

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW APOLOGETICS – Lesson 2

WHY IS IT THAT WE ARE APPROACHING THE DEFENSE OF THE FAITH AS "WORLDVIEW APOLOGETICS"?

EVERYONE HAS A WORLDVIEW BASED UPON CERTAIN FAITH ASSUMPTIONS

*******Here is a contrast of 2 different worldviews, each one held to by FAITH...**

Psalm 100:3 - Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Isaiah 44:12-20 - "...he also fashions a god and worships it; he makes an idol and bows down to it... From the rest he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and worships. He prays to it and says, "Save me! You are my god!"

-- What is a "worldview"?

What exactly is a worldview? The English word for *worldview* comes from "the German *weltanschauung*. It literally means a life perspective or way of seeing. It is simply the way we look at the world. (As quoted from "Faith With Reason" p. 19)

All worldviews essentially convey a big, overall explanation / story / narrative ... a meta-narrative ... an overall explanation that attempts to concisely provide a big picture of whatever "reality" is portrayed to be, according to that worldview

These worldviews, or Meta-narratives, are always based upon the words of founding "prophets" (speakers who profess to be speaking Truth) ... the voice of "truth" is the voice of the "god, or highest authority" in that particular narrative

- All worldviews are BUILT UPON certain basic assumptions of Reality.
- These basic assumptions then form the overall worldview.
- Basic worldview assumptions are held to BY FAITH.

BIBLICAL FAITH (HAVING FAITH IN THE BIBLE BEING GOD'S WORD, ON THE BASIS OF ITS OWN "SELF-ATTESTING" AUTHORITY AND "SELF-EVIDENCING" TRUTH)

For the Bible to be God's Word, it MUST be both "self-attesting" (it must make the claim, in itself, that it is God's infallible Word) and "self-evidencing" (if it is God's Word then it is, in itself, highest authority, and as such, the proof that it is God's Word must be contained within itself.)

Hebrews 11:1-3 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

-- So, what does it mean to have faith that the Bible is God's Word?

-- **According to the Bible (Hebrews 11:1-3), biblical faith is belief that provides a basis, a foundation, for sound understanding, knowledge, thinking and reasoning.**

GOD'S WORD IN BIBLICAL SCRIPTURE CONVEYS A SPECIFIC WORLDVIEW

-- What do we mean by this?

ANSWER:

The Bible, for Christian's is the overall Story that Defines Reality for God's People ... unique view of God ... unique view of Creation ... of the way the world operates by virtue of God's providence / decrees ... of the origin / fall of mankind ... of ethics / law ... of sin ... of the Christian's Redemption / salvation in Christ ... of the Restoration of Paradise Lost., etc.

-- **QUESTION: If the Christian BELIEVES (ASSUMES, BY FAITH) that God speaks authoritatively in the Bible, then what do unbelievers assume?**

ANSWER:

They ASSUME, BY FAITH, that the God of the Bible has not spoken truthfully, or authoritatively, in the Bible. This doesn't mean they may not believe in some type of "god" (or highest authority), but that they are refusing to admit the God of the Bible is the One True God and that He speaks with authority in biblical scripture.

-- AND, if a non-Christian doesn't believe in the Triune God of the Bible and also take the Bible to be the infallible Word of God, then they will ASSUME, BY FAITH, that SOME OTHER WORLDVIEW IS TRUE. In other words, an unbeliever ALWAYS HOLDS TO THEIR OWN FAITH-VIEW OF REALITY. ALWAYS!

Non-Christians will ALWAYS assume their current faith/worldview of reality is true in order to try and justify believing in their current worldview.

HOW CAN CHRISTIANS (OR ANY "RELIGIOUS PERSON", FOR THAT MATTER) CLAIM THAT THEIR FAITH IS TRUE? (...OR THE ONE TRUE FAITH?)

-- Do people of all faith-views believe their worldview is true? YES!

-- ALL RELIGIONS teach essentially do this. They ALL claim to be TRUE.

-- **Throughout secular America today, most people try to BOTH affirm the validity of most religious views, while also denying the exclusive nature of their teachings**

-- Faith / religious beliefs are commonly viewed today, in our world, as only being personal, subjective, and not in any factual way tied to the objective, "real world." The thinking is that faith beliefs are simply personal, subjective beliefs, and not related at all to objective truth.

-- Most of the world, defines "Faith" today in both a non-biblical and irrational way.

-- The world at large defines faith as something that comes AFTER reason ... OR ... they define faith in a way that implies it's completely disconnected from reason / logic.

Why do they do this?

FAITH. A LEAP? OR A FOUNDATION?

-- **Søren Kierkegaard** taught human beings first engage in reason, and then leave it behind when they adopt religious views in a "**leap of faith**".

-- The reality is that **Faith is the foundation for reason.**

-- Human beings are FINITE. We all MUST first ASSUME certain things about reality in order to then we think / reason about the reality we already assume exists.

The beliefs which people hold are always connected to other beliefs by relations pertaining to linguistic meaning, logical order, evidential dependence, causal explanation, indexical and self-conceptions, etc. To assert "I see a ladybug on the rose" is to affirm and assume a number of things simultaneously-some rather obvious (e.g., about the usage of English words, one's personal identity, a perceptual event, categories of bugs and flowers, physical relations), others more subtle (e.g., about one's linguistic, entomological, and botanical competence, the normalcy of one's eyes and brain-stem, theories of light refraction, shared grammar and semantics, the reality of the external world, laws of logic, etc.). – Quote by Greg Bahnsen, taken from "Faith With Reason," p.20

-- Faith assumptions about reality compose the basis of everyone's "worldview"

-- Faith precedes reason. The idea that faith is separated from reason is a false understanding of faith. Faith isn't separated from reason. One's faith is actually the foundation for their reasoning.

-- **It's FAITH FIRST and REASON SECOND, for everyone.**

-- ALL worldviews are essentially faith-views.

ONE'S PERSONAL FAITH-VIEW ALWAYS SEEKS TO CONTROL THEIR "REASONING" (i.e., the way they think/reason)

-- Example, an atheist might say, "There is no "spiritual reality" that one can truly "know." Humans cannot know if God, or heaven or hell exist. The only realities human beings can know for sure exists are things such as matter and energy because they can be proven using some type of scientific testing or validation." Why does the atheist say this? Because this expresses his/her current belief that "empirical science" is the ultimate standard for human knowledge.

-- Everyone's faith-beliefs always make up the foundation for their worldview ... the way they think.

-- One's faith-assumptions, expressed by their worldview, defines what they think reasoning is, as well as the boundaries of that reasoning.

THE FALSE VIEW OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAITH & REASON THAT MOST PEOPLE HAVE PROMOTES BOTH:

-- **1) Modernism / secular atheism ... & ... 2) post-modern views of religion** (The notion that all religious views are valid; ex. religious syncretism / inclusivism and universalism)

-- **How does the false conception of faith-reason promote modernism (including secularism / atheism)?** ... this view once dominated the West.

-- Enlightenment / Modernity / Modernist approach to truth says truth is possible, and that there are various ways to describe what truth is and how can be obtained. (Example: Rationalism, empiricism (scientific), Correspondence Theory of truth, etc.)

-- Modernity tends towards a view that "religion / salvation" is irrational because it all unverifiable ... Modernity, therefore, tends toward Secular Atheism (define)

A modernist says, *"The only thing that exists, or that we can know for sure exists, is what we can taste, touch, feel or smell, measure with a scientific instrument. etc."*

Our reply, *"How do you know your belief/idea is true ... Did you taste, touch, feel or smell it?"*
"Not only that, how does your empirical worldview account for such a "belief" in the first place?"

-- **How does the false conception of faith-reason promote post-modernism (including relativism)?** ... this view currently dominates in the West.

-- Post-modernism says "there is no such thing as "objective truth" ... Rather "truth is relative"

A post-modernist says, *"There is no such thing as absolute truth."*

Our reply, *"Is it true, that there is no such thing as absolute truth?"*

-- Post-modernism gives rise to religious views of both inclusivism / universalism (define)

A post-modernist says, *"All roads lead to heaven."* ... all religions lead to god, however one chooses to define god (or even not define god)

Our reply, *"How do all roads lead to god/heaven/salvation when all religions teach different views of god/heaven/salvation? Islam, for example, teaches that salvation comes with acknowledging Allah is God (and it denies that Jesus is God), while Christianity teaches Jesus is God and that one's salvation must affirm that Jesus Christ is Lord. How can both views be true?"*

AS CHRISTIANS, WE AFFIRM THE BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW IS SELF-ATTESTING. BUT WE ALSO BELIEVE IT'S SELF-EVIDENCING.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "SELF-EVIDENCING"? WE MEAN THE BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW REVEALS ITSELF TO BE TRUE BECAUSE IT ALONE PROVIDES A SURE FOUNDATION FOR TRUTH & HUMAN KNOWLEDGE

-- If the Biblical Worldview is true then it alone will be able to account for and explain "Reality" in a meaningful, rational way.

-- Because only the Bible can account for Reality and man's knowledge of this Reality

-- The Biblical Christian worldview (which we hold to by FAITH) demonstrates itself to be true

-- The truth of the Bible is contained within itself ... it alone can account for the "Reality" of our human existence (being, knowledge, experience, etc.)

-- The Bible then, is not just a "self-attesting" authority from God ... it will also be a "self-evidencing" authority ... in other words, the evidence that the Bible is true is "contained within it"

-- This truth will reveal itself. God's Word and truthful view of reality will stand on its own!

2 Timothy 2:23-26 - Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.