

## CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

### What is Worldview?

According to Matt Slick "Worldview is a set of presuppositions and beliefs that someone uses to interpret and form opinions about his humanity, purpose in life, duties in the world responsibilities to family interpretation of faith, social issues etc,

Mrs (dr) Ekaete Ettang define worldview as the through looks at life, its meaning, reality, purpose, world event, and even history.

For David Noebel "Worldview refers to any ideology, philosophy, theology movement or religion that provides an overarching approach to understanding God, the world and Man's relationship to God and the world."

Noebel said in his book. The battle for the truth

A worldview should contain a particular perspective regarding each of the following disciplines:

- Theology
- Philosophy
- Ethics
- Biology
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Law
- Politics
- Economics
- History

The above disciplines summarises issues in worldview, which covers every area of human life.

### CATEGORIES OF WORLDVIEW

Christian worldview

Non-Christian worldview

What then is a Christian Worldview? A Christian worldview in the biblical presuppositions and beliefs that a Christian uses to interpret and form opinion about God the world and man's relationship to God and the world.

Christian worldview is also the biblical framework of ideas through which a person interprets the world events, ideas, relationships and interact with it. The Christian in a stakeholder in the community of the world he lives. Therefore he cannot be non-challant about the world and the happy in the other beliefs inform their interpretation so also the Christian belief informs his thoughts interpretation understanding actions

Every belief and worldview that will be considered Christian must be biblical. It must have its basis in the Bible. Anything outside the Bible is not Christian. Therefore it is possible to claim to be Christian and not having a Christian worldview in all areas of the Christian in the world but not of the world (John 17). He is expected to influence the world with biblical world view and not otherwise (Roman 12).

The kind of worldview you have determines your success in life. If you have a good worldview. Your body will be full of light; if you have bad worldview your body will be full of darkness.

### Non-Christian Worldview



This is the perception of the world through ideologies and philosophies that are oppose to the teachings of the Bible. There are many non-Christian worldviews in the world these are oppose to each other and inform by diverse beliefs, some of which are trying to impose themselves on the Bible in order to gain acceptances e.g. Christian don't suffer. Some these non-Christian worldviews are not biblical but they are found in the church.

### **Classes of Non-Christian Worldview**

Relevance of Christian Worldview Christian worldview is relevant for the following reasons

1. It is rooted in God who is supreme and his revelation to his creation
2. It provides a supreme, reasonable and a clear understanding about man his origin, and purpose and destiny.
3. It provides a framework for a good life for man in his community and relationship to other creation.
4. It provides a level playing ground for all people to contribute to development of their nation
5. It is the origin of western education which has provided a better life for man in relationship to other creator.
6. The Christian worldview has value both for this physical life and life to come. It prepares the individual for eternal bliss with God in heaven.
7. Christian worldview exposes falsehood in the society and prepares the individual for impact through the agency of truth. Luke 12

### **ASPECTS OF WORLDVIEW TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE COURSE**

Worldview perspectives will be considered and discussed from only three of the ten disciplines mentioned earlier. These include.

1. Theology
2. Biology
3. Ethics

These are foundational to all other disciplines and more directly relevant to our course. We shall be discussing only the first two, while the third on will be looked into in the next semester.

### **Theology**

The word theology comes from two Greek words: "Theos" means God and "logos" which means "discourse". Literally therefore theology means a discourse about God. In a more simple language, theology is the study of God.

Peter Abelard during the twelfth century refer to theology a "scientific instruction in religion."

Theology determines worldview. There is a Christian theology and non-Christian theology. Since our course in Christian worldview we shall concentrate on Christian theology.

### **WHAT IS CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY?**

There are many definitions but we shall consider only three

1. Orfon Wiley and Paul Culbertson They said "Christian theology in the systematic presentation of the doctrine faith"
2. William B. Pope  
He sees Christian theology as "The science of God and divine things , based upon the revelation made to mankind in Jesus Christ a variously systematized within Christian church."
3. Samuel Wakefield:



Defines Christian Theology as "That Science which treats of the existence, the character and attributes of God; His laws and government the doctrine which we are to believe, the moral change we must experience, and the duties we are required to perform.

#### Attitude Necessary for a fruitful study of theology

1. A spiritual attitude – John 14:26, 1 Cor 2:10-15
2. A diligent Attitude – Pro 25:2, Matt 7:7 II Tim 2:15
3. A humble/teachable heart – Ps 119:130, 1 Cor 8:1-2
4. An objective attitude – Acts 17:10

#### Approaches to the study of Theology.

There are basically two major approaches

##### A biblical Theology:

This is the approach to study of Christian theology with the following feature

- i. Deal with simple ideas
- ii. Treats the religion of the Bible and limited to it
- iii. Basically Historical (what the Bible says in context)
- iv. Its techniques begins with exegesis and then formulate ideas from the text
- v. Concentrates on what does the Bible says

##### Advantages

1. It demonstrates the organic growth of theology
2. It provides an antidote to theological drift
3. It provides freshness to theology by demonstrating the original settings of the Bible doctrines
4. It gives the proper balance and emphasis of the Bible.

#### **LIMITATIONS**

1. Biblical theology can be tedious
2. Biblical theology may not answer all your questions.

#### **B. SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY**

This is the approach of the study of Christian theology has the following features

1. Deals with complex ideas
2. Treats the religion of Christianity in general. Not limited to the Bible.
3. Basically didactic (what the theologians the creed says)
4. Its techniques begins with biblical theology then add logic and opinions of others. Concentrates on what is true about God.

##### Advantages

1. Systematic theology brings the results of Biblical study in a capsule form
2. Systematic theology help in combating heresy
3. It always attempts answers questions that may not have direct reference answer from the Bible.

##### **LIMITATION**

1. Systematic theology stands the risks of theological drifts
2. The systematic system might influence the study of the Bible
3. It can promote denominationalism



4. It can reduce sacred things to academic

In summary the main difference between these approach in that Biblical theology emphasis exegesis while systematic theologian emphasis logic. Prof. McCain said "certainly there is time Biblical theology. Biblical theology provides the foundation for systematic theology and keeps it from drifting away from the Bible. Systematic theology makes this truth understable and useful among God's people.

### **BRANCHES OF THEOLOGY TO STUDY FOR CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW**

1. Theology Proper
2. Christology
3. Bibliology

### **THEOLOGY PROPER**

Theology proper is the expression use to describe the study that is related to God himself, God the father.

We need to start this study with the question Does God exists? If yes can he be known if he can he known personally?

### **Worldview about God**

There are many worldviews about the existence of God and his relationship to man. However, we shall consider few basic ones.

### **ATHEISM**

This worldviews deny the existence of God, God or anything supernatural. Atheism attributes everything in the universe to a natural cause e.g

### **AGNOSTICISM**

Agnosticism claims that nothing beyond one rational existence and the physical world can be known. The worldview has it that we don't know if there is God. However if there's he is beyond the ability of man to know him. Therefore God is ignored.

### **POLYTHEISM**

This is the belief in many God's there is no one personal God but many different Gods who have different forces under their control: One God may be the God of thunder another of Agriculture another of fire, another of fire, another of weather, another of sun, another of water etc. this was the prevailing worldview about God among the Greeks and the Romans of the first century (Act 17:23)

### **DEISM**

This worldview holds that, there is God. He created the universe endured it with natural power and laws and then left it to ran its own course. This God is said not to have personal interest in the world today. Deism stresses the transcendence of God.

### **PANTHEISM**

This worldview teaches that God in all and all in God. It explains that everything in God in its own right. Everyone/than in God as much as any other being. God is **merely a** handy term that describes all the forces in the universe. Pantheism stresses the **immanence of** God.

### **THEISM**



This is the Christian Worldview about God. It is the belief of a personal God who is the designer, creator and sustainer of the universe. The Bible teaches about a personal powerful all knowing, and ever present God. Acts 17:28; Col 1:16-17

The Christian faith is founded by works. God is primarily believed to exist by his faith Heb but the true faith in God must manifest Him. However, the Christian faith is reasonable as it can, with reason be understood to some extent to be believed.

### **GOD'S SELF REVELATION**

How did man come to know about God? The simple answer is by God's self-revelation. Man knew about God because God revealed himself to man.

There are two major ways God reveals himself to man as taught from the Bible

1. General Revelation
2. Special Revelation

### **GENERAL REVELATION- Act 17:27**

This is God's revelation of himself through his creation (man and the universe) these creation is a pointer to the fact that there is a creator (Romans 1:20). Man is created with the consciousness of God in him. That is to say the knowledge of God is innate (What we are born with). However, the knowledge of God can also be learned (what we observe). This is the cosmological argument for the existence of God argument from "cause and effect" common sense tells us that neither happen with a cause. A mere observation of the universe should convince every reasonable mind that it did not happen by chance.

The general revelation of God, God has been marred by the fall of man, when they disobeyed God. While in the garden of Eden (Gen 3:1-7). Thus making this revelation a non-redemptive one. God revealed himself and has purpose for his creation but man's choice violated it and made man to lose his position in God. Understanding God first as a creator does not give eternal salvation.

G.R a shadow of God's redemptive plan. It captures every area caring the disciples we earlier mentioned David Noel Gen 1:1- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth- Theology and Genesis 2:9- knowledge of good and evil Philosophy Gen 1:21. After their kind biological, Genesis 2:7 "a living soul" Biological; Gen 3:11 - T commanded the - Law; Gen 9:6 "who so shed man blood" Political and legal Gen 1:29 it shall be for food "Economic; Gen 3:15 enmity between you and the woman" historical. All these manifest and accent certain aspects of the creative order.

### **SPECIAL REVELATION**

This is God's self-revelation through the person of Jesus Christ. It is a redemptive revelation. "Whereas general revelation comes to all via nature, and does not save, special revelation comes to some and is saving" said R.T. Kendall in his book understanding theology. God did not want man to perish eternally after the fall so he revealed himself in Jesus Christ as saviour.

Through the gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit man is exposed to this special revelation (Mark 16:15; Acts 17:30) only the Holy Spirit grants faith and repentance (Rom 2:4; Eph 2:8-9). The preaching of the gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit alone cannot bring salvation. There must be a positive exercise of free will on the part of man in order to receive this special revelation. Jesus Christ said, many are called but few are chosen (Matthew 22:14). The many are those who hear the gospel and the few are those who receive the gospel (special revelation).

The special revelation was also manifested in such a way as to underline the significance of each discipline earlier Jesus Christ is "The fullness of" - Theology (Col 2:9)



"The word of God" - Philosophy (John 1:1) "true light" (John 1:9, 3:9-20) "The life" - Biology (John 1:4, 11:25 Col 1:16) "saviour" - Psychology (Luke 1:46-47, Titus 2) "Son" - Sociology (Luke 1:35-36; Isaiah 9:6) "Law giver" - (Gen 49:10, Isaiah 9:7) "King of Kings" - Politics (Rev 19:16, 1 Tim 6:15; Is 9:6) "Owner of all things" - Economics (Ps 24:1; 50:10; 121 Cor 10:26) "Alpha & Omega" - History (Rev. 1:8).

In general revelation God uses our conscience and nature as instrument of revelation while in special revelation he uses the gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit to speak to man. God wants us to know not only in the general sense but also in the specially special sense.

## CHRISTOLOGY

IN Matt 16:13-16, Jesus Christ as his disciples, "who do people say I am" After their responses about other people's opinion concern about him he asked them who do you say I am?

This crucial question open up the discourse on Christology, which is the discourse about Jesus Christ! His deity, His humanity and His messianship.

**CHRIST'S DEITY:** This in the divinity of Christ that is his being God in Christ God? This aspect of Christology teaches that Christ in God.

### Proof of the Deity of Christ

1. Jesus Christ is called God
  - John 1:1, 14
  - John 20:28
  - 1 John 5:20
  - Roman 9:5
  - Titus 2:13
  - Hebrews 1:1
  - Phil 2:6
2. The New Testament identified Jesus Christ with the Old Testament Jehovah
  1. Matthew 3:3 with Isaiah 40:3
  2. John 12:41 with Isaiah 6:1-4
  3. Ephesians 4:7, 8 with Psalm 68:18
  4. 1 Peter 3:15 with Isaiah 8:13
3. Jesus possessed God's natural attributes commutable (Heb 13:8)
  - Jesus is eternal (John 1:1) John 17:5 Eph 1:4, Heb 1:8
  - Jesus is omnipotent (Matthew 28:20 Eph 1:23)
  - Jesus is Omniscient (Matt 9:4 John 2:24, 25 16:30; Act 1:24; Col 2:3)
  - Jesus is Omnipotent (Matt 28:18; Rev 1:8)
4. Jesus is Ascribed Actions that only God can do
  - He was involve in creation (John 1:3 1 Cor 8:6; Col 1:16; Hebrews 1:10 Rev. 3:14)
  - He is sustaining the creation (Col 1:17; Heb 1:3)
  - He forgives sin (Mark 9:1-6; Lk 23:42-43 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:7).
  - He Raises the dead Matt 9:18-26
  - He has a name that is above all other names Phil 2:10
5. Jesus' name is placed in juxtaposition with God the father
  - Matthew 28:19
  - II Cor 13:14
  - John 5:23



- John 14:1-3
- II Thes 2:16-17
- Matt 11:27
- 6. Jesus is said to be equal with God
  - John 5:18b
- Philippians 2:6

### **Erroneous Teaching Concerning the Deity of Christ**

1. Gnosticism – Denied the deity of Christ claimed that Jesus cannot be human and God at the same time
2. Ebionism – Hold tenaciously, that God is one and cannot be three persons
3. Asiasm – Argued that there was a time that the son was created when he has born
4. Unitarianism: Teaches that Jesus was simply a good man, a religious genius of exception insight.

## **THE HUMNITY OF JESUS CHRIST**

Jesus is God who became man. This made him human. He was not only God but he was also man. Fully God and fully Human.

### **Proof of Jesus Humanity**

- Jesus was given a human name Matt 1:21
- He had human history Luke 2:7. Though Jesus had no earthly father yet he was human because he was born like anyone of us.
- He had human nature
- Hebrew 2:14 He had a physical body
- Matthew 26:38 & Lk 33:46 He had a spirit and soul
- Matt 4:2 He was hungry
- John 4:6, 19:28 He got weary and thirsty.
- Had Human process of maturity Luke 2:40; 52, Heb 4:15-16
- He grew up
- He learned to know
- He study to be informed
- He was tempted
- He dies like any man would
- Matt 27:50; Mk 15:37-39 Lk 23:46, Heb 2:14-15

### **Erroneous Teaching about Christ's humanity**

#### **1. Docetism:**

This teaching has it that Jesus was not really a human. He only appeared to be human. It claimed that Jesus did not really have flesh, blood and bones as we do. He only appeared to be so.

This teaching emanated for Gnosticism which separates the spiritual from the material. They consider anything spiritual as good and anything material is evil.

#### **2. Appollinarranism:**

This teaching was developed during the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. It was developed by one Bishop Apollinarius of Laodices. He taught that Jesus had a human body and soul but not human spirit. He believed that the logos substituted for the human spirit; thus denying the humanity of Jesus Christ

## **THE MESSIANSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST.**



Jesus messiahship distinguished him from all other humans. It adds to the proof of him being fully human and fully God (his divinity and humanity). He is not only Jesus but Jesus Christ. Christ means messiah i.e. the saviour. Jesus is a human name but Christ is divine. The messiahship of Jesus Christ completes the purpose of the God-man.

The messiahship is the salvation security that was gained for all mankind by Jesus Christ at the cross. This provides direct to God everyone who believes. The glory of Christ is His prophecy" in other words, one of the many proofs that Jesus indeed was the messiah is the prophecies that he fulfilled." (McCain, We relieve (Capro-Media), P54).

The messiahship of Jesus Christ begins with prophecies about Him. Every stage of Jesus Christ's life was a fulfilment of prophecy. No major part of Christ's life had no prophecy in the Old Testament. The prophecies about Christ's covers: His ultimate work, His tribe, His throne, His birth place; His virgin birth; His forerunner His ministry; His triumphant entry; His suffering ; His death; His resurrection His work.

The first reference to the coming of Jesus Christ as messiah is in Genesis 3:15. In pronouncing Judgement to the serpent God said "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel" This is a prophetic pronouncement. God prophesied Christ's victory over Satan. This is however, never to be without struggle for Satan will bruise Jesus' heel. The life between human and the physical serpent is a kind of an analogy to the battle between Jesus Christ (The seed of the woman) and Satan (the seed of the serpent)

The prophecy and its further implication was stated in Gen 12:3 "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." God progressively unveiled his prophetic direction for the coming of the messiah. At the fall we all came under curse in Adam. However, sequel to the victory over the seed of the serpent by the seed of the woman, those who believe will be blessed (Gal 3:10-12).

These reveals the ultimate purpose of Jesus Christ's coming to earth He taking the form of man, to destroy for man, the works of man, to destroy for man, the works of darkness 1st John 3:8. As Jesus he satisfied God's justice; as Christ he destroyed the powers of Satan. This giving man the opportunity to get back into cordial relationship with God (Matt 27:50-53) Jesus said "I come

### **HIS TRIBE**

The tribe through which Christ will come into the world was prophecies first by Jacob when he blessed his sons (Gen 49:10)"The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his." This was confirmed by prophet Balaam in Numbers 24:17-19.

These predictions or prophecies were fulfilled in the New Testament. The genealogy of Jesus Christ shows that Jesus' earthly lineage was of the tribe of Judah.

### **HIS THRONE**

The throne of Jesus Christ is an everlasting throne. He is to be the head of all governments. Talk about Jesus Christ, prophet Isaiah says "... And the government will be on his shoulder. And he will be called wonderful counsellor, mighty God, everlasting father, Prince of peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with Justice and righteousness from that time on and forever..." Cf Psalm 45:6-7;

These prophecies were fulfilled in the New Testament the angel announced to Mary about Jesus Christ will tell her that she will have a virgin conception. He will be great and will be called the son of the most high. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father



David" Jesus Christ is the king of kings and the Lord of Lords any true and first government is established and build in and by Jesus Christ.

#### **His Birth Place**

Prophet Micah prophesised that Jesus Christ will be born in Bethlehem, many centuries before it came to pass (Micah 5:2) "But you, Bethlehem Ephrata, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel; whose origins are from of old from ancient times"

Matthew 2:1-6 became a fulfilment of Micah's prophecy. Jewish theologians were well conversant with the fact that Christ Jesus will be born in Bethlehem so they told Herod when he heard of the new born king.

#### **His Virgin Birth**

Christ virgin birth is also a prove of his claim, as the son of God. Isaiah prophesised that Jesus Christ will have a virgin conception" Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be with a child and will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel The angel also prophesised (Mke 1:26-35). This was accurately fulfilled when the Holy Spirit came upon the Virgin Mary and she conceived and bore a son Matt1:18-25, Lk 2:1-7.

The slaughter of children by Herod in sought of Jesus Christ was also prophesised (Jeremiah 31:5) Jesus parents flight to Egypt was also prophesised (Hosea 11:1).

#### **His Forerunner**

A forerunner is a person or thing that prepares the way for, something or someone. John the Baptist was a forerunner of Jesus Christ. His coming was also planned by God and prophesised by prophet Malachi." see, I will said my messenger, who will prepare the way before me' The suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple" Malachi 3:1. Prophet Isaiah had earlier prophesised is another fashion" A voice of one calling "In the desert prepare the way for the Lord, make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God." Isaiah 40:3. The coming of John the Baptist fulfilled these passages. Luke 7:27 and Matthew 3:1-3 are fulfilment to the prophecies respectively.

#### **His Ministry**

McCain observed that "several limits about THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE Lord are also given in the Old Testament. Isaiah 9:1-2 indicates that the messiah would have a ministry in Zebulum and Naphtali and Galilee. Matthew 4:13-16 indicates that during Jesus' tour northward from Galilee, this verse was fulfilled.