

WHAT IS THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW?

by Philip Graham Ryken

TO THE READER: A good learning technique is to answer the following questions BEFORE reading the booklet. After reading, you can refine your answers based on your reading. Then, when your group gathers, each can discuss his or her view and you can either affirm or modify what you wrote.

1. The way you answer this question will indicate your worldview: Who is responsible for the political chaos in Washington? (5-7)

2. Define *worldview* (or, as it might be called, a *world-and-life view*). (7-9)

3. If you suddenly stopped believing God exists, what would change about the way you live your life?

4. Dr. Ryken mentions four areas where one's worldview plays an enormous difference in the way we live. (10)
 - a. What is the origin of the universe (and man in particular)?
 - b. From where did evil come?
 - c. Is there really any hope to be found in this evil world?
 - d. What answers would your non-Christian friends give to these questions?
What are some of the answers you have gotten from your non-Christian friends to these questions?

5. List several of your favorite beliefs about the character of God. (11-15)

Review your list. When and how did you learn these truths about God?

6. What does the universe teach us about God? What does creation teach you about yourself? Why did God create man? Why did He create you? (16-24)

7. List some ways the world would be different if sin had not entered our existence. (24-31)

8. Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. You have been reconciled to God through Christ. Now He has given you a ministry – reconciling the world back to Him. Go back over your list from question 7. How can we reconcile each of these fallen areas of creation back to Him? (31-39)

9. Reconciliation began when we came to Christ, but it is not yet complete. Look back at your list in question 7; what jobs will no longer be needed when the Holy Spirit’s work of full reconciliation is complete in the New Heaven and the New Earth? Which jobs will still be needed? (39-45)

Jobs no longer in existence

Jobs still needed in the New Earth

After going through these questions, read the text and fill in the answers in preparation for class, noting other questions you might have. [By the way, if you do have any other questions about what you read, write them down here so you remember them at class time.]

APPLICATION

There are only two earthly things that will last forever – people and the Word of God. What do you need to change in your daily life to make these two things priorities? Remember, work done in the flesh and not for God will be burned up. They may have meaning here, but the priority should be those things done to glorify God.

For Further Study

Truth in All Its Glory: Commending the Reformed Faith, William Edgar. P&R Publishing, 2004.

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