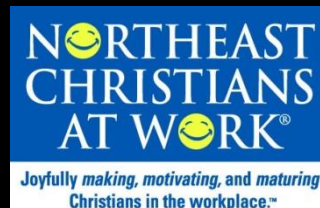
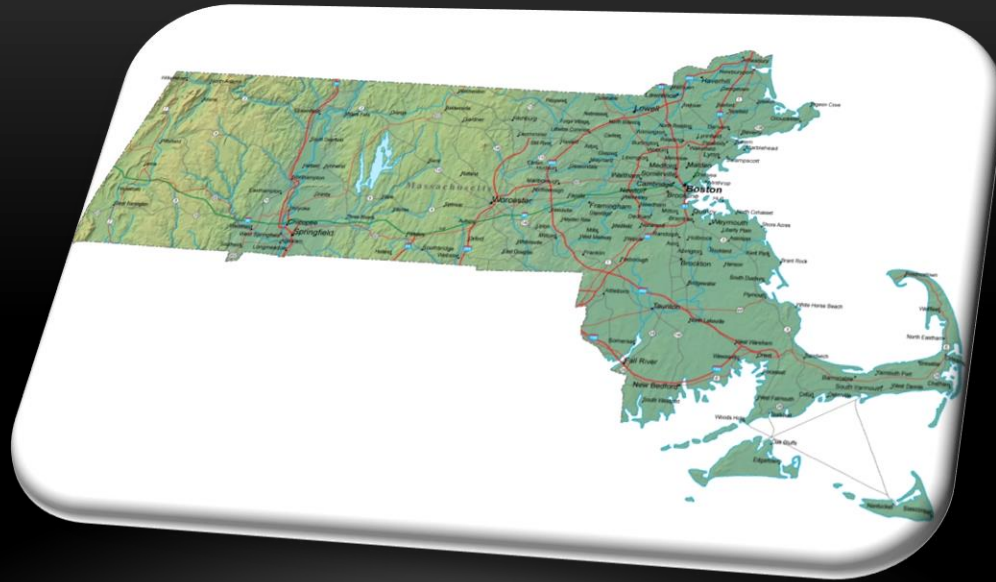


UNPACKING THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AT WORK



Thank you for being here today!





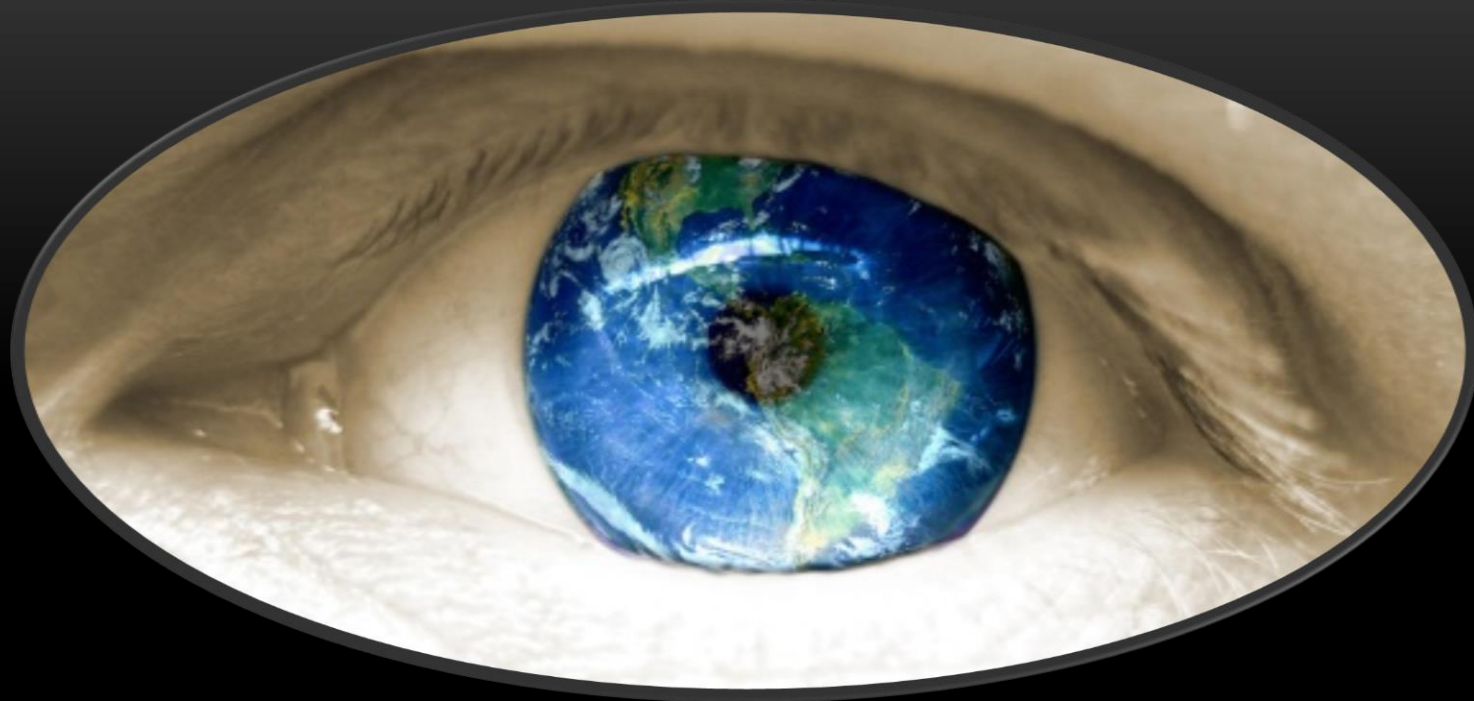
- My family roots in Massachusetts go back to 1634, when the Rev. John Crandall landed in Boston.
- My wife Dawn's faith in Christ came alive at a church coffeehouse in Worcester in 1971.

**TO KICK OFF TODAY'S SEMINAR,
WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A BRIEF TRIP
INTO OUTER SPACE.**



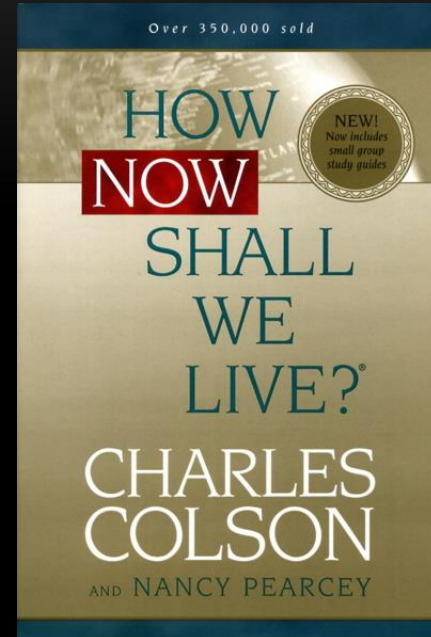
WHY? TO GET A GLIMPSE OF THE “CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW.”





- Worldview = a framework or perception of the world used for living in the world. A mental model of reality. A framework of ideas and attitudes about the world, ourselves, and life; a comprehensive system of beliefs.

THE BEGINNING OF THIS SEMINAR CONTENT...



The latter part of the seminar is content the Lord has given me.

IT'S TRUE: AS CHRIST-FOLLOWERS, WE ALL NEED:

- Prayer
- Bible Study
- Worship
- Fellowship
- Discipleship
- Evangelism

WE ALSO HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO REDEEM THE SURROUNDING CULTURE.

- We cannot live with the chaos that inevitably comes from choice divorced from morality.
- Christianity is more than private belief or personal salvation.
- Christianity is a comprehensive worldview that answers humanity's age-old questions.

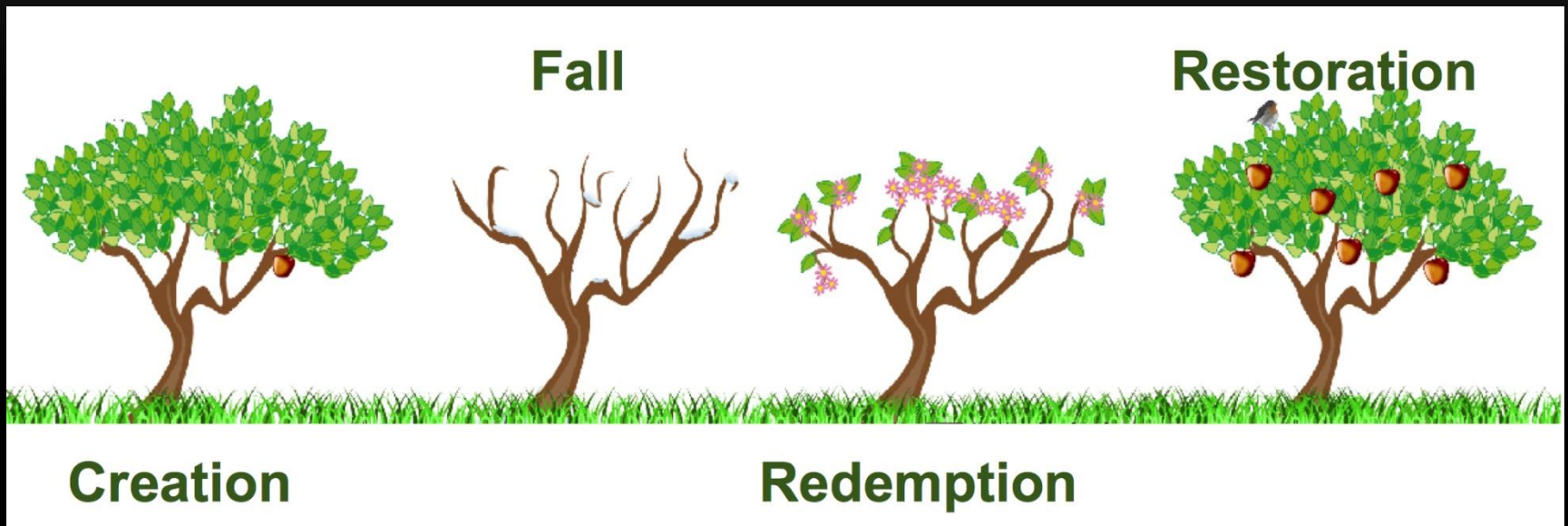
- **Where did I come from?**
- **Why am I here?**
- **What is the purpose and meaning of life?**
- **Where am I going?**

- Every decision that we make reflects our worldview.

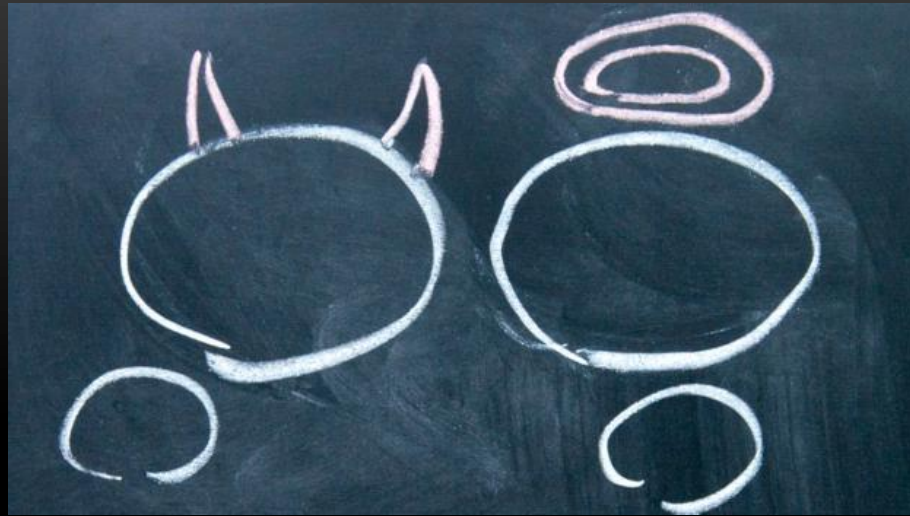


- Only Christianity offers a way to understand the physical and moral order and to live in line with the “real world.” It’s a way of seeing and comprehending all of reality. It governs every area of existence in our individual and collective lives. It is a map of reality, a comprehensive framework of Truth.

THE FOUR CONTOURS OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW:

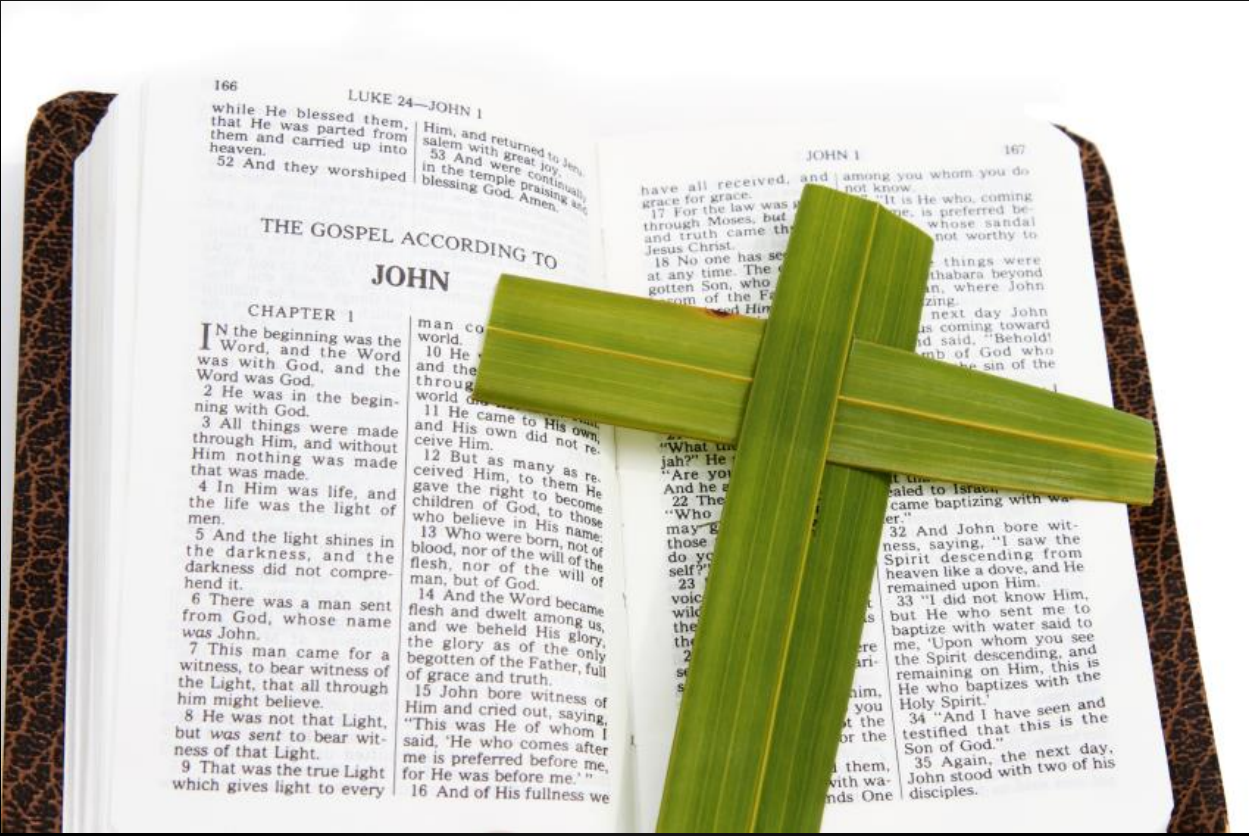


- These are four core building blocks concerning past, present and future reality.



- In every action we take, we're either helping to create hell on earth...or helping to bring down a foretaste of heaven.
- We're either contributing to the broken condition of the world...or participating with God in transforming the world to reflect His righteousness.

WHAT IS THE BASIS FOR THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW?



GOD'S REVELATION IN SCRIPTURE.

- Everything that exists was created by God.
- He created the natural world and natural laws.
- He created our bodies and the moral laws that keep us healthy.
- He created our minds and the laws of logic and imagination.

- He created us as social beings and gave us principles for social, political, and workplace institutions.
- He created a world of beauty and the principles of aesthetics and artistic creation.
- In every aspect of life, genuine knowledge means discerning the laws and ordinances by which God has structured creation (reality) and then allowing those laws to shape the way we should live.

CHRISTIANITY IS THE ROOT OF TRUTH,
THE ULTIMATE REALITY.



THE **TRUTH** IS LIKE A **LION**.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEFEND IT.
LET IT **LOOSE**. IT WILL DEFEND ITSELF.

– *St. Augustine*

UNDERSTANDING AND HAVING THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW:

- Enables us to make sense of the [business] world.
- Enables us to understand forces hostile to our faith.
- Enables us to have [business] Wisdom.
- Enables us to have constructive human behavior and [business] relationships.
- Enables us to see [business] reality from an eternal perspective.

GOD CREATED US TO BE CULTURE-MAKERS.

WHAT IS CULTURE?

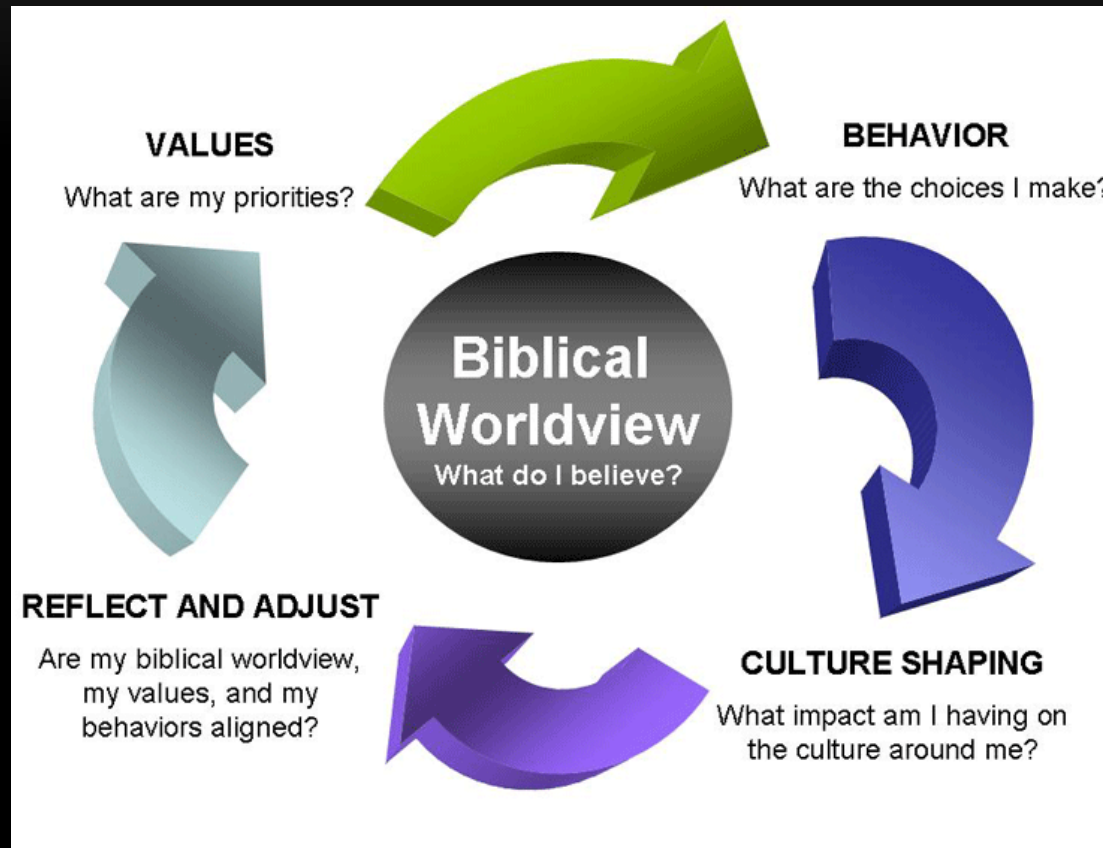
The invisible causes



The visible signs

- Our worldview forms our values. Our worldview moves us to act, which in turn, shapes our culture.

WE SHOULD CONTINUOUSLY ASSESS OUR PERSONAL AND COLLECTIVE CULTURAL INFLUENCE.



WORLDVIEW IS THE ROOT OF CULTURAL CONFLICT.

Historically, there have been three major worldviews:

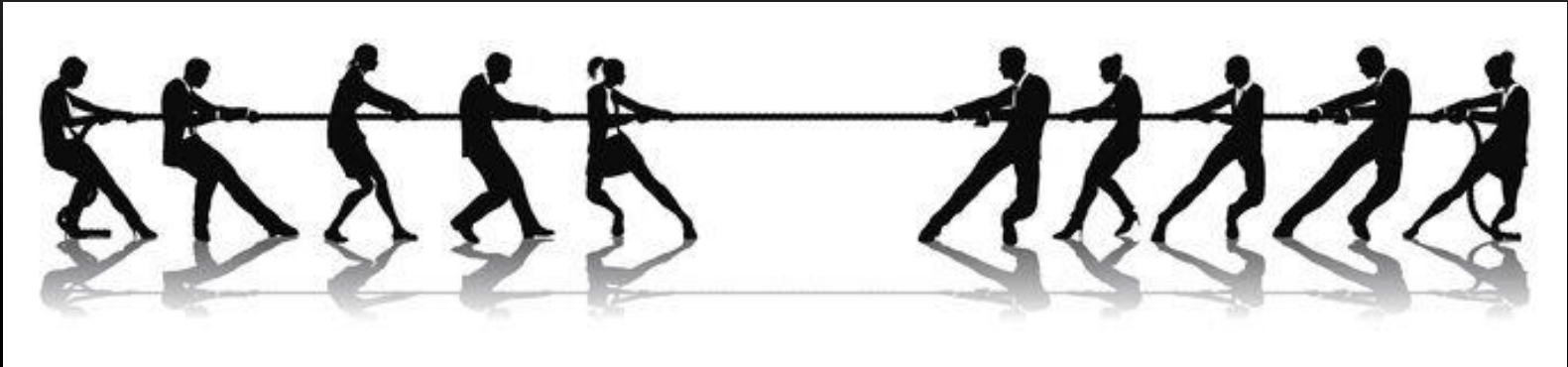
- Western: Judeo-Christian
- Middle Eastern: Islamic
- Eastern: Confucian

There are obvious conflicts between these worldviews, the most extreme being radical Islamic terrorists.

THE BIGGEST WORLDVIEW CONFLICT TODAY...

- Isn't between religions. It's theism vs. naturalism.
- **Theism** = there is a transcendent God who created the universe.
- **Naturalism** = natural causes alone are sufficient to explain everything that exists.

THEISM VS. NATURALISM...



- Supernatural (design) vs. natural (chance)
- God-given Truth vs. man-invented truth
- Purpose vs. cosmic accident

NATURALISM RESULTS IN...

- **RELATIVISM.** We are left to construct our own morality based on personal preference.
- **MULTI-CULTURALISM.** All cultures are morally equivalent.
- **PRAGMATISM.** Whatever works best is right on utilitarian grounds.



- **UTOPIANISM.** Human nature is essentially good. If we create the right social and economic structures, we can usher in an age of harmony and prosperity.
- Naturalism breeds chaos. It's a "this-world" perspective. Only what happens in this world, this age, this life is considered. There is no eternity.

- America no longer relies on Judeo-Christian Truths as the basis of public philosophy and moral consensus. There has been a significant cultural shift since the 1950s.
- We are now living in a post-modern culture that rejects ANY truth claims. All ideas are reduced to social constructions shaped by class, gender and ethnicity.
- This clash of worldviews is changing the face of American society—including the workplace.



THE SILVER LINING, OR GOOD NEWS, IS...

- As people get disillusioned with false beliefs and values, and realize that they have been **DELUDED...**
- they will begin to seek **REAL ANSWERS** that are not **DILUTED...**
- and they'll be **DELIGHTED** because *we have them.*

- As we engage an increasingly secular, naturalist [business] culture, it's constructive to begin with the doctrine of **Creation**.

JUST IMAGINE...

- If someone asked how your business was started, and the official company history said that no one founded the company. It evolved over millions of years.
 - No one designed your products and services. They just evolved over millions of years.
 - No one marketed and sold your products and services. Sales and customers evolved over millions of years.
 - Ridiculous!
-

AS CHRIST-FOLLOWERS, OUR WORLDVIEW MUST NOT BE DELUDED OR DILUTED.



THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW SHOULD TRANSFORM OUR THINKING ABOUT EVERYTHING:

- Ourselves
- Marriage & family
- Societies
- The natural world
- History
- Arts
- Literature
- Science
- Education
- Religion
- Government
- Business

THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW IS TRULY HOLISTIC AND INTEGRATED...

*Love the Lord your
God with all of your
heart, mind, soul
and strength and
love your neighbor
as yourself.*



WE SHOULD BE, AND MUST BE, DELIGHTED!

- Today's naturalistic, one-dimensional culture thinks that this life and nature are all there is. Yuck!
- We should be delighted because, by DRAMATIC and PROFOUND contrast, Christianity begins with Genesis 1:1: *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.* Reality is a deliberate act of creation by a personal Being who made a choice. He set out a plan; an incredibly, magnificently intelligent design. Yes!

THE CASE FOR CREATION SCIENCE IS VERY, VERY STRONG...

- The universe SHOUTS “intelligent design and purpose.”
- The space age has revealed to us more clearly than in history that earth is unique.



THE CORE OF THE CONTROVERSY ISN'T SCIENCE...

- It's opposing worldviews, theism vs. naturalism.
- Darwinism / evolution provides scientific justification for a naturalistic and atheistic approach in every field of study.
- Evolution substitutes nature and “millions of years” for Deity. It's a denial of God.



CREATION IS AT THE CORE OF THE WORLDVIEW BATTLEFIELD.



You didn't evolve from an ape.

**Evolution has always been a *theory*. Evolution still is a *theory*.
Evolution will always be a *theory*. And a lousy one at that.**

- Creation is the **FIRST ELEMENT** of the Christian worldview, the foundation. It is the basis of human dignity, the basis of the existence and value not only of God Himself but of the human soul.
- If there is a Creator who created us, then we are personally accountable to this Creator.

FROM THIS CORE CREATION WORLDVIEW...

- Comes the sanctity of life. We are created in His image with His divine stamp. He alone sets the boundaries.



THE HUMAN DILEMMA REVEALED:



- Why is there war and suffering, disease & death?
- The fall explains reality.
- We are fundamentally flawed, sinful people living in a fundamentally flawed, corrupted environment.

TRUTH:



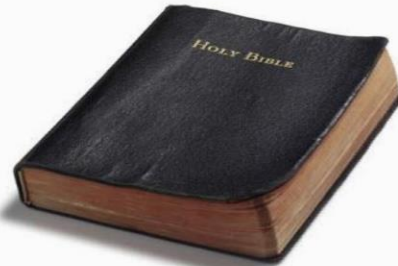
- Looking back on thousands of years of human history, the doctrine of original sin is empirically validated.
- When we close our eyes to the innate human capacity for evil, we fail to build the moral boundaries needed to protect us from evil.

THE FATAL FLAW OF THE MYTH OF INHERENT HUMAN GOODNESS...



- It fails to correspond with reality! To deny our sinfulness is like squeezing a balloon. Some parts will bulge out. Our sense of sin will always find expression in some form.

IF NOT FOR THIS BOOK...



I would steal, and murder, and rape.

- In reality, two things hold the sinful nature in check: the restraint of the conscience or the restraint of the sword. The less citizens have of the first, the more the state must use the later. It's a matter of internal restraint vs. external restraint.

- Christianity offers the only real answers to the most basic questions of life and how we can be saved.
- It provides an accurate diagnosis of the human condition. Our basic problem is a moral one: our guilt before a Holy God.
- It provides a clear answer to the problem of sin.
- The salvation it offers is based on historical truth.

AFTER WE'RE SAVED, AND RESTORED TO A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, THEN WHAT?

- **We have the Great Commission to GO.**
- The task of building a civilization is in our hands.
- We were created to build societies, create cultures and economies, and in doing so, restore the created order. This cultural commission is inseparable from the Great Commission.

- The Christian worldview includes God's laws for nature, family, education, government, and business. His creation has material and moral order.
- To impact our culture, the beginning point is unity in Christ. We redeem a culture from the inside out, from the individual to the family to the community to the workplace and beyond.

OVERCOME FEAR, APATHY AND CYNICISM!

- Virtuous people make a virtuous difference.
- Work ethic and entrepreneurship are essential.
- The Glory and Beauty of God can be expressed in every dimension of the culture—including the workplace.
- God has placed you in the workplace to be Salt and Light—to bring a Christian worldview into practical, everyday life. Can you see it?

**NOW THAT WE'VE COVERED ALL OF THIS,
HOW DOES YOUR CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW
AFFECT YOUR VIEW OF WORK?**



1. FACE REALITY: *WORK IS PART OF LIFE.*



- Don't go to work "kicking and screaming."
God has instituted work since the beginning—in Genesis!
- *And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. –Genesis 2:15*

- *And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;*
- *Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. –Genesis 3:17-19*

- In an age of entitlements, we live in a culture where millions of people seek to avoid work as much as possible...and have others pay for their living.
- It is naïve and unrealistic to expect a work-free, problem-free life.
- The sooner you recognize your God-given responsibility to work, the better off you'll be.

- Someone who understands that consistent, hard work is his/her “lot” in life will have a stronger, more mature work ethic all the days of his/her life.
- If someone doesn't like this situation, he/she shouldn't get angry at me, the boss or the parents...God calls the shots because He is God!

- *Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.*
- *How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? When wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: so shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man. –Proverbs 6:6-11*

- *But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel. –1 Timothy 5:8*

- *Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:*

- *Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us. For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.*
- *For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.*
--2 Thessalonians 3:6-12

2. GO TO WORK WITH A GODLY ATTITUDE.



- God doesn't want us to give grudgingly—He loves a cheerful giver.
- The same is true with work. God doesn't want us to work grudgingly—He loves a cheerful worker!

- If you're going to work to please yourself, your wife, your boss, or "people," your attitude is wrong.
- You should go to work to please God Almighty. No matter where you work, make the best of it!

- *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. --Colossians 3:23-24*

- Enthusiasm means “God within us.” The best way to fire up enthusiasm is by knowing your call, and then abiding in it! (Col 3:23-24)
- “Raw” enthusiasm can be destructive. I’m talking about enthusiasm that’s tempered by the Holy Spirit.
- You should be the most joyful, positive person at work! (Philippians 4:4-9, 11-13)

YOUR WORK ATTITUDE MUST GO FAR BEYOND MERE “FEELINGS.”

- Feelings come, feelings go.
- Feelings go up, feelings go down.
- Feelings can be very dangerous and misleading.
- If you rely on feelings to have a good attitude at work, you’ll be inconsistent, unstable, and stressed out.

3. BE A SMART WORKER!



- God doesn't want you to be a “dummy” at work. In fact, He promises to give you wisdom if you only ASK!
- This promise is not conditional, upon your age, education, talent, or job position. Before and during work, pray for wisdom and God will give it to you.

- *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.*
- *For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. --James 1:5-8*

4. ABIDE IN YOUR CALL AND USE YOUR GIFTS!



- God created YOU for a very special purpose. He has given YOU a Calling, and he has given YOU all the gifts you need to fulfill that calling (1 Cor. 12, Romans 12).
- The sooner you discover your calling and gifts, the sooner you will enjoy the benefits. Abiding in your call stimulates a strong work ethic because you know you're being and doing what God created you to be and to do!

HOW DO YOU *KNOW* YOUR CALL?

- By asking God and listening to His answer! (James 1:5-8)
- By seeking wise, Godly counsel including your spouse. He will not lead what He has made One in two different directions. (Ecclesiastes 4:12)
- By examining what you gravitate toward, what you're gifted in, where you have a passion, and where you seem to bear fruit. (Matthew 7:20)

IT'S *CRUCIAL* TO KNOW YOUR CALL.

- It gives you vision.
- It gives you purpose.
- It gives you peace.
- It gives you direction.
- It gives you clarity.
- It gives you motivation.



- *But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches...*
- *Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called. Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather. For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant. Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men. Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God. --1 Corinthians 7:17-24*

5. SPEND THE FRUITS OF YOUR LABORS WISELY.



- Don't waste the fruits of your labors on frivolous and foolish things. Remember that your self-worth and security are not based on *stuff*, but on the Living God. Give cheerfully and regularly to the work of the ministry. God will bless your faithfulness year after year.

- *And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. --Luke 12:15*

- *The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender. --Proverbs 22:7*
- *The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth. --Psalms 37:21*

6. REMEMBER: YOUR RETIREMENT IS IN HEAVEN, NOT ON EARTH.



- If you have been “born again” (John 3:7), you WILL spend eternity in heaven.
- As you build upon the foundation of a strong work ethic, don’t let retirement on earth become an all-consuming preoccupation, a false god, and an idol. If you can trust the Lord for the past, the present, and for eternity, then you can certainly trust Him for old age should He choose to give it to you.

- *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. –Matthew 6:19-22*

TO RECAP, YOUR VIEW OF WORK SHOULD REFLECT YOUR CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW:


- Face reality: work is part of life.
- Go to work with a Godly attitude.
- Be a smart worker.
- Ask God to reveal where He has called and gifted you.
- Be committed to financial wisdom and integrity.
- Think long-range...*eternally!*

- Please visit consider *Northeast Christians At Work* an “information clearinghouse.” We can *provide and point you to resources*: ChristAtWork.org or 1-800-JOY-9075.

- Any questions?

NORTHEAST CHRISTIANS AT WORK
 Joyfully making, motivating and maturing Christians in the workplace.

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NORTHEAST CHRISTIANS AT WORK

Welcome to Northeast Christians At Work. We hope and pray that your visit to our website today will be a source of encouragement as you seek to glorify God in your workplace. Click here to learn about our [FREE WORKPLACE RESOURCES](#) and [FREE GIFT!](#)

You're also invited to participate in the 14th ANNUAL "OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD" SIGN SALE! Free church bulletin artwork, poster artwork and a special online tool to help you to share the joy with co-workers, family, friends and your local church.

Overcome Evil with Good Today!
[Click here to purchase!](#)

Click the image to go to our special online store! [View the 14th Annual "Overcome Evil with Good" Sign Sale!](#) available in Sandy Hook, CT.



From our headquarters in Sandy Hook, CT, we serve as a catalyst for workplace ministry across the Region three ways:



SPECIAL EVENTS & RESOURCES: We host a low cost, fun, conference and seminar events. We also host seminars, conferences and business exhibitions across the Region. We organize webinars and conferences. We also provide workplace posters and provide the help to help working Christians evangelize and minister.

REGION RELATIONS: We nurture strong relationships with members and non-members across the Region, gathering ideas, insights and the help from those Christians are doing in the workplace. We also sponsor workplace publicity at events with Joy At Work Dinner and at Christmas with the Northeast Workplace Ministry Awards.

THE INTERNET: We try to make our website a source of information and inspiration for the workplace. We send emails to thousands of working Christians across the Region on a regular basis. These emails contain inspirational messages and news. We also host periodic "JOY AT WORK" webinars.

Northeast Christians At Work - 100 Lakeside Square, Suite 114, Sandy Hook, CT 06488
 Contact: 1-800-JOY-9075, 1-800-861-9075, Fax: 860-337-5555
www.christatwork.org

The Salt Mine

Deep scriptural insights for your everyday work life

by Drew Crandall

MAY I SHARE GOD'S LOVE HERE?

I cannot “assume” that because this is a Christian gathering that everyone here knows the Lord personally.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

