biblical perspective.

CONC: We all have a worldview, but is it based on Scriptural truth? And do I consistently actually live it (4% do! – You in that group?). Our view of this world impacts how we live in this world. If our worldview fails to come from God's Word, it's likely to come from this world.