

5. The Superiority of the Christian Worldview: ON LIVING

Grove Christian Camp

Event Webpage: www.worldvieweyes.org/Grove2020.html

Resources: www.roomfordoubt.com/recommended-resources

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Introduction

- A. The importance of engaging non-Christian worldview options (Colossians 2:8).
- B. Compare the worldview alternatives.
- C. The Christian Worldview: BETTER at giving a basis for living a happy (blessed) life.

I. The Matter of MEANING.

- A. “Constructed” meaning versus _____ **”DISCOVERED”** _____ meaning.
- B. “Constructed” meaning makes no ultimate difference.

Thomas Nagel (atheist): “Although there are justifications for most things big and small that we do within life, none of these explanations explain the point of your life as a whole.... There seems to be no point to it at all.... It wouldn’t matter if you had never existed. And after you have gone out of existence, it won’t matter that you did exist.” (*What Does It All Mean?* 96)

- C. **Only a Christian worldview offers “discoverable” meaning.**
 - 1. Meaning that’s far more and far above any person, group, or nation.
 - 2. Meaning that is objectively revealed, not subjectively produced.
- D. Without God, there is no ultimate _____ **MEANING** _____.

II. The matter of MORALITY.

- A. Do you have to believe in God to be “good”? _____ **NO** _____.
- B. But without God, there is **no moral obligation** to be good!

Dostoevsky (The Russian novelist): “Without God in the future life ... everything is permitted” [Ivan Karamazov in *The Brothers Karamazov*]

Alex Rosenberg (atheist): “So, individual human life is meaningless, without a purpose, and without ultimate moral value” (Rosenberg, *The Atheist’s Guide to Reality: Enjoying Life without Illusions* (Kindle Edition, p. 19).

- C. **Yet**, everyone has a **deep sense of morality and justice**.
- D. What is the **FOUNDATION** for these moral demands?
- E. Without God, the foundations for morality and justice will _____ **CRUMBLE** _____.

III. The matter of MORTALITY.

- A. The inevitability of death forces us to **face our finiteness** (e.g. 2012 family deaths).
- B. An atheist perspective (e.g. Will Provine).
- C. A Christian perspective: **I Thess. 4:13** “We do not want you to be uninformed about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.”
- D. Without God, there is **NO** _____ **HOPE** _____.

IV. The Matter of the MESSIAH.

- A. The fundamental claim of Christianity: God entered our space and time to save us.
- B. **Jesus Christ, the Messiah**—the anointed One of God—represents ALL of God’s message (e.g. ICHTHUS symbol).
- C. **WHY** should we believe it?
 - 1. The **plan** of Scripture.
 - 2. God’s miraculous **presence** throughout human history.
 - 3. **Prophecies** about a coming Messiah.
 - 4. The **person** of Jesus Christ.
 - 5. The **power** of the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
 - 6. The **public preaching** of the resurrected Christ.
 - 7. The **power** in the apostles in the 1st century church.
 - 8. The **provision** that is given to Christians in the Holy Spirit.
- D. **John 3:16** “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” (cf. Matthew 16:15-16)
- E. With God and the Messiah, there is no _____ **SAVIOR** _____.

V. The Matter of the MATURITY.

- A. Someone LIVING a Christian Worldview:
 - 1. _____ **LOVES** _____ God with all of one’s heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mk 12:30).
 - 2. Is adequately _____ **INFORMED** _____ by God’s revelation (2 Tim 3:16-17; Rom 1:18-20).
 - 3. Has a _____ **TRANSFORMED** _____ mind led by the Spirit of God (Rom 12:1-2; 8:5-14).
 - 4. Is not taken _____ **CAPTIVE** _____ by deceptive philosophies (Col 2:8).
 - 5. Takes every thought _____ **CAPTIVE** _____ to Christ (2 Cor 10:5).
 - 6. Is ready & able to give _____ **REASONS** _____ for their Christian hope (1 Pet 3:15).
 - 7. Applies its obligations and implications to _____ **ALL** _____ of life (3 John 1:3-4; Eph 4:1,14-15; Col 2:6-7; 1 Thess 4:1).
- B. Growing toward maturity (see the “Christian Worldview Graphic”).
 - 1. Personal Integrity
 - a. Mind
 - b. Attitude / Emotions / Conscience
 - c. Speech
 - d. Actions
 - e. Will / Motives
 - 2. Individual Involvement
 - 3. Relational Investment
 - 4. Academic Interaction
 - 5. Social Impact
 - 6. Apologetic Influence (1 Pet. 3:15; Col. 2:4,8; 2 Cor. 10:5a; Jude 1:3).