

51. Do you have a Biblical worldview?

October 16, 2016

If our Lord Jesus somehow chooses to run for the Presidency of the United States, I can guarantee you that He won't be a nominee of the Republican Party, certainly not the Democrat party. Even if He runs as an Independent candidate, He will be laughed at and jeered by the liberal media. I don't believe that He will be able to win the election by the people's votes.

Those who call themselves Christians, including many born-again Christians, would not vote for Jesus, because what He tells them is not what they want to hear. They would say, "It is hard to live according to what Jesus tells us," or "He has too narrow mindset, come on, this is the 21st Century. We need to be inclusive. What does He think He is? God?" Why, yes! As a matter of fact, Jesus is God.

So what is a biblical worldview? It is based on the infallible Word of God. When you believe the Bible is entirely true, then you allow it to be the foundation of everything you say and do. That means, for instance, believing that absolute moral truth exists; the Bible is totally accurate in all of the principles it teaches; satan is considered to be a real demonic spiritual being which wants to destroy us; every single human is utterly sinful and he or she cannot earn their way into heaven by trying to be good or doing good works; Jesus Christ lived a sinless life on earth and died for our sins and rose again from the dead; and God is the all-knowing, all-powerful Creator of the world who rules the universe today.

In this 2009 Barna research, anyone who held all of those beliefs was said to have a biblical worldview. Overall, this research revealed that only 9% of all American adults have a biblical worldview. Labeled "born-again Christians," the study discovered that they were twice as likely as the average adult to possess a biblical worldview. However, that meant that even among born-again Christians, less than one out of every five – 19% had such an outlook on life.

Of adults who attend mainline Protestant churches, only 2 percent shared biblical worldview. Among Catholics, less than one-half of 1 percent had a biblical worldview. The denominations that produced the highest proportions of adults with a biblical worldview were non-denominational Protestant churches, with 13 percent, Pentecostal churches, with 10 percent, and Baptist churches with 8 percent.

Upon comparing the perspectives of those who have a biblical worldview with those who do not, the former group were 31 times less likely to accept cohabitation; 18 times less likely to endorse drunkenness; 15 times less likely to condone homosexual sex; 12 times less likely to accept profanity; and 11 times less likely to describe adultery as morally acceptable.

This morning we are going to witness the dialogue between Jesus and the Jewish religious elites regarding Jesus' credentials and doctrines. Though these religious rulers had their religion down pat, but they didn't know anything about God just like the majority of the born-again Christians in America don't, because they didn't have a biblical worldview.

A. WHAT? NO SEMINARY DEGREE?

John 7:14-16 Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. 15 And the Jews marveled, saying, "How does this Man know let-

ters, having never studied?" 16 Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.

When Jesus began to teach openly in the temple in Jerusalem, the debate shifted, first, to His credentials and then, to His doctrine. The Jews were amazed at what He taught, because He did not have any credentials from their approved rabbinical schools. But since He lacked this "proper accreditation," His enemies said that His teachings were nothing but private opinions and ain't worth much. While the scribes and Pharisees taught by quoting all the famous rabbis, Jesus taught with authority from the Scriptures.

In other words, Jesus didn't have a seminary degree to be a Bible teacher. We see the same kind of situation in the Book of Acts.

Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

Peter and John stunned the group of Sanhedrins who were the cream of the crop when it came to the spiritual authority and knowledge of Israel at that time.

I am not saying that going to a seminary or Bible college is wrong. I highly recommend it to anyone who has a call of God to pursue Bible college and seminary education. But it is absolutely necessary to be called by God first, but not a seminary degree. I believe that the one God calls, He also equips.

If you think that a pastor must have an earthly credential, you just eliminated all the apostles of Jesus from their God-given positions. As a matter of fact, even Jesus did not have any of those qualifications that the Pharisees were looking for as we just read.

Do you know there are some Christians who think 'doctrine' of Christianity like some eight letter cuss word? To understand what Jesus wants us to learn, we need to get the meaning from its Greek word. The Greek word for 'taught' is 'didasko'. And 'doctrine' is 'didache'. Do you see the resemblance? Of course, you do. Because they both came from the same Greek root word. The definition of 'doctrine' is "teaching" or "instruction".

Some would insist, "I am not into doctrine. I am into Jesus." Hold your horse, buckaroo. Jesus was into doctrine and He taught His doctrines to His disciples. Have you noticed that we are going much deeper into the doctrines of Christianity in the Book of John than the other Gospels? And what do you think the rest of the NT is? Those Books are the doctrine of Jesus Christ. Jesus wants us to know and build a solid foundation in our hearts, instead of a bunch of fancy spiritual decoration stuff that might make you feel religious for yourself.

If a Christian says, "I don't care about the Christian doctrines," it is the same for him to say, "I don't care about what God the Father speaks to me."

At the beginning of this study, I gave you a survey from the Barna Group. Do you know why such a low percentage of born-again Christians have the biblical worldview? It is because they don't have the necessary knowledge of the Bible. Either they are not taught well from the pulpit or the congregation just doesn't care to learn the Word of God. Probably both.

Hosea 4:6a My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge,

Unfortunately there are many Christian churches that do not teach the Word of God. On Sunday mornings, they have sermonettes by their pastors that last about 15 minutes and are filled with feel-good-messages. I cannot even clear my throat in 15 minutes.

As a pastor, it is my goal and prayer to make you the best fed and best loved congregation in the world. That is why we make it our practice to go deep, to learn background and original language and keeping them all in context every Sunday morning and Thursday night, as we go through the Bible for the sake of the truth and to be more like Jesus.

B. SEEKING THE GLORY OF THE LORD

John 7:17-18 If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. 18 He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.

Satan tempted Adam and Eve with knowledge, but it was knowledge based on disobedience and pride.

Genesis 3:5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

But Jesus offered knowledge as the result of obedience: the responsibility and the joy of knowing God's truth.

Dr. G. Campbell Morgan, one of my favorite British preachers of yesteryear, said it perfectly: "When men are wholly, completely consecrated to the will of God and want to do that above everything else, then they find out that Christ's teaching is divine, that it is the teaching of God."

If we really seek God's will, then we will not worry over who gets the glory. God alone deserves the glory for what He has taught us. No teacher or preacher can take the credit for what only can come from God. If a preacher goes after the glory, then it is a proof that his teaching is self-generated and not received from God. This is the origin of many cults and church splits.

That is the reason that I do not copyright any of my teachings. They are all available from our church website for anyone to download. I freely received from the Lord and I freely pass to others.

The Jewish leaders were attempting to murder Jesus and deceive others, yet at the same time they claimed to understand God's truth and obey it. Obviously they didn't get the sixth and ninth Commandments of the Ten Commandments:

Exodus 20:13 "You shall not murder.

Exodus 20:16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

This proves that an enlightened and educated mind is no guarantee of a pure heart or a sanctified will. Some of the world's worst criminals have been highly intelligent and well-educated people.

C. AN APPARENT CONTRADICTION

John 7:19-24 Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?" 20 The people answered and said, "You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?" 21 Jesus answered and said to

them, "I did one work, and you all marvel. 22 Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. 23 If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath? 24 Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

V19 is a serious, serious indictment against the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the Scribes of that time who were so religious and pious in their own mind. They were going through motions of religious rituals, but their hearts were far from God.

Here is an apparent contradiction. The ancient Jews were real sticklers about keeping the Sabbath then, and even now. The problem is that a baby can be born anytime. Eight days from the baby's birthdate might be the Sabbath. And on Sabbath, the Jews were not supposed to work. Even to the most strict Orthodox Jews, it was perfectly OK to carry out a circumcision on a baby boy on the Sabbath. Why? Because the Jews put so much emphasis on the ritual of circumcision by their own idea above the heart to follow and obey the Lord. That is what Jesus was pointing out to them.

Let me say this very clearly to all of you. Religion is harmful. Religion sends more people to hell than anything else, because it gives a false sense of security. Some of you might be wondering, "Isn't Christianity a religion?" No, it is not. It is in the eyes of government, media, and unbelievers. But to us, it is a glorious life in Christ Jesus. We have relationship with our Savior and Lord Jesus, not religion.

The father of socialism and communism Karl Marx said, "Religion is the opiate of the masses." I agree with him on that one. According to one statistic, 86% and more of 7 billion people on earth are religious, including Christianity. Though millions and billions of people might be religious seriously, but not all of them will go to heaven because they have their own definition of religion like these Jewish religious rulers. Anyone who has a religion in his heart, cannot have the right biblical worldview, because he doesn't have the right relationship with Christ.

I heard this definition of religion and I think that it explains it precisely: Religion is my approach to God on my own terms – my own idea of who God is; my own idea of how good God is; my own idea of how I can choose to worship if I feel like it; my own idea of what God needs to do for me above everyone else.

There was really only one religion that God ever gave to man – it is Judaism. From Exodus to Deuteronomy, God shows His religious system to the Jews. The reason the Lord gave this Judaism to them is for Jesus to fulfill it in every aspect since man could not, and would not.

Matthew 5:17 Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

The OT Laws was to show us that we cannot make our way to heaven with our own religion.

Romans 3:19-20 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Some of you may wonder why God wanted the Israelites to have circumcision? Let me explain it to you:

God made a covenant with Abraham in Genesis 17. The sign of this covenant was circumcision. Although this was the purpose of outward fleshly circumcision in the OT, Jesus came and made another covenant with mankind which doesn't require outward physical sign. This new covenant is based on placing faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and to be born-again.

When we place faith in Christ, the Bible teaches us that we're circumcised in our hearts. The old spiritual heart is taken out and a new one placed in. The OT outward circumcision was symbolic of what was to come.

Colossians 2:9-12 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. 11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

D. APPLICATIONS

- 1) We should not neglect learning sound doctrines of Christianity, because they come from God the Father through the Holy Spirit.
- 2) A biblical worldview only comes from the deep and obedient relationship with our Savior.
- 3) Religion is harmful to our spirits. What we desire should be a deeper walk with our Savior Jesus everyday through His Word.