

Writing From a Biblical Worldview
Speaker: Charlie Wolcott
Contact e-mail: Charlie@worldviewwarriors.org
Date: 5/13/2015

Introduction: Purpose of the Workshop

The purpose of this workshop is to expose you to what worldviews are and how they affect our daily lives. Writing "His Answer" must come from God's perspective. So to learn God's perspective, we need to know and understand Scripture, and how to discern false teachings.

Worldview Basics

Psalm 11:3

Proverbs 3:5

Romans 12:2

A worldview is a set of presuppositions and convictions.

Acts as a filter to determine which answers one considers and what authorities one accepts.

It works behind the scenes. Most aren't aware of its influences.

It answers four key questions:

Origins,
Purpose,
Identity,
Destination.

There is no blank slate. Everyone has a worldview. Every philosophy/religion is a worldview issue.

A Biblical Worldview uses the Bible as the initial and final authority on every issue.

A proper defense of the Bible as the authority for another time.

But it has four key jobs:

Measuring Rod,
Correcting Rod,
Shepherd's Rod,
King's Rod.

Sources: Ludy: Bravehearted Gospel; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Remember that studying the Bible is also the study of a person: Jesus

Nobody has a 100% correct Biblical worldview. This is why we need a Berean spirit: to discern the good from the bad. To eat the meat and spit out the bones.

The Berean Spirit

Paul warns us about false teachers more than any other one thing.

1 Timothy 6:20-21

Colossians 2:8

Romans 16:17-18

Others include: Romans 3:4, 1 Peter 1:20, Philippians 3:17-19, Psalms 118:8, Ezekiel 22:23-31, and 2 Timothy 3:15-4:4.

How are these false teachers seen today? Through the **Dialectic Process**

THESIS + ANTITHESIS -> SYNTHESIS

This process puts two opposing sides in a discussion room guided by a facilitator who already has a pre-determined desired result. Then using appeals to emotion, opinions, and peer-pressure the facilitator will guide the discussion, rejecting hard facts until compromise is reached. And it will always be at the expense of the Thesis side.

Synthesis key words: tolerance, open-minded, co-existence, 'get along'

THESIS = Biblical Christianity

ANTITHESIS = Humanism

SYNTHESIS = Religious Humanism

Religious Humanism is all for the happiness and for the benefit for man. This is the Purpose part of the Worldview issue. According to Religious Humanism, Creation, man's existence, God's relationship with man, grace, mercy, blessings, finances, entertainment, life, existence, God himself, everything is for the happiness of man. They claim to believe the Gospel and they will preach the Gospel, but the purpose is for man's happiness or man's benefit. It has nothing to do with God or giving him glory. There is no intimacy with God. They want his name but only as a 'get out of hell free card'. No 'marriage'. He is the means to an end, not the end of the means.

This leads to misapplications of Scripture. Examples include Matthew 7:1, Jeremiah 29:11.

Prosperity Gospel and the Emergent Church are fruits of this mindset. Prosperity Gospel focuses on acquiring wealth. Using God to give me money. Emergent Church takes God's Word and changes it to meet what man wants it to meet.

Augustine of Hippo Quote: "If you believe what you like in the Gospel, and reject what you don't like, it is not the Gospel you believe but yourself."

How do we tell what is good and what is bad? We need a Berean Spirit

Acts 17:11

Reality is, however, very few engage in Berean practice. In all fields: theology, news, science, history, business, politics, etc.

Why is the Berean spirit so important? 1 John 4:1: Test the spirits

The Bible is going to win out anyway. Why fight it? "The Bible is an anvil that has worn out the hammers of many a critic."

So how do we execute a Berean Spirit? We don't use Dialectic Thinking. We use **Didactic Thinking**.

Look at Eve's response to temptation compared to Jesus'. Eve added to the command. Jesus quoted, in context, and said "It is written."

Didactic Thinking is concrete. It does not change, it does not move. It does not cater to our whims. A foundation of solid rock or a foundation of shifting sands? And because it does not change, we can depend upon it. Our Salvation holds because God does not change. God does not change, therefore we should consider his Word does not change. It is true and meant to be understood to all peoples, of all times, of all languages.

"Did you know the Word of God says ONE thing? It doesn't say 20 things. It doesn't say 2000 things. It says one. God doesn't stutter. He knows what he is saying....He says it and he means it. And he's meant it for 6000 years." ~Eric Ludy. "Betrayed With a Kiss" 16:50-17:20

Application

Back to OPID Questions:

Origins: What does your ms reveal about how you view your origins, your upbringing, your history....your testimony?

Purpose: Why are you writing your ms? Are you seeking God's answer? Or the answer you want to hear?

Identity: What does your ms reveal about who you think you are? What about who you think others are?

Destination: Where is your manuscript taking you? Where do you want your manuscript to take your readers? Will it build God's Kingdom or your kingdom?

Upon what is your writing built upon? Scripture? The "experts"? Your pastor? Speakers like me? The majority? Combination? Nothing wrong with looking at what other people say. But make sure what you take is solid stuff. Paul says, "Imitate me as I imitate Christ." Do not neglect Berean practice. Remember,

nobody has it perfectly. You don't, and neither do these experts. You do not need an MDiv or a PhD to tell if an expert is speaking honestly or been smoking something.

Beware of Religious Humanism. Remember that worldviews work very subtly and you rarely see them in play. It affects us all and has been ingrained into our minds from both the secular world AND the religious community. Pay attention to who you read and what is behind the scenes to what they are saying.

Beware of Dialectic Thinking. Are you more concerned about people's opinions than you are of getting "His Answer" right? Are you more concerned about how your readers or your publisher/editor will receive it than you are about writing what God wants you to write? Are you compromising the "Answer" to please certain people? Do not sacrifice the message God told you to write for the sake of a few sales.

What would happen if your reader bore a Berean spirit? Would such a reader approve of your manuscript? Or are you just looking for a 'pat on the back'? Don't wait to get published to find out. Remember, Bereans don't just look for the bad stuff. They look for the good stuff too. They point out that which is in violation to Scripture. But they also point out that which is in agreement to Scripture. Use a Berean as a Beta Reader.

Do not forget the **4 key jobs of Scripture**.

Measuring Rod: Our writing should reflect God's standard. There is a place for literary liberties. They should not violate known Scriptural doctrine/principles.

Correcting Rod: Our writing should help our readers get closer to God and his standard. It should point out where we went off course and, in gentleness and meekness, guide and direct us back to the correct path.

Shepherd's Rod: Our writing should encourage and strength us to "stay the course". To stay on the right path and to maintain an intimate relationship with the Shepherd.

King's Rod: God is a God of Love. He is also a God of Justice. Do not neglect God's Government or his Sovereignty. He is still the King of Kings and he will bring justice when he needs to.

Final tips. Our work is meant to glorify God first and foremost, including platform building. If you find yourself thinking you are serving God, but are actually serving yourself, repent and start the path God offers to return to him.

To recap, make sure you are coming from a Biblical Worldview. Watch out for false teachers and compromisers. Build up a Berean Spirit and test everything out.

Additional Resources:

Eric Ludy Sermon: *Betrayed With a Kiss* on YouTube or www.ellerslie.com

Paris Reidhead Sermon: *Ten Shekels and a Shirt* on YouTube

Dean Gotcher Presentation: *Diaprox* to learn more about Dialectic Thinking. On YouTube