

CAPITAL BIBLE CHURCH
SERMON NOTES

November 14, 2021
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Opposing Worldviews – Pt. 2

2 Timothy 3:1 - 5

Big Idea: A true Biblical worldview is incompatible with all others.

The way we view the world matters. Our view of the world around us affects the way we react to the events happening around us, the way we view the news, the way we treat one another, the way we treat the disadvantaged (poor, handicap, disabled), and the way we view ourselves. It affects our morals and our convictions and the way we live out those morals and convictions. Our world view very much deals with our concept of who and what God is and how we relate to Him. Determining our worldview we answer some basic questions like:

The origin & purpose of man?

What is Truth? Is it relative or is there absolute truth?

What happens when you die?

Who determines ethics (right from wrong)?

The big question: Who or what is God?

Answers to these question determine who we are, how we look at the world, how we view God. For example, notice the gods of the following worldviews:

Humanism: man = god

Marxism: government = god

Naturalism: the cosmos = god

Postmodernism or Nihilism: “whatever”= God; whatever you want God to be to you, anything or nothing at all.

New Age/Pantheism: Everything=God

If you have a true biblical worldview, if you believe in a Creator God, to whom all are answerable, who sets the moral standards, and will judge the world., you will find yourself in conflict with all other worldviews. Those with conflicting worldviews do not want to hear the truth. Many are tolerant of many things except the Christian, those who hold to a true biblical worldview, those who profess there is absolute Truth in the universe and profess that His name is Jesus.

No wonder the world is in a such a mess. These other worldviews oppose the Truth, and they oppose Jesus. In a couple of minutes we'll look at what the Bible says about these worldviews in **2 Timothy 3:1–5**

First, let's remember one of the first horrific school shootings from 22 years ago.

(Quoting from: [Culturally Incorrect: How Clashing Worldviews Affect Your Future](#))

Klebold and Harris the Columbine H.S. shooters had a **worldview called nihilism,**

Nihilism - the rejection of all religious and moral principles, the belief that life is meaningless.

And many so-called Christians indulge in similar ideas as shown by what they do and the things they put into their minds.

Remember this: A true biblical worldview is in conflict with all other worldviews.

Let's slowly take a look at what the apostle Paul wrote to his son in the faith Timothy in his first and second letters:

2 Timothy 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

1. What are the characteristics of the “last days?”

The Greek word here is “ginoskow” which means to know, to understand.

A falling away – apostasy – today it’s called “deconstructing”

1 Timothy 4:1a “Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith...”

Doctrine of demons and deceitful spirits

1 Timothy 4:1b, 2 “...they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons speaking lies. Such teachings come from the false words of liars whose consciences are destroyed as if by a hot iron.”

These teachings are leading people straight to hell. As such the church is supposed to be the repository and guardian of the truth. This is where the battle lines are drawn for the world rebels against the truth.

Belief in “the lie”

2 Timothy 4:3 ...because the time will come when people will not listen to the true teaching but will find many more teachers who please them by saying the things they want to hear. They will reject the truth...

Satan touched a nerve when he told Eve:

Genesis 3:5 For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

You can be a god! – That’s the big lie!

That’s the seductive line for which people have been falling for many thousands of years. People prop themselves up as God and what are the results? Look now at 2 Timothy 3:2 - 4

2 Timothy 3:2–4 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ...

Much like list in Romans 1:21-32. There Paul tells us that “God gave them over to a depraved mind (a Non-functioning mind) to do those things which are not proper.” (Romans 1:28b) “God gave them over,” what a terrible reality

2. What should true believers with a biblical worldview do?

Avoid false religious leaders (stay away from their teaching)

2 Timothy 3:5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

These are folks who know the vocabulary, who have nice sounding words, and many of their actions are admirable, but they are completely devoid of power. Paul’s instructions are clear: “Avoid such men as these.”

These people are living a lie, and they are trying to sway many into following them by persuasive arguments. We are to avoid them. We are not to allow ourselves to be corrupted by their philosophies. They may appear to be quite knowledgeable, but Paul tells us they are:

2 Timothy 3:7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

But in today’s world, if someone says a lie, even a boldface, outlandish lie, a lie that is clearly a lie when the very truth boldly stands against it, if you say that lie loud enough and often enough, and with the right charisma, the world will believe it even when the truth stares at them in the face.

Romans 1:25a For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie ...

Note next verse – “God gave them up...” and “the women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature” and likewise the men...

Here is the fact about many of those described in 2 Timothy 3:2-4,

A sad truth - they enjoy the lie they are believing and living and will oppose the truth and all who stand for God’s truth!

Follow those who are true – vs. 10, 11

2 Timothy 3:10 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,
11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra--what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me.

Acts 14:19 some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowds to their side. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of town, thinking he was dead.

20 But as the believers gathered around him, he got up and went back into the town. The next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe.

21 Paul and Barnabas told the Good News in Derbe, and made many disciples. Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch,
22 making the followers of Jesus stronger and helping them stay in the faith. They said, "We must suffer many things to enter God's kingdom."

Expect persecution

2 Timothy 3:12–13 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 13 But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

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The people with opposing worldviews will clash against you. And in the end we clearly see it is all about Jesus. Jesus is the center of it all. Either people will be for Jesus or against Him. There is really no middle ground.

There is little tolerance from the people who call for tolerance, for anything Godly and centered around the truth that is Jesus.

In India, where Hindus are generally peaceful, they are being violent against truth of Jesus because the truth disrupts their long held traditions. They are not violent against the Muslims in the area, but they are against Christians. Undoubtedly because the Hindu nationalist movement, to which the current Indian prime minister belongs, forwards the poisonous idea that "to be Indian is to be Hindu," leaving little room for those of other faiths. This ideology has inspired mob violence against Christians and others. Meanwhile, Indian Christians also face discrimination from the government.

Open Doors estimates that 150,000 Christians in India were denied aid during the COVID-19 pandemic because of their faith. Persecution of Christians is high in Iran, Turkey, North Korea, China, Nigeria and much of Africa.

And we are seeing it in increasing ways in this nation too. Churches have been shut down by governments using the excuse of health reasons!

So how are we, who possess the truth, the very truth of God, the truth that is Jesus, how are we to proceed?

Continue – hold on to the truth - persevere

2 Timothy 3:14-15 But you should continue following the teachings you learned. You know they are true, because you trust those who taught you. Since you were a child you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise. And that wisdom leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

We have the truth in the Word. We are to live by the truth of the Word. We are to be molded by the truth of the Word. Our view of the world around us is based on the word of truth (this is what we mean by a biblical worldview). We are to hold firm to the Truth, that Truth that is Jesus.

Yes indeed, difficult times will come. (2 Timothy 3:1). Paul tells us we are to be aware, to understand what is happening with the people all around us.

For these are the very people we are asked to reach. No one said it would be easy, but we don't walk this life alone. There is no such thing as a "Lone

Ranger” Christian, for Jesus has given us the church for reasons such as this.

Hebrews 10:35 “Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:”

And Jesus Himself insures us that He is with us all the way:

Matthew 28:20b ... and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Do you know the Jesus of the Bible? Do you know the truth that is Jesus? As I have said before and will say again, in the end it is all about Jesus.

Do you know Jesus? Do you stand with Him?