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Value of a Biblical Worldview

Key Themes

- God's Word is the foundation for our lives.
- God provides salvation from sin through Jesus Christ.

Key Passages

- Colossians 2:1–10; Proverbs 4:1–9; 1 Timothy 6:20–21

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify areas in the culture where the Bible is set aside as the absolute authority.
- Examine their personal views of the world to determine if any are out of line with biblical truths.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will begin filling out the Worldview Quiz.

- Print one Worldview Quiz from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.
- Have students mark Proverbs 4, Colossians 2, and 1 Timothy 6 in their Bibles.



Studying God's Word

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God has graciously given us His Word and we should strive to conform every thought that we have to the truth revealed in Scripture.

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.



Activity: Worldview Quiz

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Students will complete the Worldview Quiz and discuss the questions.



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Read and meditate on Proverbs 4, Colossians 2:1–10, and 1 Timothy 6:20–21 to prepare for the lesson this week.

For the past twelve lessons, we have been looking at many different ideas concerning the truthfulness and usefulness of God's Word. This lesson is intended to be a wrap-up for the quarter and to bring back into focus the importance of God's Word as the foundation for our lives. We have looked at how to study the Bible, how we got the Bible, how important it is to defend the Bible, the nature of God, and a framework for understanding biblical history. All of these things set the stage for a chronological study through the Bible.

Scripture makes it abundantly clear that the words of God are the source of wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and truth. Wisdom begins with a fear of the Lord (Job 28:28; Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7, 9:10, 15:33). If we are to base our lives on any source or system other than the Bible, we are acting as fools.

Apart from the truths in the Bible, we can know little about the true nature of the world around us. Whether we are trying to understand the origin of the world, why bad things happen, or the nature of humanity, we must start with the Bible to get a correct picture. All of these issues are tied to the doctrines we find in Scripture. Doctrine is important, and it must be rightly taught. In order to understand what ideas are true, we must compare them to Scripture—we must see through biblical glasses.

This is the admonition Paul gives to young Timothy when he writes to him in 1 Timothy 6:20–21. People have strayed from the faith by following ideas that were not founded in God's truth. Timothy was to protect his flock from these false teachings and hold to the clear teachings he had received. Wisdom based in man's reasoning and apart from God is false knowledge.

Paul expands upon this concept in Colossians 2:1–10. In this passage, the wisdom of God is linked directly to the person of Christ. It is in Christ, not in the philosophies or traditions of men, that we find all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Thinking that starts from man's reasoning alone is deceitful and will lead to error. We received the truths of Christ in faith, and we should continue to walk with Him in faith. If we do anything other than that, we have cheated ourselves and missed the richness of Christ and the mystery of His coming to this earth to save us from our sins.

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Some would look at Colossians 2 and suggest that it is wrong for Christians to study philosophy. However, a more careful examination of the passage only warns against philosophies and traditions that are not centered on Christ. We should long for knowledge that is in Christ and seek diligently to understand the world He has created in light of that truth. We need to make sure that we are looking at the world with biblical glasses.

We can only have unity in truth. Those who reject the clear teachings of Scripture and add tradi-

tion or worldly wisdom to their theology should be identified and avoided (Romans 16:17–18). There is a myth in our pluralistic society that says we can accept every view as a valid view. This is the worldly philosophy of relativism, and it stands in direct opposition to the biblical view of absolute truth. We must unashamedly proclaim that the gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible as the only hope for mankind (Romans 1:15–17).

As we disciple new believers and proclaim truth to the world around us, we must make it clear that the knowledge we seek is found in God. There are those who continually seek after knowledge but never come to an understanding of the truth because they ignore that all of these things are found in Christ (2 Timothy 3:6–7). As followers of Christ, we should pray that His Spirit will enable us to grasp the truth He has revealed to us in His Word.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Throughout church history there have been those who have rejected the authority of the Bible and tried to impose their personal philosophies on God. The letter to the Colossians was likely aimed, in part, at discrediting philosophies that were blending Jewish traditions or mystical practices with the truths of Christ. Paul warned them strongly against philosophies that were not simply founded upon Christ.

Throughout history, people have tried to mix their own ideas with worshipping God. As we read the Old

Testament accounts, people were constantly adding idolatrous practices to the pure worship that God desired. This tendency is no different in the hearts of people two thousand years ago than it is today. People always try to add their own works and ideas to what God has revealed to them.

Various church councils and reformations happened in response to these attacks on the truths of Scripture. Understanding these attacks can help us to understand the attacks on the gospel today. History repeats itself, and we can see reflections of past errors in the movements on the fringes of the church today. Understanding how believers in Christ have dealt with these issues—using Scripture—can help us face these challenges today. We look to God’s Word as the authority.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Father, I come before you and confess that I fail to think about everything from your perspective. Help me to recognize where my thinking does not line up with your will and to bring it into alignment with Scripture. Help me to communicate these ideas to those whom I have the opportunity to teach and to point them to you rather than traditions or philosophies that are not of Christ.

► **Pace your lesson!** You can use the provided clocks to indicate the time each section should be completed to keep the lesson on schedule. While teaching, you can compare your anticipated times with the actual time and shorten or drop sections as necessary.



Review

Last week we talked about how God’s plan of redemption has been part of the history of the universe—even before time began. We used the Seven C’s of History framework in our discussion for the second week.

? Now that we have covered that topic, is there anyone who can remember

the Seven C’s in order? *Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, Consummation.*

We will continue to use this framework through the rest of this curriculum and it will become very familiar to you. Hopefully, you will see opportunities to incorporate these ideas into your personal study and sharing of biblical truth with others.



➤ Have students mark Proverbs 4, Colossians 2, and 1 Timothy 6 in their Bibles.

➤ Pass out copies of the Worldview Quiz and have students fill it out as they come in. You may need to allow a few minutes to complete this before discussing it later in the class.



Studying God’s Word

This week we are going to wrap up the past 12 weeks and the big theme of trusting the Bible. We’ll look at a couple of passages and then take a quiz over what we have learned. The goal of this lesson is to have you look at your personal beliefs and see how well they line up with what Scripture teaches. We certainly can’t cover every topic, but we’ll look at a few of the big issues in our culture today, and you can continue the examination on your own. Ultimately, our goal is to be conformed into the image of Christ, the one who died and rose again to bring us salvation.

READ THE WORD

Let’s read Colossians 2:1–10 together and examine what God’s Word has to say to us about making Jesus Christ the foundation of our thinking. *Have someone read the passage aloud.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Now that we have read the text, let’s take some time to observe what it is saying to us. As we have been learning, this process is an important part of understanding what God’s Word is telling us.

Observe the Text

Refer to the Bible Study poster to remind your students how to dig deeper into God’s Word by asking the right questions.

? **Who is the audience of this letter from Paul?** *The believers in the city of Colossae are the audience. This church was founded by Epaphras (Colossians 1:5–7) who likely learned under Paul while he was teaching in Ephesus for three years.*

Colossians 2:1–10

- ? **What purpose is given for the writing of this section of the letter to the Colossians?** *Verse 2: that their hearts may be encouraged.*
- ? **What two things will bring about this encouragement?** *The members of the church will 1) be knit together in love and 2) come to a full understanding of who God is.*
- ? **Paul tells the Colossians that he wants them to know the fullness of who God is and the richness of the mysteries of God. Where can we find those riches?** *Verse 3 makes it clear that those riches are found in Christ.*
- ? **According to verse 4, why is Paul telling them to look for wisdom and knowledge in Christ?** *Paul does not want them to be deceived by those who would use persuasive arguments to sway them from Christ.*
- ? **What is Paul joyful about in verse 5?** *The Colossian believers are maintaining their faith in Christ in good order.*

Verses 6 and 7 continue with the importance of Christ. We need to make sure that we pay special attention to this as the person of Christ is repeated multiple times in this passage. Repeated ideas are often a clue to important ideas in Scripture.

➤ Look for repeated words and ideas in a passage to find key ideas.

- ? **How do Christians, at the time of their salvation, receive Christ?** *By faith.*
- ? **If we receive Christ by faith (verse 6), how should Christians walk (conduct their lives)?** *By faith.*

Paul speaks about being rooted in Christ and then being built up in Him. He is talking about our salvation (rooted) and our continuing spiritual growth or sanctification (built up) that is all based in our faith in Christ. This requires that these truths need to be taught to those who do not know them. Paul speaks to this in verse 7 and also in another passage we will cross reference in a few minutes.

- ? **Verse 8 carries a warning. What are we warned against and what specific characteristics are we to look for?** *The warning is against being cheated (robbed) by philosophies that are based on man's traditions and ideas or based on the basic principles of the world. In either case, these ideas are not founded in Christ.*
- ? **What do verses 9 and 10 tell us about the person of Christ?** *Even though He was present in a body, Christ was 100% God and rules over every other spiritual principalities and powers. This was to counter the heretical teaching that Jesus was simply one of many spiritual entities that came from God.*
- ? **What word is used to describe Christians in verse 10?** *Complete.*
- ? **If we are complete in Christ, can the teachings or philosophies of men and the world add anything to our knowledge and wisdom?** *No.*
- ? **How might we summarize this passage in a single sentence?** *Knowledge and wisdom is found in Christ alone, and we should be careful to not be deceived by worldly philosophies.*

Proverbs 4:1–9

? Would someone please read Proverbs 4:1–9?

It is clear that we are commanded here to seek after wisdom and understanding. Earlier in Proverbs 1:7 we read that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” That same idea is echoed throughout Scripture.

Discover the Truth

So, we have found that we are to seek wisdom and knowledge that is according to Christ and to avoid philosophies that are from the world. These ideas are clear from the text, but it’s important that we clear up one common misconception. Some would use this passage to suggest that we should avoid philosophy of any sort. At its root, the word philosophy simply means to “love wisdom.” There is nothing wrong with loving the wisdom that is founded in Christ through the Bible. Our whole worldview/philosophy of life should be grounded in Christ. It is not wrong to study philosophy that is grounded in Christ. In fact, that type of study is highly encouraged!

1 Timothy 6:20–21

? Would someone read 1 Timothy 6:20–21? *Assign a reader.*

? Paul closed his first letter to the young pastor Timothy with this thought. In what ways does this passage affirm the truths we studied in the Colossians passage? *1) The truths of Christ are what Timothy is to guard. 2) To avoid profane and idle babblings and contradictions is akin to the philosophies and traditions of men in the Colossians passage. 3) Being deceived into the false philosophies is the same as straying from the faith.*

? In our first lesson, we talked about how the Bible should be our foundation for life. We used glasses as an analogy. How does that idea of putting on “biblical glasses” relate to these passages? *Any idea that is presented to us should be examined in light of the truths of Scripture: is this a doctrine founded in Christ or is it based on worldly wisdom? We use the Bible as a set of lenses to help us correctly focus on the issues. Just like corrective lenses help our physical eyes focus sharply on an image, the Bible and the wisdom that comes from Christ help us to focus correctly on spiritual issues and other issues that are coming from the world.*

We know that we are supposed to use Scripture as the foundation for our lives, but do we really do it? Are we making the effort to study God’s Word so that we can apply the knowledge that we are gaining? Godly wisdom is the Spirit-led application of the knowledge that we find in the Bible. We should seek the wisdom that comes from our perfectly wise Father.





Worldview Quiz

MATERIALS

- Worldview Quiz for each student
- Worldview Quiz answer key for your use

INSTRUCTIONS

Pass out the Worldview Quizzes, if you did not already as a class opener.

We are going to take a quiz to look at some of the cultural issues that face us in the world we live in. This quiz will help you think about some of these issues and see if you are thinking biblically. This is not an exhaustive analysis of your worldview, but it will give you a picture of how you are

thinking. Answer the questions honestly and we will go over the answers in a few minutes. If you can think of any passages from Scripture that relate to the ideas in each question, write them down as well.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

We are going to review the answers to the quiz and make sure we line up our answers with the Bible. I will also give you some Bible references if you could not identify any. *Discuss the answers from the answer key as time allows. Make sure to leave time for wrapping up the discussion and application.*



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

The key idea we have been focusing on today is the importance of having the Bible as the foundation for our lives. It should inform our worldview. We should be seeking for the treasures and wisdom that are found in Christ and not those that come from man and simple, worldly wisdom. We need to understand our own thinking so that we can relate those truths to those who do not know Christ and His salvation.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

- ? In what areas in our culture do we see a lack of applying biblical truths? *Discuss various responses.*
- ? In what areas do we see churches failing to apply biblical truths? *Discuss various responses.*
- ? Are there areas in your school studies where you see a contradiction between what is being taught and what the Bible teaches? *Discuss various responses.*

- ? **How do most people in our society view the idea that Jesus Christ provides the only way of salvation and access to heaven?** *Most would say that there must be more than one way to heaven or that all paths eventually lead to God. This is in direct conflict with the Bible's clear teaching. Acts 4:12 and many other passages confirm this.*
- ? **How do we help professing Christians to develop a biblical worldview?** *This is the process of discipleship through Bible study and mentoring.*
- ? **How do we help non-Christians to develop a biblical worldview?** *A biblical worldview only comes as people receive salvation from their sins by repentance and faith. Apart from salvation, we cannot expect a person to consistently live by biblical principles. It is the Spirit of Christ in us that gives us the desire to live righteous lives. We must preach the gospel to non-Christians, not ask them to live a certain lifestyle.*

Most importantly, are there areas that you can identify where your thoughts and beliefs are not lining up with what Scripture teaches? Maybe there was an answer in the quiz that you need to understand better or a specific sin issue in your life that you need to dig into. No matter what it is, remember that Christ's work on the Cross is sufficient to pay for that sin for all who are in Christ. Remind yourself of that truth and pray that God would form you into the image of Christ as you study His Word throughout this next week.



MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 119:89–90 Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides.

I trust you have all committed this passage to memory and that it will help you as you walk with Christ and battle against sin.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

Be sure to pray with your class before you dismiss them.

- Praise God for His grace in giving us the Bible.
- Confess that we often fail to see the world through God's eyes.
- Pray that God would help each person to understand where they need to make adjustments in their thinking to be in line with the truths of Scripture.