

# Welcome to this lecture entitled “A CHRISTIAN’S WORLD VIEW, BELIEFS & UNDERSTANDINGS”

(AUDIO SCRIPT)

(Adapted from the article “MY WORLD VIEW – Long”)

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First let’s answer the question,

## **What Is A World View?**

Your “world view” is the foundation of your belief system in morals, ethics, and values as well as politics and religion. It helps shape your perspective of what is important in your life and helps you prioritize what is important. Your “world view” shapes your thoughts, desires, decisions and actions. It guides how you analyze your experiences in life, how you decide what to believe about issues, and how you base your opinions. Your “world view” helps you determine if there is a purpose for your life and if so, what that purpose may be. It also helps you determine the value of life itself - your’s and others’.

Our world view comes from what we hear, see, read and study through TV, movies, radio, songs, books, recordings, museums, conversations, peer influence, etc. It is our philosophy about our origins, our ancient past, our present existence, what happens to us at our death and our immediate and ultimate future. It helps us determine how to relate to other people and those in authority.

Many people today have materialistic, secular, and humanistic world views, where taking care of “self” is much more important than helping others. They believe that they have no ultimate authority over them, no one to answer to for their actions. They are free to do whatever they please. They believe that there are no absolute truths; each person has the right to decide what is right and wrong for themselves. They also feel that their views should be tolerated, even though they may not tolerate the views of others.

They often have an “if it feels good, do it” attitude. Such an attitude has led to drastic increases in lawlessness which has caused a drastic rise in crime. Such an attitude has also led to drastic increases in immorality which has caused a drastic rise in divorces, broken families, unwed mothers, sexual diseases, unwanted pregnancies, abortions, irresponsible behaviors and many emotional problems as guilt, depression, regret, embarrassment, etc. They believe in the “Survival of the Fittest” philosophy, where the strongest survive. They believe that humankind evolved from other animal kinds, so therefore we are just animals. This belief devalues human life and makes it equal in value to other animals. Therefore if it is alright to get rid of unwanted kittens it is also alright to get rid of unwanted unborn babies.

To many people success in life is determined by how much money and material possessions you have compiled. They believe that to be happy they must become wealthy. They let the world dictate what they need. Their desire is to have what the world offers and they expect to live like this materialistic, secular, and humanistic world says to live.

## **Biblical Reliability**

My world view is based on my faith that the teachings in the Bible are reliable. It is not based on a blind faith; it is based on scientific research and historical records and their support for Biblical reliability. I used to be an agnostic, which means that I did not know what to believe about God. Even though I regularly went to church, I doubted God’s existence due to my scientific beliefs. But

I have found through extensive research that there is a tremendous amount of evidence which supports the existence of God, the reliability of the Bible, and the reality of Jesus Christ and His creative acts. I feel that it is very important to teach these evidences to our congregations so they can strengthen their spiritual foundation and defend their faith from unbelievers. I want to help restore the authority of God by showing people that science, history, archaeology, fulfilled prophecy, manuscript preservation and other evidences drastically support His Word. Just preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ is no longer effective to a rapidly growing number of people who no longer trust the accuracy of the Bible nor believe in God.

Years of intense study has taught me that all “original” scripture in the Bible was inspired by God and therefore was error-free and the Bible has been shown to be trustworthy. To my knowledge, other than for a few copying and translation errors from the original version, no real mistake has ever been demonstrated in the Bible: in science, in history, or in any other subject, and not one statement in the Bible has ever been disproved by any real facts of science or history. True science and history have always confirmed the Bible. Those who argue that the Bible cannot be trusted, speak largely on the basis of misinterpretations, bias, unjustified assumptions, taking scripture out of context, and/or simple ignorance of the facts.

Accurate, confirmable information, written in simplistic terms so most common people can understand, is found throughout the Bible on topics as genealogy, archaeology, geology, anatomy, epidemiology, biology, and many others. From our studies concerning the fossil record, embryology, comparative anatomy, and the indescribable complexity and organization of living creatures, we see that each one testifies to the creative genius of God that passes all understanding.

After over a century of detailed, scientific archaeological excavations, no discovery has ever disproved a Biblical reference. Many archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail thousands of historical statements in the Bible, as specific places, persons and events.

There are also remarkable evidences of hundreds of Bible prophecies having been fulfilled, specifically and meticulously, often long after the prophetic writer has passed away. The Bible records predictions of events that could not be known or predicted by chance or common sense. Totally accurate prediction of the future is the domain of the Bible exclusively. The Bible is like no other book in prophecy fulfillment. Through fulfilled prophecy, God has given sufficient evidence of His existence and of the divine inspiration of the Scriptures.

The Bible text is far more accurately preserved than any other text of ancient history. Although we do not have any original text, manuscript copies of the Bible are far more numerous, far more accurate, and written far closer to the original manuscripts than any other comparable writings from the ancient world. The 1947 discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls demonstrated unequivocally the fact that the Jews were faithful in their transcription of Biblical manuscripts.

In many ways the Bible shows how unique and reliable is the Christian faith versus all other religions. Unlike other religions Christianity is a historical faith based on objective facts and historical records which are subject to examination by the ordinary criteria of objective investigation. The Bible is a reliable history book unlike writings from other world religions. Christians worship a “living” Lord. All other religious founders or leaders are dead. Christ’s bodily resurrection from the dead was the final and greatest proof of His absolute uniqueness and is documented in both Biblical and secular history with strong evidence to support its truth.

Most of the foundational ideas upon which most societies are built find their beginnings in Genesis - the first book in the Bible. Genesis gives the beginnings of the universe, life, man, plant and animal “kinds”, Sabbath (the 7 day week), death, marriage, family, language, cities, literature, art, sin, redemption, and sacrifice. Also Biblical history, beginning with the creation week, coincides very nicely with evidences of our world’s ancient history when viewed from a Biblical perspective. **(See my article or audio on “Man’s Early History.”)**

## Common Christian Beliefs

This next section entitled “Common Christian Beliefs” is a compilation of different affirmations of faith typical of the beliefs of most Christians. The affirmations used here are from parts of “The Nicene Creed”, “The Apostles’ Creed” and “A Statement of Faith of the Korean Methodist Church.” This is a basic summary of what I believe most Christians believe:

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen, creator and sustainer of all things, Father of all nations, the source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and love.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only begotten Son, our Lord, true God from true God, Light from Light, begotten, not made, God manifest in the flesh, of one Being with the Father, through Him all things were made. He is our teacher, example, and Redeemer, the Savior of the world. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven and became truly human (fully human, yet fully God), by being conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. For our sake He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell to the dead. On the third day He rose from the dead in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who is God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in the one holy catholic (universal) church, those who are united in the living Lord for the purpose of worship and service, and we believe in the communion of saints.

We acknowledge baptism for the forgiveness of sins, and believe in the life of love and prayer, and in grace equal to every need.

We believe in the Word of God contained in the Old and New Testaments as the sufficient rule both of faith and of practice.

We believe in the reign of God as the divine will realized in human society, and in the family of God, where we are all brothers and sisters.

We believe in the resurrection of the body from the dead, in the final triumph of righteousness, and in the new world to come and our life everlasting.

By far this is not all that Christians believe, but it is a good summary. To get a more complete understanding of what a Christian is to believe, read the Holy Bible - especially the New Testament.

## What I Now Believe

Now let’s look at what I believe. Although the following is my world view, the entire content is not every Christian’s world view. Christians are a widely diversified group of people with many understandings, but the following is what I now believe as a Christian. I believe in the one absolute authority, God, who has given us, in the Holy Bible, absolute truths, rules, laws and right from wrong values which we are to live by. **I believe He gave us His 10 commandments for our benefit, to be an excellent guide on how we can enjoy a good life.** I believe that God is actively involved in my life everyday and I have a responsibility to follow His rules. For me, absolute truths, what is right and what is wrong, are not based on man’s opinion but based on God’s opinion.

I believe that Genesis, the first book of the Bible, is a true historical record of our origins and explains the cause, reason and beginning of natural disasters, diseases, pain, suffering and death. When God created man (or human kind), humans were His ultimate creation. He loved His humans very much and wanted them to love Him in return. He did not want to force them to love Him, for that would not be true love. So God gave us “free will” so we could choose whether we wanted to love Him or not. This “free will” of ours is what lets us decide whether to sin or not. (Sin is thoughts

and actions that separate us from God) Genesis explains about sin, sin's consequences, our need for redemption because of sin, and God's plan to provide redemption for us. I believe that sin means "going against God's will" which we all have done at least once in our lives, therefore all people are sinners. The only person who has lived a sinless life was Jesus Christ. Jesus was perfect, therefore only He was a worthy sacrifice for each of us. No one else lives up to God's perfect standards, so no one can earn their way into God's heavenly kingdom through good righteous behavior and works. I believe that the price for sin is death and everyone deserves to die and deserves to go to hell where there is eternal separation from God. But I also believe that we can dwell in God's heavenly kingdom forever if we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior who paid for our sin by His sacrificial death on the cross. I believe Jesus Christ came to earth to teach mankind what the true character of God is, to teach us how to live a good moral and ethical life, and to be a perfect example of how we should live. I believe in Jesus' virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His sacrificial death on the cross for our sin, His bodily resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven and His promise to return for His believers.

To be a Christian means to be a follower of Christ and His teachings. Christianity is a part of my everyday life, not just something I think about on Sunday at church or in my nightly prayers. A true Christian has no time off from being a Christian. He sees how God is involved in every aspect of his life. When I am outside, I think about God and His involvement in nature. I believe that Genesis accurately explains the source of matter, space and time. It also explains the beginning of life, of different kinds of organisms, of mankind, of the different nations & "races," the beginning of the universe, and even the source of geological formations - multiple rock layers and their innumerable fossils. When I see trees and animals, I think about their amazing design and purpose, realizing that their original "kinds" were created, completely formed, to be what they are and did not slowly mutate from one organism into another over long periods of time. Whenever I see exposed rock layers, it always reminds me of the effects of the world-wide flood which occurred about 4500 years ago (we find millions of dead things, buried in striated, sedimentary rock layers, which were laid down by water all over the earth). When I see stars, I think about God's awesome power, intelligence, and presence everywhere. When I see natural disasters and people with physical or mental disorders, I think of man's original sin and sin's consequences of a fallen world and God's promise of eternal restoration.

I believe that God created a perfect, defect-free world including the environment, the animal kingdom, and mankind. When God finished His creation on the sixth day, He said that what He had created was "very good." Therefore pain, suffering, struggle for survival, and death were not part of God's original creation. The Bible teaches that sin is the ultimate cause of suffering and death. God's original creation was as God intended life to be for us, without any suffering, but mankind chose to disobey God and God's response to man's sin was to curse all His creation, since it was not right for sinful mankind to live in a perfect world. We have all had to suffer from this curse, some much more than others. Our entire universe has been deteriorating ever since and now faster than ever with ever worsening natural disasters, cancers, diseases and disorders. Although we will suffer in this present life, there will be no more suffering or death in God's final kingdom. I realize that someday in the future, all will be restored, by God, to the original perfection as God had intended for mankind to enjoy with no man, plant, or animal having any defects. This perfection will not happen by random, chance-evolving of all things, nor will it occur by man's authority or actions as some people believe. This perfection, or paradise, will be restored and sustained forever by God for us who love Him.

I learned that - what I believe does not matter if I am wrong. What does matter is "What is True." Just because we believe something, this does not make it true. If God is real and the Bible is reliable, then what happens if we die and we do not believe in God? We will have to accept the consequences no matter what we believe.

Jesus spoke of hell quite a bit in the Bible, so I believe that heaven and hell are real places

and everyone will dwell in one place or the other for eternity once they pass from this present earthly existence. I look forward to God's heavenly kingdom and eventual eternal paradise. After researching much literature and hearing several testimonies, I truly believe that as soon as a Christian dies, their spirit goes to be with our Lord Jesus Christ and with our loved ones who have gone before us. Although I still wonder greatly about our heavenly kingdom to come, I have no fear of death. I look forward to a perfect, defect-free, resurrected body living in a world of no more pain or sorrow or tears. I have learned to have faith in the unknown, because I believe in God and His word. I believe that our heavenly kingdom will be a glorious place to live an eternal life in the presence of God.

I believe that God created the very first man and woman, Adam and Eve, with perfect defect-free bodies and provided them with all the nutrients, through plants, that they needed to survive and thrive forever. Although their sin caused them, and us, to lose immortal life and eventually caused a loss of the abundant nutrient supply (mostly from Noah's flood), I believe that we will once again be given glorious, defect-free, resurrected bodies (as our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ received) and we will have eternal life with an abundant perfect nutrient supply in a renewed paradise. I believe that although we may be forced to endure pain, suffering, and hardships during this present life, this life is only temporary and brief compared to our wonderful eternal life to come, free from worry, pain, tears, suffering, disappointment, etc. The hope of this paradise to come, helps Christians cope with their troubles in this life and often allows them to have no fear of death. I've had several older Christians tell me, that they were not afraid to die, but the thing they did worry about is the dying process, getting old, having to suffer pains and having to depend on others for their basic needs.

### **Present Day Events**

Christians are to spread the teachings of Jesus to people of all nations. We are to show how God loves them - through His Word (The Scriptures) and through our actions. We are to love others unconditionally, as Jesus loves everyone. We are to love people for who they are, not what they do. We do not have to approve of their behavior to love them. We are to guide people to a loving relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who truly love Jesus will want to follow His teachings and commandments. Part of loving Jesus is our confessing of our sins to Jesus and then repenting of our sins. Although all people are sinners (even true Christians), we are all to avoid sinful acts in our lives. We are to recognize what is sinful, then do our best to avoid such behavior.

As a society begins to **tolerate deviant behavior** (sins as adultery, fornication, pornography, homosexuality, and types of lying, stealing and murder), this behavior is eventually seen as normal behavior and accepted in the society, making it difficult to restore previous values and ethics. In order to justify immoral lifestyles, our entertainment industry, especially through TV, movies, magazines and music, has been aggressively promoting acceptance of such deviant behaviors. They have glamorized immoral acts as if saying "This is the way you should act." No wonder we have seen a greater acceptance of premarital sex and its consequential affects of increased STD's, teenage pregnancies, and abortions.

A growing problem is getting people to understand what is sinful in God's point-of-view, then getting them to willingly turn away from such behavior. Unfortunately many "So-Called Christians" are picking and choosing which scriptures they want to believe and ignoring, reinterpreting, or discarding the rest, in an effort to justify what they want to believe and to justify their lifestyle choices. Christians are supposed to remind each other of the Bible's teachings and encourage each other to follow these teachings. Therefore when individuals, or our society, are living in contrast to Biblical teachings, we as Christians are to make them aware of it and try to correct it so it does not influence our children or other Christians to sin. They may say that we Christians don't have a right to try to force our views on them, but they are forcing their views on us

and our families by making their sinful lifestyles open to our public. We have a right to protect our children from seeing and hearing such sinful behavior, but it is getting very difficult to protect their innocence when it is made so public. To justify their sinful lifestyle many people want to make their beliefs open to the public, they no longer want to keep them private.

I believe that we are all equal in God's eyes. The only race God made was the "Human Race." Only the differences in our spiritual belief systems should separate us, not the color of our skin. The Bible says that believers are not to be yoked to non-believers. We are to live in this world, but not be conformed to it by compromising our values, ethics or belief system..

I believe that Genesis gives us the beginning of families and **marriage (one man to one woman)**. I understand that sex is a gift from God. It was designed for pleasure (between a husband and his wife) and for procreation (to fill the earth). Sex is intended to create a special bond between a husband and his wife. Sex outside the marriage (before marriage and after marriage) can destroy this unique bond and make it difficult to make a marriage work. Sex outside the marriage also causes guilt, worry, embarrassment, mistrust, a loss of respect, disappointment, wrong expectations, dissatisfaction, and much more. It often leads to the spread of, embarrassment of, and life-long pain of sexually transmitted diseases (STD's) too as well as the consequences of unwanted pregnancies. A few moments of premarital sex or adultery can ruin a potential lifetime of happiness.

Also the Bible forbids sexual relations between two people of the same sex. According to the Bible, **homosexual behavior** goes against the natural affections of man to a woman and woman to a man as has been instilled in us by God. Such unnatural behavior is an abomination to God. Since the Bible is absolutely reliable, truthful, and trustworthy, it (not man's opinion) is our "absolute authority" on what is right and wrong. Therefore there is no doubt that homosexual acts and relationships are wrong as demonstrated in Lev. 18:22, 29 & Lev. 20:13; Rom. 1:24-27; and 1Cor. 6:9-10. Practicing homosexuals who claim to be Christians, apparently do not believe that their homosexual acts are sinful and are obviously not trying to turn away from these acts. As an act of love and concern, Christians should calmly show them the error in their ways, according to the Bible, and encourage them to stop practicing homosexuality.

The Bible teaches that lying, cheating and stealing are wrong, but for many years now, people, like many businessmen and politicians, have been teaching our society that these acts are alright if you think they are and if you do not get caught. Again, man's authority is becoming more accepted than God's authority.

The Bible also teaches that all human lives are valuable and should be preserved, and that we are to protect the weak and helpless. Therefore I believe that destroying human life through ways as abortion and killing weak individuals are all forms of murder and are absolutely wrong. In my opinion, for most people, abortion is a way to allow people to practice immoral lifestyles without the consequences of an unwanted baby. But many women will tell you that the decision to have their unborn child killed has haunted them ever since, often causing a deep depression for the rest of their life. Also some countries are even killing old people who are living in nursing homes and have developed dementia, in order to make room for other "more valuable" people needing rooms in nursing homes. Such acts are driven mostly by selfishness and the love of money.

If you do not have a firm foundation in your belief system, you will be more likely to be influenced by others to change what you believe. Many people today compromise absolute Christian beliefs by accepting **some** secular, materialistic, and humanistic views into their belief system. They do not accept the Bible as their source of truth or God as their absolute authority. They often choose to believe whatever justifies their thoughts and actions. To them, murder may be acceptable if they believe that the other person's life has no value. Also abortion may be seen as morally acceptable if they believe that the baby is not human until it is completely born. Often they either do not know the teachings of the Bible, or they believe that the teachings are no longer relevant to today's times or they believe that the teachings do not really mean what they say. But careful interpretation reveals that the Bible has been relevant to every generation since written.

People who habitually sin and have no conscience of doing wrong are severing their relationship with God. If one habitually succumbs to temptation and finds sin still dominating his life, this indicates that he is probably not really “saved.” God gave us two warning systems in our body to tell us when something is wrong and going to harm us. The first warning system is physical pain which lets us know when something is causing physical damage to us. The second is our conscience which lets us know when something is hurting our spirit. Some Christians never experience spiritual growth or victory because they are not willing to count Christ more valuable than the follies of sin. Spiritual growth results from the Christian’s obedience, renunciation of filthiness, Bible study and prayer, and attentive learning from true ministers of the Word. The Christian who neglects his Bible cannot grow well spiritually.

### Now let’s look at **Handling Problems In Our Life**

First let’s look at our personal problems. We all have problems. Unfortunately some people have many more problems or much more serious problems than other people. There are many ways in which people try to alleviate their problems, trying to make themselves forget what has happened or what is about to happen. You can either try to handle your problems on your own or try to solicit help from others. Although taking drugs or alcohol may seem to help you forget the pain for awhile, it is temporary and often causes other problems. We are social creatures, designed to be helpers to each other. So although nothing can make you forget forever, talking to friends or therapists may help you cope with your problems in time. A good friend or therapist would quietly comfort you by compassionately listening to you without judging you. They would know just what you need, then help you get what you need. Unfortunately many people fail to ask for help from the best friend they could possibly have. This friend is always with you. He knows you better than you know yourself. He knows your every desire and your deepest secrets, which he will keep to himself. He understands you and your situation completely. This friend is Jesus Christ.

Although Jesus was fully human, He was also and **still is** fully God, therefore He knows what God knows. God sees everything, hears everything, knows everything. Since Jesus is God, He has seen and experienced everything that has ever happened to every person who has ever lived. Therefore Jesus could say “Been There - Seen That.” He knows what it is like to be you and He knows how you feel. He understands your suffering, your confusion, your disappointment, your guilt, your shame, your anger, your heartache, your loneliness, your frustration, your doubt, your desires, etc. He knows that your existence here in this lifetime is brief compared to your eternal life to come, so your suffering now is only for a moment. Life may seem difficult and unfair at times and it is hard for us to understand why we must suffer and endure hardships, but all things work together for good when God is in charge of our life. Now if you don’t think He can help, why not give him a try. How can it hurt? How has trying to cope on your own worked for you so far? God did not cause your problems, and He does not want you to suffer. He wants you to come to Him with your problems. So trust Jesus and remember - He understands. But how do you learn to trust Him? Just start praying to Him. Share your thoughts, anger, concerns, and pain. Also begin reading the Bible to see how His word can speak to you. Learn to truly trust Him, and obey His teachings, and you’ll see a positive change in your life over time. Allow God to become your master and your world view will change.

Now let’s look at problems in our society. There are many problems in our society which are rapidly and drastically decaying our quality of life. Used to it was a disgrace to have to get a divorce, or get pregnant out of wedlock, or become dependent on welfare, or have to serve time in prison. But now days many people see these things as accomplishments and they are congratulated or rewarded by their peers or encouraged and rewarded by our society.

Being immoral, greedy, and irresponsible has become an accepted and even an expected way of life. If we do not make some serious efforts to restore our morals, ethics, values, community pride

and responsibilities as American citizens, we will continue to see a further decline in safety and quality of life.

Most of our problems stem from our selfishness. We are made to believe by our society that we deserve to have whatever we want, whenever we want it, even if we cannot afford it, whether we put it on a credit card, get it for free through welfare, or steal or murder to get it. Our society is also encouraging us to be irresponsible with money, our bodies, and other peoples' rights.

Matthew 6:24 in the Bible says that "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money." Having money itself is not bad, but the love of money and the desire for wealth and the material things it can buy is bad. Our love of money has led to a rise in break-ins and stealing, assaults and murders, selling drugs, welfare abuse, dirty politics and much more. We are also seeing a drastic rise in crimes against peoples' rights such as child abuse and neglect, rapes and molestations.

More and more people are having problems with their self-esteem, self-worth and purpose in life. Many people no longer respect the value of life itself, demonstrated by the rise in suicides, murders, and abortions. We are being made to believe that marriage is not important either with an increase in the number of divorces and the number of girls having babies out of wedlock (many intentionally). We have seen a drop in good work ethic and a rise in gang participation and crime, and disrespect for all types of authority due to the lack of proper parental supervision, lack of good role models, and lack of good positive leadership in many areas of our society. We are often so busy trying to satisfy our own desires that we neglect to help others who have serious needs.

The problem is that people with good moral values have sat back and let a few powerful, very liberal, people influence our society over and over again. Also we have become accustomed to expect our government to take care of problems in our society instead of each person taking responsibility for helping the needs of the community.

The following are a few common societal problems with their secondary effects. Also listed are some ideas on how to approach these problems.

**Teenage pregnancy** often leads to girls being single moms before they are even mature themselves, **or** kids getting married before they are old enough to handle the many responsibilities of marriage or even adulthood, **or** children having to become foster kids or adopted, **or** the ending of a child's life through abortion. Unwanted pregnancies often destroy dreams of future careers and lifestyles, causing regrets, disappointment, and feelings of hopelessness. When our society encourages our kids to have sex out of wedlock, they are encouraging irresponsibility and often life changing situations and decisions put on them.

Teaching people about "safe sex" only lessens the risk of STD's and unwanted pregnancies. Teaching and practicing abstinence eliminates all the other complications of premarital sex as well.

Drug and alcohol abuse, and gang involvement lead to disrespect for authority, poor work ethics, break-ins, robberies, stealing, and murder. Welfare abuse also leads to disrespect for authority, poor work ethics, irresponsibility and dependency on others. To stop welfare abuse and to encourage responsibility, I believe that anyone who receives welfare should be subject to random drug tests. What a person does with their own money is their own business, but when someone takes advantage of taxpayers' money or other aid by using it on non-essential things or by taking more than they need, they are in essence stealing this money from others. Also anyone who receives aid but is not disabled should be required to give back to their community by performing some community service every month. This way those who are able to work are essentially earning this money and are able to basically show appreciation for what others have done for them by helping others.

Throughout the Bible it teaches that we are to provide aid to those who are truly in need, especially to widows, orphans, and the poor - those who have no family to take care of them. So we, as a society, must be responsible for our citizens. But we must no longer tolerate abuses. We

must educate and train people to be productive citizens then hold them responsible, as we are held responsible, to work and pay taxes to aide those who physically or mentally *cannot* work (not *will not* work). 2 Thes. 3:10 indicates that any man who is able to work but will not work to provide for himself and his family, he should not eat. As a Christian society, I believe that we are supposed to take care of those who cannot help themselves, but not those who **can**, but **won't**, help themselves. Also 1 Timothy chapter 5 tells of the responsibility of the church, and of families and of the widows themselves for taking care of widows. Families are responsible for taking care of their own family members before expecting church members or the government to give them aide. Young women are to remarry or try to help themselves before asking the church or the government for aide.

In a society where women are encouraged with monetary rewards by the government to have children outside of marriage, many children are being raised with no positive male role models around. In such a society, men are encouraged not to be responsible for their actions. They are encouraged to be irresponsible and let the government pay for the needs of their children. This has led to the rise of fatherless homes. God's design for the family was for a father and a mother to both take care of and teach children. Boys need for men to take time with them to explain proper relationships with other people such as relationships with girlfriends, employers, coworkers, teachers, leaders, friends, etc. It is also important for girls to have a positive male role model around to teach them how they should expect to be treated by a man. A positive male role model can also help the mothers and grandmothers prepare children for real world situations and help them develop good work ethics and habits.

So as you can see, we obviously have a need to change many things in our society. Often change does not come easy, but it must be attempted in order to halt further deterioration in our society and to restore the society we once enjoyed. It is much easier and cheaper to prevent problems than to try to correct them later on.

### **The State Of Our Nation**

I believe that most of the problems we have in our personal lives and in our society are due to our rejection of the lessons taught in the Bible and our rejection of God in our society, resulting in the rejection of the Bible and God as our ultimate authority of what is right and wrong. Our quest for more and more freedom has led to a desire to be free from God. I believe that a nation which trusts God will be protected by God, otherwise they better prepare for destruction. Since Israel is God's chosen nation and He has promised to bless those who side with Israel and destroy those who harm Israel, we as a nation better choose to protect Israel. Biblical history has taught us that if we as a nation worship God alone and no other idols, He will protect and provide for us. But if we neglect God, He will let us, as a nation, suffer the consequences of our own decisions, the decisions and actions of others, and even the actions of nature. God sees the desperation in our culture. He knows our needs and He's given us a solution for rescue. 2Chronicles 7:14 in the Bible states, *"If my people, who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land."* We must get back to worshipping God and praying sincerely to Him, practicing God's laws and studying the teachings in the Bible to restore morality and ethics in our society.

We have a responsibility as a society to train our children to become good citizens in our communities. A primary purpose of public education is to shape good citizens. This involves more than just the memorization of facts. Most Americans are in favor of prayer in public school because they realize that there is something to be gained from the open acknowledgment of God's existence. Morals can only be built on the basis that a moral source - God - exists. Once acknowledgment of God's existence is removed, there is no absolute basis for morals, and a free society drifts toward anarchy. Since prayer was removed from public school classrooms in 1962, we have had a six-fold increase in violent crime, our divorce rate has tripled, births to single mothers have increased

five-fold, and the teenage suicide rate has tripled. The removal of prayer may not be the only cause of such social ills, but the negative trends are certainly a symptom of the spiritual decline which is at their root.

My Biblical world view helps me understand present day events. I compare my present day happenings to what the Bible says about our origins, our distant past, problem areas in the present, and what to expect in the future. The people of the world today are acting exactly as the Bible has said they would be in the last days (rebellious, selfish, lawless, etc.). Billy Graham recorded in his excellent 1965 book World Aflame, that “In theory, the people of the West have various forms of democracy based on a belief in God as well as on a general acceptance of moral law. However, in practice we are beginning to resemble the Marxists, who have little respect for moral law or religion. Our interests are centered in ourselves. We are preoccupied with material things. Our supreme god is technology; our goddess is sex.”

He also wrote the following passages, “Today man eats continually of the tree of knowledge without partaking of the tree of life, and he is still under the Satanic delusion that he will become like God.” “President Theodore Roosevelt said: ‘When you educate a man **in mind and not in morals**, you educate a menace to society.’ Science is learning to control everything but man. We have not yet solved the problems of hate, lust, greed, and prejudice, which produce social injustice, racial strife, and ultimately war.”

“No matter how advanced its progress, any generation that neglects its spiritual and moral life is going to disintegrate.” “Every other civilization before us has disintegrated and collapsed from internal forces rather than military conquest.” “You cannot build a superstructure on a cracked foundation.” “No form of government has been able to establish righteousness, justice, and peace, the three elements without which we can never have continued national prosperity or international peace.”

Graham also stated that, “America has probably been the most successful experiment in history. The American dream was a glorious attempt. It was built on a religious foundation. Its earliest concepts came from Holy Scripture. God honored and blessed America as few nations in history. However, in recent years the nation has been moving away from its religious heritage, whether it knows it or not. It is in deep trouble both at home and abroad.”

Our American society was founded, generations ago, on strong Christian principles. It was a strong and blessed society. But the Biblical foundation of America is quickly being replaced by an evolutionary foundation. We are being taught that the Bible is not true and not needed as our authority. This growing humanist philosophy is causing a drastic rise in abortions, homosexual behavior, pornography, and violence as well as the growth of anti-Christian sentiment. Our country is quickly becoming a post-Christian nation.

In Matthew chapter 24 in the Bible, Jesus warns that before he returns, the conditions on earth will be similar to the way they were in the time of Noah. In Donald Chittick’s book “Puzzle of Ancient Man,” he demonstrates the remarkable similarities between Noah’s day, before the flood, and our current culture. As it is today, there was a rapid rise in the population and development of a high level of science and technology. Being in rebellion against God, man was using his technology to fill the world with violence. Also, then as now, mankind had knowledge of the true Creator God but ignored Him and His precepts. Peoples’ thoughts and concerns were continually evil. Daily concerns of business and pleasure totally occupied their minds. There was no time or room for God in their thoughts. There were murderers, complainers, and people walking after their own lusts. Noah was given 120 years to build the ark and preach of the coming judgment so the pre-flood population was adequately warned. Due to today’s modern communication technology of radios, televisions, satellites, faxes, and computers with the world-wide internet system and the ability to travel quickly to all parts of the world, the warnings of Jesus and revelations of God have reached nearly every culture. As in Noah’s day, many people today continue to ignore the warnings and continue to live sinful lifestyles. Even most of our world’s leaders are ignoring scriptural principles.

With so many similarities between Noah's day and our current culture, it really makes me wonder how close we are to Christ's return and His coming judgment, so says Chittick. (p.130 Puzzles)

This understanding helps me cope with present day situations and gives me hope for fulfilled promises for the future. I believe that the present-day fulfillment and convergence of many end-time prophecies indicate that we are living in the end times. Even the conflicts in the Mid-East and Israel, in particular, remind me of end-time prophecies. Therefore we must be prepared for Jesus' return at any time in the near future. It could be many years away still or any day now.

### **How-To-Live Instructions**

The Bible is God's wonderful instruction manual for all people, nations and generations. Multitudes of people, past and present, have found from personal experience that the Bible's promises are true, its counsel is sound, its commands and restrictions are wise, and its wonderful message of salvation meets every need for both time and eternity. Most true Christians can testify to the changes God has made in their life and His answers to their prayers and their wonderful personal relationship with their Lord - Jesus.

Often people are concerned about what they will lose if they become a Christian. But in reality as Christians grow in their spiritual maturity they begin to lose their arrogant pride, greedy attitudes, ease to become angry, selfishness, inappropriate desire for wealth and other wrongful desires, and their tendency to worry so much. By trying to live a life of high morals, ethics and values, they are avoiding unnecessary heartache, disappointment, shame and pain. True Christians will often tell you too that they have gained a more loving relationship with their spouse, parents, children, coworkers, friends, and people in general. They have also gained more contentment with what they have and the ability to more easily forgive others. They have gained joy and comfort in their lives too by putting God first and trusting Jesus as their spiritual friend, leader, provider and protector. They will often tell you too that they have found purpose in their life because of their faith. They also have gained hope for their future here on earth and for eternity.

The Bible shows us accurate and ageless guidelines on how to live healthy, joyful, successful lives full of love, hope and understanding. Jesus wants us to live our lives abundantly (not in material things, but spiritually). It has been said that the Bible, that is B.I.B.L.E. gives us **Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth**. It wisely teaches us how to handle many problems we regularly face in our lives such as financial, health, family, social, emotional, and relationship problems. The Bible provides God's detailed instructions for how we are to deal successfully with the practical affairs of everyday life and teaches skillful living in the multiple aspect of everyday life. It touches upon every facet of human relationships such as our relationships with God, parents, children, neighbors, and government and teaches how to prevent and correct ungodly lifestyles.

The Bible teaches that parents should train their children in the way they should go (to be responsible citizens). Too many children today are neglected by letting them have their way and consequently they show little to no respect for the rules or laws of parents, teachers, employers, law officials, governmental authorities and God. Children must be taught to respect authority and to obey the rules of these authorities (unless they contradict God's laws). They must be told what the consequences will be for their actions, then if you love them, you must follow through with the punishment. All too often, parents threaten to punish their child if they misbehave, but they fail to follow through with the punishment. If parents do not do what they say they are going to do, children learn not to respect what their parents say. They learn how to manipulate their parents to get their way. They learn that "No" does not necessarily mean "No" if they are allowed to keep asking the same question. This shows great disrespect for the parent and the child becomes the one in charge.

The Bible says that if you spare the rod, you'll spoil the child. So when necessary, reasonable spanking, not unreasonable abuse, may be needed. Children must be made to suffer the

consequences, especially when they are young, so they can learn about authority and learn to be responsible for their actions. Unfortunately some consequences are life altering, especially later in life, so they must learn from their mistakes when they are young. Whenever they do break the rules, they must suffer the consequences which they were warned about, then they should be calmly counseled on how to avoid consequences in the future. Even during their punishment, children must be shown love, care, compassion, respect and understanding by parents and others with authority, using Jesus as their example.

I believe the Bible is an accurate account of our earliest history, God's laws and instructions for us to live by, God's expectations of us, and His promises for us. The Bible is God's way of revealing to us what He wants us to know about Himself, His nature and mankind's origins and past, our purpose in the present, and the hopes or fears for our future. People must realize that the Bible's prophecies in the past have been very accurately fulfilled and its prophecies of the future must be taken seriously. Heaven and hell are real places and everyone will eventually spend eternity in one place or the other. The Bible is full of warnings about living an immoral life, making poor decisions, and hanging with the wrong crowd. Those who choose to ignore the teachings of the Bible and choose to live the way of this immoral world eventually find themselves in trouble.

I believe that each person has been put on earth for one main purpose and that is "to prepare for eternity." If you want to live a life separate from God, then just reject God and live however you want, but be prepared for eternal separation from God in hell. If you want to enjoy everlasting love, peace, harmony, joy and God's presence in your life, both now and forever, you must learn to love, respect and build proper relationships with God and your neighbors. The more we learn to love and respect God and others before we die, the easier our transition will be from life in this present world to God's ultimate, eternal, heavenly kingdom community. God knows if we truly love Him and our neighbors; He knows what is in our heart.

I believe that God wants us, as individuals and as a society, to develop a strong relationship with Him through worship, prayer and our actions. God desires for us to develop a close personal relationship with Him through communication with Him. The more you talk to someone the closer your relationship becomes. He is always available to listen to my concerns and my appreciation of Him. I have learned to pray often throughout each day. Prayer is talking to God, speaking directly to Him, telling Him how I feel and what I need. Before I start listing my desires, I praise God and thank Him for the many blessings He has bestowed upon me and for answering my prayers. Also a sincere plea for forgiveness shows God that I recognize my sins and I need Him as my Savior. Although He already knows my needs, He still wants me to ask for His help. God is a good Father; He wants to help me, but in His own way. God often communicates to us during our prayers by giving us impressions and thoughts, if we take time to stop and listen. He also communicates to us as we read and meditate on His written word - the Holy Bible. He communicates to us when we are open to hear Him and when He is ready to reach us.

John 14:21 in the Bible states, "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." We show our love for God through our obedience to Him (doing our best to obey His laws and commandments) and by truly repenting (admitting to our wrong doings, asking for forgiveness, and doing our sincere best to quit doing wrong), and truly accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord as well as our personal savior (accepting His sacrificial death on the cross as full payment for our sin and believing in His bodily resurrection from the dead), and keeping in touch with God on a daily basis through prayer. I learned that to become a strong Christian I needed to surround myself with a positive Christian lifestyle as with daily prayer, Bible study (by reading the Bible and/or daily devotionals, or by TV and/or radio ministries programs, and/or by study groups), listening to Christian music and broadcasts on the radio, talking about my beliefs with other Christians as well as non-Christians, and reading Christian-based literature.

## This next section is entitled How To Show Your Love

We know we love God when we want to spend time with Him, communicate with Him, do things for Him, and show our appreciation and respect for Him. Think about your relationship with your spouse, your family, your friends, and your neighbors, we should want to show our love for them in the same way. Do you want to spend time and communicate with them? Do you like to do things for them? And do you respect them and show your appreciation for them?

The way my wife loves me and our two children is an excellent example of how God loves us. Her love for us is unconditional and sacrificial. She loves us for who we are, not for what we do. Although God may dislike what we do - our sinful acts and thoughts - He still loves us by His grace. True love is also sacrificial. John 3:16 in the Bible states "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Jesus willingly gave His life on the cross so all who believed in Him could have their sin forgiven so they could have eternal life in heaven. While alive on earth, Jesus constantly, unselfishly, and generously did many things for others. He expected nothing in return. My wife is constantly doing things for me. She knows my needs and desires better than I do. She often sacrifices her needs and desires in order to please us. How often do you sacrifice your time to help others? When I do things for my wife, she often thanks me and shows her appreciation for me and treats me with honor and respect in public. The same is true with God, we should always show appreciation for Him, thank Him for what He has done for us and talk well of Him in public. God likes it when we take time to talk to Him, just as my wife looks forward to me taking time to talk with her.

We are also supposed to love and respect other people. Many places in the Bible emphasize this. The first four of the ten commandments written by God and listed in the Bible give instructions on how to love and respect God, and the last six commandments tell us how to love and respect our neighbors (Exodus 20:1-17). There is even a "Golden Rule" in the Bible which states that we are to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." In other words "treat others like you would want to be treated." I understand that "love and forgiveness" are the secret to a joyful life. Hatred and unforgiveness lead to a bitter, wasted life.

Matthew 25:31-46 states that those who help provide for the needs of other people are blessed in God's eyes. Jesus said "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." So Jesus sees our "doing good deeds for others" as having done the good deeds for Him. Therefore we should willingly and joyfully do things for other people, treating them as we would want to be treated, treating them as if we were doing these things for Jesus Himself.

As Christians we are supposed to help those who cannot help themselves, such as those who are truly disabled (physically or mentally), the elderly (especially widows), children (as orphans and the unborn), and the poor. But Proverbs warns those who can work but won't, that laziness leads to poverty.

It is easy to think "I am a good Christian because I avoid the 'sins of commission' as adultery, murder, stealing, lying and coveting," but what about our "sins of omission"? These are the sins we perform by not doing what we should to help others.

Although we are not saved by good works, our good works show evidence of our faith. It has been said that "We are saved **by** the grace of God **through** faith in Jesus **from** sin and sin's penalty **for** God's kingdom **to** do good works." Christians are expected to do good works, not to be saved, but because we are saved.

This all tells me that the most important thing we Christians can do in life is to show our love for God. We show others our love for God best by demonstrating our sincere love for our neighbors. Who are our neighbors? Our neighbors are all other people - our family members (spouse, parents, children, relatives), our co-workers, people in our community, state, nation and whole world.

According to Matthew 25:31-46 we show our love for others by helping to provide for their needs: by providing food and water for those who are hungry and thirsty, by providing shelter for the homeless, by providing clothes for those in need of clothing and by visiting and caring for those who are lonely, sick and /or imprisoned.

I learned that although God does not like what we do a lot of times, He still loves us unconditionally. This is how we are supposed to love others, especially our family (our parents, spouse, and children). We show our love for others by trying to imitate the character of God, using Jesus as our ultimate example. Think - "What would Jesus do?". Treat others as you would want to be treated. You find JOY in life by remembering the acronym J.O.Y. and put **J**esus first, **O**thers next, and **Y**ourself last. We are to serve others and learn to be content with what God has provided for us. I've noticed that the most content people are those who appreciate God's blessings in their lives and enjoy helping others. We are not to worry; instead we are to trust that God will provide for our needs in His time. Matthew 6:24-34 tells us that if God takes care of the needs of His creation, He will certainly take care of our needs. So remember, when we worry, we are not trusting God.

### **Your Will Be Done**

In "The Lord's Prayer" we ask "...Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven..." I know God is everywhere and is present in our lives at all times, is all-knowing and all-powerful, and He wants us to live an abundant spiritual life with Him. We can either live our lives acknowledging His presence and desiring His involvement in our lives or we can try to ignore Him and try to live our lives on our own. If God is all-knowing and He designed each of us and He has a purpose and plan for each of us, doesn't it make sense to ask for His guidance in our decisions and actions every day of our lives?

Since I know that God knows what is best for me, it only makes sense that I desire and accept **His** will to be done in my life. I want my will to become His will for me. I have learned to ask for His guidance in every aspect of my life. I want the Holy Spirit to guide every decision I make whether it is related to my marriage, my family, my work, or anything else. I know that I have free will to make my own decisions and unfortunately I do not always listen to His advice or don't wait for it before I jump in with my decisions, but I desire His will for my life. I still make mistakes though when I do not heed His advice or I don't wait for His guidance. I realize that God is full of grace and love and nothing is impossible with God. He can do anything He wills to be done, but we are not to believe that we will get whatever we ask for just because we want it. I know He will provide what I need in life, but not necessarily what I want or what I think I need. And He will provide it when He sees fit, not necessarily when we want it.

It is true that God will provide for our needs, but this does not mean that we can just sit back and wait for things to happen. He does not want us to be lazy and just expect things to come to us. He supplies food for the birds, but they have to go get it. He also supplies us with abilities to work and take care of our family and others. So He expects us to work inside the home and outside the home when necessary. He has given each of us many gifts and talents so we can use them to fulfill His purpose for our lives. I believe that these gifts and talents that He gives us are not for our benefit, but are for the benefit of helping others. As we help others, He helps us in many ways.

Since we are constantly being indoctrinated by materialistic, secular, and humanistic philosophies by the world around us, we must change our environment to support and strengthen our Christian world view. I believe, as the Bible says, that Christians are to live in this world but not be conformed to it. You can do this as I have done by praying to God often throughout every day, listening to positive and encouraging Christian radio stations (music and talk radio), reading the Bible and other Christian literature regularly, subscribing to magazines which support God's creation and influence in our world, watching Christian based TV and discussing my faith, beliefs, and understandings with other people (believers and non-believers). As 1 Peter 3:15 says, we should all be prepared to calmly give reasons for why we believe what we believe.

Lastly I believe that the most important thing for each person to do in this life is to be saved or “born again.” To do this means admitting that you are a sinner and sincerely repenting which means confessing and turning away from your sins, then asking God for forgiveness for your sins, and truly accepting, and proclaiming to others, Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. I believe as Jesus said “The only way to the Father (God) is through (belief in) the Son (Jesus).” To just say “I believe” is not enough; you must believe in your heart. I believe that this is the only way to know that you have secured an eternal life with God. Since we normally do not know when we will die, it is very important to discover for yourself who God and Jesus are before it is too late. Just pray for God to show you the truth, if He is true. I encourage you to study God’s world (nature) and God’s word (the Holy Bible) to test your beliefs and discover for yourself what is truth.

We all have “free will” to decide what we want to believe. No one can force anyone to truly believe anything. We all have to decide whether we want to believe in God and the Bible or not. If you still do not believe or you have doubts about the truth of the Bible, or of God, or of Jesus, or of these many evidences which support the Bible, I challenge you to research for yourself. If you would like to see some of the information that has brought me to believe what I now believe, contact me for free handouts or visit my blog site at <http://biblicalreliability.blogspot.com> and read the article “Evidence for Biblical Reliability - Audio Script,” to see 35 pages of evidences and read the article “Evidence for Biblical Reliability - with Web Articles,” to see many web articles on evidences for biblical reliability. Also read the articles “Man’s Early History” and “Creative Views of Science” for much more information on the reliability of the Bible.

**Also visit such web sites as [www.AnswersInGenesis.org](http://www.AnswersInGenesis.org) (look under “Get Answers”), [www.lwf.org](http://www.lwf.org), [www.family.org](http://www.family.org), [www.gnmagazine.org](http://www.gnmagazine.org), [www.allaboutgod.com](http://www.allaboutgod.com), [www.bibleuniverse.com](http://www.bibleuniverse.com), [www.creationism.org](http://www.creationism.org), [www.evolution-facts.org](http://www.evolution-facts.org), [www.equip.org](http://www.equip.org) (select: “Need Answers”), [www.Christiananswers.net](http://www.Christiananswers.net), [www.bible.ca](http://www.bible.ca), [www.icr.org](http://www.icr.org), [www.christiananswers.net](http://www.christiananswers.net), [www.creationmoments.com](http://www.creationmoments.com), [www.creationresearch.org](http://www.creationresearch.org), [www.creationevidence.org](http://www.creationevidence.org) and [www.apologeticspress.org](http://www.apologeticspress.org).**