



Biblical
WORLDVIEW

A WONDERFUL DAY IN THE LORD

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We are going to start a new series discussing worldview. That might sound intimidating at first until you realize that everybody has a worldview. From the most sophisticated to the most unsophisticated of people. From the most educated to the most uneducated people. We all have a worldview. Worldview is simply the process by which we examine life. It is the lens by which we process everything, by which we determine what is right and what is wrong, what is true and what is not true. Simply stated: It is how we view life. Everybody has a worldview.

The issue we want to talk about though is a Biblical worldview. As Christians we believe that the lens by which we look at life and process everything should be the Word of God. Therefore, the Word of God should determine our worldview as Christians. So, a Biblical worldview is what we are going to talk about. What is a Biblical worldview? I read about that all the time. I'm always running across something in Christian literature that says we ought to have a Biblical worldview or Christians don't have a Biblical worldview. Seldom are we ever told exactly what we are talking about when it comes to Biblical worldviews.

We will start today by looking at a survey by Barna. Barna is an organization, like the Gallup Polls, that probably does the most surveying among Christian organizations. They have been doing surveys for a very long time. About every five years going back to the 1990s, they have asked the same question of people concerning worldview and whether or not they believe in a Biblical worldview. That has stayed, according to them, fairly constant over time.

Let's first ask what they see as a Biblical worldview? When they do their surveys, they ask a series of questions that determines this. I want to read to you what they see as the essence of a Biblical worldview. I'm going to tell you right off the bat that this is a minimalistic Biblical worldview. We are going to make it much more expanded as we go forth in the next few weeks.

Here is what the Barna says is a Biblical worldview:

1. "A Biblical worldview is defined as believing that absolute moral truth exists."

You can realize right off the bat that this is not going to include a lot of people in America.

2. "The Bible is totally accurate in all of the principles that it teaches."
3. "Satan is considered to be a real being or a force."

So, they open that door to Satan being merely an influence and you could still have a Biblical view. Where you would not believe that Satan is an individual person or an angelic fallen being, but that he could be a force. According to this survey, that would still give you a Biblical worldview.

4. A person cannot earn their way into heaven by trying to be good or doing good works.

So, salvation is not by our own efforts. It doesn't go on to say how you are saved and it also doesn't go on to talk about how much our salvation by faith is combined with our works to make us equipped for heaven. So, it's kind of open there to, but good works is not enough in this.

5. Jesus Christ lived a sinless life on earth.

That would be the sinlessness of Jesus.

6. God is an all-knowing, all-powerful Creator of the world who still rules the universe today.

So, to have a Biblical worldview today would be to believe that Jesus Christ lived on earth and never sinned, and that God is an all-powerful God who controls the universe.

Notice in that worldview there is no mention about Jesus dying on the cross. There is no mention of how we can be saved. No mention about resurrection from the dead. All sorts of things that I believe are part of a true Biblical worldview that we will want to talk about here in the days ahead.

Of those surveyed on this minimalistic Biblical worldview, Barna's surveys have consistently shown for about twenty years that about 9% of Americans have a Biblical worldview by their minimalistic definition. You would think Christians would do a lot better, but in their survey when they ask questions and so forth, they determine there are particular groups of people. One of those groups is "born again" Christians who have made a profession of Christ, believe they are going to heaven when they die, believe they have trusted Christ for salvation. That is the category they determine is the born-again Christian. Of the born-again Christians according to their surveys, 19% of Americans that are born again Christians by their definition have a Biblical worldview. That means that 80% of those who profess the name of Christ and claim to be born again do not have a Biblical worldview.

So, I think it is important that we look at that. What is a Biblical worldview? Why is it that so few that claim to be Christians don't even have a minimal Biblical worldview? It is very disturbing and very concerning. We want to talk about those things together and sharpen our own Biblical worldview.

October 14, 2021

We began a series yesterday about Biblical worldview. Worldview being simply the lens by which we look at life and process life and think through life. Everybody has one. A Biblical worldview would be a worldview based upon what Scripture tells us is true and how we are to process life through the lens of Scripture. We looked at the surveys taken by Barna Association that says that only 19% of those that claim to be born-again, we will leave that confirmation to them and the Lord, have a Biblical worldview by a very minimalistic definition.

We are going to begin looking at that step-by-step and we will spend several weeks going through this because I think it is very interesting and very important. We are going to start with Scripture.

If you are going to have a Biblical worldview, you must have a right view of Scripture. If we are going to process life through the lens of Scripture, what is Scripture? What is revelation? As we think about that, I am going to look at Psalm 19 with you today, and as we think about that, we find in the Bible that God has revealed Himself and His truth through two means: general revelation and specific revelation.

General revelation is found in Psalm 19 and other places that deal with the fact that the Lord reveals certain things about Himself through creation and nature and conscience. We will start with Psalm 19:1-3, it says:

“The heavens are telling of the glory of God;
And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.
Day to day pours forth speech,
And night to night reveals knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words;
Their voice is not heard.”

So, what it is saying here, and we could go on through to Psalm 19:6, that God has placed into His creation a natural revelation, a general revelation, that all can see. Everyone can see the nature of God in creation. It does not speak specifically, nothing is written down by nature, but when we look into creation, we can see the handiwork of God. In Romans 2, it also talks about

the Lord placing within us a conscience and moral nature in which we can know whether we are Christians or not, certain things about right and wrong.

I want to go to Romans 1; this is the other major passage on the general revelation of God. In Romans 1:18 it says, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness." So, God's judgment is being poured out all the time. This isn't waiting for a judgment at the end of time or some special acts of God of judgment throughout history. God's wrath is always being poured out against a certain group of people, those who are suppressing God's truth in unrighteousness. So, they see truth and they suppress it. Where do they get this truth?

One of the places they get it is in general revelation or nature. We see in Romans 1:19, "because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them." So, within them they have a moral nature. A nature in which they can identify that there are right and wrongs and good things and bad things. Though we don't have all the particulars, they know, everyone knows, that that's been suppressed by many.

Also, it is evident with what God has created in Romans 1:20, "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse." So, it says here that the invisible attributes of God are seen in creation and natural forces and within our own hearts. Two things in particular are identified as being recognized, a revelation of God that He has given all humanity, that they can see, and they are suppressing. One is the eternal power. When we look at the heavens, creation and all that God has made, including humanity, we look at these things and we realize immediately that something of unbelievable power has created all of this. When we suppress that and give that over to evolutionary chance or some other means, we have suppressed the obvious truth that the Lord says can be clearly seen and suppressed. The second thing is His divine nature. The universe, the things that God has created and that which is within us in our own conscience, reveals something of the divine nature of God. Not everything, as we will see tomorrow, but something. We realize there is a God. We realize something about the nature of that God. That is general revelation.

So, God reveals to us these things through nature, creation, our conscience, and moral nature. These things are a revelation from God in a general way. All people have them. It's not enough. We need also specific revelation, and we will look at that tomorrow.

October 15, 2021

We continue discussing a Biblical worldview today. Recall that a worldview is simply how we look at life and process life. Biblical worldview is to process life through the lens of Scripture. We saw yesterday that God reveals His truth through two different ways:

1. General or natural revelation in which He reveals certain aspects of truth through nature, creation, our conscience, and our moral nature. God has built those things in us. We find this in Psalm 19, which we will look to again today, as well as Romans 1 & 2. God does reveal certain aspects about Himself and the world in general. People can see those. The Lord's wrath, or judgment, comes against those who suppress that truth.
2. Specific revelation. The natural truth is not enough to truly give us a really solid handle on who God is, who we are, our salvation, and many other things. So, to see those things, we must turn to the written Word of God. We will look at that today.

Our Biblical worldview must come from the Scriptures itself. What does Scripture say about all of these things concerning our lives and living. We turn to Psalm 19:7 where David has just written about the natural, general revelation in Psalm 19:1-6. He now turns to the specific revelation of Scripture. He gives the Scripture various names. For instance, Psalm 19:7 says, "The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul." The law then is one of the handles for the understanding of Scripture. He uses several of them here and so, that is what he is talking about here. I am using the Legacy Translation, and it translates the word Lord as "Yahweh," so keep that in mind as we read through this section. Psalm 19:7 says, "restoring the soul." He starts off by saying that the Word of God is perfect and there are no defects in it. You couldn't add anything to make it better. It is perfect and its job is to restore the soul. That is wonderful because we are all born into this world with broken souls. We are on the wrong track, we are corrupted by sin, and the Word of God is God's tool and means through His Holy Spirit of restoring the soul.

Psalm 19:7 continues, "The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple." We have a sure Word of God so that even the simplest of people can become wise when they understand life from God's wisdom on how to live life God's way.

Psalm 19:8 says, "The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing in the heart." They're never off-track or headed in the wrong direction. They are never a U-turn. They are always right. When we understand them as what they are, it brings joy to our hearts doesn't it? It rejoices our hearts. What a wonderful thing to know truth and to be able to discern God's Word and what He has to say for us. He brings us that joy.

Psalm 19:8 continues, "The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes." We have now the purity in contrast to corruption. Everything else in life that I read or see or hear, even when it's good stuff, is tainted by corruption. Even God's creation because of sin has been corrupted. We see good things, but we see corrupt things. Not the Word of God. It is pure. There is no corruption in it. Therefore, it can enlighten the eyes. We can see truth now. Remember back to our Biblical worldview. We are able to look at life through the lens of the revealed Word of God.

Then Psalm 19:9 says, "The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever." It's not polluted. It is pure. It is clean. It never changes, it endures forever. It isn't one thing a century ago or a millennia ago that is different from now, it is always the same.

Psalm 19:9 continues, "The judgements of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether." These things the Lord tells us are always true. Never faults and they are always righteous.

Psalm 19:10 says, "They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the dripping of the honeycomb." How sweet is the truth of God's Word! The revealed revelation of God! He compares it to the sweetness of honey and the honeycomb.

We go to Psalm 19:14 which says, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer." When we realize the great value and wonder and sweetness of

the Word of God and all it does for us, this ought to be the takeaway and application. We want our words and our meditations to be acceptable in His sight and in alignment with His Word because He is our rock and our Redeemer.

This heads us in the right direction for a Biblical worldview. Understanding that it all comes from the Word of God itself.

October 18, 2021

We are continuing our discussion today about Biblical worldview. If you have your Bibles, you might turn to one of the great Scriptures on the Scriptures themselves, 2 Timothy 3:16-17. If we are going to have a worldview that we call Biblical then we have already seen that we have to draw that from Scriptures itself. Biblical worldview is seeing life through the lens and teaching of Scripture. If we are going to do that, then we must believe that the Word of God is given to us by Himself as what we call in this passage, “inspired of Him.” I believe if you are going to have a Biblical worldview it is essential that you have a view of the Scriptures that it is God-breathed.

2 Timothy 3:16 says, “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.” Now, the Legacy Bible from Master’s Seminary in California has done a recent upgrade from the NASB Bible and instead of using the term “inspired” as the NASB does, it says “God breathed.” So, the word *inspired* means breathed out. It is the very breath of God. A Biblical worldview would incorporate the understanding that the Scriptures are breathed out by God. He says, all Scripture—every aspect of Scripture, all 66 books of Scripture, or what we call the Canon of Scripture, is God-breathed. It comes from the very breath of God.

It says the Word of God is profitable for four things:

1. Teaching – it tells us what is true.
2. Reproof – it tells us when we have gone astray and when we are wrong.
3. Correction – not only does it tell us when we have gone astray, but it tells us how to be corrected.
4. Training and Righteousness – when we put all of this together the Scripture takes us through a training process where the Word of God, when we meditate on it and study it, trains us to think like God and to live as God wants us to live.

2 Timothy 3:17 says, “so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” We have this person of God, the child of God, who believes this way and looks at Scripture from this angle. They are equipped,

mended. This Word is used in the gospel to speak of mending of nets. It is the picture that a hole in a net for a fisherman won't help him catch many fish. So, the fishermen would bring their nets up on the shore and mend those nets and fix those holes and throw them back out and use them again as they were now equipped for what they were made to do. Here, it is speaking of, equipping, or mending us. Fixing those holes in our lives so that we are equipped for every good work. The adequacy and sufficiency of Scriptures equips us for every good work.

Another passage that speaks on this same subject is 2 Peter 1:3 which says, "seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence." Him here is Christ. This verse of Scripture doesn't speak of the Scriptures itself. It speaks of Christ and the sufficiency of Christ. Everything we know about Jesus Christ is found where? In the Scriptures. To have a Biblical worldview about Jesus Christ is to process Christ, understand Christ, examine Christ, believe in Christ as the Scriptures reveal Him. When it says here that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge of Christ. The Scripture is saying we understand Jesus Christ, why He came, what He has done, what He is doing, what He means to us. Every aspect about Jesus is necessary for life and godliness and that is only found in the Scriptures. It speaks here of everything pertaining to life and godliness. So, this is another Scripture much like 2 Timothy that speaks of the sufficiency, or adequacy, of Scripture.

Notice the all-inclusiveness. "**Everything** pertaining to life and godliness." Everything we need to live the life God wants us to live: to live in holiness, to live in godliness, and to please Him is found through the Scriptures that God gives us. We don't need supplements or other things that tell us how to live in a way that pleases God. The Scriptures are sufficient and adequate. That doesn't mean there is no information in the world that is helpful to us in other ways, but when we are talking about living God's way and a life that is adequate and sufficient to live for the glory of Jesus Christ, it is the Scriptures that fit that bill as it teaches us God's worldview.

We will pick up on this a bit more tomorrow as we continue talking about the Scriptures.

October 19, 2021

As we have been talking about a Biblical worldview, we realize we must see life through the lens of Scripture to have a Biblical worldview. As we are thinking about what the components of a Biblical worldview are, it is only logical that the first component is to believe that the Scriptures are the Word of God. We also must talk about God Himself, and we will do that soon. We are going to talk today about how He revealed Himself to us. Has God communicated to humanity? What form? What do we believe about that? I think a Biblical worldview is to believe that the Scriptures, as we hold in our hands in the form of the Bible, is given to us by God. We have seen already that it is inspired by God. It is God-breathed. Therefore, it comes forth from the breath and communication of God. What does that mean to us as we think about a worldview that incorporates this kind of view of Scripture?

2 Peter 1:19-21 implies to us that the Word of God is inherent and infallible. Inherent and infallible means the Word of God is never wrong and cannot be wrong. It can never possibly be wrong because it is given to us by the very voice of God. It can never be wrong in the particulars for the same reason. So, it is never wrong, and it can never be wrong.

2 Peter 1:19 says this, "So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." This is a description of how God has given us His Word. The Scriptures do not come from the prophets themselves. It is not the ideas or the thinking or the prophecies of individuals. The prophets moved as the Holy Spirit moved them. It's kind of like putting a stick on the stream of water and that stream of water takes the stick down the stream. That is the picture we have here of the prophetic Word. The Word of the Holy Spirit moved these prophets so that they spoke the very Word of God. It wasn't their interpretation, it wasn't their ideas, it was God's Word to us! So, it is infallible. It is inherent. It is the inspired Word of God.

Jesus spoke about this while He was in prayer in John 17:3, where He says, "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." *You* here speaking of the Father. In John 17:8, He says this, "for the words which You gave Me I have given to them," so the very words that Jesus spoke come from the Father, "and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me." Then in John 17:17, He says this, "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth." The very words Jesus spoke, the very words found in Scripture are the truth of God and therefore a Biblical worldview believes this is what is true about God's Word.

Let's look at Hebrews 4:12 which is a wonderful section that describes the Word of God. It says, "For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." Notice the power of the Word of God. It is sharper than any sword that could ever pierce something physically because it pierces our soul and our spirit. It goes to the very thoughts and intentions of our hearts. Nothing else can pierce the heart like that. So, the Word of God has this power to get right down into our hearts and to reveal to us our own intentions, hearts, and thoughts; and then to nuance and change those and bring them into the conformity of the Word of God revealed to us.

Let me suggest to you as we have gone through this section of Biblical worldview that it must start with the understanding that the Bible itself is the Word of God. It is the inspired, infallible, inherent, sufficient Scriptures that reveal to us the will of God, the Word of God, the revelation of God that penetrates to our very hearts. That is the foundation of a Biblical worldview. It goes far beyond the simplistic understanding that "maybe the Bible has some information for us from God." ***It is*** the very Word of God. That is the beginning of a Biblical worldview.

When you believe that, trust me, as David said in the Psalms, that will bring joy to your hearts. It will bring delight and it will give you a wonderful day in the Lord.

October 20, 2021

We are looking at different details at what a true Biblical worldview would look like. We are not looking at the minimalist Biblical worldview, but full detail of what it looks like to see life through the lens of Scripture. We looked at Scripture last time and moving straight from that is a Biblical worldview of God.

Obviously, at the heart and center of a Biblical worldview is our understanding of God Himself. Many theologians, and others that read the Bible, note that the Bible begins by God not explaining Himself or trying to convince people that He exists, but simply, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." No explanation, and no long list of apologetics to prove God exists. He simply says, "I exist." "In the beginning God," lots of sermons have probably been preached on that one phrase alone. God did what? He created everything. The heavens, the earth, and the whole works. Many have pointed out the first eleven chapters of Genesis is really the bedrock of the Christian faith. If you dismiss the first eleven chapters, you call it myth or fables or anything else, and you end up without a Biblical worldview because you in essence have misunderstood God.

As we think about that, we find that God does exist in Scripture, and He is the creator of all things. The Westminster Catechism sums up a lot of what Scripture says in this short statement about God, it says, "God is a spirit, infinite, eternal, unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth." That doesn't tell us everything about God, but it does tell us a lot of things about who God is. He is nothing like any of us. He is beyond us and unchangeable and infinite in all things. He is a spirit. He is not a physical being. He is a spirit.

In the book of Psalms in chapter 8, we find this wonderful chapter on the issue of God. I want to read just a few verses there. Psalm 8:3 says,

"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars which You have ordained."

We have a man looking at the heavens, probably at night. When these were written, many of them by David and others like that who were shepherds

and people who lived outdoors a lot, they didn't have streetlights or city lights to obscure their view. They would just look up at the heavens and see the handiwork of God all the time, and that is what he is doing here. Then he thought immediately of himself and humanity. Psalm 8:4-6 says,

“What is man that You take thought of him,
And the son of man that you care for him?
Yet You have made him a little lower than God,
And You crown him with glory and majesty?
You make him to rule over the works of Your hands;
You have put all things under his feet.”

So, he says that he doesn't even understand why God thinks about us beings that he is so magnificent and so glorious. He looks at the handiwork of the heavens and sees the power and wonder of God, so he cannot understand why God would care about us. Yet, we find that He does care about us, and God has given us a wonderful thing to do: serve under Him and over the creation that He has given.

The writer closes out this little Psalm in Psalm 8:9 saying,

“O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!”

In Scripture, when you spoke about the name of someone, that name represented them. We often have some statement in Scripture about the name of God or in the name of God and it speaks of the whole person of God Himself. So, it is not simply a name like we use names to identify ourselves and distinguish ourselves from someone else. A name represented who they were. So, he says, “Our Lord,” the Legacy Bible here uses the word, “Yahweh,” and it continues saying, “How majestic is Your name in all the earth!” So, that shows that not only is His name majestic, but everything that that name represents is majestic.

We have this wonderful God that controls all things. For that reason, we give Him great praise and great thanks.

October 21, 2021

What is a Biblical worldview of God? You cannot have a good Biblical worldview if you do not have a good understanding of what Scripture says about who God is.

We are looking at Romans 1:18 that says, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness." Then he goes on to say this, "because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse." We look at these verses here and we looked at them before. This is God revealing Himself in nature and certain things we can know about God even beyond the Scriptures. You do not have to have the Scriptures to know some of these things He says. So, to begin with, you know that there is a God, and God has revealed Himself in certain ways even through natural revelation of our conscience and nature around us. It says, "His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen in these ways." So, God exists, and Scripture says you don't even need to believe in the Bible to know that He exists.

Now, if you wanted to get rid of the idea that God existed, so therefore having an unbiblical worldview, what would you do? Historically in the Western world, including America, most people have had a belief in the God of Scripture. It doesn't mean they were Christians, so I wouldn't proclaim that America was ever a Christian nation, but it did have a Biblical worldview founded on those many years of going back into the Scriptures and the foundation being laid. So, if you wanted to get rid of that kind of attitude, view, and idea that God truly exists and is needed, what would you do? Ideologically, you would come up with alternative ideas.

Here are four different ideologies that try to undermine the view of God in Scripture:

1. Enlightenment of the late 1600-1700s

Replaced God with reason and science. This is the ideology that you don't need God, instead you can think it through. You can logically think it through. You can do scientific experiments and God is unnecessary.

2. Karl Marx Manifesto 1848

Marx denied God totally because man would be the center of the universe. He believed that man, not God, is the supreme being, therefore we dismiss God and then man can figure it out. Of course, the enlightenment was part of this teaching as well. It thought that if man is smart enough to have reason as a center of their thinking and logic and so forth, and man doesn't need God, then man is at the center of the universe.

3. Charles Darwin Origins of Species 1859

This would be the beginning of the popularization of evolution theory. Darwin got rid of God by saying we don't need a creator. Yes, in the Scriptures they looked up in the heavens and saw the mighty power of God and the divine nature of God, but Darwin looked at nature and didn't see God. Instead, banking off Karl Marx to a large degree, what he saw was not God, but evolution. He believed that by random chance and so forth that the survival of the fittest worked things out so that we are where we are at today in evolution. God is not needed. A creator is not needed. Evolution filled in that gap.

4. Sigmund Freud - views of Psychoanalysis - end of 1800s

Freud replaced the Biblical worldview of humanity – what mankind was really like, in other words their inward nature – with a whole different system of the id, the ego, and the superego. He had all these other reasons why people do what they do and why they think the way they think and believed that all we must do is figure all that out and we will solve the issues of humanity. So, he felt we didn't need God for that either. Instead, God has been replaced with a psychological viewpoint and Sigmund Freud was at the heart of that in the early days. It's of course beyond that now.

So here are four different worldviews that challenge that God even exists. Who needs God when you have man, reason, evolution, and psychoanalysis? These are the worldviews that challenge, even today, the Biblical worldview of God. We know from Scripture that God DOES exist, and we look at nature and we know that God DOES exist, and because of that we begin to develop a Biblical worldview.

October 22, 2021

Something that comes up all the time in Scripture is the very fact that God is the sovereign God. Fifty-six times in the Scriptures, God is called the Almighty God. That is just one phrase. The evidence of His Almightyness, all-powerfulness, and His sovereignty permeates the Word of God. It is never absent. I think of the angels in heaven who are praising the Lord in Revelation 19:6, and they simply say, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns." That is how the angelic beings see the Lord: The Almighty who reigns.

In Ephesians 1:11 it says, "also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will." We have the sovereignty of God, providence is another term, in which God is working all things in accordance with the counsel of His will. Nothing is outside of His control or beyond His purposes. Nothing happens that God doesn't design or control. He works all things according to the counsel of His will. That is a wonderful, wonderful thought, isn't it? Just think for a moment about the opposite of that. What would happen if God could be changeable? What would happen if something could actually thwart the will of God—whether it be people, Satan, or whatever? What would happen if God was not in control, and we had a universe that was out of control and could go any direction at any moment? The sovereignty of God is a wonderful Biblical understanding of who God Himself really is.

The Psalmist is talking and thinking about the sovereignty of God and breaks down in many different ways how he looks at the "omnis" of God. The "omnis" meaning the "alls." We see in Psalm 139:1 the omnipresence, or all present. He is present everywhere. It says, "O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways." The Psalmist here is admitting understanding that there is nothing that he does that God doesn't know. There is no way that he can get beyond the understanding of God. He knows all things. He understands all things. He scrutinizes all things. God's sovereignty goes to the Psalmists' very thoughts and his mind and God does that throughout the universe.

In Psalm 139:7 the Psalmist talks about the omnipresence of God, that God is everywhere. It says, "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me." Nowhere could he go that God was not. Again, that is a comforting thing to the Psalmist. If you are in rebellion against the Lord like Jonah was, wasting his time thinking he could flee from the presence of God, then God's omnipresence would not be comforting to you. On the other hand, we find that when people are walking with the Lord and in tune with Him, the presence of the Lord is of great comfort. We think of Psalm 23 as the premier passage of that, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want." He is with us every step of the way, through every issue of life the Lord shepherds us and comforts us and ministers to us. He feeds us. He takes care of us, and as Psalm 23 tells us, He will be with us forever. Wherever we go in life and even in death, you cannot die and be away from God, because your spirit continues to exist, and God's presence is with us. We cannot escape God's presence, so unlike Jonah, let's not even try!

God is also omnipotent, meaning all powerful. Psalm 139:13 says, "For you formed my inward parts, You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret." The Psalmist continues further in the chapter that God is omnipotent. He created him. He created all things. He is in charge. That is a great comfort to the Psalmist. He is not upset about any of these things. When you read Psalm 139 in its entirety, I believe you will see that the Psalmist was troubled by some of this, but this became a comfort to him, and he began to love the sovereignty of God. The more you know life, God, and yourself the more the sovereignty of God becomes a precious truth to us.

To have a Biblical worldview, you must have a view that God is sovereign over all things.

October 25, 2021

Several days ago, in our broadcast we began talking about a Biblical worldview and what that looks like. There are various surveys and so forth that have asked people a few questions to see if they have a Biblical worldview. That is usually a very truncated idea of what a Biblical worldview is. We are looking at it in more detail. I believe that to have a worldview that is in line with Scripture there are certain cardinal, non-negotiable teachings and understandings that must be ours.

We began by looking at Scripture and our view of God's Word as being inspired, inherent, infallible, and the sufficient Word of God. Then we began to talk about God Himself. You cannot have a Biblical worldview and have a wrong view of God. Scripture tells us what God is like. That is what we are looking at. Of course, we are only focusing on a few things in particular. We could go on for weeks upon weeks talking about God and all that Scripture says about Him, but we are picking out some essentials. These are things that certainly cannot be negotiated beyond.

One of those things is holiness. God is holy. I don't think it is a good idea to say that one attribute of God is more important or more essential than another. Some would look at God and say God is love and that is His essence and highest attribute. Or they may pick a different one. Some would go to holiness and say that holiness is the highest attribute of God. I think we have to be careful there and not parcel God up in that way. He is not like us. All the attributes of God, though we think of them as main characteristics, are part of who God is in essence, not just characteristics. All of these are vital to understanding Him.

Some have looked to holiness as the key that unlocks all of them. If God is not holy, then we have a real problem with who God is. That does not mean holiness is the highest of all attributes, it is just part of His nature. It is who God is. Yet Scripture talks so often about His holiness.

In Isaiah 6:3, remember Isaiah is in the temple of the Lord and the Lord gives him a vision of the essence of Himself, the greatness of Himself. The angels are there and are flying around the Lord's throne that Isaiah gets to witness, and the angels cry out, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty."

It's the only place in the Old Testament when any of His attributes are spoken of three times back-to-back. The only place where the word "holy" is used like that, three times back-to-back.

Then we come to the New Testament, and we have a worship scene in heaven with the angels. John is witnessing this one in Revelation 4:8, it says, "And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come.'" One other time in Scripture here we have this worship of God as being holy. Once again, it is the angels saying three times, "holy, holy, holy." This is such a vital part of who God is. It really nails down His holiness.

Sometimes we get confused about the word "holy." In essence it means unlike anything else. Separate. God is not like anything else at all. That is why sometimes it is hard for us to understand God. He cannot be compared to anyone else. There is no analogy, or metaphor. There is no other thing that says this is what God is like. He is unlike anything we can imagine or compare. All we can go with is the revelation Scripture and what God says about Himself and bank on that. When we reach the end of His revelation in Scripture, we must then say we do not have a full understanding of God. I believe we will spend all of eternity thinking about that and learning more about Him and praising Him for that. That's why I think even the angels, who do not understand everything about God yet, in this same passage in Revelation 4, go on to have a worship service as they think about His holiness. In Revelation 4:9, it says, "And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever and will cast their crowns before the throne saying, 'Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.'" After calling out, "holy, holy, holy," three times the angel-like beings cannot resist worshipping Him for all His greatness. That is what we will be doing for all of eternity. We will be worshipping this sovereign, holy, and wonderful God just as the angels are doing now. I can hardly wait, how about you?

October 26, 2021

As we consider a Biblical worldview, and we are looking at this time at the worldview of God as found in Scripture. We are going to spend one more day on that, although as I said yesterday, we could spend weeks and months exploring all the things Scripture says about it. That would be a profitable study and I hope you have done that. I would point you to books such as A.W. Tozer – *The Knowledge of the Holy* and J.I. Packer – *Knowing God*, and many other good books on who God is. Those are two that are very accessible and readable. If you haven't read those two books, I would really encourage you to do so. Let me talk about a couple other things about the Biblical worldview.

God exists in a Trinity. That is the thing that distinguishes us from Judaism, for example. In ancient Judaism, in the Old Testament, an essential key part in their doctrine. For example, Deuteronomy 6:4 says, "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." That was known as the "Shema," and that was the key basic doctrine of the Jewish faith. The Lord is our God. There is just one Lord. Monotheism.

When we come to the New Testament, actually there are touches of this all the way through the Old Testament. When we come to New Testament, we find that God exists in a Trinitarian form. For example, in what we call the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19, it says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." You notice in that verse that *name* is singular. Baptize them in the *name of*. The one *name of*, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. So, we have all members of the Trinity aligned together and we are to baptize them in the name of that Holy Trinity. Here is a quick definition, a bit more complicated, that God exists in three eternal, equal persons, same in substance, but distinct in subsistence—that is that all members of the Trinity, all three persons within the Trinity are completely, fully, and equally God. Their essence is the same, but they have different roles within the Trinity in ways that we do not understand. People have said, for example, that if you try to understand the Trinity you might lose your mind. If you deny the Trinity, you might lose your soul. So, the point is that the Trinity is a very complicated doctrine found, only in the revelation of

Scripture. Nobody would have invented it or made it up. It is from the revelation of the Word of God, yet it is something that is beyond the comprehension of us in our finite minds. There is no comparison. There is no metaphor that fits. No analogy that fits, yet it is a revelation of Scripture.

I think of Ephesians 4:4-6 that talks about the works and ministries of the Holy Trinity. It says, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all." We see in this passage of Scripture that the members of the Trinity are one in essence. They are part of one Godhead in such a way that is beyond our comprehension. Yet, there is a distinction found in Scripture. It was the Father who sent His Son according to John 3:16. It was the Son who came to this earth and was incarnate and died in our place and was resurrected from the dead. It is the Spirit that has been sent by both the Father and the Son to dwell within the believer and we are now the temple of the Holy Spirit if we are a Christian. So, they have different, and yet at the same time, overlapping roles in many ways in this world they have Created.

So, the Trinity is an essential and important part of our understanding God. To have a Biblical worldview is to understand God in this essence of a Trinity form—three persons in One—that is beyond our comprehension that is Biblically sound and revealed. Our Biblical worldview flows from that. We are not saying we comprehend every aspect or understand all details, but we take God at His Word that He exists in these three persons within the Godhead.

This is our closure of the discussion of our Biblical worldview of God. We will press on tomorrow looking at other issues concerning our Biblical worldview.

October 27, 2021

For several weeks now we have been discussing Biblical worldview and what that looks like. We are going through the theology of Scripture to see what a Biblical worldview is. First, we looked at the Biblical worldview related to the Scriptures answering the question: What would a Biblical worldview be related to what we believe about the Bible. Secondly, we took a few days to talk about God Himself and what Scripture says about God and who He is and what we should believe if we are Biblical Christians. Today we are going to move to another topic. We are moving on to mankind, or humanity. What does the Scripture say about humanity? What should be our Biblical worldview when it comes to people? To find that out, we go right back to the beginning of Scripture in Genesis.

Human beings were the final created act of God on the sixth day of creation. Human beings are absolutely unique. Genesis 2:7 says, "Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being." We begin with this particular and specific act of God in which He created human beings. Creation is something that God did, according to Scripture, at a moment in time. Therefore, all forms of evolutionary theory are ruled out. It rules out atheistic evolution that doesn't think it needs God. No Christian would believe that theory. It also rules out theistic evolution—in which people believe God used evolution over a period of billions of years to bring about the planets and millions of years to bring about people and creatures and so forth. Genesis 2:7 unequivocally rules both of these worldviews false. Human beings are a special and unique act of God at one moment in time.

We also find Scriptures that detail the creation of woman. As we read further in Genesis 2:18-22, it says, "Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.' Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. So, the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. The Lord God fashioned into a woman

the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.'" What a beautiful picture we have here of what God has done. This leads right into marriage. Genesis 2:24 says, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed." We have this beautiful picture, before the fall of man in the next chapter, in which God has created Adam and Eve uniquely at a special point in time. He has brought them together as the first marriage and created marriage at this time and tells us what marriage is going to be about as a man and woman come together as one flesh. That is the picture we have here of the beginning of humanity.

There was an interesting comment in one of the oldest of the commentaries still being used today written by Matthew Henry many centuries ago. He was a Puritan. His commentary is still being used today. As a matter of fact, the very first Christian book that I was ever given when I began to really study Scripture was Matthew Henry's commentary. As I began reading and studying the Bible as a teenager, I used that commentary on a regular basis. His most famous quote, the quote he is best known for, it might be a little quaint and might be a little overdone, but it says well what God has done when it came to the creation of a woman and a relationship of marriage. He says this, "The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, and under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved." For those that think that the Scriptures teach an oppressive understanding of women and men ruling harshly over their wives and over women, Matthew Henry who wrote this, centuries ago, makes it crystal clear what the Christian truly believes about Adam and Eve and their relationship.

What we have here in Scripture is the beginning of mankind, man and woman, as special acts of God. They were specially created by God at an appointed time. That is our foundation.

Tomorrow we will look at the image of God.

October 28, 2021

We talked about a Biblical worldview of humanity in the last broadcast. Who are people? What does the Bible say about us as people? So, we are looking at several different facets over the next several days where Scriptures tell us what a person is like.

The first one is that we as people are unique in the creative order of God. We are not like angels. We are not like the beast of the field. We are unique. In many ways, I suppose we could say we are chief of God's creation of all that He has ever created. So, we are very special in that way. We see that. We see we are special in the eyes of God because God Himself has chosen to create us in a certain way. He chose to create us out of the dust of the earth and later when we die, as a result of sin, we return to the dust of the earth. The body is very important in the creation of people. Angels don't have bodies. Angels are spirits. Human beings, we have bodies, and we will have bodies for all of eternity according to the Scriptures. We will be given a new, glorified body to live with the Lord forever in His kingdom and we will always have physical bodies. So, we are unique.

I want to talk about one other aspect today before we begin to look at the body itself as well as the immaterial nature of humanity. That is the fact that we are made in the image of God, and we couldn't put more emphasis on that if we had to. So many things that are going wrong in our world today when it comes to people goes back to the fact that most people do not understand that we as people are made in the very image of God. No other being is ever said to be made in the image of God. Not angels, not the beast of the field, and therefore we are unique. I'm for animal rights to a certain degree. I love animals and want to protect animals, but animals are not people. People are unique. People are superior to animals. Angels are a fascinating study and eventually we will get to that understanding of the Biblical worldview, but angels are not people and do not have bodies and do not live on the earth like we do, so there is a uniqueness. They are also not made as far, as we are ever told in Scripture, in the image of God.

In Genesis 1:26-28 it says, "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every

creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'" We are made in the image of God. We are told that here and in other places in Scripture.

The question is: What does that mean? There have been a lot of theories about what it means to be made in the image of God that has been spread throughout Christendom over the ages. A lot of times people say we are in the image of God in that we have an intellect and emotion and will as God. There is truth to that. God has intellect, emotion and will and that is the definition of a person, so God is a person, a divine person, but a person. So, personhood would involve intellect, emotion and will. So as a person, a people, you and I have a mind, an intellect. We feel things emotionally and we have a will, and we make choices. So that could be a definition of a personhood. I do not believe it is the same thing as being made in the image of God. That is not the definition. I think the best definition of this is that we were placed on the earth in such a way that we are a representative of God on earth. We were placed here to rule over this earth for God. We are to be His Viceroys His representatives. We have similarities to God like we just mentioned, intellect, emotion, will and so forth. We have a spirit as well as a physical body. God does not have a physical body, but He is spirit. So, there are similarities there. The best answer is that we are the representatives of God. We are His image in that sense on the earth for Him. We are not God. We are not deity. We are His representatives, and we are made in His image to represent Him on this planet at this time and so we are made in that image of Him. That is the second thing that I think a Biblical worldview teaches us. We are unique. We are of all creations made in the very image of God.

That should give you a wonderful day in the Lord as you think about it! I hope it does!

October 29, 2021

We have looked at the creation, the fact that human beings are in the image of God. Today we are going to look at the immaterial nature of humans. We have already talked about the body and that God created us with bodies. We are physical beings. I encourage you to do a study sometime on the body in Scripture. The body is talked about a lot, especially in the New Testament, and how important it is that we honor the Lord with our body, and our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. So, the physical nature, material nature, of human beings is very important. There is also what we might call the immaterial aspect of human beings. That is, the part that you cannot see which is interior. What is that all about? Let's talk about that for just a moment.

What is going on inside? In 1 Thessalonians 5:23, it says this, "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." Here it seems to indicate that there are three divisions of a human being: the spirit, the soul, and the body. Some divide up the human being into those three categories. We have a physical body, which is obvious, but interiorly, our immaterial nature, is made up of two components: spirit and body. Others say no, that is not necessarily the case. They say we have an immaterial nature and within that immaterial nature are several components identified in the Bible. Spirit and soul are both identified in the Bible, but is there something else? Are we just body, soul, and spirit or is there more to it than that? I think there is more to it than that. We see the spirit here, but how is that different Biblically from the soul, if at all? It is part of the immaterial nature but is there a real difference? It is very hard to find a consistency of that in Scripture.

I want to go back to the Scriptures to show that there is more to the immaterial man. I want to look at Matthew 15:19 that speaks about what is going on in the body as well as the mind and soul. It says, "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders." Jesus is warning there about the heart. That at the very core of our being, as far as our immaterial nature is concerned, He calls it the heart. We saw in the writings of Paul, the soul, and the spirit and now

we have the heart. What is the difference between the heart, soul, and spirit or is there any difference at all or is there overlap?

Let's look at Matthew 22:37, which says, "And He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" This is what we often call the "great commandment." We have in the immaterial nature of humanity: the heart—this core of our being, the soul—the inner nature of our being, and now it brings up the mind. You cannot see the mind. You can see the brain if you do the right kind of medical imaging, but you cannot see the mind. It is different than the brain, yet the Lord speaks of loving Him with all those things as well.

Then, just for good measure, we go back to Romans 2:15, and it speaks here of the conscience as being part of our interior. It says, "in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them." Now we have three parts here in this section: the heart, the thoughts, or mind, and we now have the conscience which is all part of this inward nature. They all seem to overlap. We have these various components that are mentioned: soul, spirit, heart, mind, conscience. All part of the inward, immaterial, part of man.

Our problem in trying to understand this, we believe in all these components, but the problem is how do you distinguish them? How are they different from one another? It is very difficult to discern that to tell the truth. I'm not sure we have enough information in Scripture to clearly delineate between those different aspects of inward nature of humanity. We can see some differences, but we also must see some overlap, so I don't think we have to be overly concerned about figuring out those differences. I think what we must do is realize that human beings are made up of two components. The material and the immaterial. The immaterial has several facets that overlap and that can be distinguished to some degree. However, it is not necessary that we know exactly how the overlapping and distinguishing works, but to simply know that we have an inward nature within us. An immaterial nature that you cannot see that is part of who we are as humans.

That might be a little heavier than some of you wanted today, but hopefully it is something worth thinking about as we consider what a Biblical worldview of human beings is.

November 1, 2021

We have been looking at the Biblical worldview of humanity. Everything so far has been pretty positive. We are made in the image of God, we are specially created beings by the hand of God, we were created uniquely with a material nature of our physical body as well as an immaterial nature of wonderful components internally. It's pretty good stuff. Now we are going to get very negative today. What is wrong with us? We are made in the image of God. We are special creations by the hand of God, but we are not doing well, are we? Humanity is a mess! It's a mess inside our own hearts and lives as well. What is wrong with us?

Scriptures take us right back to Genesis 3 to what we usually simply call the "fall of humanity." We get a picture of what happened that took two people, Adam and Eve, who were walking with God, in righteousness, perfect fellowship, and walking in a sense in that they were sinless. Now they are going to fall, and with them falls all of humanity. That must be understood to understand the Biblical understanding of humanity and the situations that we are in today. We are looking at the rebellion that took place in the book of Genesis.

We start with Genesis 3:1, "Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" The serpent said to the women, "You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings." We see the fall here. This is a very straightforward thing. There is nothing special about what happened except that they disobeyed God. In defiance of God, they did exactly what God told them not to do and that brought the element of sin into their lives and the

corruption. We see in Genesis 3:7 that right away they understand guilt. Their eyes were opened, and they understand the difference now between good and evil, but they also now recognize guilt. They are now under the judgment of God because of what they have done.

In Genesis 3:8 it continues, "They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself." Adam had never been afraid before and Eve had never been afraid before. They had sweet and glorious fellowship with the God of the universe until now. Now they are afraid, and they are afraid because now they are tainted with evil, and they have disobeyed God, and sin is in their life, and judgment is going to be meaded out upon them. There is good reason for them to be afraid.

In Genesis 3:11 it says, "And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" Of course, God already knew they had eaten from the tree.

It continues, "The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate." Adam is blame-shifting on Eve. "Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So, Eve blame-shifts over to the serpent.

Genesis 3:14 says, "The Lord said to the serpent," now who will the serpent try to blame it on? He has no one!

The verse continues, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life; And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel." So, we find the immediate judgment comes on the serpent who we know is Satan himself. We knew early on that he was the serpent. This serpent was the

one who deceives, and he is going to pay a price. He is going to have a special curse placed upon him.

What about people? We are not talking about angels or demons here. What will come about as the result of the fall in humanity? I want to pick that up in the next broadcast as we look at the consequences of the fall of mankind into sin in the garden. This is not a beautiful picture, but it is an accurate picture and one we must understand to understand ourselves, our world, and our God.

November 2, 2021

In order to understand a Biblical worldview in relation to people, we have to go back to Genesis 3. Everything goes back to Genesis. In Chapters 1 & 2 we found the special creation of humanity. Made in the image of God and specially made by the Lord Himself and given all sorts of privileges including a relationship with God Himself that was wonderful. It was a sweet and perfect fellowship with the Lord. All of that comes unglued in Genesis 3 when Adam and Eve decide to sin.

When we come to the New Testament, we find in the Scriptures that Adam is given the blame for the fall. Eve, as we see in the text, was the first to rebel and eat of the fruit that God had forbidden, and she gives it to her husband, and he partakes. When we come to Romans 5, we find that it is Adam who was given the responsibility for sin. He is the one who had brought about the sin and corruption on the human race because he chose at that point to rebel. It is very likely that Eve was deceived. She certainly was. She chose, but she was deceived. Adam doesn't seem to be deceived. Adam chose, at that moment, to eat willingly of this fruit over the obedience to God and thus sinfulness entered the human race with all the ramifications that come with it.

Today we are looking again at the curse and judgment God had brought upon the human race because of this sin. We looked at the curse on Satan, but we are going to pick up now with what happens to men and women.

The judgment for humanity begins with the woman in Genesis 3:16, it says, "To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you.'" We start with one of the consequences being the intensity of physical pain in childbirth. We also find that her desire will be for her husband. Most believe that is a statement regarding that there will exist, built within her now fallen human nature, a desire to rule over her husband. Yet, in the last line it says that "And he will rule over you." In the heart and mind of the fallen nature of mankind, of males, they will desire to be a tyrant over their wives. So, we are already set up for the battles within marriage. The perfect marriage of Genesis 2 has now become this marriage where two people want to be the ruler. Not just leadership but ruling over one another.

So, the battle is on, and therefore that is part of the consequence of the human nature. Two fallen sinners coming together in marriage. The Bible talks a lot about how to get around those things and fix those issues and live Biblically and godly in marriage and have a happy marriage, but the battle lines are set by our sinfulness here.

He moves on and says to Adam in Genesis 3:17, "Then to Adam He said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. 'Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; By the sweat of your face, You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.'" Adam is now given the consequence of working in an unpleasant way to provide for his family in order to provide the food that they need and so forth.

There was work in the garden. God had given Adam and Eve the task of tending the Garden, but it was a task that was pleasant and enjoyable and wonderful and without the weeds and thistle that now the ground will bring up. So, Adam's toil becomes much more unpleasant at this point and much more difficult than it was before. Then there is also death. The Lord had warned them that if they rebel against Him that they would surely die. They do now die. They do not die immediately physically, but they will physically die down the line. Death is now in their DNA you might say. All people now are appointed to die, and they will return to dust because of their sin. Inherent in the human nature then is death.

We die because of sin unless something changes that. We all are going to die physically unless the Lord comes first. We will die eternally. We will have eternal spiritual death as a result of the fall unless we are saved from that. That will be part of the understanding of our Biblical worldview of humanity, but we will pick that up in the next broadcasts.

November 3, 2021

We looked yesterday at the fallenness of humanity and how mankind fell. We looked at some of the judgments that came because of that, but there is more to it than that. There is more than simply that women will have increased pain during childbirth, conflict in marriage, and hard labor that will be necessary to provide for just our sustenance in life. There is also a really important spiritual consequence to the fallenness of humanity. That is part of our Biblical worldview.

Ephesians 2 talks about this a great deal and lays it out in Ephesians 2:1-3. Perhaps this is one of the clearest passages in all of Scripture on this subject. It says in Ephesians 2:1, "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins." First of all, we are dead in our sins. This is the nature of every human being before salvation. We are dead. Not sick, weak, or anemic. We are dead! That is a horrible place to be. We are spiritually dead before Christ. That is true of every child born into this world because of our fallen human nature.

Ephesians continues, "in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world," before Christ those who are dead in their sins live, in a spiritual sense, in such a way that they are following the course of this world. In other words, with our theme of Biblical worldview, they are following a worldview that is not in line with Scripture. It is a worldview that is in line with the world and the culture. Ephesians goes on to say more about that, "according to the prince of the power of the air." Who is it that controls the worldview and sets the agenda for how people think and act in our culture? If not Christ, then it's Satan. If Christ is not leading you in that regard, if you are not living in such a way that you are following His precepts or living according to His ways because He saved you and redeemed you, then you are following Satan and Satan is your God in a real sense and you are following his worldview that he has put into this system. The verse continues, "of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience." All of humanity that do not know Christ have this worldview built in them by the devil himself.

Ephesians 2:3 says, "Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest." That is a mouthful, isn't it? Let's break it down. All of us live life, not only according to this worldview and the

world system that is led by Satan, but also by our own fallen nature which is called here, "the flesh." The desires or the "lust of our flesh," determine how you and I live our lives. We indulge in those lusts and desires of the flesh and of the mind. The physical outward sins. The inward sins of the mind. We are by nature children of wrath; therefore, we are under the wrath of God. We are under the judgement of God because we are dead in our sins, and we live in rebellion against Him. We really want nothing to do with Him. That is the spiritual picture that we have here.

Ephesians 2:4-7 goes on to say, "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." So, we are told that God being rich in mercy saved us. He goes on in Ephesians 2:8-9 which tells us how we can be saved from this lifestyle.

We go to Romans 3:10-18 which talks about our total depravity. Depravity meaning that every aspect of our being has been corrupted by sin. Romans 3:10-13 says, "as it is written, 'There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God.'" Did you know that?!

Romans 3:12 goes on, "All have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one." Romans 3:13 continues, "Their throat is an open grave, with their tongues they keep deceiving, The poison of asps is under their lips. Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness; Their feet are swift to shed blood, destruction and misery are in their paths and the path of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes." Certainly, some people are acting out more corruptly than others and do more awful things than others, but the picture here in Scripture is that every aspect and facet of our being as a human has been tainted, corrupted, and polluted by sin. That is who we are before we know Jesus Christ as our Savior.

That will not give you a wonderful day in the Lord unless you recognize that Jesus Christ has come to set us free from these very sins and this very judgement. We will pick up on that in the next broadcast.

November 4, 2021

We are taking one more day looking at the Biblical worldview concerning humanity. This is going to be a good one! The last several times we have looked at the fallenness of humanity and the consequences of sin. Now let's look at the remedy of our sin. That is the good news of the Scriptures of what we call: the gospel.

In Ephesians 1:7 it says, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace." Him refers to Jesus Christ. Here in a nutshell is the gospel message. We who are lost in sin, polluted, tainted, and corrupted by sin, all of us, have the privilege of being able to be saved by the blood of Jesus Christ.

What is the great need of humanity when we think about human nature? The greatest need is forgiveness and redemption. We need to be set free from our own sinfulness, and corruption in human nature. That can only be brought about because of what Jesus Christ has done to bring about redemption in our lives.

In 2 Corinthians 5:21 it says, "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." Not only do we have the forgiveness of sin, but we have been given the righteousness of God because of Jesus Christ. He is talking about Christians, believers, here. All who do not know Christ as their Savior are in great trouble when it comes to sin. They are still in bondage, corruption, pollution and are still lost in sin.

In Romans 6:23 it says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." We deserve what our wages are for sin which is death. We have seen that all along, all the way back to Genesis 3 where we saw that Adam and Eve would die and return to dust. The wages of sin, what we deserve for being sinful, rebellious people is physical death, spiritual death, and eternal death. Yet it says here, the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. That is a wonderful picture, isn't it? We have an eternal life given to us as a gift from the Lord Jesus Himself!

Return to Ephesians again, and this is my favorite passage in all the Bible for clearly explaining what needs to be done to save us from the wrath of God and saving us from sinfulness. Ephesians 2:8 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast." We have the picture here. We are looking at the Biblical worldview of humanity. We have seen that people are made in the image of God. People are uniquely made by God. We have seen that God had given them great privileges in the image of God. We have seen that Adam and Eve fell and corrupted the human race and as a result of that, all sorts of awful consequences including death and the pollution of our inward nature, the sinfulness that we have to battle, and as we conclude the concept of a Biblical worldview concerning humanity, we find that human beings can be redeemed. They can be forgiven. They can be what we talk about as saved, delivered, and rescued from themselves and their sins. This passage says it very well that we are saved through faith. Our response to what Jesus Christ has done for us is nothing less than faith. We believe. We trust. We place our confidence and our faith in Him. It is not of ourselves, and that is why I like this passage so much! Many people say that faith is necessary for salvation, but we also play a part. They say that we must do certain things to be saved. There are good works that we must perform of one kind or another, but this passage is abundantly clear. It is not of ourselves. It is a gift of God. Not a result of works so that no one may boast. We can never boast about our salvation as if we have done something meritorious. We can never boast that we have done something that only we could have done and figured out. We can never boast about our salvation because it is not something we have done. It is not our works. It is the gift of God. So, God offers a gift and we as human beings, by His grace and His power and His Spirit, can reach out and receive that gift and receive the gift of eternal life.

This is our final discussion about the Biblical worldview of humanity. Humanity is lost, deep in sin, under the wrath of God, but redeemable through the blood of Jesus Christ for all of those who place their faith in Him and receive His gift of eternal life. I hope you will do that if you haven't done that so far. If you have, I hope that you will glory in that and that it will give you not just a wonderful day, but a wonderful life in the Lord! We will pick up another subject next time.

November 5, 2021

We continue looking at various issues that are integral to thinking Biblically. There is nothing more central to the way we think as Christians than how we think about Jesus Christ. Christ is part of everything we do, a part of every aspect of our faith, and it is even in our name "Christian," meaning Christ-like. We are followers of Jesus Christ. He permeates the Word of God. He permeates our lives. We must think Biblically about Jesus Christ. The only thing we really know about Christ is what is found in Scriptures. These traditions and all these kinds of things you might see on the history channel are largely legends, myths, and fabrications. What we know about Jesus Christ is found on the pages of holy Scripture. We turn to the Word of God to look at some aspects of His life. I want to look over five different central features concerning Jesus Christ. First, foundationally, is that Jesus Christ is God.

John 1 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God." This is kind of a poetic way of speaking, I suppose. Yet, as we look at it, it is profoundly edifying and truthful. We see here that the "Word" here is the Greek word *logos*. As we go throughout the context of the passage, it is identifying Jesus Christ. There is no question about that. It says that He was with God, and He was God. That tells us two things. First, our understanding of the Godhead is that there is one God but in Trinitarian form. We have talked about that before and that is also central to our Biblical worldview. Jesus Christ is a member of the Trinity. Usually, we call Him the second person of the Trinity, but He also was God. So, He is fully deity, and He has always been with God. Eternal.

Then it says in John 1:3, "All things came into being through Him, and apart from him nothing came into being that has come into being." When we go back to Genesis 1, we learn that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and now we are informed in John that Jesus Christ was the instrumentality of that creation. So, God did create the heavens and the earth and Jesus Christ was the means by which that creation came about.

In John 1:4 it says, "In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men." We find here that Christ, as He came to be among us, was not only God, and

not only Creator, and not only a member of the Trinity, but He also has come to give life. He is "the way, the truth, and the life" He tells us in John 14. He is the One who is the essence of life. He is the One who is the giver of life and apart from Jesus Christ, there is no true life. We are speaking here primarily of the spiritual aspect of life. We are told in Ephesians 2 that we are born dead in our trespasses and sins. Spiritually speaking, we are dead when it comes to our spiritual life. We are separated from God. We are dead. Yet, Jesus Christ is the One who gives life. He is the life, and He has come to give life.

John has one more thing to say here in these verses. John 1:5 says, "The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." This life, who came in the form of Jesus Christ, the Word of God, the logos, the Son of God who became man, has come to give light and it starts talking now about the issue of darkness. Again, this is talking about spiritual darkness and that terminology can be traced throughout the book especially up through Chapter 3. There is a spiritual darkness that permeates this world and a spiritual darkness that is part of our spiritual DNA as an individual. We are in darkness. We do not understand light. We do not see light. Therefore, left to ourselves, we would live eternally in darkness and yet we find that Christ came, and He is the light that shines in the darkness. So, the darkness here is permeated with the light. The light itself opens a way through the darkness so that we can see that which is life. "The darkness did not comprehend it," that can mean that the darkness did not defeat the light, and it certainly didn't do that. Those living in the darkness do not understand the light of life that Jesus Christ came to give. Nevertheless, He came to give it to all those who would trust in Him, and we will see more about that as we go through our study of Jesus and what He has come to do.

We see today that He is God. In our next broadcast we will look at the incarnation. I hope you can join us.

November 8, 2021

We are looking at Jesus Christ as we continue looking at Biblical worldview because He is central to anything about a Biblical worldview. We saw last time that Jesus Christ is God. He has always been, He is eternal, He is holy, He is a member of the Godhead—we often call Him the second person of the Godhead. He is truly God.

We now move to the incarnation where Jesus Christ becomes man and comes to this earth. It is November and we are getting fairly close to Christmas, probably everyone's favorite season and holiday. However, it is more than a holiday. It is a remembrance of what happened at a time when God became man. When Jesus Christ came among us. That is what we celebrate at Christmas. At least that is what we are supposed to celebrate if we don't get lost in all the trimmings.

We are looking at John 1:9, "There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man." We saw that last time. He is the Light of the world, and He comes to bring that light. John 1:10 says, "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him." This is referring to His own people, probably speaking of the Jewish people. The gospel record is that most people did not receive Jesus Christ. Most Jews rejected Him. He came to His own though they did not receive Him.

In John 1:12 it says, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name," this is a great verse that I turn to often when I am talking to people about their need for Christ. What do we need to know and believe in order to become followers of Christ in order to be saved? This verse says it pretty well. "As many as have received Him"—those who have accepted Him and not simply believed about Him or had some theological themes they understood, but they actually received Him into themselves, "He gave the right," it says, "to become the children of God." Now we are the children of God. We are no longer the children of the devil. We are no longer of the world. We are children of God. Then it qualifies it by saying, "even those who believe in His name." The word *belief* or *believe* is found frequently in the gospel of John. It's an evangelistic gospel and it is telling people that if

they want to know God, they have to believe in the name of Jesus Christ. Christ came as the incarnation that we might believe in Him.

We go to John 1:14 where it says, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth." The word that was mentioned in John 1:1 has now become flesh. This is the incarnation. The God of the universe, the Creator of all things has now taken on a physical form and the nature of humans, although a sinless nature. We beheld the glory of God through Jesus Christ. So, the world most perfectly sees God through what they see in Jesus Christ which is found in the Scriptures as we study them.

We also want to look at Philippians 2:6-8, it says concerning Christ, "who although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." We find the incarnation here. The Lord had to humble Himself to come. Could you imagine being the God of the universe for all of eternity, all the splendor, all the glory, all the wonder, and now you are going to come to earth in the form of a human being and suffer as people suffer physically, even being tempted although He will not fall, going through all the heartache and pain that ultimately led Him to the death on the cross. He had to humble Himself to do that. It says, He "emptied Himself" by taking on this form. This does not mean He ceased to be God by any means, rather the glory that He had come to reveal about the Father that we read in John 1:14 has been in a sense veiled when Christ came. Yes, we saw something of the glory of God in Jesus Christ. We saw something wonderful and perfect, yet it was veiled. We didn't see the full majesty of Jesus Christ or the full majesty of the Father because He was in the flesh. That is the incarnation.

In our study of the Biblical worldview of Christ, we know that He is God, and we know that this God came to the earth in the form of a man taking on human nature to become the great and perfect Godman. We press forward in the next broadcast and begin looking at issues such as the crucifixion.

November 9, 2021

We are continuing to examine Biblical worldview. Biblical worldview encapsulates many things that are extremely important and it's important that we understand those things. The most important of all those things in many ways is Jesus Christ Himself. You cannot have a Biblical worldview if you do not have a worldview concerning Christ that is accurate to the teachings of the Word of God. We have looked at Christ who is God and we have looked at Christ who came as man, the Godman. Now we are going to look at Christ crucified. When we think of Jesus Christ we often think of the cross because they are so connected with one another.

What did Christ do for us concerning the cross? There is so much in the New Testament and even the Old Testament about this. I want to look at 2 Corinthians 5:21 with you, it says, "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." The reason Jesus Christ came was to be our Savior. He came and He knew no sin. First, all of those years living on earth from the day of His incarnation to the day of His death, there was no sin in Him. He lived the perfect life. The life that no one else has ever lived. He was the second Adam in a sense. Adam was created in such a way that he had no sin in him, but he fell. When he fell, he became a sinner. Jesus Christ never fell, and He never sinned. So, He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf. He became sin for us. He took upon Himself our sin and became sin on our behalf, for us, not for Himself, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. Salvation is not possible apart from the work on the cross of what Jesus Christ has done for us.

I really enjoy looking at Romans 5 in its entirety when I think about this, but let's look at Romans 5:7-8, "For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." What a beautiful picture. While we were sinners, while we deserved absolutely nothing from Him and have done nothing to merit anything from Him, He died for us.

Romans 5:9 continues, "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him." Now that we

have been saved by Jesus Christ, we have been made justified and righteous by His blood. We are also saved from the wrath of God. This is the case that God's judgment and righteous wrath is poured out on those who reject Him, but because of Jesus Christ and His blood, we are saved, if we are Christians, from the wrath of God.

Romans 5:10, "For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." He is showing us here that at one point we were the enemies of God. Most people don't want to think about that in that regard, but we were the very enemies of God and opposed God. We defied God whether we realized it or not. What we needed was reconciliation with God. That was made possible only through the death of Christ at the crucifixion. Jesus Christ going to the cross on our behalf, taking our sins upon Himself. Then it goes on to say, "much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." I think what is being said here is that once we have been reconciled to God, once we are no longer His enemies and we are now His friends, nothing can separate us from that love because of the life of Christ.

One more verse of Scripture I would like to look at here is 1 Peter 2:24, it says so much so quickly and so well, "and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed." "He Himself" referring to Jesus Christ, bore our sins. All of our sins He took on Himself in His body on the cross, so that having died to sin we can live to righteousness. "His wounds," it says, "healed us."

The crucifixion is the central piece of our righteousness. Without the cross, we are still dead in our sins. We are hopelessly lost, but because of the cross and because of what Christ has done in taking our sins upon Himself, you and I can now be made righteous before our Holy God when we receive Him, believe Him, and trust Him for the forgiveness of our sins. Biblical worldview includes Jesus Christ who was crucified on the cross for our sins.

However, a Biblical worldview of Christ does not keep Him on the cross. So, the resurrection is our subject next time!

November 10, 2021

We have been working through the issue of the Biblical worldview of Jesus Christ for the last several days and understanding who Christ is. It is absolutely pivotal to everything that we know and believe and live as Christians in this world. He is the watershed issue. Those who receive Him and trust in Him will have eternal life. Those that reject Him will have eternal judgment, so there is nothing more important than who Jesus Christ is and what He has done and what He is going to do.

We have seen that He is God in John 1 and other places. We have seen that He has become man in the incarnation. We have seen that He has died for us on the cross of Calvary and took upon Himself our sins dying on our behalf so that we can have the righteousness of God. Without the cross, it is impossible to be right with God. Now we will look at the resurrection. We do not, in our Biblical worldview of Jesus, leave Him on the cross. He did go to the cross, He died on the cross at a point in time, but He is not on the cross today. So, when they took Him down from the cross and buried Him, three days later, He was resurrected from the dead. All four gospel accounts talk about the resurrection in one degree or another. Then when the apostles received the power of the Holy Spirit to go out and be witnesses for Christ, their message did not center just on the cross but also the resurrection. Everywhere they went they spoke about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. That was both a pivotal and important message, and a message that caused many other people who wanted to reject Christ to get very angry.

In Acts 2, we see an interesting verse that puts together the plan of God and the guilt of man. Acts 2:23 says, "this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death." "This Man," is speaking of Christ. God had planned all along, as we also see in the Old Testament, we have many records and prophecy that Christ would die in our place. Isaiah 53 is the central passage to this. Act 2:23 said that "this Man was delivered over by God through a predetermined plan and foreknowledge." This was not an accident. God had planned this.

Acts 2:24 continues, "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power."

These Jewish leaders and the Jews that follow Him did in fact crucify Christ. They are held accountable for that. They are guilty of doing that, but the Lord resurrected Christ from the dead. Because it is impossible for death to hold Him in its power. This is one of the central pieces of the resurrection. The resurrection is the authenticity of who Jesus Christ is. That He is God, and He is Savior. He is the great Godman, perfect Savior for us. Death could not hold Him because He was God. The resurrection proved that. It is God's stamp of approval that all that He did met His approval. There is also the verification that He is all He claimed to be. We find that final proof of His deity.

In Acts 3:14, it says, "But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you." The apostle here is pointing out to these leaders that they are responsible. Acts 3:15 continues, "but put to death the Prince of life, the one whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses." So, the apostle is telling them that they are guilty. It says, "put to death the Prince of life... a fact to which we are witnesses." They were in opposition to God Himself is what is being said here. This message that the apostles were preaching very much disturbed these Jewish leaders.

In Acts 4:2 it says, "being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead." Notice they were not agitated because they were preaching the cross, which is of course central to all of this, but they were agitated because they were preaching that Jesus had been resurrected from the dead and that He had the power to resurrect those who followed Him from the dead to be with Him forever. That bothered and agitated them. They opposed every aspect of that and went on the offensive to try to snuff out Christianity because of that.

That's our message folks. Our message of the gospel is not only that Jesus is God, He was incarnate, He lived a perfect life, He died on the cross for our sins, and He also was resurrected from the dead for us. What a beautiful picture.

We want to look at one more theme concerning Christ. That is what is He doing right now on our behalf? We will look at that next time.

November 11, 2021

We are spending one more day looking at the Biblical worldview of Jesus Christ. We will look at what He is doing right now today. We have already looked at what He has done eternally. He has always been God. We saw the incarnation. He came to the earth at a moment in time and took on human flesh and nature and lived among us a perfect life, nevertheless He lived among us. We saw that He went to the cross and died on our behalf dying for our sins. We have seen that He also resurrected from the dead and death could not hold Him. What is He doing right now?

First, He is ascended. Acts 1:9, "And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.'" The first thing we find out is that Jesus is no longer on earth. As a matter of fact, He has never been back to earth since that time in a physical form. He was seen in visions: Paul saw Him in a vision, John saw Him in a vision, but He doesn't come back and live on earth. He is coming again sometime, we will look at that in the future, but right now He is ascended, and He has gone to be with the Father. He has left this earth and He is gone at this time.

We find that as He has ascended, He has gone to the right hand of the Father. Acts 2:33 says, "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear." When He ascended, He ascended to the Father, and He is at the right hand of the Father. He is on the throne of God and when He went there, He then turned around shortly thereafter, and He and the Father sent the Holy Spirit to earth to indwell His people in the church. We find that happening in Acts 2. At the right hand of God (the position of power and the position of the Throne Room) He ascended, and He sits there today until He comes again.

What is He doing there? In Hebrews 7:25 it says, "Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always

lives to make intercession for them.” The fact that Jesus Christ is alive. The fact that He has ascended and is at the right hand of the Father does wonderful things for us. He lives now so that those who draw near to God draw near to God through Him. It is not possible for sinful human beings to come directly into the presence of a holy God. They must come through a mediator and that mediator is Jesus Christ. It says that He always lives to make intercession for them. So, Christ is alive. He is alive forever and eternally and He “makes intercession for them”, or us, so that we are able to come into the presence of God because of the ministry of Jesus Christ right now at the right hand of the Father.

There is one more thing we will look at. Not only has He ascended and is at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us, but one day He is going to come again. He is not always going to be at the right hand of the Father in that sense. He is one day coming back to earth. He came once as a baby and now He will come as the conquering Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 says, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.” Remember at the ascension the angel told them that He is coming again just as He left. So now He comes here in what we call, the Rapture, to gather His children, the church-age saints, to be with Him forevermore. So, Jesus Christ is coming at that time. Then we find seven years after this He comes back to the earth and stands on the Mount of Olives, which is the place of His ascension to begin with, and He begins at that point to reign on the earth as the King of the Universe on the earth. Those are all wonderful things that are coming.

That is all part of the Biblical worldview of Jesus Christ: The One who is God, who is the Godman, who was crucified for us, who was resurrected from the dead, who lives for us now, and who will come again. I trust all of this is giving you a wonderful day in the Lord as you contemplate it with us.

November 12, 2021

For a few weeks we have been discussing what a Biblical worldview looks like. That might sound intimidating to some people but really all that means is how we process life. Do we see life through the lens of Scripture as God has revealed that to us, or do we see life through the lens of the world around us, our own ideas, educational system, the philosophies of the world? Everybody has a worldview. Everybody sees the world through some lens and those who have a Biblical worldview have chosen to see the world through the only true lens which is God's Word.

As we think about that and review a bit, Biblical worldview begins with God and the truth that He does exist. "In the beginning was God." He created all things, and He created humanity. So, as we think about that wonderful creation of ourselves, we know that Scripture tells us that we are made in the very image of God and that means that we were put on earth to represent God. We are made very special and unique among all of God's creation. We were created originally without sin. There was no sinfulness in the original human beings Adam and Eve. Of course, we know all that changed when Adam and Eve chose to sin. Then sin entered into the world and thus began the pollution and corrupting process that all of us deal with every day in our own lives and in our world system. With that in mind, we have a great problem because those who were created to reflect the image of God and to represent God on earth to give Him glory can no longer do so because of their sinful condition.

We probably have looked at Ephesians 2:1-3 before. It says, "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest." The Scriptures paint a very dismal picture of our spiritual condition. We are hopelessly lost and dead in sin and the question might arise: What can we do about that? The answer in Scripture according to a Biblical worldview is that we can do absolutely nothing! There is not a thing we can do to change our spiritual condition and bring ourselves into a position where

we are right with God. That would be determined by God Himself. God had to do something otherwise we would remain in our sinfulness.

So, Ephesians 2:4-6 simply says, "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." So, we find that God did something and that something was to send His beloved Son to earth to die for us and all because of His grace and His mercy.

Ephesians 2:7 goes on to say this, "so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." Often, we kind of skip this verse. One of the reasons the Lord reaches out to save us is that in the ages to come, that is throughout all of eternity, His grace might be put on display. That display of grace is found primarily in what He has done for us through Jesus Christ by reaching out in His kindness and mercy toward us.

That leads us to what we are talking about for the next few broadcasts. That is... a Biblical worldview involves the issue of salvation. That issue of salvation begins with the fact that we are lost and in desperate need of deliverance and rescue from our own sinfulness. We see what God has done to provide that.

Then in Ephesians 2:8-9 it says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast." God calls on us to be delivered and be saved. This is received by us only by faith alone. He gives His grace and provides it all through His abundant overwhelming grace. It is received by us through faith alone. It is a gift from God. It is not something we work for or merit or earn. It is something we receive by faith alone. So, our discussion these next few broadcasts will be about salvation and that the Lord provided salvation for lost people like you and myself.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

November 15, 2021

We are now talking about salvation. We speak about salvation, or redemption, all the time. If you are around the people of God, or if you read Scripture, or if you come to church, you know this is central to everything we believe and everything we hope in. It is very important that we see salvation from the lens of Scripture as God has revealed. It is the only possible lens because nobody could understand salvation except through what God reveals to us in the Word and what He has done for us through His Son.

Today I am looking at a beautiful passage of Scripture that talks about the fact that the Lord has done much for us to save us. What I want to look at in this passage is four words that I think are very important to understanding what the Lord has done. These four words I have circled in my Bible. If you have been following our broadcast, you know that I like to mark my Bible and circle things to remind me of what is there. This passage is very interesting because it gives a description of our condition before Christ, and before salvation. It gives four different descriptions, and these really map out our problem, and the fact that we are hopelessly lost. Let's look at those four words together.

Romans 5:6-10, says, "For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."

We begin with the word helpless. As long as we think there is something we can do to earn salvation (or even that we can do something to help the Lord save us and we can come alongside Him and help Him in that process) we will continue in our sins because the Biblical teaching of salvation is that the Lord is going to save us while we are helpless. That is hard for us to handle. We are independent people. We believe we are self-sufficient and can take

care of ourselves. That is the American way, right? Yet if we look in the Scriptures, we must recognize first and foremost that we are helpless.

Secondly, we are told we are ungodly. This simply means we are not like God. We do not want to do things God's way. We want to do everything except be godly. By nature, we are ungodly. Yet at that right time, Christ died for the ungodly, which is you and me. There again, before we can actually be saved, we have to recognize our ungodliness. Not only are we helpless, but we are not like Him, and we desperately need His help.

Thirdly, we have the word sinners. Sinners means we are short of the mark, or we have missed the mark. The archer aims for the bullseye. Similarly, that is what we are aiming for, and if that arrow comes up short or it goes wide, it misses the mark, the bullseye. That is the basic meaning of sinners. The picture is that as sinners we have missed the mark of being right with God. We have come up short. No matter what we do we fall short of the glory of God. We go astray. We cannot hit the target. We never can. So, He died for us while we were sinners and unable to hit the mark ourselves.

Our fourth word is enemies. Most people struggle with this one. If they get past the first three and accept them, this last one is hard. We are the enemy of God. Most people are probably decent citizens and good people by the world's standards. Maybe they are religious and go to church and talk about God and pray to God. So, it is hard for us to accept the fact that God says we are His very enemies. We are opposed to God by nature. We are His enemies, and yet as we were His enemies, at that very time opposed and defiant of Him, He reconciled us to God through the death of His Son.

We see nothing here that would attract God to us. Nothing! No reason that God would look at us and think how much He needs to reconcile and deliver us because we are so wonderful. Instead, the picture is that we are helpless, ungodly, sinners and enemies of Him. Yet the Lord demonstrated His love through Jesus Christ to save us in that condition. We, see that reconciliation of what God has done for those that were separated from Him.

We will continue in the next broadcast to look at another theme that is also found in this verse, and that is justification. I hope you will join us to understand what Scripture teaches about our justification.

November 16, 2021

There is nothing more important than how we can be right with God. Sometimes that is called reconciliation. We are estranged from God as we saw in the last broadcast. We are even the enemies of God. As a result of that, we are not right with God. We are separated from Him. We are not His friends. We are His enemies. How can the enemies of God be made right with Him? How can the enemies of God become friends of Him? How can we be reconciled? It involves what the Bible calls justification.

Romans 5:1 says, "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Justified. That word means to declare righteous. It is very important that we understand the meaning of the word. If we get the meaning of the word wrong, we will misunderstand the whole concept. Justification is not a way whereby we work for our salvation or make ourselves right with God. It is a declaration. It is a legal term. We have been declared by God as justified, set free from our sins, and made right with Him. That is the meaning of justification in this passage of Scripture.

Romans 3:24 says, "being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus." There is so much in that little verse, but justification is a gift by the grace of God. So, we are given something, we are given this justification. Someone has said it this way. "It was not God's aim simply to release slaves, but to make sons." I think that is a beautiful statement. I'm not sure who said it, but it is a beautiful statement. God doesn't simply want to release us from our bondage to sin, in that we are no longer slaves to sin, He wants to do more than that. He wants to make us His very children and His sons. So, justification involves not only the forgiveness of sin, but the very righteousness of God so that we are now righteous before Him, and He looks at us through the lens of the Christ Himself and sees us as righteous in Him.

Several places in Scripture talk about this, and we want to talk about something that takes place at the moment of this justification. When He saves us from our sin, He not only saves us, but He changes us. He not only forgives us, but He makes us His sons. By making us His sons, He does not simply say that we are in His family, He makes a radical change in our lives

that is a spiritual change by nature. Jesus talked about this to Nicodemus. Nicodemus was one of the great teachers of Israel and he should have known at least something about the salvation and regeneration process. The Old Testament is not nearly as clear as the New Testament, but things were there and this man was an expert in the Old Testament, but he had missed the big picture. John 3:7 says, "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'" Most of us are familiar with the phrase "born again." It means to be born from above. It is the idea that something is radically changed. There is a second birth. Our first birth is our physical birth where we are physically born, but this is a spiritual birth. It is a birth in which we are radically changed and now we are the children of God.

Later on, Paul talks about this in 2 Corinthians 5:17 which says, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." What a beautiful picture that is. When we are saved, everything changes. We are not only justified, but we are also regenerated and born again. We are new creatures in Christ. This does not mean that all of our bad habits go away and all of our bad thought patterns are totally replaced, but it means we now have a new capacity. A new capacity to love Christ, to live for Him, and to serve Him. We have a new nature. We are no longer sinners by nature, instead we are the children of God by nature. We are new creatures. That doesn't mean we don't battle with sin, of course we do! We still battle with that flesh that wants us to sin in every way, but we are new creatures so you should find in yourself new attitudes especially toward the things of God. There should be new desires to be what God wants us to be and to know His Word and to know His way and to love Him and to glorify Christ with your life. There should be new desires to worship Him and to be all that He would have us be. That is supernatural. It is not something that we create. It is something that He creates in us by making us new creatures.

Salvation is the process of justification, declaring us righteous and forgiving our sins and giving us the righteousness of Christ before God, but also it is a regeneration. We are being born again and we are new creatures in Him. What a glorious thing our salvation is that God has given us. I trust this gives you a wonderful day in the Lord.

November 17, 2021

Today we continue our discussion on the Biblical worldview of salvation. A Biblical worldview of salvation is pivotal. Every other worldview, every other religion, every other philosophy, if it is looking for any form of salvation from this world and our own bondage to self and sin, it looks for it in other places. It might look for it in mythological gods, our own self, or our own merits. Every other religion in the world is a merit religion. Meaning that we must merit or do something to appease the gods in animism. It also means we do something to make ourselves right even before the true God. That is what every false religion of the world is about.

Christianity teaches something very different. Christianity teaches that we are hopelessly lost in our sins and because of that, the only way we can be right before a holy God is for the Lord to step up and do something. He did that in Jesus Christ. Sending His Son to die for us in our place and offer us eternal life and forgiveness of sin and righteousness of Himself. We are going to look at the word substitution today. This is a word, I think in past generations, was very prominent in the church. The conservative church talked a lot about substitution and Jesus Christ dying for us and in our place. Somehow, I think sometimes that gets lost in our conversation. We forget, or we just brush over this issue that the Lord couldn't simply forgive our sins and be a holy and righteous God, but that something or someone or some process had to redeem us from sin, and it had to deal with our sin and had to take our sins. That became the task of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself when He died in our place.

When He died in our place, what did He do? He died as our substitute. Our sin and the wrath of God was on us, so what replaces that? Who is going to take that burden off of us? Christ did! He died in our place, and He died as our substitute. That was necessary for our salvation. There are many, many places in the Scriptures that talk about His substitution, but I think the clearest and best is actually in the Old Testament.

Isaiah 53 speaks about what Christ did for us in dying in our place. We are going to look specifically at Isaiah 53:4-6, it says, "Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him Stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our

transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.” How clear is that? This is a wonderful passage that points to what He has done for us. He died for our transgression it says in Isaiah 53:5, and He was crushed for our iniquity. The Lord did nothing wrong. He deserved no punishment or death and no execution. Sin never touched Him, but He took our sins upon Himself. It all fell on Him, and He is our substitute.

Isaiah 53:6 really explains it beautifully, doesn't it? It says, "All of us like sheep have gone astray." Here is the reason He had to die in our place. We did not want Him! We were like sheep wandering about far astray and not coming back to the Shepherd. As a result of that, each of us is turned to his own way. Left to ourselves we always turn away from God and go after our own way and that way is always ultimately destructive. It's usually destructive in this life and it is always destructive eternally. The Lord calls the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. All that we deserved in our iniquity, in our sinfulness, all of that fell on Him and He took it for us. He died in our place so that our sins had been covered by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Now, He can offer to us the righteousness and forgiveness and reconciliation with God and the justification that He offers only because Jesus Christ died in our place. He is our substitute. That should give us a wonderful and joyful day in the Lord.

November 18, 2021

How is it that God is able to take sinful people and make them right before Him? How is it that we who are lost and dead in sin can become the very friends of God and part of the family of God and spend eternity with Him? That is a miraculous thing, isn't it? What a wonderful gift the Lord has given us! The majority of humanity spurns and ignores and mocks salvation, yet it is the precious consideration of the child of God. We are looking at the word redemption today.

I am certain I have dealt with this word before in the "Word from the Lord" broadcast, but I am going to review it again because we are talking about salvation and this issue of redemption and what that means to us is so pivotal to our lives. I trust this will be a blessing to you even if we have gone through this fairly recently already.

1 Peter 1:18 says, "knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ." We find here that our redemption is accomplished only through the "precious blood" of the lamb. "Unblemished and spotless the blood of Christ." There is only one remedy for our sinful situation. That is the blood of Jesus Christ. This verse calls it the "precious blood of the lamb." Christ is often called the Lamb in the Scriptures, but primarily in the book of Revelation. So, when we see it here in the book of 1 Peter, we know that Peter has something specific in mind. The lamb of God was slain for our sins that we might be redeemed.

What does it mean to be redeemed? We have looked at other words throughout this process such as justification and regeneration. What does redemption mean? We saw before in our studies of this that there were three different Greek words that were translated as "redeemed or redemption" and they all speak of different aspects of the slave market at that time. Most of these writings were written to Greek people who understood the slavery system of their day. Slaves at that time were purchased out of a slave market, but the word purchased was "redeemed."

So, we have these three words that really lay out the understanding of redemption:

Agorazo – Greek word – found in numerous places and means the “marketplace.” It basically tells us that we were enslaved to sin. We were in bondage to sin. That’s where the Lord found us. He came to where we were in the slave market of sin and that is where He found us.

Exagorazo – *ex* – meaning out of – *agorazo* – going back to redemption. So, the Lord comes to the slave market of sin, and He redeems us out of the slave market of sin. That is, He purchased us out of that. In the slave market of that time, someone would go to the market when they were selling slaves and they would purchase a slave and take them out of that market and take that slave to their own home. So, the Lord came to us, and He saved us while we were in the slave market of sin, but He took us out of the slave market of sin.

Latreuo – means “to set free.” The Lord not only found us in the slave market of sin and brought us out of the slave market of sin, but He also set us free from sin. In the ancient world, a person would buy a slave and take that slave home and that slave would be theirs. They didn’t set them free normally. Here, the Lord finds us in sin in the slave market, takes us out of the slave market and then sets us free to serve Him and be His.

I think of Mark 10:45 where it says, “For even the son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to live His life a ransom for many.” Christ gave His life to redeem us and take us out of the slave market of sin and set us free from the bondage of sin both now and eternally and to live for Him.

What a beautiful concept redemption is. We will complete our study of salvation in the next broadcast.

November 19, 2021

We want to conclude the study of salvation by looking at the three tenses of salvation. When we come to the New Testament, sometimes salvation is put out there in the text as if it was something that has already taken place, sometimes it is something happening presently, and sometimes it is in the future. I think it confuses people sometimes if they don't realize that all three tenses are true. Let's look at those and assign a word to each of those for our edification.

First, **justification**. Let's begin that salvation is past in the sense that there is a moment in time when we have come to Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1 says, "Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Our past salvation, the moment of conversion, we can call justification. There is a point in time when we have been justified, we have been made right before a holy God, we have been declared righteous before Him and given the righteousness of God. That takes place at a moment in time. So, if you are a Christian, there was a moment in time when you were not saved and you were lost, then there was a moment in time when you were saved or justified. It is not important that you know that moment necessarily. I know a lot of people make a big deal about that moment and write it in the front of their Bibles. For some, if they don't know the moment they were saved, they get pretty anxious about it. There is no necessity to do that. You might know the moment you came to Jesus Christ. That it is very crystal clear in your memory. Others, maybe not so much. It might have been over a period of time that these things became clear to you and somewhere in that process you committed your life to Jesus. It is not important that you know that moment. It is important that you know you have been saved and are justified. That is the past tense, you were saved in a moment of time.

Second, **sanctification**. We come to the present tense of salvation which we call sanctification. We are looking at 1 Corinthians 1:18 which says, "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." Notice the present tense there, "to us who are being saved." Justification tells us we are already saved in a moment of time. That is done. Romans 5, if you read the context, is all about the fact that we cannot lose that salvation. Once we are saved, we are saved,

and the Lord will not let us go. Here it says we are being saved, what does that mean? It means we are in a process of sanctification, progressively becoming more and more what we were saved to be. In that sense we are being saved. The Lord is working in our lives, He is moving through our lives and our hearts. He is changing us, and He is making us increasingly, ever so slowly, more and more like that Lord Jesus Christ. We call that sanctification, or progressive sanctification. This is the present tense of salvation.

Finally, we return to Romans 8:1, it says, "Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." That is past tense of salvation. Once we are in Christ Jesus, there is no longer any judgment or condemnation for those who are in Christ. That is past tense, so the book of Romans 8 begins with what took place in the past, but it ends with what will take place in the future. Romans 8:30 says, "and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified." The future tense is glorification. It speaks here as if it is a done deal. It speaks in the past tense here. There is a sense in which we are already glorified in Christ. Nothing can change that. Again, that is one of the main features of Romans 8 as well as Romans 5. There comes a day in the future that we will stand before Him in which our salvation process is complete, and we are glorified. We will be given new glorified, resurrected bodies. Our sinful nature will be no longer, and we are living as we should before Him for all of eternity; glorified and spiritually changed forever and ever.

Salvation comes in three tenses. If we understand this in the New Testament, it helps us.

1. We are saved in the past through justification.
2. We are in the process of God saving us and that is sanctification.
3. Ultimately, we will be saved in the future and that is glorification.
That is when we spend all of eternity with our Lord Jesus Christ.

I hope you have enjoyed our studies together concerning the Biblical worldview of salvation and how valuable and important that is to all of us. We hope that gives you not only a wonderful day, but a wonderful life in Jesus Christ.

November 22, 2021

What does it look like to think like God and think Biblically? We continue looking at various fundamental aspects that contribute to a Biblical worldview. If we are going to have a Biblical worldview, we must understand what is true Biblically concerning God. We have looked at the Father, we have looked at the Son, Jesus Christ, we have looked at the Scripture, and we have looked at salvation. Today I want us to look at the Holy Spirit.

In some circles the Holy Spirit is more complex and confusing and controversial to many than perhaps the other two members of the Trinity. Many people get confused about various aspects of His ministry and what He does. So, I want to take some time to look at who He is and what He does.

We will start with the fact of His personhood. Who is He? Before we can see what He does, we need to know who He is. Let's start with the very fundamental teaching of Scriptures. The Holy Spirit is a person. He is not a force per say, He is a person, and He is a member of the Trinity itself. He is God. We find that in numerous places in Scripture and I want to look at the Great Commission.

In Matthew 28:19 it says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." I think we skip right through that verse, and we do not pause long enough to note that the word "name" is singular. It doesn't say in the "names of" as if there are three, but it says in the "name of." There is one God manifested in three persons in a way that is inexplicable to that. We know that we will never totally comprehend the nature of the Trinity. The One God in three persons. Nevertheless, this verse says it very clearly that there is One God, and we are baptized in the name of that One God and in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is important to note that the apostle Paul or Peter or anyone else has not been added to this list. We are not baptized in the name of a person or a church. We are baptized in the name of God and the Holy Spirit is part of that Trinity: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

A little later we see two individuals wanting to give money to the Lord's works. Which was great except they were lying about how much they were

giving. They didn't have to give any, but when they did give, and they lied about what they gave it did not go well for Ananias and Sapphira. Acts 5:3 says, "But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land?'" Notice that he lied to whom? The Holy Spirit. Then in Acts 5:4 it says, "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." Notice here in Acts 5:3 it says he lied to the Holy Spirit and in Acts 5:4 in the same conversation Peter said he lied to God. So, we find a very clear teaching here that the Holy Spirit is God, He is deity. When we think about the Spirit, we think about who He is as deity.

We do find His ministry is different from the Father and the Son. Each of them has distinct ministries, although in truth many of these ministries overlap. We find in John 15:26 it says, "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me." The Helper here is mentioning the Holy Spirit. Jesus is telling His disciples that when He leaves the earth, He will send to them the Holy Spirit, the Helper, (that is the word *parakletos* which means a comforter or almost like an attorney—someone that comes alongside to help) to bear witness about Him, and that the Spirit will be from the Father. What we find in this passage of Scripture is that while the Holy Spirit is eternal, He has always existed and ministered, but He is going to take on a new role in the church age. In this new church age, He will be sent from the Father and the Son to this earth to minister to the people of God. It says here that He will testify about Christ. One of the major ministries of the Holy Spirit is to witness about Christ. He has been sent now and the Holy Spirit is with us now ministering to us.

What we are going to do for the next several times together is we are going to cover quick lessons on what the Holy Spirit is doing for us today. He is very active. Sometimes people wonder what the Holy Spirit does, especially if you don't have a Pentecostal theology. What is He doing? How active is He? Scripture says He is very active, and we will pick up on some of this in the next several broadcasts.

November 23, 2021

Today we continue our outlook of Biblical worldview as it relates to the Holy Spirit. Yesterday we saw that the Holy Spirit is a member of the Trinity. He is God. He is eternal. He has now come to this earth during this church age to do a particular ministry to this world and to us as believers. We are going to start with His role and ministry to us in the world.

John 16:8 says, "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment." He, referring to the Holy Spirit, has a ministry to the world in general. Later this week we will look at the ministry of the Holy Spirit to specifically believers. However, the Holy Spirit has a general ministry to the world, I believe here we are speaking of the unregenerate, unbelievers. The Holy Spirit has always been omnipresent. He has always been eternally in existence, and He has never not been. When Jesus speaks about Him coming, He is talking about having been sent by the Father and the Son for a particular ministry during this church age. As He talks about that, He tells us He is coming to convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgement. Three ministries that the Holy Spirit has to the world. These are pivotal in our understanding of the world system.

He continues in John 16:9, "concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me." This verse is talking about the Holy Spirit when He convicts of sin. His ministry here is to convict people of their sinfulness. I don't think most people believe they are sinners. Most people know they are not perfect. Most people know they do wrong things. Most people are displeased about certain aspects of their lives, but to accurately see themselves as sinners and missing the mark of God, defying Him, living in rebellion against God, and being the enemy of God does not register for most people. They think they are doing okay. Most people, if you ask them, think they are pretty good people. They do nice things for people, they take care of their family, they do the things they should do. If they believe they sin, it is something real horrible, but they don't do that very often, so most people don't believe that they are sinners as such. It takes the ministry of the Holy Spirit to remove the blinders from the eyes of people so that they can recognize that they are sinners. That is pivotal because no one will come to the Savior unless they recognize they need a Savior. No one recognizes they need a Savior unless they recognize they are sinners, and they are hopelessly lost in their sin.

John 16:10 says, "and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me." After being convinced by the Holy Spirit that we are sinners, the next thing we need to know is that we need righteousness. I've often been amazed at funerals. I have done a lot of funerals over the years, and I have often been amazed and depressed in a sense to look out on the audience at the people that are hearing the gospel. I always preach the gospel at funerals and talk about the need for salvation. Most people are polite. They are not getting up and leaving or rolling their eyes or making jokes. They are listening and being polite. Yet, often many people in those crowds who do not know Christ even after hearing the wonders of the grace of Christ and the great gospel message simply ignore it. They walk away from it. They are hardened to it. That can be discouraging, but we must recognize that it is the Holy Spirit that convicts us concerning righteousness. That as sinners we need the righteousness of God. Without that righteousness we are hopelessly lost. People simply don't believe that until the Holy Spirit removes the blinders and shows us our need for righteousness. We need the righteousness of Christ so that we are right before the Holy God of the universe.

The Holy Spirit does one more ministry to the world here. He convicts concerning judgment in John 16:11, "and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged." Another thing most people don't believe is that they will ever stand before a Holy and Righteous God or that they will ever be accountable for that which they have done. The proof that we will one day be judged by God is in the fact that He has judged the ruler of this world, which is Satan. Satan is arguably the most powerful being in the universe that has ever been created. Perhaps, Michael or one of the other angels rivals him, but he is a powerful creature, and he opposes God, yet he is judged by God. He stands before the Almighty God's throne, and he is judged for his wickedness and sinfulness. So, if that happens to the devil then we can be sure it is going to happen to us. We are all going to stand before God's throne to be judged. The only hope we have is in the salvation that the Lord gives us through the Holy Spirit. So, we have the Holy Spirit here convicting the world that people are sinners, in need of righteousness, and will be judged by God if they are not turning to God for salvation.

There is a valuable ministry of the Holy Spirit. You and I can never talk anyone into salvation. We can give the message and tell people the gospel, but it is up to the Holy Spirit to do the work in the hearts and lives of the people. What a ministry!

That is the initial ministry to the world that the Holy Spirit is responsible for. You must understand that to have a worldview that corresponds with the teaching of Scripture. We will move on next time to discuss some of the ministries the Holy Spirit has specifically for those who already know Christ as Savior. They are many and they are wonderful!

November 24, 2021

In our Biblical worldview we are looking at the Godhead a little bit. Particularly we are looking at the Holy Spirit and what He is, who is He, and what He does? We have seen already that He is God, a person, and a member of the Trinity. We have seen His ministry to the world in general as He convicts the world in sin and righteousness and judgment. We are going to spend the next several times talking about what He does for us as believers. What is His ministry to you and me if we are Christians?

First, we are going to look at the fact that He lives in us. He indwells us. Romans 8:9 tells us that the mark of the Christian is that the Holy Spirit is in us. Therefore, if we do not have the dwelling of God within us then we are not believers. That is the ultimate mark of salvation. In 1 Corinthians 6, it explains it this way, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?" This is a marvelous verse of Scripture on several levels. The NASB version tells us that our body is a temple. The Legacy Translation says our body is a sanctuary because that is a particular speaking of the Greek word here. It is the idea of a dwelling place of God. The place where God lives. It says that we are the sanctuary of the Holy Spirit. Can you comprehend that? We are the dwelling place of God in the form of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It says, "who is in you." He lives in us. How do we understand that? It is not a physical thing. We can't reach in and touch Him, but He is there spiritually within our physical bodies if we are Christians and we have received that from God. You are not your own.

In 1 Corinthians 6:20 it continues, "For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body." The argument is not just about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, but what that means to us. That is that we have been purchased for God. The Holy Spirit lives in us. We belong to Him. We are not our own and therefore, our whole lives should have the purpose of glorifying God in our body. That is a wonderful take away for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. What joy! This should bring you a wonderful day in the Lord to know that God lives in you if you are a believer!

Let us talk about baptism of the Holy Spirit for a moment. 1 Corinthians 12:13 says this, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body,

whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.” Notice that the Holy Spirit is all wrapped up in what we call the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This particular doctrine has been very controversial for the last one hundred years or so with a lot of people saying that there is a first baptism and a second baptism and some even saying there is a third baptism of the Holy Spirit. Then they go on to try to explain how each of those differ. The problem with all of that though is that it is not taught in Scripture. There is one baptism as we see in this passage of Scripture of the Holy Spirit and that one baptism—it says all of us were baptized by the Spirit—so there is one Spirit and one baptism here. So, all believers, every believer no matter how mature or immature they are in Christ, all believers have been baptized by the Holy Spirit. It comes at the moment of salvation just like indwelling. The moment we are saved the Holy Spirit indwells us. The moment we are saved the Holy Spirit baptizes, or immerses, us into what? “One body, whether Jews or Greeks.” Doesn’t matter our nationality. “Whether slaves or free,” it doesn’t matter our economic status or whatever. We are all made to drink of one Spirit. So, the idea here is this: The Holy Spirit takes us, and He baptizes, immerses, us into one body. As a result of this we have now been placed into Jesus Christ and we have been placed into the body of Christ. So now we are part of the body of Christ of all believers. We have been immersed into that body of Christ together. This is a picture of who we are because of what the Holy Spirit has done.

Without these two ministries of the Holy Spirit, we would just be people who follow God at a distance. We keep His rules perhaps. or we try to. Kind of like the Old Testament saints did, but we wouldn’t have the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We wouldn’t be part of the members of the body of Christ.

This is a beautiful picture of what the Holy Spirit does. A wonderful ministry for you and me. We ought to rejoice in that. We ought to rejoice that the Almighty God has chosen to do these wonderful things for people like you and me and to give us His Spirit in these ways to make living for Him a joy and a possibility. Without the Holy Spirit we would be hopelessly floundering, but with Him we have the hope of living for Jesus Christ.

November 25, 2021

We continue looking at the way Christians should think as God has allowed us to do so to understand the world from the lens of God's Word and Truth. We are looking at the Holy Spirit and one of the ministries of the Holy Spirit for us is the inspiration of Scripture. This overlaps with our look earlier at the Bible itself, but it is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to give us the revelation of God. If we didn't have this revelation from the Holy Spirit, what we call the Bible, then you and I would have no idea what a Biblical worldview was. We would be floundering and groping after gods and deities and whatever understandings we might have of these things as Paul says in Acts 17, but we really wouldn't know because we wouldn't have the divine Word of God. Yet, the Holy Spirit is the instrument by which we understand the ways of God. We think like God, and we can understand God. We call this inspiration. We find the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, of God's Word. The revealing of God's Word, the inspired text all over the Bible. There are two central passages that narrow it down for us. These are the clearest and we want to look at those today.

You are probably familiar with 2 Timothy 3:16 which says, "All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness." The Legacy Bible says, "God breathed." That is the word inspired, it is breathed out by God. So, this is saying that all Scripture, not portions of it, all Scripture, Old and New Testament is breathed out by God. The only way you and I are going to know what to believe, is teaching. The only way we are going to know when we have gone astray, is reproof. The only way that we are going to know how to correct, is correction. The only way we are going to be able to grow in Christlikeness, is training for righteousness. This is through the means of the Scriptures inspired by God and the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 3:17 continues, "so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work." So, the equipping of you and me to be the people of God that we are supposed to be is only possible through the ministry of the Word of God which has been given to us by none other than the Holy Spirit.

There is one other passage that really stands out in this regard. This passage clarifies that it is the ministry of the Holy Spirit Himself that inspires the Scriptures. It says in 2 Peter 1:19-20, "And so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture becomes a matter of someone's own interpretation." No Scripture is interpreted by us. No Scripture is made up by us. Even the prophets didn't make this stuff up. Instead, it continues in 2 Peter 1:21, "for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." We find that the Scriptures are inspired by the instrument of the Holy Spirit. The member of the Trinity responsible for the inspiring of the Scriptures. The revelation that we have in our hands today is none other than the Holy Spirit. When we look at the Bible and we read it, we realize this is not the opinion of people. Even prophets and godly people or apostles, as good and helpful as those individuals might be, this is not their opinion or ideas. This is God's, and God has communicated to us His way of thinking. He has communicated to us Himself and our understanding of Him. How we are to live life through the Scriptures which it says clearly here is inspired by the Holy Spirit. These men were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God. The Holy Spirit is ministering to us today in a book. This book is already finished. We will add nothing to it. It is complete. Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit speaks to us today alive and with great wonder in these very words that He has given to us in this sacred text.

The only way to have a Biblical worldview and understand life as God understands it and as He wants us to understand it is to read and know the Word that God has given us through the Holy Spirit. What a ministry the Holy Spirit has given us in this regard. I hope you appreciate that and appreciate it enough to get into the Word and enjoy and learn from what God has given us through the Holy Spirit.

November 26, 2021

We are going to look at a few more ministries of the Holy Spirit over the next couple broadcasts. These are going to overlap somewhat with our discussion of salvation because these are salvation issues. These are things the Holy Spirit does for us at the moment of salvation. These are not things that we necessarily feel or experience in that way. These are truths of things that happen in your life when you come to the Lord Jesus Christ. At the moment of conversion, certain things happen in your life, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit that are wonderful and radically changes us, but we don't necessarily experience them in the sense of emotions or even cognitive in some ways, but they are there, and we take that from the Word of God.

One of those ministries is what we call the sealing ministries. Ephesians 1:13-14 says, "In Him, you also, after listening to the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, unto the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory." It speaks of the sealing. In Ephesians 4:30 it says, "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." Twice here it mentions this ministry. What is this sealing ministry of the Holy Spirit? According to the two passages, it is a ministry that guarantees our salvation. It is God's pledge to us that once we have come to Christ for salvation, at that moment, once you have believed, you are sealed. It is a done deal, and nothing is ever going to change that. It says, "who is given as a pledge of our inheritance." This is sort of like a down payment. The down payment is of the nature that God has given us the Holy Spirit to absolutely guarantee that you and I, if we are saved, will never lose that salvation. It is to the redemption of God's own possession.

The picture here is that God takes us, unsaved people, at the moment of conversion and places us in Christ. To help pain this picture, think of an envelope. He places us in Christ, and He has us in Christ in that envelope of Christ. Then He closes the flap on that envelope and then He seals us. He puts that wax seal that we all are familiar with, especially in ancient times. He puts that seal over that envelope. That seal is the Holy Spirit. He mails that envelope, so to speak, back to Himself for the day of redemption. Then on the day of our redemption when we stand before Him, we arrive safe and

sound and nothing can break that seal because that seal is the Holy Spirit Himself. He is the guarantee, it's God's promise that there is nothing in heaven or earth, there is nothing inside of us, there is no demonic power, there is absolutely nothing that can break the seal of God once you are in Christ Jesus. It is a guarantee of our inheritance and our salvation. That is a glorious truth, isn't it? We thank the Lord for that.

Then we think of another ministry of the Holy Spirit and that is regeneration. In Titus 3:5 it says, "He saved us, not by works which we did in righteousness, but according to His mercy through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit." In the moment of salvation, at that very moment, you are given new life. You are regenerated and born-again Jesus said, being born from above. You have been renewed by the Holy Spirit. So, it is a ministry of the Holy Spirit for us. There is no possible way that we can regenerate ourselves. We can turn over new leaves and we can try to be a better person and we can have better habits and so forth, but we cannot change who we are. To change who we are, to be new creatures in Christ, must be done by the Holy Spirit Himself. That ministry is His as He regenerates us. This happens at the moment of salvation. It does not say that now we are 100% better people in any sense like that and we are certainly not perfect people, but we are changed people. Our hearts are changed, our minds are changed, our desires are changed. We will battle with the flesh for as long as we are in this life, but we battle from the position of a new, regenerated nature in Christ.

These ministries should give us a wonderful and exciting day in the Lord.

That finishes out our week as we talk about the Holy Spirit. We will look at one more ministry of His next time.

November 29, 2021

We are concluding our quick look at the Holy Spirit. We have been discussing how to develop a Biblical worldview to understand life from God's perspective. To do that, we must understand God. We have looked together at the Holy Spirit and who He is and His ministry to us. We are looking at one more thing today and that is what we will call the "filling of the Holy Spirit."

In Ephesians 5:18, it says, "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit." The other ministries of the Holy Spirit we have already looked at like regeneration, indwelling, baptism and sealing are done for us at the moment of conversion. Things we do not necessarily experience on a cognitive or emotional level, but they do happen. They are our position in Christ. This one is a little different. It is a ministry of the Holy Spirit but notice here in the verse that it is a command. He really wasn't talking in the context here about alcoholism or drinking, but it is a great illustration. When we drink wine or alcohol of any type, if you do so and get drunk, that alcohol now possesses you and controls much of what you say and do. It influences you greatly in all your actions and thinking and words. He is saying He doesn't want us like that. He doesn't want us to be people under the influence of alcohol, instead He wants us under the influence of the Holy Spirit. He says, "be filled with the Spirit." He is using that illustration. Don't be filled with alcohol, be filled with the Holy Spirit. The word "fill" could mean control if you realize it doesn't mean absolute 100% control because we still have choices to make and we can make choices that are wrong and sinful even though we are now under the influence of the Holy Spirit. I take this word to mean that the Holy Spirit now powerfully influences us. Just as a drunk person is powerfully influenced by alcohol, but still makes choices, moral choices that they are responsible for, so the Christian under the powerful influence of the Holy Spirit can still make choices that do not please Him. Nevertheless, if we are filled with the Spirit, if He is influencing our lives in this powerful way, then that makes all the difference in how we live our lives.

How do you know if you are filled with the Holy Spirit or not? It is not subjective. He goes on in our context to speak of some ways that we know whether or not the Holy Spirit is in charge in our lives. In Ephesians 5:19, it

says, "speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord." We have here a picture of a joy that is in our lives as a result of the Holy Spirit. He speaks of singing here. There are only a few passages in all of the New Testament that talk about the place and purpose of singing in the life of the Christian. This is one of them. We see that we are "singing to one another these psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, and we are making melody in our hearts to the Lord." It is a joyful cry to the Lord. One who is under the influence in a powerful way of the Holy Spirit is going to have joy. They are in joy because they love Christ, and they know what Christ has done for them through the Holy Spirit.

Here is the second characteristic of one who is filled with the Spirit. It says in Ephesians 5:20, "always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father." We have thanksgiving here. A Christian who is under the powerful influence of the Holy Spirit is one who has joy, but also one who is thankful. By nature, most of us are complainers. We complain about anything that doesn't go our way. That can even be true of our spiritual nature. We can be complainers about God because God is not acting the way we think He should and giving us what we want Him to give us and so forth, but the Christian under the powerful influence of the Holy Spirit, filled with the Spirit is one who gives thanks to God. We are thankful, we are grateful people.

Finally, we are submissive people. Ephesians 5:21 says, "and being subject to one another in the fear of Christ." The believer who is filled with the Spirit doesn't always have to have their own way. They are willing to submit to those in authority over them. They are willing to even submit to others in such a way that we act humbly, and we don't harm them, we encourage them and strengthen them, and we are not trying to be in control of all things. That is the evidence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We don't always have to have our own way. We are willing to submit.

The filling of the Holy Spirit is something we are commanded to do. That is, we allow Him to be the One who controls our lives and our actions. The Holy Spirit then begins to produce Christlikeness within us. That is a joy, isn't it?

We will pick up something else tomorrow as we move on in our overview of the Biblical worldview.

November 30, 2021

We are going to look at the church for the next few days. Somebody might ask: What does the church have to do with a Biblical worldview? It has a lot of things to do with the Biblical worldview because a Biblical worldview is simply thinking as God thinks. How does God think? When we come to the New Testament, the Lord puts a lot of premium on the church. The church is a vital part of the Christian life. There is no one in the New Testament that was not a part of a body of Christ. Much of the revelation in the New Testament would be inconceivable without the understanding of a local church and then there is a great deal of instruction on how to run the local church. The church is very important to God and therefore should be very important to us if we are Christians. I want to talk about that just a little bit for the next few days.

The Lord has given us three basic institutions in this world. We have the government to run our society and take care of various laws and protections and so forth. The Lord instituted that. Secondly, we have the family itself. We have our unit of people in our family and that is where we have our domestic life. Finally, we have the institution of the church which is the family of God which is the coming together of God's people. We see that universally the church is all Christians of all times. That would be the universal church, but most of the revelation of Scripture has to do with the local church and how the local church is to function. It is very important in how we think about life and how we function.

We are talking about the church, the word ecclesia in the Greek is a word that is translated church in the New Testament. It means a called-out group of people. It can be used of other groups of people, like some kind of an assembly of some sort, but when used in the context of the people of God, it speaks of a local church, of people coming together, a called-out group of people that know Christ as their Savior who have come together for various reasons.

There are a number of metaphors in the New Testament dealing with the church that helps us get a handle on the understanding of what God wants it to be and how God understands it. The church for example is called the bride of Christ. We see a very intimate relationship between God and His

people. It is also called the flock of God. So, we see this picture of the Lord being our Shepherd and guiding and protecting His flock, His people.

It is also called the temple. So, we are a sanctuary. The church in essence has God within us and among us. We are the sanctuary, the very temple of God.

Probably the most important metaphor is that of the body. The church is a body of Christ. It is the coming together of this body. Colossians 1:18 says that Christ is the head of the church, "And He is the head of the body, the church, Who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything." He is the head in this particular metaphor. The members of the church, God's people, constitute the body of the church.

There is a lot of Scripture about that in the New Testament, but maybe one that is clear and helpful is found in 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 which says, "For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For also by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. For also the body is not one member, but many."

Then Paul goes on to give a very detailed picture of how a body works. Very similar to how a spiritual body, the church, is to work. It is almost comical in places, because he said that people will want to be what they are not and he says in 1 Corinthians 12:15-16, "If the foot says, 'Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body,' it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. And if the ear says, 'Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,' it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body." In other words, people seem to always want to be what they are not. The Lord is saying that He has constructed the body of Christ in such a way. He has designed it and it is as He desires. He has given spiritual gifts to the people within that body, He has given them opportunities and abilities and so forth and the body comes together to function as the Lord desires it to function. The church cannot function unless the body functions together. It is so important. What a beautiful metaphor to help us understand the importance of the body of Christ.

To have a Biblical worldview is to have an understanding of the importance of the church as God has designed it. God loves His church and He died for His church, so we need to have that understanding to have that kind of Biblical worldview. We will look a little deeper at the church itself in our next few times together.

December 1, 2021

We are looking at how God views the church, the importance of the church, the role we play in the church and so forth because this is how God has designed this time, this age, in which the church is vitally important in the work of God. We must understand that to understand how God thinks and for us to have a Biblical worldview.

We saw a little bit as to who and what the church is last time. However, what is the church to do? I don't think we can improve much over Acts 2:38 where we have Peter preaching the first sermon in the church age, we call that the Day of Pentecost, as he is proclaiming to the Jewish people their need for a Savior and what they have done to Christ in the crucifixion of the Lord. He preaches a very powerful sermon filled with Old Testament Scriptures and so forth. When he is done, we come to Acts 2:37 and many of the people there are convicted by the Holy Spirit to turn to the Lord, but they don't know what to do and so they ask Peter what they should do. He answers them in Acts 2:38 where it says, "And Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Peter made it pretty clear: 1) repent, 2) turn from your sinfulness and turn to the Lord, and 3) he says to be baptized. He says to be baptized not to be saved, but to show people that you are saved. Then he says that "you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." So, God's Spirit would enter in and be within them. That is the first thing we see.

So, the local church then is involved in evangelism. In Acts 2:41, it says, "So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers." We find in Acts 2:41 that they are reaching out to people around them who need Christ. It says in Acts 2:40 as he speaks to them, he is witnessing to them and he exhorts them, it says, "And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse generation!'" So, what do these people need? Peter said that you need to be saved, or rescued, from what is called a "perverse generation." Now this is not just talking about the Jewish people. Later in the book of Philippians 2:15, we have a very similar thing as Paul is speaking on this subject and he calls the generation of the world

around us a “crooked and perverse generation.” Not only crooked, but perverse. So, we have a world system that is out of alignment with God. They are not walking with God. They are polluted by sin. They are corrupted by sin, and that is where the unsaved person is. To have a Biblical worldview from the perspective of the church of God’s people is to understand that the world around us is filled with corruption and the people living in the world are corrupted by sin. That is of course taught throughout all of the New Testament.

What we need to understand as believers and as a church is that we are needing to reach out into the world that is corrupted and perverted by sin and to realize that their great need is deliverance. Their great need is salvation from their sinful ways and the life they are living. The world is filled with darkness. It is the darkness that is part of Satan’s kingdom. We are calling them to the light of God’s kingdom. That is often called evangelism. So, the church out in the world is reaching out. Reaching out to people in that world who do not know Christ. They are lost. If you do not have that understanding of the world system. That the world around us is lost and corrupted by sin and dead in sin, then we cannot understand the world from God’s perspective or have a Biblical worldview.

We find these people in Acts 2:38, 41 being baptized. Baptism is not for salvation. Peter is not saying that here. He is saying that those who come to the Lord Jesus who repent of their sin and receive His gift by faith alone, those individuals will be baptized as a demonstration that Christ has saved them out of a lost and perverse world. So, they are identifying with Christ. They are letting those around them know that they have come to the Lord and that they have been rescued. They are not ashamed of Him. Baptism is a public demonstration of their commitment to and faith in Christ and what He has done in saving them. So, the church is an organization and institution, or organism that the Lord has designed to showcase the glory of Christ, to be a lighthouse to the world, to draw people to Jesus Christ by showing them who Jesus Christ is and what His gospel is all about.

We need to have that understanding to have a worldview that demonstrates how God Himself thinks.

December 2, 2021

If we are going to have a view of the world that is Scriptural and in line with what God thinks of it, we must understand His church. He invented and created the church, Christ is the head of His own body, He has formed us the way He wanted to form us. It is God's design and God's will that the local body of Christians functions underneath His headship, so we have to see what the church does. We have already looked at what the church is and who it is. We have looked at its outreach in the way of evangelism as we have this crooked and perverse generation around us. In other words, the world is enveloped in sin and corruption and as we have looked at that, we see that the church is to reach out and be that lighthouse that calls people to Jesus Christ to tell them about the great gospel of the Lord.

What does a church do when it gathers?

I think the church makes a mistake in thinking that we come together to evangelize people as they come in the doors. That doesn't mean we shouldn't give the gospel. In our church we often do give the gospel. In most services, at least a piece of the gospel is presented, sometimes a more detailed gospel is shared. The primary purpose of the church coming together as a body of Christ is not evangelism. That is to be done out in the world where people need Christ.

The primary purpose of the church is to edify the believers. We see how that functions very early in the very first church in Acts 2:42. I have gone through some of this recently with you already, but it is really good to review this great verse of Scripture. Acts 2:42 says, "They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." About three thousand people were saved in Acts 2:41, and we find the church coming together for specific reasons and purposes to help build up the body of Christ.

First, they devoted themselves to the apostles' teachings. That means the apostles were now teaching not only the Old Testament Scriptures, but they were also teaching the teachings of Jesus where they were sharing the teachings Jesus taught them when He was on earth. Some of these teachings we find in the gospels and others we do not. The apostles were also teaching what was being revealed to them through the Holy Spirit. So,

these divine revelations that God gave His apostles is what the early church focused on. They were being taught the apostles teachings so that they might be the kind of people that God wanted them to be.

Secondly, we find they devoted themselves to fellowship. The Greek word there is "koinonia" which simply means having something in common. The people of God have something in common: the Lord Jesus Christ. We are part of the one body of Christ. We are His people. So, we have Him in common and we come together to fellowship around the commonness of Jesus Christ. The centrality of Jesus Christ, and because we have Him in common, our fellowship is wrapped around Him. Although we come from many diverse backgrounds and ethnicities and ideas and work relationships and all these kinds of things, even though that is true, we find that we can fellowship around the common bond of Jesus Christ.

Thirdly, they were breaking bread. That almost certainly is speaking of the Lord's supper because the Lord's supper reminds us, each time we partake of it, that we are here because of Jesus Christ. Everything we do and everything we believe is all wrapped around Jesus Christ. The Lord's supper is a continual reminder. The body of Christ comes together to partake of the Lord's supper. Some churches partake every week, some once a month, and some once a quarter. Every time we take it together, we are reminding one another of the Lord Jesus Christ and what He has done for us and what He is going to do for us when He comes again.

Finally, they were devoted to prayers. We have a praying community. When we pray, we are recognizing our own inadequacies. Prayer is basically saying we depend on God. In and of ourselves, we have no power, no ability to really accomplish the things that matter for the Lord Jesus Christ. We are totally dependent upon Him, and our prayers to Him. Our petitions to Him and our worship of Him in prayer and our confession of sin in prayer is a very vital part not only of our individual Christian life, but also of our corporate life as the body of Christ. So, when we come together, we pray publicly together, and we pray in various settings together because we are a body of Christ that is devoted to prayer. These are some of the things that the early church did when they would come together, and it is what we are continuing to do today.

We will finish up our discussion of the church in this Biblical worldview study next time.

December 3, 2021

Today we are finishing our discussion about the church. The church is God's idea. It is not something created by human beings, but it is a plan of God for His purposes.

I am reminded of 1 Timothy 3:15 that says, "but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth." The job of the church, the quest of the church is to support and uplift and proclaim the truth of God. When we come to Ephesians 4, and we see the mechanism of how that works and how God planned that out. In Ephesians 4:11, it says, "And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers." In other words, He gave the church these gifted individuals. He gifted them and set them apart and He has sent them out to do a work in the church of Christ. These gifted individuals are the spearhead of this task.

What happens? Why are they sent out? Ephesians 4:12 says, "for the equipping of the saints of the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ." First, for the equipping of the saints. That is vital. Everything else that is said after that goes back to the point of equipping the saints. Equipping them causing them to be able and ready and adequate to do the things that God wants them to do. So, He sends these gifted individuals to do this equipping of the saints so that they can do the work of service. However, the service of the ministry of the church is not all to be done by the staff and paid pastors and so forth. The whole body of Christ is involved in the work of service in every conceivable way, through all the giftedness that God has given us, through all the opportunities that He affords us, He equips us through the teachers and trainers of our body of Christ to do the work of service so that we can be building up the body of Christ. The body is edified, built up, and it is strengthened to become what God intended it to be.

He moves on and talks about maturity in Ephesians 4:13, it says, "until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ." As we read this verse, we can summarize everything he says by

saying that the Lord wants us to grow up. He wants us to be mature. He wants us to handle life in a way that exemplifies to Christ who is in us. The teaching of His word equips us to be that kind of person. We have the unity of the faith. We are all headed in the same direction. We are all trying to accomplish the same task. We have the fullness of the knowledge of the Son of God. We are marching together in our knowledge of Jesus Christ. We are growing up and maturing until we reach the fullness of Christ. Our end goal will not happen in this life, but it is our goal, and it is what we are aiming for: the fullness of Christ.

If we don't do that, then we are in trouble and we find out next that the body of Christ is there to protect us. Ephesians 4:14 says, "so that we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming." The people of God could be tossed about by all sorts of false teachings and schemes. The teaching of God's Word protects us from that. It says in Ephesians 4:15, "but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head," that is Christ. Summarizing what is happening here: we are teaching truth and love. Both of those are vital. We teach God's truth. We don't shirk our duty there or pull away and at the same time we are teaching that truth in the attitude of love toward one another as we are trying to help one another.

Then it closes with Ephesians 4:16 where it says this is not something done by only leaders and pastors, the whole body is involved. It says, "from whom the whole body, being joined and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the properly measured working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love." In essence it says, every one of us have a vital part in growing the body of Christ, in calling the body of Christ to be what God wants it to be.

So, the church of Christ comes together to stimulate one another in love and good deeds, to equip one another, to guard one another, to love one another, and to protect one another. This cannot happen without a healthy, local church that is in lockstep with the Lord Jesus Christ. That is why we need a Biblical worldview of the church. I hope that you are in love more than ever with the church of Jesus Christ.

December 6, 2021

Once we have completed this study on Biblical worldview in a few weeks, we will not have exhausted the subject, but we will have made some great progress. I'd like to turn our focus to the spirit world. I am amazed at how much interest the secular world has in the spirit world. It is virtually everywhere you turn. Harry Potter books are some of the most popular, Lord of the Rings, and Chronicles of Narnia as well. There are also movies and mythologies and television shows and ghost-type stories. The world seems very interested in the spirit world, at the same time, for the most part, it denies the true spirit world of Scripture and the Great Spirit of Jesus Christ and the Trinity of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

As we look at that and think about that, we recognize that these interests in the spirit world that we see in books and movies are fantasy. These are things people make up, they are imaginary, they are fun, I suppose, and people love them. Disney brings this fantasy world to children's shows and there are more serious shows and movies for the more mature and older audience. People enjoy them, but it is pure fantasy.

The only source of authentic teaching about the spirit world is found in Scriptures. We are only given a glimpse about what is going on in the spirit world. We want to pick up that glimpse and see some of the things that the Bible says about that.

One of the things we would mention is that the spirits and the spirit world do exist. There are creatures that God has created that are spirits. They do not have bodies. They do not procreate. They do not die. They are normally unseen. They are spirits. They could be among us or around us at any given time and we would not know it. That is what the Scripture teaches about the Spirit world.

In Ephesians 6:12, it says, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places." The Greek word used here was just heavenlies, but most translations say heavenly places. The spirit realm is where the spirit beings live. There are both good spirits, such as angels, and evil spirits, such as the demonic creatures. All of them inhabit the spiritual realm of the heavenlies. They

seem to have the ability to roam the earth. To come down upon the earth and do things among us. Some of those spirit beings can take on physical shapes and we find that in the case of Satan, for example, and we find it with the good angels that the Lord allows them to take on human form. In that sense, they do not have human form or bodies, but they can take on those forms on occasion as well. Their home seems to be in the heavenlies, that is where they reside, although they can come to the earth as well.

It's important to note that much of the world has been afraid of the spirit realm forever. In ancient times to today. The animistic countries of the world know about spirits, they know about the ancestors, and they fear them. They are trying to do anything they can to appease these spirit beings that they believe will harm them. When we consider this, we are so grateful that the Lord has rescued us from that. I love Colossians 1:13, which says, "For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son." That is the position of the believer. We have been rescued from the authority of darkness. The authority of darkness would include this spirit world of evilness, the evil spirits, Satan and his dominion and his minions. We have been rescued from that. They have no authority or ultimate power over us. They can influence us, but we have been transferred to the kingdom of His Beloved Son. We have been taken out of that realm of darkness where Satan and his dominions can have sway in our lives and transferred to the kingdom of His Beloved Son where they cannot touch us.

That is something to rejoice in today!

December 7, 2021

As we continue looking at the issue of spirit beings, we are spending the first few sessions discussing the evil spirits, which are often called demons or demonic beings. Then we will spend a couple sessions focusing on the good spirit beings that we call angels.

We are so glad the Lord has transferred us, as believers, out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of His Son. So, in some sense, we are untouchable. The demonic creatures only have so much they can do to us. In I John 4:4 it says, "You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world." That tells me, along with another passage of Scripture, that demons cannot inhabit the body of a Christian. We know, in the gospels especially, and a little bit in Acts that there is such a thing as demonic creatures who can inhabit the bodies of people. We find those that are known as demon possessed or demonized. They are primarily at the time of Christ. Many believe that the devil pulled out all the stops doing anything he could to throw Jesus off the track of going to the cross and dying for us. Whatever that is, that is primarily where we hear about demon possession and then a few occasions in the book of Acts, and then that pretty much disappears from the pages of Scripture.

Can demons possess people today? Probably so, but if so, it would be unsaved people, not God's people. If you are a Christian, you need to never fear that Satan could inhabit you and possess you. That is a great comfort, "Greater is He that is in us than he who is in the world." The Holy Spirit that is within us is not going to take up residence with Satan, you can rest in that. Nevertheless, Satan can influence us, and his demons can influence us. Ephesians 6:12 tells us, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places." We were in that verse last time, but this time we are going to back up to the first part and notice that we do have a struggle against demonic creatures. Our primary enemy in this world is not evil people, it is not the world systems, those are things Satan uses. Our primary enemy is Satan and his demons who we struggle against, and Paul wants to make that very clear to us. We are fighting against these "forces of darkness in heavenly places." There is a real struggle.

In Ephesians 6:11 we find the primary means by which Satan tries to defeat us is through scheming. It says, "Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil." As I have been reading through the New Testament recently, one of the things that pops up very consistently is that Satan's primary means of going after people, both unbelievers and Christians, is deception. He is the great deceiver. He schemes and he plots against us and his primary weapon against us is not demon possession or some kind of physical means of harming us. It is primarily tricking us into following his way of living. He is very good at that. He has had thousands of years to perfect his craft and he knows how to trick us pretty easily. He is not omniscient or all powerful, but he is very good at what he does. The Lord gives us a defense against that. We call it the armor of God. Ephesians 6:11 tells us to put on the full armor of God. Many people read this passage from Ephesians 6:10-18, and they get pretty excited about that and do pictures and such about that, but we need to meditate on what that is and look carefully at what God has given us to protect us against the schemes of the devil. This is not play acting and pictures and movies and flannelgraph, this is the real deal. We have a means of protecting ourselves through God's power in this armor that He provides for us, and we need to take that very seriously.

So, I encourage you after this broadcast to read Ephesians 6:10-18 and study what this has to say about how we can protect ourselves from his schemes. One thing we know for sure according to 1 Peter 5:8 is that Satan is prowling about searching for someone to destroy. He cannot destroy the believer in an eternal way, but he can do us great harm. He is looking for that opportunity to harm us, defeat us, tempt us, and we will look more at that next time. Take it seriously. Satan is real, his demons are real, they seek to destroy us, they seek to trick us, and we need not let that happen if we put on the armor of God that He has given us for defense.

Enjoy the provisions God has made for you today!

December 8, 2021

We continue our look at the demonic, evil spirit world. Satan, of course, is the king of those spirits, but he has many demons who follow him and do his bidding. What do they actually do? What is their primary goal? What are they after? As I said yesterday, they primarily are not trying to inhabit bodies. They can do that, at least in the gospels they did that, and we assume they can do that now. That is pretty limited however, what does it matter if you inhabit the body of one individual or two? Satan is after bigger things than that. He wants to deceive, and he wants to deceive the whole world. We want to break down his deceptions to the unbeliever and then his deceptions in relation to the believers.

2 Corinthians 4:4, concerns the unbeliever that Satan wants to blind to God's truth and His gospel, it says, "in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." Primarily, what Satan is after here with the unbeliever is that he wants to keep them blind to the things of God. So, he has blinded the minds of the unbelievers. Why? So that they cannot see the light of the gospel, the glory of Christ which is the image of God. In other words, because they are spiritually blind, they can never see the glory of Christ. They can never understand the greatness and awesomeness of God. They can never see the real need for the gospel and salvation. Because of this spiritual blindness on their part, they do not turn to the Lord. They don't see that need. They are totally oblivious to that. That is Satan's work. That is what he works to accomplish night and day – to keep the unbeliever from understanding the things of God. If they would actually have a glimpse of the glory of Christ and the wonder of the Lord, the Lord would change them and save them, but they do not. Only the Lord can remove those blinders. If we look at 2 Corinthians 3:18, it says, "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit." In other words, when we actually see the glory of Christ, then we are transformed. That is what Satan doesn't want the unbelievers to see.

What about believers? Does he have a plan for them? He wants to tempt us according to Acts 5:3. He slanders us according to Revelation 12. He tempts us to immorality and other sins in 1 Corinthians 7:5. He is teaching

and training us to understand false teachings or false doctrines. In 1 Timothy 4:1, it says this, "But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons." Here is the strategy of the devil and his demons that are trying to be deceitful, and they have a set of doctrines. They have a whole systematic theology you might say, and they call them doctrines of demons. In other words, Satan has a whole lexicon of false ways to attack, trick and deceive people. Not just one way, but many, many ways – the doctrine of demons. 1 Timothy 4:2 continues saying, "by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron." So, people are hardened to the truth and so they are readily accepting these false doctrines of demons. 1 Timothy 4:3 continues further and says, "men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth." 1 Timothy then continues on talking about the different ways the demonic creatures have deceived people, getting them off track, following the wrong ideas, wrong religions, and wrong philosophies. They are very active and have permeated this world. This is why we are talking about a worldview. The natural worldview that is out there in our world system is one that has been created and perpetuated by Satan and his demons. They are out there in every system and place they can be trying to throw us off track, trying to teach us things that are wrong and interfere with us following the Lord. This is why it is imperative that we know the doctrine of God. Not doctrines of God, it's not plural, but the central one doctrine – composed of many parts – but nevertheless, the one truth that is wrapped around the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Trinity. That is our safeguard against these schemes. "The truth will make you free," Jesus said in John 8:32. We need to be set free from the deceptions of the devil and only the truth can do that.

Satan is real. He schemes, tricks, blinds, and tempts, but God's Word, through the power of the Holy Spirit can overcome that deception. I hope you understand that, and I hope you are living out that kind of freedom.

December 9, 2021

We are continuing our study of the spirit world as we focus on our Biblical worldview. The fact is there are spirits that are demonic and want to inflict harm on people and want to blind them to the truth of the gospel. They want to tempt us into sin to cause us to be devoured and destroyed. All of these things are part of the demonic spirit world, and we must be aware of that.

We are going to switch directions and look at the good angels and spirit beings that God has created to serve Him and to serve us. We will just get a little glimpse of who they are and what they are doing. In general, we know that God has created a host of angels. They are not a race of angels. They are not like people. They don't reproduce and have other baby angels. They do not marry. There is a host, a set amount, of angels. There will not be any more or any less. So, this is His host that serves Him.

We find many of these angels worship the Lord in Scripture. We find for example the cherubim in Ezekiel 1. It is a very interesting chapter. There, these cherubim are defending the holiness of God. We look at cherubs, these pictures of these chubby little angels, and we think how cute they are, but in reality; these are fierce and powerful creations of God that if you saw one in real life, you would be petrified. They are not these little cute cherubs. We have changed that around in our portrayal of angels, but cherubim defend the holiness of God.

The seraphim we find in a couple places, especially Isaiah 6. You may recall that Isaiah is in the temple, and he sees the holiness of God and the seraphim flying about crying out, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts." We find seraphim worshiping the Lord. Every time we see them in Scripture, we see them worshiping God. They may do other things, but they are worshipers of God for God is worthy to be worshipped.

We find there is a hierarchy of angels apparently. Michael, who is one of only two angels in Scripture that we know by name, the other being Gabriel, Michael is the archangel. Archangel implies he is the head of the angels. We find him on several occasions in Scripture. We find him in Daniel 12, for example, involved with the defending of Israel and the resurrection of the Old Testament saints. We find him in Revelation 12 battling the devil. He is the leader of the angelic host as far as we know. Gabriel himself, seems

to be a messenger angel. He is sent in Scripture to herald the coming of Christ and the coming of John the Baptist. He is sent by God to bring messages to us. Other angels do other things, but they are not given a name.

I want to draw our attention to Revelation 4 to look at other good spirit beings that are not necessarily angels. Revelation 4 seems to imply there may be other creatures and we are not exactly sure what they would be, but they do not seem to be angels. Revelation 4:4 says, "Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting clothed in white garments and golden crowns on their heads." There has been a lot of conjecture about who these twenty-four elders are. Some believe they are representative of the church age or the Jews or both. Whatever they are, they do not seem to have the exact same description of angels, but they are around the throne room of God. They show up several times in the book of Revelation.

Then we go to Revelation 4:6-8 which says, "and before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind. The first creature was like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say. 'Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come.'" These four living creatures seem to have a very similar role of the seraphim back in Isaiah 6. Some think they may actually be seraphim, but it doesn't call them seraphim here it calls them "four living creatures," so there might be a number of other spirit beings that God has created in heaven that serve Him in various capacities that we are not aware of and do not understand.

Remember, we are given only a glimpse of what is going on in heaven. We are not given a full picture of that. That will be one of the things we get to map out in eternity as we get to know more and more about what the Lord has created and the great wonders of what the Lord has done. I look forward to that don't you? That should give us a wonderful day in the Lord.

December 10, 2021

We are looking one last time at the spirit world as we think about a Biblical worldview. There are spirits. However, there are two extremes we want to avoid when it comes to spirits and the spirit world:

1. Spirits do not exist.

Throughout the world, most people would not question the concept that spirits exist. They believe in spirits, they fear spirits, they do not understand spirits, but they believe in them. Especially in our western culture society, we sometimes act as if there is nothing but the material and physical. Scripture clearly says otherwise. There are angels and demons. They do exist, so one extreme is to say they do not exist at all.

2. Angels are everywhere doing everything.

The other extreme is that they are everywhere and doing everything so that under every rock you see an angel, and in some cases, when people get into this, they claim to see angels here and there and angel feathers are falling on their heads at church and other nonsense like that. That is the other extreme.

When we come to the Scriptures, we get a pretty good look at what angels are about and what they do. We find that angels are mentioned about 300 times in the Bible scattered about thirty to forty different books. Over half of the books in Scripture mention angels. Some more than others. That is a lot of references to angels, so we know they exist.

The word *angel* means **messenger**. Therefore, we know one of the primary things that angels do is they give messages. They are proclaimers. The Lord is sending them with a message from Himself to humanity. That is one of the things that they do. One of the main messages proclaimed concerns the Law. They were involved in delivering the Law to the Jewish people. We read Gabriel coming with a message and other angels showing up throughout the Old and New Testament bringing messages from God to people. That is one of the things they do outside of worshiping the Lord.

We find they are powerful. In some cases, the Lord sent angels to the earth to be in combat and to destroy people that have resisted Him. So, they are very involved in many things.

Hebrews for some reason talks a lot about angels. In Hebrews 1:7, it says, "And of the angels He says, 'Who makes His angels winds, and His ministers a flame of fire.'" We find here that angels are mentioned. In Hebrews 1:14, it tells us some of what the angels are doing for the believer, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?" This passage is saying that the Lord sends these spirits to serve us who will inherit salvation. It doesn't say here that these people are at that point in time saved, so it is very possible that the angels are involved in peoples lives who will be saved later prior to their salvation and orchestrating things in such a way as to bring them to the place where they will hear the gospel and come to Christ, maybe even protecting them from death that would eliminate any possibility of salvation. We don't really know exactly. We know they serve us and watch over us. This is probably the closest passage in Scripture that some use for guardian angels, and we need to be careful there in our interpretation and application of this Scripture, but angels definitely seem to be involved with us.

A curious verse is found in Hebrews 13:2, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it." What a curious verse that we are told to do hospitality because we might actually be entertaining angels who we don't even know are angels. In other words, angels have taken on physical form, in this case apparently forms of beggars or people in need, and we are able to minister to them. He gives that as an incentive. What an interesting thing to consider that maybe we have seen angels, been involved with angels, done things with angels, and didn't even know it. That is important to note: we did not know it. Therefore, we cannot go out and say that we met an angel yesterday, we don't know that, but we may have. Who knows? It is very curious, isn't it?

One other thing that angels do that I find fascinating and helpful is in Luke 16, we find that when Lazarus and the rich man both die, Lazarus being a believer had an interesting thing happen with angels. It says in Luke 16:22, "Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried." In the case of Lazarus who was a believer, angels carried him to Abraham's bosom. What a comforting thought that perhaps, and this is the only place in the New Testament that talks about this, but perhaps angels usher us into the

presence of God at the point of death. Angels perhaps that have been involved in our lives, our entire life, now at the point when we pass away take the believer into the presence of God and ushers us in there? That is a fascinating thought, isn't? The thought that angels are involved in even the afterlife; in ushering us into that.

Angels are wonderful beings. The Lord has given them as ministering spirits to us. We praise Him for that. It gives us great joy to know that He cares for us so much that He has used angels that He has created to minister to us.

That should give you a wonderful day in the Lord!

December 13, 2021

We are now looking at the end times. This will be the final topic in our Biblical worldview study. The way we live presently, our view life now, and how we live is determined to a large degree on what we believe will happen in the future. What does the future look like? The Scripture talks about that a great deal. We are going to spend these next five sessions looking at the end times and what it means to see what is happening in the future.

We start with the fact that we are all going to pass away some day. We are going to die. Scripture verifies that. Life verifies that. So, as we think about that, there are various ways that the future is viewed.

Here are many of the ways the future is viewed throughout the planet:

1. You Only Live Once View

Many people believe we simply cease to exist. We no longer are. We go back to the ground that we came from. If you believe that, then your whole life is wrapped around the pleasures of the moment. Their goal is to see what they can get out of this life now because there is nothing later. The old commercial, "You only go around once in life, so grab for all the gusto you can get," is basically the worldview of a huge number of people, especially American people.

2. Reincarnation View

This is not as prevalent in our country, but throughout much of the world it is. It is the idea that we cannot stand the thought that this world ceases, or we cease. We are going to come back, but we are going to come back in a different form. If we are good, we will come back in a better form. If we are bad, we will come back in an inferior form. Maybe if we are bad, we will come back as a bug or something. That is the idea of reincarnation, we come back over and over and over and over.

3. Universal Absorption View

Buddhists and some others believe this concept. We simply become part of a universal glob. We do not have individualism. We do have a future in this big mass of the universe, whatever that is. You hear a lot now about people talking about the universe wants you to do this or the universe acts this or that way. That is the kind of worldview those people have.

4. Face-to-face with the devil

Some people believe they will go out of this life, and they will meet the devil or some evil force of some kind. If you believe that, you live in fear all your life of what will happen after death.

5. Face-to-face with some form of God

Some people believe they will go out of this life and meet some form of God. For example, He might be a "grandfather." A benevolent old man who really doesn't care how we live and will give us a pass on anything we have ever done anyway, so why worry about how we live now.

6. Face-to-face with a good god

Some believe they will run into a good god, but he is a god who is angry. It is a god of judgmentalism. He is looking for ways to discipline us and punish us. They are fearful of one day standing before a god who will do that to them.

7. Face-to-face with the Holy God of Scripture

The Biblical worldview is that we will stand before a holy God of love. Someday we will all stand before Him as the one that we love and the One that loves us. The One who loves us so much He sent His only begotten Son to die for us so that we could live forever, eternally with Him. That is the God of Scripture and if that is our view of God that will shape and determine every aspect of our lives. We serve a holy, loving, and gracious God who does not look the other way from our issues and our sins but deals with them properly and wholly and with wisdom. Nevertheless, He is the God that loves us so much that He wants us to spend eternity with Him.

We think of Hebrews 9:27, which says, "And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment." Here is what we often quote. We will die and we will face the Almighty God.

Hebrews 9:28 is often left out, it says, "so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him." For those that eagerly await Him and know Him as Savior, Christ came once to bear our sins and He will come again to take us to be with Himself. We do come before a holy, righteous, and loving God. We stand before Him, but as a believer, we stand

before Him through the lens of the blood of Jesus Christ who has died for us, to save us from our sins, to bring us into His presence for all eternity.

How we see the end game. How we see life ending for us determines how we live now. We want to strive for this Biblical worldview of how God says things will end and how we should live in light of that.

I hope you are a doing that. If you are unsure about that, please contact us. We would love to talk to you about the loving Savior that we are looking forward to being with.

December 14, 2021

We continue today discussing the end times. The Biblical worldview about how this world ends and how we come to death and what follows determines how we live right now. This Biblical worldview of the end times as God has portrayed in His Scriptures is extremely important for living life now.

We are looking today at the issue of the creation itself. We live in a planet, a universe created by Almighty God. In the beginning God created all these things and we know it was very good when He created these things, and we find that in Scripture in Genesis 1 & 2. We also know that if we follow the Biblical worldview that because of sin, initially Adam and Eve's sin, corruption and pollution of sin has now laced everything in this creation and because of that we live in a world that is permeated with sin, wrongdoings, ugly things, awful things, and tough things. That is true even in our created universe. We live in a beautiful universe, there is so much to love and appreciate and adore, yet it does not take very long for us to realize that the world itself is laced with corruption.

What is going to happen to this created world? I am a firm believer that we should take care of this planet the very best we can. We are stewards of this planet. It is God's creation, and we should not abuse it, we should take care of it. However, we need to realize we are not going to fix all the issues of corruption in creation. That is God's prerogative. We find in Romans 8:19-20, "For the anxious longing of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope." The creation didn't want to crumble, it did not want to be laced with sin, but it has been. Romans 8:21-22 continues, "that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption and to the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now." He is using a metaphorical picture, seeing the world as if it was a live thing such as we are, but what He is saying is that the world itself groans and is looking forward to something new. A new creation. It is looking forward to its redemption in that sense and being set free from the pollution and corruption of sin. We should, as I have said before, do the best we can with this planet, but you and I are never going to set the world free from these things. We can improve some things, but as we look around and find so many things out of our hands. This is by

God's design because of sin. These awful things never happened until sin invaded our universe. Until things change and the Lord comes back and redeems this creation, we will be faced with these things.

We want to look at Revelation 21 and look at when there will be a change. The Lord will not leave us in the predicament we are in now and we are looking forward to this. Our Biblical worldview of the end times helps us so much in how to live on this planet now. We are promised in Revelation 21 a new heaven and a new earth. Revelation 21:1-2 says, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband." What a beautiful picture. You and I can't fix what is wrong with this planet because it is the issue of sin. We can't redeem the planet. We can't set it free from pollution and corruption, but God can and the way He is going to do that, as I understand it from this passage and from 2 Peter and other places, is that He is eventually going to replace this created universe with a new heaven and a new earth, where sin has never permeated or been. There is no corruption whatsoever of that.

Our perspective about this new heaven and earth that we will dwell on shapes how we live now. We take care of this planet the best we can, but we battle the pollution and corruption in this world every day, but one day we will not. One day, we will be in a glorified state in which it will return to the way it was prior to sin, even better I believe, and we will enjoy that eternal life with Christ in a world that never knew sin.

Won't that be glorious? I sure think it will be! That should give us a wonderful day in the Lord.

December 15, 2021

If we see the end of time as God portrays it in Scripture, it shapes the way we think and the way we live now. We have looked at some of that. Last time we looked at the creation itself and how that is going to be changed. Today, I want to shift direction and look at ourselves and how we are facing the end times. What is God's plan? He plans for a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells and in which we will also dwell.

In Romans 8:19, it says, "For the anxious longing of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God." In this picture we see that the creation is going to be changed and redeemed at the same time as the sons of God are redeemed. In that sense, there is a connection between our final redemption and the final redemption of the planet and creation.

In Romans 8:25, it says, "But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we eagerly wait for it." He is saying here that we have a great hope. That hope is not yet seen, that is what hope is all about. You don't have hope if you already see it and have it. So, we have hope and that hope rests in what the Lord is going to do with us in the future. If we are invested in thinking that we are going to live this life forever, which is a ridiculous thing to believe, but if we believe that and that idea that we are going to just live forever, then that shapes how we live. Eventually though, we figure the truth out that we do not live in this life forever and we know we need something new in the future.

In 1 Corinthians 15 we are told what life is like for the believer in the future. Many passages of Scripture deal with this, but none probably as well as 1 Corinthians 15:51-57. It talks about our new redemptive body. Our new creation in eternity. What will we look like? What will we be like when we go to be with Him? That is important for the understanding of the end times. 1 Corinthians 15:51 says, "Behold, I tell you a mystery: we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed." Mystery in the New Testament is basically a secret that needed to be revealed. We would never know this unless God revealed it to us, and He is revealing some new information to us at this point in 1 Corinthians.

Here is what He is revealing to us: 1 Corinthians 15:52, "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and

the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed.” There is going to come a point in time in which the Lord is going to change us. He is talking about believers here in 1 Corinthians. God is going to raise us in incorruptibility. Us being those who are born in sin. Those whose bodies were feeble. Those who died and have been battling with sin their entire lives. Our bodies have had the effects of sin and will all be changed.

1 Corinthians 15:53-57 says, “For this corruptible must put on the incorruptible, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this corruptible puts on the incorruptible; and this mortal puts on immortality then will come about the word that is written, ‘Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?’ Now the sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!” We have this wonderful picture! At the moment of conversion, when we come to Jesus Christ, He gives us a new nature and changes who we are as 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us, “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” He did not at that moment change our bodies, however. Our bodies are still in this world, they are still affected by sin, they are still feeble, and he calls them corruptible here in the sense that they perish. We live in these bodies and battle with these bodies, as wonderful as they are, and if anything goes wrong with them physically, we face the consequences of that.

Fortunately, all of that changes now. At that moment, in the twinkling of the eye, the Lord gives us a new, glorified, resurrected body that will be able to live for all of eternity with Him. If we believe that, we believe that this life is not everything that it is all about. This life is not our everything. We do not live just for this life. We have much more to live for in the future when the Lord takes us to be with Him forever and we enjoy that life with Him in eternity. That is what is awaiting us as believers.

That should give us a wonderful day and a wonderful life in the Lord!

December 16, 2021

As we bring this series on Biblical worldview to a close, we are spending the last couple broadcasts looking at our worldview on end times. We have already seen how the view we take regarding the future and things concluding in this life and beginning a new life determines everything about how we live now. No more important issue could possibly be faced in the eternal destiny of humanity. In the Scriptures, we are going to look at two basic destinies that await all human beings. We have seen in Hebrews 9:27 that Scripture tells us, "And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment." What happens at that judgment is determined by our relationship with Jesus Christ.

For those who do not know Christ, we are reminded in Hebrews 10:31 that it is terrifying. It says, "It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Everyone who is not a believer. Everyone who has resisted Christ should take that verse very seriously. It is a fearful and terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God. If God lives and exists and He is the holy God of Scripture who demands the righteousness that we cannot provide for ourselves and that can only be found in Christ, and if we have resisted that righteousness, we will one day face a terrifying prospect of being in the presence of God and being judged by Him.

When we think about that, it is very sobering, isn't it? I think of Revelation 20. There is probably no more fearful passage in the Word of God than Revelation 20:11-15 that details for us the eternal destiny of the lost. For the unbeliever, this should be a terrifying thing to consider what they face because they have rejected Christ. For the Christian, we will shun this passage sometimes. We hate this passage in one way because we don't want to see our loved ones and friends and people that so desperately need Christ and have rejected Him facing eternal judgment. This is a passage of Scripture that we do not gravitate toward. However, we know it is in God's Word and part of His revelation, so we know it is perfect in the will of God, yet it is a fearful thing to consider.

What is the eternal destiny of the lost? In Revelation 20:11-12, it says, "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sits upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. Then I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne,

and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds." We have this judgment that these unsaved individuals are judged based upon how they lived their lives. There is a degree of punishment, we might say, in hell.

Nevertheless, we read further and see who is going to be here at this judgment. Revelation 20:13, says, "And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them, and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds." Once again, we have this judgment of their deeds and works, but not for their salvation. I do believe there is a judgment related to how they will receive punishment in hell, but He has something far more important to say here. In Revelation 20:14, it says, "Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire." We find that death, I would think this speaks of physical death, and Hades, which we often translate as hell, which is spiritual death are tossed into the lake of fire. This is called the second death. The first death is the death that we face when we die physically. That is the first death. We are born dead in sin, then we die physically, and now we are facing eternal death if we do not know Christ, and this is called the second death in the lake of fire.

Then it says very clearly in Revelation 20:15, "And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." What a fearful verse of Scripture. Those who have resisted and rejected Christ and therefore do not have their names written in the Lamb's Book of Life, which is the registry of all those who know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, if your name is not written in that book, you are thrown into the lake of fire.

Therefore, the eternal destiny of all the lost. All of those who have rejected the gospel of Jesus Christ which is offered to us by faith alone in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross and resurrection. For those who have resisted that, they will face the second death in the lake of fire. What a horrible thing to consider. Ultimately, our eternal destiny is determined by our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Next time we will look at the eternal destiny of the believer.

December 17, 2021

We close out our series on Biblical worldview today. We are looking at the end times and how our present life and how we live now is shaped by how we see the future. Do we have a Biblical worldview of the future? We are looking today at the future for the believer. What is in front of us as followers of Christ? What does God have planned for us?

In 1 Thessalonians 4, there has been some division over the complete meaning of some of this, but the overall thrust of this is crystal clear and undebatable. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 says, "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words." That closing verse to "comfort one another with these words" is extremely pertinent. When we know that the day is coming, and that Jesus Christ is returning to take us to be with Himself and to be with Him forever in His presence, that shapes our lives. That shapes our hope. That shapes our view of the future. The Lord is coming for us! We will one day be with Him, and we will be with Him forever. He wants to be with us. That is how much He loves us. How comforting is that? I don't know how you could find any more comforting words than that.

We are given a glimpse of what that looks like. 1 Thessalonians 4 simply tells us that we will be with our Savior in eternity. Revelation 21:3-7 gives us a bit of a glimpse of what that life looks like. I think it is so wonderful that it is very difficult for even the apostle, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to describe this in a way that we would understand. We read these words in Revelation 21:3, "And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them.'" We find first that the Lord will be with us. He will be our tabernacle. We will be

with Him. We find here that the Lord is creating a new heaven and a new earth. On that new earth we will dwell with Him there forever, and He will be the one that we point all of our attention and worship toward.

Revelation 21:4 continues, "and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." What a beautiful picture. Again, it is all negative in a sense, here are the things that will not be. It is too wonderful, I believe, to describe the things that will be, but we know there will not be any more crying, tears, death, or mourning and what a beautiful picture that is.

Revelation 21:5-7 says, "And He who sits on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.' And He said, 'Write, for these words are faithful and true.' Then He said to me, 'It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.'" So, He closes up all of this by saying He wants to give you a great invitation. He is telling us that if we take His invitation, then we too can enjoy this eternal destiny with Him. So, He tells John to write these words at this time. He says, "I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the way of life without cost." Those who thirst and hunger for God and want His redemption, forgiveness, and salvation, and those who thirst in that spiritual sense; He says He will give them the water of life. He will give them eternal life without cost. You don't work for it or merit it or pay for it. You are given it as a gift from God without cost. "He who overcomes will inherit these things." These things are going to be ours. All that He describes and so much more throughout Scripture is ours and He finishes by saying, "and I will be his God and he will be My son." What a beautiful closure thinking of the eternal destiny of the child of God. I hope and pray that you are following the Lord and that He is your God and that you are His child. And I hope and pray that you are enjoying your life with Him, even right now.