

# ***UNDERSTANDING***



## **A *BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW***

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**TRUE HOPE MINISTRIES OF  
AMERICA**





# A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

**A WORLDVIEW IS THE PERSPECTIVE THAT GOVERNS HOW A PERSON LIVES, THAT IS, HOW HE INTERACTS WITH OTHER PEOPLE, HOW HE RESPONDS TO LIFE ISSUES, HOW HE DECIDES SOCIAL, POLITICAL ISSUES AND IS HIS MORAL COMPASS OR LACK THEREOF. (Dr. Timothy Hoflund)**

A worldview “is simply the sum total of our beliefs around the world, the ‘big picture’ that directs our daily decisions and actions” (Derek Melleby, author of *Make College Count*).

When faced with life issues or challenges, our worldview governs our actions and our responses. Our worldview filters the content we incorporate into our lives, the things which then become how we act, speak, and think.

The worldview we each have, determines the strength or weakness of our “moral compass”. It also regulates how we determine relationships and build friendships as well as how we socially interact and develop social views, activities and even our political positions and allegiances.

What we allow and accept into our lives, what we agree with or reject, how and what things we participate in; *ALL* are determined by our present worldview. At the same time, these things also affect our worldview by enhancing, enlarging, or revising our current worldview!

**Our worldview is not static** ... it is always changing. Now that doesn't mean that it suddenly drops off being one thing and becomes another; suddenly changing from being tolerant of one thing to rejecting that thing or vice-versa! Most often, our worldview changes by growing stronger in some areas or perhaps becoming weaker in other areas. However, if someone begins to compromise their convictions and beliefs, or are non-discerning about the influences they let into their lives, then over a period of time our worldview can become very different from how it is presently and taking on a new perspective altogether.

Now, speaking of changing, or being the same as or different from other worldviews, is there a difference between a “Christian Worldview” and a “**BIBLICAL** Christian Worldview”? *Most assuredly!*

That difference lies in the fact that there are many definitions and many types of “Christians” – one may be a “cultural Christian” or perhaps a “social Christian”, perhaps an “institutional Christian” or an “individualized Christian”, one might be a “casual Christian” or a “radical Christian” ... all of these, and more can be classified as a Christian worldview. The point is this, again, there are many differing definitions of the word, or title, “Christian! So then, all so-called “Christians” have a worldview, but many of these may, at best, only faintly reflect Christ or have a Biblical foundation or framework!

A “**Biblical** Christian Worldview” is based upon being or having a *mindset* that is in agreement with what God clearly and simply says in Scripture. Additionally, a Biblical worldview seeks to increasingly understand God's *REASONING* for what He says!

If our thoughts disagree with what Scripture clearly says God considers some “thing” to be correct, then **WE MUST RENEW OUR MINDS TO THINK ACCORDINGLY, OR TO THINK IN AGREEMENT WITH HOW GOD THINKS ABOUT THAT SAME “THING”.**

Therefore, if Scripture clearly says that God considers a “thing” to be right or wrong, then we must renew our minds to also think about that “thing” as being right or wrong. But do not misunderstand this to mean that God wants us to just be resigned to His way because He says so! In fact, God, Who is our Abba, does not intend that we should be forcibly subdued into docile compliance ... this is not His will at all!

Our Father wants us to engage with Him intentionally and assertively in order that *we gain understanding*

about His reasons and reasoning about why He thinks and says and does what He does.

📖 **Proverbs 4:7 (NKJV)** “Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *Therefore* get wisdom. **AND IN ALL YOUR GETTING, GET UNDERSTANDING!**”

Therefore, through His Apostles such as Paul for instance, the Lord instructs us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:1-2).

As mentioned above, this entails much more than simply going along with God merely because He says so! Renewing our minds involves and includes our **LEARNING THE REASONS**, the **PRINCIPLES**, the **IDEALS** and **STANDARDS** upon which God bases His thoughts, words, and deeds! Therefore, renewing our minds is to develop the constant and consistent ability of reasoning - - spiritually, objectively, strategically, and tactically!

What does all this mean? Here are some simple descriptions or “working definitions” that will help you understand what we are talking about ...

- 📖 Reasoning = Making decisions or conclusions using an orderly process of consideration about various details and elements that will produce the correct or best conclusion or decision;
- 📖 Spiritually = Guided by the Holy Spirit rather than by our personal emotions;
- 📖 Objectively = Thinking outside the box of our own motives or desires;
- 📖 Tactically = Considering what needs to be said or done for an immediate effect or result;
- 📖 Strategically = Recognizing what needs to be done or what long term outcomes will result from present day decisions or actions.

While the Lord employs all of the above elements in His thoughts and reasoning, one thing that is always engaged in God’s thinking, which is: ***Strategic Thinking!***

With humans, strategic thinking is to develop plans for intended outcomes, even though what is intended may not actually come to pass! (**HINT: THIS IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOD’S AND HUMAN’S STRATEGIC THINKING**)

God’s strategic thinking is ***knowing the actual outcomes***, results, or consequences – intended or otherwise – that will be the result of any and one’s every given behavior, activity, or conduct!

**REMEMBER, GOD ALWAYS SEES THE END FROM THE BEGINNING!**

- Because of God’s eternal vantage point He and He alone has the ability ***TO KNOW*** the outcome of any and every activity even while still in the thinking stages of a person or group of people!

📖 **James 4:13-16 (NKJV)** “Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

Instead you *ought* to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.”

- God knows not only our thoughts, but the actions which our thoughts will produce or lead us to take **AND** the results – all of the results; immediate, long term and even the lifetime effects that we ourselves and other people as well shall experience resulting from our present moment actions and/or speech!

So then, this (in part) is what it means to have the knowledge of God; to have the mind of Christ; or as I like to say, “to think like God thinks”. This then is the more complete meaning of “renewing our minds”.

**Biblical Christian Worldview not only involves choosing to agree with God’s position on the issues facing us, but it also involves gaining the understanding of why God thinks like He does about any given concern.**

📖 **Romans 12:2** (NKJV)

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Now, some may say that it is not possible to ever have God’s ability of knowing the end from the beginning, therefore it is unfair for God to tell us to renew our minds! Some may say, “It is unrealistic to even truly begin to do so considering we can never have the same abilities as God!” So what then?

- So then: To say we can have the “knowledge of God” or “have the mind of Christ” is not only unrealistic ... it is deceptive, right?

Wrong Answer! Granted, we can never have the divine ability *TO KNOW* the end from the beginning ... however, we can develop the ability to know (foresee) the likely consequences or results that will come from present actions! We can learn to listen for the Spirit of God telling us what He knows - - and if God tells us what He knows about a given situation, then we do have the knowledge of God!

**So renewing our minds is both:** Learning to think from a new perspective, *and* learning to listen to what the Holy Spirit of God tells us! Either way and both ways, renewing our minds does produce in us the “knowledge of God” and the “mind of Christ!”

**WE CAN UNDERSTAND A “BIBLICAL CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW” TO MEAN:** Developing within our minds both the “mind of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:16) and an increasing “knowledge of God” (Proverbs 2:5) along with the written Scriptures (the mind of Christ and the knowledge of God will never contradict written Scripture) to be the filters through which we see and engage with the world in which we live and interact with the people we encounter.

***A Biblical Christian Worldview is a growing, progressing perspective*** that begins with your decision to comply with the spiritual directives in God’s Word for those who are the adopted sons and daughters of God, such as:

📖 We are to be conformed to the image of God’s Son, the firstborn among many brethren (Romans 8:29);

📖 We are to reject conformity to this world, but we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:1- 2) - - just to name a couple.

**No person living on planet earth has a perfect and pure Biblical Christian Worldview ... but a very great many of God’s children have a strong Biblical Christian Worldview ...**

The level of one’s Biblical Christian Worldview can be indicated by the assessment of a third-party ministry to ensure objectivity and avoid even the appearance of partiality.

There are two types of online assessments we recommend:

First: Summit Ministries Worldview Checkup – Reveals the type of worldview you have plus how other worldviews seem to be influencing your mindset.

- <https://www.worldviewcheckup.com/cgi-bin/tssw12.cgi?f=SummitWVCU+201994>

Next: True Hope Ministries of America’s Worldview Assessment – Indicates whether or not you do have a Biblical Worldview and how strong that worldview is. This is accessed through the Word For Life Ministry website:

- <https://wordforlife.us/Wrldview.html>