

# MY WORLD VIEW, BELIEFS & UNDERSTANDINGS

By Brooks A. Harris, O.D.

## *Study Guide & Questions*

The article “My World View, Beliefs & Understandings” is Dr. Harris’s point of view on how Christian principles shape his thoughts and actions. As individuals read through this article, they can see how their beliefs compare to his. This study guide and questions supplement is designed to aid groups in discussions of topics presented. Use any or all of the questions listed to encourage thinking and discussions in your small group. The headings and questions will follow the format of the article.

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

How would you describe your “World View”?

How does your world view differ from your parents’, children’s, and friends’?

Are your morals, ethics, and values pretty well fixed or are they relative?

What influences your way of thinking?

How does your world view affect your way of living?

Do you feel there is a certain purpose for your life?

What are materialistic, secular, and humanistic world views?

Is there such a thing as an ultimate authority?

Do you have an ultimate authority in your life?

Is there an ultimate standard for people to follow?

Are there absolute truths or is truth relative?

Who should decide what is right and what is wrong?

Should Christians tolerate views which are contrary to Biblical teaching?

Why have we seen a drastic rise in divorces, broken families, and unwed mothers? Why have we seen a drastic rise in sexual diseases, unwanted pregnancies, abortions?

Did humans evolve from other animals or were they created fully human?

Are humans of greater, lesser or equal value to other animals?

How do you define success in life?

How does the world around you influence the way you live?

What will it take for you to live a happy, joy filled life?

### **Biblical Reliability**

Is your “World View” based on a reliable foundation?

What is “Blind Faith”?

Is your belief in God, Jesus and the Bible based on a faith which is blind?

Do you have evidence to support your “Belief System”?

Can you defend your faith from unbelievers by giving them reasons to believe?

Do you believe the Bible is reliable and can be trusted? All or just parts of it?

How would you demonstrate the trustworthiness of the Bible?

Is preaching the gospel of Jesus alone still an effective way to reach non-believers?

Do you believe that all original scripture in the Bible was inspired by God ?

Do you believe that there were errors in the original versions of the Bible books?

How do modern scientific evidences or historical records effect support of the Bible?

Since the Bible does not explain things in modern scientific terminology, is the Bible out of touch with modern times?

Should Christians change the Bible to fit today’s culture, or should we change our culture to fit with Biblical teachings?

What things in nature, if any, testify to the creative genius of God?

How have archaeological findings affected the validity of the Bible?

Other than the Bible, what ancient writing has recorded prophecy and its much later fulfilment?

Are the prophecies and their fulfilment true and reliable in the Bible?

Are the stories in Genesis true, literal history or are some of them just figurative or symbolic stories?

How close are the scriptures of today to the original text?  
What efforts were made to assure duplication accuracy of scripture?  
How does the Christian faith compare to all other religions in its history?  
What kinds of things find their beginning in Genesis?

### **What I Now Believe**

What does it mean for God to be our one absolute authority?  
Are the rules, laws, and values absolutely true in the Bible?  
Do you believe that God is actively involved in your life?  
Do we, as God's children, have a responsibility to follow His rules?  
Who should decide what is right and what is wrong in our society - man or God?  
How do you explain the reason for natural disasters, diseases, pain, suffering and death?  
How do you explain "free will"?  
What does "sin" mean to you?  
Are all people sinners in your point-of-view? Why or why not?  
Can we earn our way into God's heavenly kingdom through good righteous behavior and works?  
Do you believe in Jesus' virgin birth, His sinless life, and His miracles?  
Do you believe in Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross for our sins?  
Do you believe in Jesus' bodily resurrection from the dead and His ascension into heaven?  
Do you think about God throughout the day or only at specific times?  
When do you communicate with God?  
Does your view of nature involve God?  
What evidences in nature support the stories in Genesis chapters 1-11? Is there any?  
How do the happenings in Genesis chapters 1-11 affect our lives today?  
Was Jesus fully human or was He fully God or was He both?  
How can Jesus understand your feelings and problems?  
Just because we believe something, does this make it true? Why or why not?  
Will we have to accept the consequences for what we believe (not just our actions)?  
Are heaven and hell real places?  
What do you think God's heavenly kingdom will be like? Physically? Spiritually?  
Will we have a resurrected body like Jesus had at His resurrection?  
What do you believe happens to a Christian as soon as they die and shortly after?  
Most of us fear dying, but do you fear death? What is the difference?  
Do you have faith in the unknown? How or why?  
Does hope in heaven to come help you cope with the troubles in your life?

### **Present Day Events**

Does the "Great Commandment," of spreading the gospel to all nations, apply to Christians today?  
What does it mean to love others unconditionally?  
What does it mean to have a loving relationship with Jesus Christ?  
What is the difference in confessing of our sins and repenting of our sins?  
How do we know if a behavior is sinful behavior or not?  
What is deviant behavior? How does it affect our society?  
Are values and ethics affected by toleration of deviant behavior?  
What in our society is promoting acceptance of deviant behaviors?  
Which scriptures are people choosing to not believe or to ignore in order to justify their lifestyle choices?  
Should Christians remind each other of the Bible's teachings and encourage each other to follow these teachings?  
Why?  
Should Christians try to correct our society when they are living in contrast to Biblical teachings? Why? How?  
What does "we are all equal in God's eyes" mean? What about race, gender, age, or nationality?  
How have we compromised our values, ethics or belief system to live in this world?  
What does the Bible say about marriage being between one man and one woman verse same sex marriage?  
What is the importance of "sex" according to the Bible?  
What does the Bible say about sex outside of marriage?  
Does the Bible forbid sexual relations between two people of the same sex?  
What does the Bible say about same sex sexual relationships?

Should we believe man's opinion or God's word about same sex sexual relationships?  
 Should Christians try to show people the error in their ways?  
 Should Christians try to encourage people to stop practicing homosexuality?  
 In what ways is it alright to lie, cheat, or steal?  
 Why do you think some people in authority roles lie, cheat, or steal?  
 How does Exodus 21:22-25 pertain to today's abortions?  
 Should Christians today still try to protect the weak and helpless? How?  
 At what point after conception does the Bible indicate a being becomes a living being?  
 In what situations should abortion be legal?  
 Why are people opposed to abortion?  
 How do you determine the value of someone's life? (Age, race, size, level of healthiness, level of dependency, level of development, level of authority, rich vs. poor, etc.)  
 How do you determine who is more valuable?  
 Who should be authorized to determine the value of someone's life? Why?  
 Should people be expected to be more responsible for their decisions?  
 What does it mean to have a firm foundation in your belief system?  
 How do you develop a firm foundation in a belief system?  
 What things do you believe are influencing people to change what they believe?  
 What are absolute Christian beliefs?  
 How are people compromising absolute Christian beliefs?  
 Why are people compromising absolute Christian beliefs?  
 Once you become "saved," is it important to continue to grow spiritually?  
 What might be the consequences for someone if they do not continue to grow spiritually?  
 What hinders spiritual growth?  
 How does one continue to grow spiritually?  
 How important are the lessons taught in the Bible, to our personal lives?  
 How important are the lessons taught in the Bible, to our society?  
 What does Old Testament Biblical history teach us about neglecting God?  
 Should present day events be associated with end-time prophecies?

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

What group of people was the complete Holy Bible intended to influence?  
 Can you testify to the changes God has made in your life and His answers to your prayers?  
 Have you ever kept a "Prayer Journal" (recording your prayers and later answers to them)?  
 Has becoming a Christian caused you to lose anything valuable to you?  
 What have you gained since becoming a Christian?  
 Do you use the Bible as a guide on how to live a healthy, joyful, successful life?  
 What did Jesus mean by His wanting us to live "more abundantly"?  
 What kind of problems, which we regularly face in our lives, does the Bible teach us how to handle?  
 Why must children be taught to respect authority?  
 Why must children be made to suffer the consequences of their actions?  
 How can parents, and others in authority, show love and respect for children?  
 What all has God revealed to us, through the Bible, that we would never have been able to discover on our own?  
 (Not only the book of Revelation)  
 Should the Bible's prophecies of the future be taken seriously? Why or why not?  
 What problems can be caused by choosing to ignore the teachings of the Bible?  
 For what purpose do you believe people have been put on this earth?  
 How important is it to learn to love and respect others?  
 How do we develop a close personal relationship with God?  
 How do we develop a close personal relationship with other people?  
 If God already knows your needs, why should you pray?  
 How do we show our love for God?  
 What does it mean to accept Jesus as your Lord and not just your Savior?  
 How important is it that a Christian believe in the resurrection of Jesus?  
 How important is it to surround yourself with a positive Christian lifestyle to grow in your faith?  
 What have you done which helped you grow in your Christian faith?  
 How does loving God compare to how we show love for others?

How does our obeying the Ten Commandments show our love for God and others?  
How are “love and forgiveness” the secret to a joyful life?  
If we treated others as if they were Jesus Himself, how would this change our behavior?  
Who are Christians especially supposed to help?  
What does the Bible say about laziness?  
What are “sins of commission”? Give examples.  
What are our “sins of omission”? Give examples.  
What do “good works” have to do with our salvation?  
If it was illegal to be a Christian and you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?  
What does loving our neighbor have to do with loving God?  
Who are our neighbors?  
In what ways can we show our love for others?  
What does it mean to love someone unconditionally?  
Do you love your children unconditionally? Your parents? Your spouse? Others?  
How can you find joy in your life?  
What hinders us from being content?  
What does worrying tell God?  
In which situations should we ask for God’s help?  
How often do you rely on your own decisions without asking God for guidance?  
What does it mean “to live in this world but not be conformed to it?”  
How can you live in this world but not be conformed to it?”  
Are you prepared to give reasons for why you believe what you believe?  
What does it mean to be “born again?”  
What is the “Plan of Salvation?”  
Should Christians be prepared to lead others through the “Plan of Salvation?”  
Are you prepared to lead someone through the “Plan of Salvation?”  
Is it enough to just say “I believe” in God and/or Jesus?

### Conclusion

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 the many evidences which support the Bible, you are challenged to research for yourself. If you would like to see some of the information that has brought Dr. Harris to believe what he now believes, contact him for free handouts or visit his blog site - <http://biblicalreliability.blogspot.com>.

Especially see:

“[Evidence For Biblical Reliability](#)” - Many evidences from science, history, archaeology, etc. with web sites and several specific web articles

“[Creative Views Of Science - Origins Lecture](#)” - Several scientific evidences for the origins: of Life, of the Species, of Man, of the Universe, etc.

“[Man’s Early History](#)” - Scientifically explains Creation, Pre-Flood Life, the Ark and Flood, Babel, Cavemen, Dinosaurs, Early Civilizations, etc.

“[My Walk With God - From Doubt To Understanding](#)” - My Testimony

“[My World View](#)” - What I Believe and Understand about the Christian Life

“[Fulfilling The Greatest Commandment](#)” - How God intends us to live

“[How To Love Your Lord](#)” - Quick Lesson on Relationships

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).