

Pastor Bill's Ramblings

John 14:6-7 NIV84

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the **truth** and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well."



GRACE and peace in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I recently read an article by a woman named Dorothy Sayers, it was written in 1947. The premise of the article was that our education system was, and I dare say is still, way out of whack. Schools were teaching kids how to regurgitate information but were and are not teaching children to think logically for themselves.

Instead of thinking logically and searching for answers we debate issues with "I feel." When we put these "feeling thoughts" into the midst of a debate we are assuming we know the truth and when it comes to issues regarding Christianity we are assuming that our feelings reflect God's thoughts, even if the biblical word contradicts our "feelings." Needless to say if you get twenty people in the room you can come up with twenty different "I feel" truths.

The following excerpt is from an article by **Focus on the Family**:

"A recent nationwide survey completed by the Barna Research Group determined that only 4 percent of Americans had a "biblical" worldview. When George Barna, who has researched cultural trends and the Christian Church since 1984, looked at the "born-again" believers in America, the results were a dismal 9 percent.

What is a worldview? A worldview is the framework from which we view reality and make sense of life and the world. For example, a 2-year-old believes s/he is the center of their world, a secular humanist believes that the material world is all that exists, and a Buddhist believes he can be liberated from suffering by self-purification. Someone with a biblical worldview believes his primary reason for existence is to love and serve God.

Whether conscious or subconscious, every person has some type of worldview. A personal worldview is a combination of all you believe to be true, and what you believe becomes the driving force behind every emotion, decision and action. Therefore, it affects your response to every area of life: from philosophy to science, theology and anthropology to economics, law, politics, art and social order— everything.

For example, let's suppose you have bought the idea that beauty is in the eye of the beholder (secular relative truth) as opposed to beauty as defined by God's purity and creativity (absolute truth). Then any art piece, no matter how vulgar or abstract, would be considered "art," a creation of beauty.

H
a
v
e

w
e,

y
o
u
&

I,

b
e
e
n

a
b
o
u
t

G
o
d
's

w
i
l
l
?

Do you have a biblical worldview? Answer the following questions, based on claims found in the Bible and which George Barna used in his survey: Do absolute moral truths exist? Is absolute truth defined by the Bible? Did Jesus Christ live a sinless life? Is God the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe, and does He still rule it today? Is salvation a gift from God that cannot be earned? Is Satan real? Does a Christian have a responsibility to share his or her faith in Christ with other people? Is the Bible accurate in all of its teachings?

Did you answer yes to these? Only 9 percent of "born-again" believers did. But what is more important than your yes to these questions is whether your life shows it. Granted, we are all sinners and fall short, but most of our gut reactions will reflect what we deep-down, honest-to-goodness believe to be real and true."

If only 9% of church going Christians labeled "Born Again" have a biblical worldview then it is no wonder our society and our world have turned upside down. Per the disastercenter.com/crime/uscrime website violent crime in the United States is 233% higher in 2014 then it was in 1960. We have become a complacent society that allows the news media, Madison Fifth Ave and Hollywood discern what is right. We may give lip service to the Judeo/Christian morality but our actions and even our discussions say that we have bought into a secular (worldly) world view. Even the messages that many churches, especially mainline Protestant churches, espouse are more of a secular message than a biblical message.

We are a people that do our thinking much as we do our dining. Drive through a fast food joint, order some quick unhealthy food and get frustrated when our bodies show signs of heart disease, diabetes, cancer, etc. Then we run to the doctors looking for some quick fix like a shot or some oral medication to take away the symptoms and mask the fact that we are killing ourselves. We take our worldview from sound bites of a worldview media, etc. and wonder why our lives are upside down. Our quick fix is to have an election and expect the worldview politicians to figure it out.

Jesus Himself said "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." If you have a secular worldview and not a biblical world view then how do you know the will of the Father in heaven? If you do not know His will how can you do His will? We need to take a step back in the midst of a secular world and read the truth. I would add one more question to the list from above. Is Jesus Lord of your life? If Jesus is Lord of your life you are doing the will of God. We need to feed our spiritual bodies with the Bread of Life so that we can be secure in our salvation and so that we are doing God's will of bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a world that so desperately needs to hear of His grace and forgiveness.

Your Servant in Christ, *Pastor Bill*