

A CHRIST-CENTERED WORLDVIEW

COLOSSIANS 2:8-10

Question – What is your worldview? What is your life philosophy?

Illustrations – Perhaps when you hear “worldview/philosophy” you think of:

- “The Thinker” statue from *Night in the Museum* – “The Thinker is a bronze and marble sculpture by Auguste Rodin, whose first cast, of 1902, is now in the Musée Rodin in Paris. It depicts a man in sober meditation battling with a powerful internal struggle. It is often used to represent philosophy.”
- Great philosophers – Plato, Aristotle, Socrates; Greek’s loved philosophy
- Acts 17:16ff—Paul on Mars Hills: the Stoic & Epicurean philosophers: “All the Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new.”)

Reality – We probably don’t spend our days like those men, thinking and discussion and working out in great details our worldview. However, all of us are philosophers.

Definition – Worldview/Philosophy: “The overall perspective from which one sees and interprets the world, [and operates within it].” – (1) lens, perspective, glasses; (2) how you interpret & respond to “bummers” and tragedies

- *Philo* – to love
- *Sophy* – wisdom
- *Philosophy* – the love or pursuit of wisdom (life philosophy, worldview)

Deals with the big questions of life and how the answers apply to your decisions.

- Who am I?
- Why am I here?
- Where am I going?
- What should I do with my life?
- Where should I live?
- Where should I go to college?
- What should I do with my free time?
- Who should I marry?
- How should I raise my kids?
- What’s my purpose at work?
- Should I change jobs?
- Should we move?

Today, we get worldview/philosophical advice from numerous sources:

Lou Holtz’ advice – “One thing is for certain: There will be one thing that will dominate your life. I strongly suggest it be something you can be proud of.”

- What does he have in mind? Family, work, athletics, country, etc.
- How do we evaluate his philosophical advice, his opinion regarding our worldview? Well, it may be decent, but we can improve upon it by listening to the Apostle Paul.

Paul’s advice – “One thing is for certain: There will be one thing that will dominate your life. I strongly suggest it be something worth dying for.”

- What is worth dying for? Jesus Christ ONLY
- Philippians 1:21 – “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is [to] gain [Christ].” Christ was His focus in life, and Christ was His reward in death.
- Death won’t give you more career opportunities, more athletic skills, more time to impact your kids, more political clout, etc. Death WILL give you more of Jesus Christ.
- So, how do we evaluate Paul’s philosophical advice, his opinion regarding our worldview? He nailed it, for that is the teaching of all of Scripture and is the advice of God Himself.

Conclusion – To put it quite simply, we could say, “One thing is for certain: There will be one thing that will dominate your life. I strongly suggest it be Jesus Christ.”

Colossians 2:8-10 – Paul further explains what our worldview should be dominated by, how our perspective on life should be directed. He exhorts us to develop a Christ-centered worldview.

Proposition – You must develop a Christ-centered worldview!

THE WARNING: BEWARE OF HUMAN ANSWERS (Colossians 2:8).

1. **Beware because it is empty and deceptive.**

- Empty = devoid of something, thus without value, because...
- Deceptive = devoid of truth

2. **Beware because it is manmade.**

- This is why it's empty and deceptive.

3. **Beware because it is elementary.**

- Refers to letters of the alphabet, notes of music, a shadow
- **Illustration:** being infatuated with these rudimentary elements and NOT with what they're supposed to do or point to
- **Illustration:** getting a doctorate and returning to kindergarten

4. **Beware because it is destructive.**

- "Take you captive" = NOTHING good about that; YOU miss out on spiritual fullness, success, satisfaction, joy, purpose, etc.

THE WISDOM: CHRIST IS ENOUGH (Colossians 2:9-10)

Question – looking for spiritual fullness, success, guidance, direction, purpose?
It is foolish not to look to the Source!

1. **Christ is supreme (v. 9).**

"For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."

- *Dwelleth* – lives, makes its home
- *Fullness* – totality, entirety, completeness, full/filled ("all")
- *Godhead* – deity, the essence of God, God-ness (1:15-19)
- *Bodily* – physically, in His physical body, when you look at Jesus, you see the spiritual/invisible God (1:15—even after he added humanity)

2. **Christ is sufficient (v. 10).**

"And ye are complete in Him."

- *Complete* – "made full"—same word as "fullness" in the previous verse
 - Perfect tense: happened in past with continuing results
 - Passive mood: done to us through union with Christ ("in Him")
- Christ possesses the fullness of God, and "in Him" believers possess that same fullness!

John 1:16 — "Of His fullness have all we received, and grace [upon] grace."

Ephesians 3:19 — "To know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God."

Ephesians 4:13 — "Till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

II Peter 1:3-4 — "According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue; whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises, that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

How do I respond to the wisdom of 2:9-10?

APPLICATION 1 – HAVE THE RIGHT WORLDVIEW!

1. *Don't look to men for answers!* – When it comes to what you do and why you do it, what drives you in life and what you strive to accomplish, how you develop as a person and what model you're looking to, don't sit at the feet of men and their "wisdom." Such wisdom is empty, deceptive, manmade, elementary, and destructive.
2. *The Source of life is the answer to life!* – Jesus Christ, who is the Source and Giver of life, is sufficiently able to direct you in the philosophy of life and living. He is the treasure-source of wisdom (2:3).
3. *Anyone "in Christ" has the answers (cf. 2:3)!* – You don't need education and academic degrees to make you spiritually complete and able to be wise in your decisions and lifestyle. Those who are "in Christ" are equally full of Christ. Anyone "in Christ"—the guy without a high school education and the doctoral candidate—can come to all the right conclusions regarding the philosophy of life and living, for those answers are found in Christ alone.
4. *Christ is sufficient for all of life's questions!* – Verses 11-15 teach us that Jesus is the source of spiritual fullness, satisfaction, meaning, and purpose; that He provides spiritual life and success; and that He brings us back to God in harmony and peace. Therefore, He must be the foundation of our philosophy regarding life and its decisions.

What is your philosophy of purpose in life?
What is your philosophy of success?
What is your philosophy of decision making?
What is your philosophy of personal growth and development?
What is your philosophy of work?
What is your philosophy of dating?
5. *Don't be taken captive by the world!* – If your philosophy is not Christ-centered, Christ-focused, Christ-informed, Christ-taught, and Christ-honoring, then you may have been taken captive by the deficient and destructive philosophies of this world. Since Christ alone has the "treasures of wisdom and knowledge," refocus on Him in your pursuit of wisdom.

APPLICATION 2 – LIVE THAT WORLDVIEW!

Illustration – a birthday gift within a gift within a gift → We should be wrapped up with Jesus!

1. **Personally – Wrap yourself up in Jesus (Colossians 3:1-4).** – HOW?
 - *Remember your position* – identified with Christ ("life is hid with Christ in God") → You're already wrapped up in Jesus!
 - *Reaffirm your priority* – heavenly orientation in pursuits & mindset → Why? That's where Christ is! That's where your life is now!
 - *Recall your prospect* – scheduled to appear with Christ in glory → Psalm 73, "afterwards You will receive me to glory!"
 - **Application:** Some would say that a person can be "so heavenly minded that he's of no earthly good." Scripture argues that perhaps we're so earthly minded that we are of no heavenly use. Thus, the only way to be of any earthly good is to be heavenly minded. By faith, do you pursue and set your mind in a different realm? Is the invisible the utmost reality? Have you wrapped yourself up in Jesus Christ? You will if He is the center of your worldview.
2. **Corporately – Wrap others up in Jesus (Colossians 1:28-29).**
 - We decry the demise of the church! We bemoan the casual, convenience of our own heart/church! We yearn for an awakening! If the church is dying—if the gospel is decreasing—this passage provides the solution. Bottom line: *you* are the solution. To draw it out: the hope for the church is the gospel, the source of the gospel is the message of Christ in God's Word, and the messengers of God's Word are all those who will give themselves to be "ministers of the gospel." Such a role is not reserved only for those who have degrees and pedigrees; no, everyone can be—indeed, everyone should be—a gospel-minister.
 - *Subject of Gospel Ministry* – "Christ in you, the hope of glory" → What a reality! What a message!
Q – What do we do with this message?
A – We should proclaim it in order to...

- *Object of Gospel Ministry* – “present every man perfect in Christ Jesus”
→ What a calling!
 - “Warning & Teaching”
 - “In all wisdom”
 - “Every man” (3x) (cf. Colossians 3:16)

- *Extent of Gospel Ministry* – “labor and strive”

- *Effectiveness of Gospel Ministry* – “according to the working of Him who is working in us in power”

- **Application:** What would this kind of gospel ministry look like in our church? Where should we start to engage in gospel ministry?
 - People aggressively pursuing Christ for themselves.
 - Dads and moms aggressively discipling their kids.
 - Christians aggressively ministering grace and living missionally on behalf of Christ.
 - Pray for one or two Timothys at church that you can begin to mentor.
 - Look for an opportunity to be “formally” involved in the gospel ministry of this church on “church days.”
 - Be sensitive on “non-church days” to how you can be engaging in gospel ministry toward the saved and unsaved around you.
 - Perhaps schedule how you can actively minister grace throughout the week via emails, texts, phone calls, social media.
 - Will you commit to making the spiritual maturity of “every person” your concern by actively and lovingly warning and teaching them? You WILL if your worldview starts and ends with Jesus Christ!

I wonder if some of us will get to glory some day and think to ourselves as faith becomes sight and religion becomes reality, “Wow, I’m really here, but I realize now that I completely missed the point in life. Thank you, Jesus, that you were still sufficient for my salvation!” And the praise will all be His!