

Incorporating a Biblical Worldview

Introduction

This profession we're in—whether it's writing, editing, or speaking and teaching— isn't an easy one. Rejections—doesn't fit our house, needs more work, better take a good writing course, too much emphasis on scripture, not enough emphasis on spiritual thread, etc. Oh, even too American (by a British publishing house publishing American authors!). Acceptances and encouragement. Then there are the companies who decide not to publish fiction, canceling several contracts with authors.

God is guiding each one of us along the best pathway for our lives. The life lessons we learn through the writing world (or any world for that matter) become the fodder for our stories. Because of what we go through, what we believe, who we are (who God made us to be), we can create deeper characters which in turn leads to deeper plots. Or if you're a plot first person, you create deeper plots and then create the characters to make it happen.

In all our ups and downs in writing, in life, we need to remember we are never alone. The Lord had the writer of Hebrews make an extremely emphatic statement in Hebrews 13:5 (AMP): He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you *nor* give you up *nor* leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless *nor* forsake *nor* let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!]

Define a Christian or biblical worldview.

Simple Definition—stories include a scriptural theme

More complex—

A study of history—the record of all man has done, said, and thought—teaches us that history repeats itself. “The game is the same, only the players have changed.” We see this in scripture, too. The book of Judges, for example.

Attitudes of including Biblical worldview:

- I am a Christian writer writing from a Christian/biblical worldview
- I am a writer who is a Christian
 - Doesn't have a Christian worldview
 - Work tends to be no different from a secular/general market writer
 - Crossover writers: Too many try to reach the world with a watered-down or suppressed worldview/message

Not saying that one who writes from a Christian worldview is preachy. Or should be. Scripture that deals with this:

Matthew 12:34

1 Peter 3:15 (Byron & Ahna)

Let the words of Christ, in all their richness, live in your hearts and make you wise. Use his words to teach and counsel each other. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say [or write], let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus, all the while giving thanks through him to God the Father. (*Colossians 3:16–17 NLT*)

Know what you believe. Be grounded in the Word, so that what you write is an outflow of what is in your heart.

Judging criteria: How does this book fit in with CBA standards? How does this book fit in with the orthodox Christian worldview?

University Creed

I believe in the inspiration of the Bible (both the Old and the New Testaments); the creation of man by the direct act of God; the incarnation and virgin birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; His identification as the Son of God; His vicarious atonement for the sins of mankind by the shedding of His blood on the cross; the resurrection of His body from the tomb; His power to save men from sin; the new birth through the regeneration by the Holy Spirit; and the gift of eternal life by the grace of God.

ACFW Statement of Faith

Jesus is God incarnate; salvation comes through him alone:

Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6 NIV

The Bible is God's Infallible Word:

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness

2 Timothy 3:16 NIV

We are to be salt and light. So our writing should be a means of witnessing and discipling as we are commanded in the Great Commission: Matthew 28:18–20

Work out GMCs for external, internal, and **spiritual**.

Characters can be ungodly and behave and speak as such without using the world's language

Close with Ephesians 5:18–20