

## *Thinking Like a Christian Video Series©*

### **Study Guide #1 Answer Key: What Is a Worldview and Why Does It Matter?**

#### Part 1

- I. Why is the world such a mess, and what can we do about it?
  - A. Read Hosea, chapter 4.
    1. List what you think are similarities between Israel in Hosea's time and America today.  
**Ans: Truth, mercy, & Godly knowledge are greatly missing (v1). We're breaking all Godly restraints and violent crime has skyrocketed (v2). The people are being destroyed because of their ignorance and lack of Godly education (v6). We have forgotten the Law of God (v6).**
    2. In verse 6, what does God say the nation is lacking? **Knowledge.** What have they rejected and/or ignored? **The Law of God.**
  - B. Read Deuteronomy 4:1-18
    1. List as many blessings as you can find that God promised for Israel if they would simply hear (listen to and obey) His words? **V1 -You will live (prosper). You will possess the land. V3- You will be preserved/protected when judgment comes to others. V6- Other nations will glorify God and honor you.**
    2. Name at least 8 commands that God says either to do or *not* to do. **V1-Listen to God's Word and obey (observe). Go in and possess the land. V2- Do not add or subtract from His Word. V3- Be careful to observe the Laws. V5- Live out your faith in front of others. V9- Watch yourself that you don't forget what you have seen and learned. V10- Teach them to your children and grandchildren. V15-18- Do not worship idols.**
- II. The Effects of Christianity Though History
  - A. Name at least 7 of the changes Christianity has been responsible for (from the video). **Sanctity of Marriage; Sanctity of Life; Womens' freedom and dignity; Education for all; Charity and compassion; Hospitals; Modern science; abolition of slavery...**
  - B. What does this say to you about the value of Christianity compared to other faiths? **No other faith has impacted the world for the good like Christianity**
  - C. Why do you think Christianity has been so influential for the good? **Because that is who our God is: He is good – always. There is no good outside of Him. Christ put others before himself and set the example of a life of service.**

#### Part 2

- III. The 5,000 year Leap
  - A. List as many reasons as you can for why America prospered so greatly and so quickly compared to all other nations in history. **The founders committed themselves to living under the Laws of God – which guarantee "success in all you do" when we obey. (Josh 1:8). They were free, so their creativity and work ethic combined to enrich others. They weren't forced be responsible to work for tyrants. Their ability to be personally responsible gave them upward mobility.**
  - B. The word "freedom" was emphasized greatly in this section. Freedom to do what? **Pursue your dreams and live your life as you please - as long as you obey God's moral laws.**
  - C. How or why might those freedoms lead to prosperity in a Christian nation, but not in an atheistic nation? **Without God's moral laws, freedom will be abused due to man's sinful heart**
  - D. Do you think that we still enjoy today the same level of freedom that early Americans did? **No.** What (if anything) has changed? (depending upon your knowledge of past history and current events, you may or

may not have an answer to this question) ***We're over-taxed and under-represented. Christians are now ridiculed and persecuted for their faith in the media, the schools, and the workplace. We cannot say or do what we once were so free to say and do. Because of lawless politicians and judges, stealing, lying and violence are rampant – which deprives everyone of freedom.***

### **Part 3a**

**(Watch though 12:35)**

#### **IV. The Culture Wars**

- A.** Name at least 4 areas of life where Christianity is being attacked today. ***Our Christian heritage is being re-written out of history. Evolution teaching has pushed God's creation account out of the schools. We are being forced to violate our conscience regarding the sanctity of life and the belief that marriage is to be only between a man and a wife. Our freedom of speech is rapidly diminishing, as is our freedom to practice our religion (stand up for God or Jesus in public).***
- B.** Read Matthew 5:13-16 along with Ezekiel 3:17-21. What promises and warnings do you find in these passages? ***From Matthew: If we are not being salt, we'll be ineffective and trampled upon by the world. If we are being light we will bless others with light and bring glory to God. From Ezekiel: If we warn others and they repent we will both be blessed. If we don't warn others we will suffer consequences, as will the unbeliever.***
  - 1. What are God's people commanded to be and do? ***To be salt – preserving society by living righteously as an example for others to follow. To be light – speaking Truth whenever lies are being propagated. To warn others of the consequences of sin – or disobedience to God's laws.***
- C.** From those scriptures, why do you think Christianity is having so little influence in the culture today? ***We are not living our faith, and we are not speaking up for the Truth.***
- D.** Do you think God will hold Christians at least partially responsible for the moral collapse of our nation? ***YES!***
- E.** Read 2 Chronicles 7:14. Where is there hope for us? ***By humbling ourselves, praying for His forgiveness and help, seeking diligently to know Him, repenting (turning from and reject our old ways of thinking and living)***

### **Part 3b**

#### **V. Where Do We Start? The Role of Education in the Christian Life**

- A.** Education Statistics:
  - 1. **20%** of high school grads can't read their diplomas
  - 2. **80%** of all juveniles in the court system are functionally illiterate
  - 3. More than **60%** of all prison inmates are functionally illiterate
  - 4. One child in **4** grows up not knowing how to read
  - 5. What % of those with level 5 skills live in poverty? **4%**
- B.** Welfare Statistics
  - 1. 3 out of **4** Food Stamp recipients perform in the lowest 2 literacy levels
  - 2. **80%** of welfare recipients are high school dropouts
- C.** How Did We Fall So Far So Fast?
  - 1. We allowed the State **to take over the public education system**
  - 2. We've lost the knowledge of **how to apply scripture to every area of life**
- D.** Why study a Biblical Worldview?
  - 1. Christians are not taught to think in **Biblical categories**
  - 2. We're losing our Christian youth to **alien worldviews**

## Part 3c

### VI. What is a Worldview?

- 1.) The Barna survey asked these questions: Do you believe.. 1.) Absolute moral truth exists? 2.) Those truths are defined in the Bible? 3.) Do you believe in ALL these 6 religious views: 1- Jesus Christ lived a sinless life 2- God is the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe and He stills rules it today 3- Salvation is a gift from God and cannot be earned 4- Satan is real 5- A Christian has a responsibility to share their faith in Christ with other people 6-The Bible is perfect in all of its teachings
- A. Do you believe in every statement? \_\_\_\_\_ (If not, we ask that you keep an open mind as you continue through these classes.)
- B. Where and how can we get answers to those questions? ***By determined study of the Bible, with prayer, and by practicing its teachings in our lives.***
- C. What can we expect the result will be if Christians are not unified in what they believe? ***We will be divided, conquered, and enslaved.***
- D. How do our core beliefs about what is true and what is not, affect our behavior? Give examples ***If we believe pre-marital or extra-marital sex is O.K., we will bring harm to ourselves and others; etc.***
- E. Read 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 and Colossians 2:8. In light of what was presented in the video, what do you think these verses mean in today's world? ***Ideas are what we are at war with today in America, and we must become well-versed in God's view of those ideas in order to do battle.***  
What do you think are the most dangerous IDEAS that "go against the knowledge of God" and are "taking people captive", that the church needs to stand up against and "demolish"? ***Homosexuality/same-sex marriage; Abortion; Free sex; Taking from the rich to care for the poor; "Education is the responsibility of the state, not the parents or the church."***
- F. Interpreting Colossians 2:8 in today's world:
  1. What do you think it means to be taken captive, and can you give some examples? ***1. A young girl who becomes pregnant outside of wedlock will most likely live in poverty, trying to both raise a child and be the provider. 2. A young man may experiment once with homosexuality and contract AIDS, enslaved in a disease that may prematurely end his life.***
  2. What does "hollow and deceptive philosophy" mean to you? ***It promises much, but delivers nothing.***
  3. What does it mean to depend on Christ rather than on human tradition and the principles of the world? Read John 15:1-17 and Prov. 3:4-5 to help you answer. ***Depending on Christ is trusting His ways for all our behavior, constantly relying upon His strength and perfect will – as opposed to ignoring His Words and warnings, living independent of His will and purpose for us.***

Recommended reading:

"The 5,000 Year Leap - the 28 great Ideas That Changed the World", by W. Cleon Skousen. Published by the National Center for Constitutional Studies, 2006

"How Christianity Changed the World" copyright 2004 by Alvin J. Schmidt; Published by Zondervan

# *Thinking Like a Christian Video Series*©

## Study Guide #2 Answer Key: *The Christian Worldview of **History***

(Answer Key in bold italics)

### **Part 1**

#### **I. The Bible is Supernatural in its Origin**

A. Read 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Jeremiah 1:2-3; Ezekiel 1:3; Hosea 1:3. From these scriptures, how would you explain in your own language whose words make up the Bible? ***Every word came directly from God Himself, spoken to men who faithfully penned the exact words. The Bible is the Word of God.***

1. Read Romans 1:18, 21-22, 28, 32. Why do you think so many denominations have veered from this absolute truth, and how has that hurt Christianity? ***They suppressed parts that they don't want to be accountable to, or they simply neglected their duty to search the Scriptures with all their heart, mind, and strength. They did not give Him the glory He is due.***

B. The “Telephone Game”

1. The Bible consists of **66** books, written by **40** authors, who wrote in **3** languages from **3** continents over a span of **1500** years.
2. If it had been written by men alone – without the inspiration of God – what do you think the result would have been? ***Chaos. A book of unrelated imaginings of all sorts.***
3. In what ways might it strengthen the faith of a Christian to be convinced that the Bible is truly, word-for-word, principle-by-principle, from God the Creator Himself? ***His confidence in what he believes and why would grow exponentially. He would not be blown about by every wind of doctrine- like a ship without a rudder.***

#### **II. The Bible is Supernatural in its Transmission**

- A. The Bible, compared with other ancient writings, has more manuscript evidence than any **10** pieces of classical literature combined. There are over **24,000** manuscripts of the Bible in part or whole
- B. Both the New and the Old Testaments have been proven to be over **95%** accurate\* in words and **meaning**, in their translations over 1900 - 2,200 years. No other ancient book comes close to that degree of accuracy.
- C. Knowing this, does the phrase “supernatural in its transmission” seem appropriate? ***Yes!*** Why? ***Because the chances of inaccuracy increase with every copy, yet there virtually no change from one to another.***

\* Apologetics Press (<http://www.apologeticspress.org>); Geisler, Norman and William Nix (1986), *A General Introduction to the Bible* (Chicago, IL: Moody).

## THINKING LIKE A CHRISTIAN VIDEO SERIES

### Study Guide #2 Answer Key: *The Christian Worldview of History* (Answer Key in bold italics)

#### Part 2

#### I. The Bible is Supernatural in its Message

- A. God is the **Author** of all history. He wrote the screenplay, created the actors, and assigned everyone their roles. Not one second has passed by without Him knowing every detail intimately!
1. What impressed you from the account of the prophecy of Babylon in the video? (*an example*) **How accurate in its details the prophecy was. It is also a frightening picture of the judgment of God that comes to those cities or nations that pridefully ignore God.**
  2. Read Micah 5:2; Isaiah 7:14; Psalm 22:7-8, 14-18; Isaiah 53.
    - a. Who does it appear that these prophecies are speaking of? **Christ**
    - b. List every prophecy you can find in those passages that came true in Jesus' life, death, or resurrection. **He'll be born in Bethlehem. Born of a virgin. Men will ridicule and mock Him. Actual quotes from the cross are prophesied. Water gushed from His side. His bones came out of joint from hanging. He died (physicians have diagnosed) from a literal broken heart. His tongue was parched ("I thirst"). They pierced his hands and feet. His garments were divided among others after casting lots.**
  3. Knowing that the Dead Sea Scrolls contain an entire copy of the book of Isaiah, verified as having been penned *no later* than 100 years before Christ, what does that say to you regarding the claim that the Bible is supernatural in its Origin, Transmission, and Message?  
*NOTE: It has been computed that the chances of one man fulfilling just 8 of those prophecies (there are over 10 in those scriptures) has the probability of one chance in 100,000,000,000,000,000 (from the book "Science Speaks", by Peter Stoner)*  
**The evidence is overwhelming that the prophecy was uncanny in its detail and accuracy.**

#### II. God is *Involved* in all history

- A. What were your thoughts in regard to the account of Washington at the Battle of Monongahela? (*example*) **How God prepared and protected Washington for his role in establishing the U.S. (and this is just one example of many such miracles God worked in his life)**
- B. Comment on the account of the French Armada and its foiled attempt to wipe-out the American colonies. **Most of us have never heard of this account, but that shows that God often works in such a way as to almost conceal his mighty works. Some say "coincidences are when God chooses to remain anonymous". God is always working behind the scenes!**
- C. From the above account and from Ben Franklin's speech at the Constitutional Convention, what are your thoughts about God's involvement in America's history? (*example*) **No doubt He had a plan for the nation, and ensured that it was carried out. He used willing vessels (like Washington, who expressed a Christian faith) and unwilling vessels (like Franklin, who for most of his life rejected a personal faith) to accomplish His purpose. He still does!**
- D. Why do you think these historical references have been eliminated from the public education system? (Read John 3:19) **"Men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil." We don't want to be told what to do or how to live by anyone.**
- E. Can you remember at least one incident in your life where you believe God intervened on your behalf? If so, write it down: (*A personal question*)

- III. Do you believe, after this study, that God can bring revival to the church in America again? **YES!** If so, where and how do you think it must start? **When the individuals and families in the church realize that their comfort and security is threatened. When we stop allowing the world to manipulate our thoughts and actions and humbly turn back to God in repentance.**

*Thinking Like A Christian Video Series*©  
Study Guide #3: The Christian Worldview of Theology  
Part 1

## Part 1

- [illegible]

### III. How can we know God?

- A. *General Revelation*. He is revealed *generally* in Creation.
1. Read Psalm 19:1-4; Romans 1:20. What do these passages say about General Revelation? **It reveals the glory of God. Creation confirms in the material world what God's Word reveals in our understanding.**
- B. *Special Revelation*. God is revealed *specifically* in the Word of God – the Bible.
1. Read 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:3; Hebrews 4:12; Revelation 22:18-19. In your own words, where do the Scriptures come from, and what specific purposes do they perform? **They come from God directly. They provide clarity in doctrine (what we believe), correction, reproof (discipline), and training in righteousness. They show us our sin and they reveal God's character: holiness, mercy, justice, love, etc. Everything we need to know about life and how to live a godly manner is in His Word.**
  2. What do these passages say about the completeness of the Bible we have, and what does that mean in our complicated lives today? **The Bible contains all that God wants to convey to us for our success, yet it is a fountain for learning more and more daily. It is our counseling manual, our family manual, our relationship manual, our life manual.**
  3. What are some results if one chooses to not believe in ALL the words of the Bible? **We will miss the mark. We can fall into a ditch of errors that will bring heartache and sorrow to ourselves and others.**

#### IV. What is the God of the Bible like?

- A. God is *Ruler*
1. He is King of kings and Lord of lords. Read Exodus 6:6; 7:5; 10:2; Leviticus 18:4; Matthew 7:21. What does God mean when he says "I am the Lord?" **He is the only God; He is everything we need Him to be: Our protector, deliverer, provider, our lawgiver, the One we are called to obey.**
  2. He is everlasting. Read Psalm 41:13; 90:2; 145:13; Isaiah 40:28; 45:17; 51:11; 54:8. What assurances and strengths can we receive from these passages? **Because He is everlasting, He will always watch over me –forever. Nothing can keep Him from blessing us forever. He never faints or wearies of watching over us. Throughout eternity we will never be ashamed or disgraced! Once heaven begins, our joy and gladness will never end! His wrath towards His children are momentary, but His kindness and mercy will last forever.**
  3. He is omnipotent (all-powerful). Read Genesis 1:1; Exodus 9:16; Joshua 4:24; 1 Chronicles 29:11-15. How shall we respond, knowing how powerful He is? **God showed His power in Pharaoh – the most powerful man on earth at the time – by humbling him. It is better for us if we humble ourselves! Maintaining a healthy fear of God is the beginning of wisdom – remembering who He is and who we are not. We are to praise him with a grateful heart because we don't deserve His grace, mercy, and love.**
  4. He is Omniscient (all-knowing). Read Job 21:22; 37:16; Psalm 19:1-4; Proverbs 3:19-20; 10:14; Daniel 2:21; Luke 8:10. What do these passages say about God's knowledge? **There is nothing that can be known that is outside of Him. All the universe shouts out the glory of His brilliance and wisdom. All the universe was made by His wisdom and knowledge. He controls the seasons, the rulers, he is the giver of all wisdom. We can never attain His knowledge ourselves.**
  5. He is omnipresent (present everywhere and at all times). Read: Jeremiah 23:24; Job 34:22; Isaiah 29:15; Psalm 139:7-18. Why might knowing this bring fear to some, and comfort to others? **There is nowhere we can go out of His sight – not even in the darkest places. Even our very thoughts are known by Him. This is frightening to those who are lost, but immensely comforting to those who are found!**
- B. God is *Righteous*
1. He is Holy, Perfect, always Right, always True, always Good. The word "Holy" means set apart. Set apart from what? **From doing or saying or even looking at anything that God defines as sin in his Word.**

2. Read Isaiah 6:1-5 and Revelation 4:1-11. Here God is praised as being Holy, Holy, Holy. If you were there in each of these situations, what do you think would be running through your mind? **"I'm not! "(Holy) "Maybe if I beg for mercy, He'll grant it to me –that's my only hope."**
- C. God is *Relational*.
1. Read Genesis 2:18; 5:22-24; John 3:16; John 3:16; Hebrews 13:5. How do these scriptures testify to a relational God? **1) God cared that man was lonely, so He did something to remedy it. 2) We can walk with God. He will walk with us. Then, he will take us to be with him. 3) He gave His Son for us to save us. 4) We will never be alone, outside of His presence and care.**

## Part 2

### V. How does the God of the Bible compare to all other "gods"?

- A. **Humanism.** This is the religion of America's current government, **the media**, and **school system**.
1. "Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created; & believe that man is just one part of nature, the result of evolution." Try to list at least 4 dangerous consequences in the society around us that are the result of this thinking. **(1) Abortion is rampant (2) God is ridiculed or ignored (3) God's laws are disobeyed, so everyone is being hurt (4) God is leaving our country.**
  2. From the video that spoke of the rise of the "Intercollegiate Socialist Society", why do you think they were so successful in changing America's culture, and what lessons do they provide for the church today? **They were devoted to their cause; therefore they concentrated their combined efforts toward a long range goal. Lessons: We need to raise our level of commitment; establish a long-range goal; work together to achieve it. The Humanist's goal was to reach the youth to change the culture through education. We should do the same. This should be our highest priority.**
  3. Why do you think that many communist/socialist nations are Humanist in their worldview/religion? **Because both those systems of government depend upon control of the minds and lives of the people – it is forced coercion. Therefore the State must be their god. There can be no other.**
  4. In Humanism, who is Ruler? **The State**. Can you count on righteousness to rule in such a nation? **No.** Why or why not? **Man is not righteous and the State is made up of men who create their own ideas of right and wrong, which change continually and are bent toward sin.**
  5. Can you expect the ruler(s) to be relational? **No. Some will be evil and power-hungry, etc..** What difference would that make? **If rulers are not godly, they won't be relational because their natural selfish tendencies will rule them, causing the people to be abused.**

NOTE: If in a group study, leaders should encourage discussion about the information given about the other major religions:

- B. **Islam**
- C. **Buddhism**
- D. **Hinduism**

**Thinking Like A Christian Video Series©**  
**Study Guide #4: The Christian Worldview of Philosophy**  
**Answer Key, Part 1**

1. The video spoke of “anti-intellectualism” taking over in America. Why do you think this is? ***Abraham Lincoln said: “We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!” Success in the material things can easily lead to complacency in the spiritual. Modern media and convenience has caused us to become lazy about learning.***
2. In your opinion, what are some of the consequences of a society that becomes amusement-centered? ***We lose our focus upon what is important. We become focused on ourselves and live for pleasure.***
3. Read Eph. 5:8-20 and Phil. 4:8. What does the Bible say about how we are to spend our time and what we should be thinking upon? (Note: This is not to say that *amusement* does not have a place in our lives; we simply should not let the seeking of pleasure and amusement control our lives) ***Walk in the light of scripture. Think on what is pure, lovely, etc. Don’t dwell on that which is not. Live our faith before people by being consistent in our godly behavior.***
4. What does the *philosophy* mean, and why is it important to think through our philosophy? ***Lover of wisdom. If we don’t think clearly about what we choose to believe and compare it to the Bible, we will be easily deceived by others.***
5. 2 Cor. 10:4-5 states: ***(In your own words) EX: We are in a battle, but our weapons aren’t typical weapons of war. We battle ideas that go against God’s Word.***
6. This means that we are in a battle over ***IDEAS***
7. Read Romans 12:1-2. According to these verses, why should it be a priority in every Christian’s life to focus on the “renewing of our minds”? ***If we conform to the world’s ideas, we will be going against God. But if we transform our thinking by conforming to the words of scripture we will be on His side and we will prosper.***
8. What is the source of the ideas a Christian is to base his/her philosophy upon? ***The Bible***
9. Read Psalm 1 & Psalm 128, along with Joshua 1:8-9. Name as many blessings and/or curses that are promised as a result of the ideas or acquaintances we embrace. ***If we walk in God’s ways we will be: secure in our footing; provided for; fruitful and productive; prosperous in this life and in the next. If we rebel we will live wasted lives – unproductive and fruitless, not prosperous in life and in the end we will be separated from God and His people forever.***
10. What is the key to wisdom according to Psalm 111:10? ***The fear of the Lord.*** Why do you think a healthy understanding of this idea is meant for our good? ***The laws of God are there for our good, but there are always consequences for going against laws. When we fear disobeying His laws we are much more apt to walk in safety and live in the path of God’s blessings.***
11. According to the video, a wise philosophy must be based upon ***truth.*** And what relationship does this have with reality? ***If something is true it will be confirmed in real life.***
12. A key principle presented in the video is that there must be LAW in order for there to be ***order.*** This is true for the physical laws as well as the ***moral*** laws.
13. Read Exodus 20:1-17. Name at least 5 consequences of disobeying God’s moral Laws and 5 expected results of obeying. ***Disobeying: Murder results in prison or death for the murderer. Committing adultery leads to broken relationships and loss of family. Stealing results in incarceration, fines, and personal guilt. Bearing false witness can lead to imprisonment, fines, and social shame. Coveting leads to unthankfulness, envy, and insatiable greed. Obeying: Peace with God; safety; security; honor; a trustworthy character.***

# The Christian View of Philosophy

## Answer Key, Part 2

1. According to Humanism, what constitutes reality? The natural – or material – world. Only what we can taste, touch, see, and feel.
2. What governmental systems are based upon ideas common to Humanism? Socialism, Communism, Marxism. What do these systems believe about God? He doesn't exist.
3. Christianity is based upon the belief that reality consists of the Natural and the supernatural
4. Read Isaiah 1:18, Mt. 22:37, 2 Pet. 1:16, 1 Pet. 3:15. What do these scriptures say about the importance of thinking rationally and reasonably about the ideas being presented to us in the world? God wants to reason with us and to love Him with all our mind, therefore our reasoning is very important to him. We aren't to believe anything quickly without evidence, but we are called to be knowledgeable about what we believe and why in order to stand up for our faith.
5. According to the video, what are 4 critical questions that everyone wonders about in their life? 1) Where did I come from? 2) Why am I here? 3) Where am I going? 4) How do I get there?
6. How do the major religions answer those questions?

### Answers to the 4 Critical Questions of Life

	<i>Where did I come from?</i>	<i>Why am I here?</i>	<i>Where am I going</i>	<i>How do I get there?</i>
<b>Humanism</b>	<i>The zoo</i>	<i>No reason. No purpose</i>	<i>Nowhere</i>	<i>There is no place to go</i>
<b>Islam</b>	<i>Created from clay and water over time</i>	<i>To Submit to Allah</i>	<i>Paradise or hell</i>	<i>Maybe heaven-or hell</i>
<b>Buddhism</b>	<i>A past life</i>	<i>To reach Nirvana</i>	<i>As far as you can <u>imagine</u></i>	<i>Meditation</i>
<b>Hinduism</b>	<i>A past life</i>	<i>To find joy</i>	<i>A mystical ride</i>	<i>Meditation, experience, Karma, &amp; reincarnations</i>
<b>Christianity</b>	<i>Created by a loving Father</i>	<i>To Worship God and enjoy Him forever</i>	<i>To Heaven. To live forever in God's loving presence</i>	<i>By faith in Christ</i>

7. What is the definition of Faith according to Webster's 1828 dictionary? "The assent of the mind to the truth of a proposition advanced by another, by a belief, or by probable evidence of any kind."
8. This means that God gives us good reasons for believing in Him.
9. From the video, Christianity says the Bible is true because its truths can be tested. List some of the reasons that support Christianity's truth claims using the 4 elements of critical thinking.
  - 1) Common sense observation: (Approx) 95% of ALL human beings say they believe in a God (see Rm. 1:18) "The Heavens declare the Glory of God"
  - 2) Scientific validation: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Law of thermodynamics, the impossibility of life coming from non-life; DNA (information requires an informer); the Anthropic principle (fine-tuning of the universe)

- 3) Historical collaboration: *The Biblical accounts are supported in secular history. Biblical Prophecy has always proved true. What the Bible says will bring blessings or curses has proved true.*

*The fundamental principles of Christianity are confirmed in real life to be applicable, and trustworthy*

a. *By Common Sense and Observation*

b. *By Science*

c. *By History*

*The fundamental principles of all other religions are proven to be Illogical, inapplicable, untrustworthy – and dangerous*

a. *By Common Sense and Observation*

b. *By Science*

c. *By History*

**Thinking Like a Christian Video Series©**  
**Study Guide #5: The Christian Worldview of Economics**

**Answer Key, Part 1**

- I. Biblically-based economics is grounded upon the principle of human freedom as stated in our Declaration of Independence – that rights come from God alone, and man is to be free to pursue his dreams without government interference as long as he follows God’s moral laws.
- A. Read Habakkuk 1:13A; Titus 1:2; James 1:13b. Are there any limitations to God’s freedom? He can’t look at evil/wickedness/sin. He can’t lie! “Obey God’s laws and do what you want!”
  - B. Read Gen. 1:26-28. Since man is made in God’s image, what does this question and the last imply about the limitations God places upon Man’s freedom? Man is free to do what he pleases as long as he obeys God’s laws
  - E. America is the first – and only - nation in all of history to write into its foundational laws that the primary purpose of government is to protect the rights of its citizens from being taken away by any person, government, or organization. What do you think this idea has to do with the rapid prosperity America has experienced since its founding? It freed men from the bondage of slavery to kings and tyrants that had been holding them down since the Fall, allowing them to use their own lives pursuing their creative ideas and dreams.
- II. The Biblical View: Free Market Enterprise
- Eight principles of God’s Economics
- 1. Man is made to be free. Read Jer. 34:12-22. Is individual freedom for every man and woman a priority to God? Yes. What punishments are promised to those who enslave others? The sword(war), pestilence(disease) famine(starvation), slavery.
  - 2. God has entrusted man with gifts and blessings (property or Resources)
    - a. Read Gen. 1:28-30. Name some of the basic resources God has provided for all of mankind herbs, fruits, vegetables, animal/fish/poultry.
    - b. Read Gen. 11:1-9, esp. verse 4. Babylon was judged by God. Why was He displeased with the people of Babylon, and what might this teach us about the reasons for a country’s economic success or failure? They were not considering God. They wanted to be their own Gods ...“building a city to reach the heavens”. God will bring judgment to any nation that is not thankful to God for their blessings.
  - 3. God has made man to be productive. Read Matt. 25:26-30. What are the consequences that come from wasting your natural gifts and talents? What we have will be taken from us and given to others.
  - 4. God requires all men to be good stewards of those gifts and blessings. Read Matt. 24:45-47. What are the rewards God promises for faithful stewardship? He will be promoted by his Master.
  - 5. God has made man to be responsible and **accountable** for the management of his property/resources. Read Matt. 24:48-51. What consequences will come to the unfaithful one? Destruction
  - 6. God has made man to enjoy the fruits of his labor. What can we learn from Eccl. 5:18-19; Prov. 10:4-5; Prov. 12:11; Prov.13:4, :11 regarding this principle? This a gift of God. God promises blessings for honest work, but curses for laziness.
  - 7. God has made man to bless others with the fruits of his labor. Read Luke 6:38, 12:16-21. What physical and spiritual results come from being generous or selfish with the fruit of our labor? Our cup will overflow from sharing of our income from our labor, or God will take away all we consider valuable – either while on earth or after this life.
  - 8. Man is sinful. Read Rom. 3:23; Gen.6:5; Jer.17:9. Is there any area of life that sin does not affect? No. And in your experience, how does the sin nature affect us in the workplace? Many cheat, steal, or take advantage of others. Some work less diligently than others, while everyone makes the same.
- III. Lessons from the Parable of the Talents (Matt. 25:14-30).
- A. Each man was given talents – (money, “gifts”) *according to his ability*. What is significant about that last phrase, and how does this apply in your life? We are not to measure ourselves against how others may or may not perform. We are all to take whatever we’re given and give our all. Give our gift to God in service to Him and others.
  - B. Not everyone was given equal income or gifting – but all had equal opportunity. Do you think God would expect more fruit from a citizen of America, compared to a comrade in China? Yes. Why? (see Luke 12:48b) Because we’ve been given so much more freedom in America (we are the governors), we have greater responsibility to use our freedom to glorify God.

- C. All had equal responsibility – to bring fruit – or a return – from what each had been entrusted with. In Matt 25:26, how did his lord describe the unprofitable servant? **Wicked and lazy**
- D. Those who used their talents to bring a return on the investment were rewarded with more! What were the fruitful ones promised? **Everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance**
- E. He who did nothing with the investment lost everything. In the “Talents”, He lost Heaven. Not because he didn’t earn it, but because he actually attributed evil motives to God. He did not have faith, and without faith, Scripture says, it is impossible to please God. Read Matt. 25:16 and Colossians 3:22-24. Name some ways we can reveal our faith in God in the workplace? **Using our time wisely. Working hard, Not talking when we should be working. Trying to develop our abilities to do our job better. Work as unto God, with the spirit of a volunteer; and do so with joy.**
- F. Our faith in God as one who is a rewarder of those who are diligent is seen by the fruit we produce in our lives. Read Deut. 11:13-15; Prov. 13:4. What are the promised results of doing all our work diligently “as unto the Lord”? **Abundant provision from heaven along with constant care from God.**

#### **VI. PRIVATE PROPERTY & INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- A. Read Ex. 20:15, 17. How do the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Commandments imply private property ownership? **Only if one owns property can someone else be accused of stealing. Coveting is wanting something that doesn’t belong to you – it BELONGS to another.**
- B. Read Gen. 23:10-17 and 2 Sam. 24:18-24. Why do you think Abraham and David insisted upon paying for property even when they were offered it for free? **When we pay for something it proves our ownership. David believed that his gift to God should cost him something. If he received it free of charge it would not have not been much of a gift from him to God.**
- C. God designed a world in which the existence of private property encourages people to be responsible and fruitful. Read Prov. 31:13-31. How does this woman make full use of her property? **She uses all the material resources along with her personal talents, energy, and time to bring a return for her husband and family. She is thrifty and a good manager of the household income that she is responsible over (for feeding, clothing, etc.). She is generous.**

#### **VII. Economic Competition**

- A. What core Christian belief is the reason for the 3 divided branches of government and the idea of “checks and balances” in America? (see Romans 3:23; Jeremiah 17:9) **Sin is in all of us. We are all selfish in our nature.**
- B. Why does economic competition force people to be polite, responsible, and diligent on the job? **If one is rude, lazy, or dishonest, he will lose customers or lose his job.**
- C. What are the usual results in terms of the (1)quality of service, (2)price, and (3)performance at a company that has no competition? **Quality goes down; price is high; production decreases.**

#### **VIII. The principle of Comparative Advantage**

- A. What happens to personal productivity when a person works at a job he or she loves? **It increases**  
Why? **They will not be bored or uninterested. They will take great pride in their work.**
- B. When we use our best talents and interests to provide a service *that benefits others*, we’re rewarded as well. How? (Read and compare Romans 12:4-8 and Luke 6:38 **We’ll know we are doing what we were created to do. And God promises that our service will not be wasted – He will bless us accordingly as He sees fit.**

## *Thinking Like A Christian Video Series*©

### Study Guide #5: The Christian Worldview of Economics

#### Answer Key, Part 2

#### I. Communism/Socialism/Collectivism

- A. Read Acts 2:44-45 and Acts 4:32-36. Describe the type of economic system that *seems* to be portrayed in these verses. **Communism**; yet in that type of system the people are forced to give up their property to the state for “equal” distribution. Read Acts 5:1-4, especially v-4. Were these disciples forced to forfeit their property or did they freely give? **They freely gave of their own property** What was their motive? **Love for God and neighbor**
- B. Read Acts 5:1-10 and Acts 6:1(NOTE: This system is never spoken of again in the New Testament after Acts 6:1). What caused the system to fail? **Sin. Some are selfish and hold back.**
- C. Economic Justice is a term that means redistributing income from those who have more to those who have less. Read Exodus 30:15. What does God say about taxing some more than others? **It is not His will or His way.**
- D. Name several natural consequences to a society when everyone is guaranteed the same income no matter how diligent or lazy the person. **Some will work less or not at all, leaving more work for others. Then, those who are working harder will become discontent. Overall, production will decrease and everyone will have less.**
- E. Biblical justice requires that everyone receive equal *opportunity*, not equal income.
1. Why would this principle encourage an individual to work harder to attain his/her dreams? **With greater opportunity to freely use your gifts, you can have a hand in determining your income.**
  2. Can you name any current social programs that work against this idea? **Food stamps given with no incentive to work. Free tuition for illegal immigrants encourages lawlessness and racism.**

#### II. Where does Wealth Come From?

- A. In Free Market Economics (Capitalism), where does wealth come from? **It is created from thin air (ideas and sweat)**
- B. Keynesian Economics (modern Socialism) says wealth comes from a large, but fixed “pot of gold” in the world. Do you agree? **No.** Why? **It doesn't explain the radical prosperity that came out of America since its founding. It is obvious that wealth comes from ingenuity, creativity and hard work.**
- C. The Bible is much more supportive of an economic system that...
1. Respects private property. Read Ex. 20:15,17; Ex.22:1-4. Name several things these scriptures say about private property. **It should not be stolen; we should not be jealous of others ' property; It should not be abused or destroyed, and if it is, it must be restored or recompensed.**
  2. Rewards the work ethic.
    - a. See Prov. 12:11; Ruth 2:1-8; Prov. 31. How is hard work rewarded? **The earth will yield its resources; others will notice and bring favor; others will gladly pay for the service we provide.**
    - b. Read Genesis 2:2a, 2:15, Exodus 20:9, 31:17a. According to these scriptures, what is one of the primary purposes we were created for, which is also a common trait of God? **Work**
  3. Requires personal responsibility. Read Luke 19:11-26. How is God's attitude illustrated in this parable? **God show His great displeasure toward the one who is lazy in applying his talents and gifts.**
- D. From the DVD, what governmental manipulation commonly causes inflation? **Government prints money without collateral to back it up (gold, for example). This devalues the money.**
- E. How is it that when government simply prints more money, it is stealing from the people? **By simply putting more dollar bills into circulation the value of the dollar decreases, and the money the people have buys less.**

F. Consider the principle: “The smaller the government, the richer the people. The bigger the government, the poorer the people” Is this true? Yes Why? **A big government wastes the people’s tax dollars due to lack of accountability and personal responsibility, costing everyone more of their hard-earned money. More demands are then made upon the people, forcing them to work longer and earn less.**

### III. The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Read Luke 10:25-37)

A. What are the 2 greatest commandments: 1) **Love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength** and 2) **Love your neighbor as yourself.**

B. Lessons from the Parable:

1. What was the attitude of those in the religious establishment of Israel toward the unsaved one in need? **He was not important – even looked down upon.**

2. Do you think from this parable that Jesus is implying that the church (corporate and individual) has a responsibility to care for the poor? **Absolutely!**

3. More so than the state (government)? **Yes. Dispensing charity is not to be a responsibility of government.**

4. Name several actions (at least 3) that the Samaritan businessman displayed which exemplify what it means to “love your neighbor as yourself”. **He showed compassion. He gave of his own time. He paid out of his own pocket.**

5. Can you think of some of the results of the “social justice” belief that the State is responsible to care for the poor? **The people and the church participate less in what is supposed to be their personal responsibility to care for others; and which is designed by God to teach us how to love like He does – by giving of ourselves. Those who receive welfare without requirements are deprived of the blessings that hard work and personal responsibility bring.**

6. Is Jesus saying that in order to love our neighbor, our job is to lead him/her to say the sinner’s prayer? \* **Not in this text.** If not, what IS our responsibility? **To love others practically, without prejudice, and out of sincere care for their well-being.**

7. Read 1 Corinthians 3:6-7; 1 Timothy 1:15; 2 Timothy 1:8-9. Who is responsible for saving a soul? **God**

*\*NOTE: We are certainly not advocating that leading another to Christ is not a part of our calling, as God provides opportunities. We are simply pointing out Christ’s definition of loving one’s neighbor, and the central part this should play in all our lives. Could it be that the church has emphasized personal evangelism to such a point that we have forgotten our first duty: to simply love the lost? Examine Jesus’ example in **Romans 5:8.***

*Thinking Like A Christian Video Series*©  
Study Guide #5: The Christian Worldview of Economics  
**Answer Key, Part 3**

**I. Economic Justice**

Economic or Social Justice states that regardless of anyone's **work** ethic, their **moral** choices, or their attitude, EVERYONE has a right to anything that is available in that society. And it is the government's responsibility to disperse everyone's property **equally** among the people.

A. Read Leviticus 19:15; Prov. 11:1; Luke 19:11-26. In contrast to the communistic philosophy of redistribution, what does the Bible say about "taking from the rich to give to the poor"? **Righteousness is shown by impartiality no matter a person's income status. All are to be weighed on equal scales. Everyone is accountable according to their gifts from God.**

B. Read Prov. 22:7; Luke 14:28-30. Is it moral & wise to amass debt that cannot be paid? **No** Why? **Unwise because the debtor becomes the slave. Not repaying a debt is stealing from the lender & brings dishonor to the debtor.**

**II. Let's Tax the Rich MORE!**

A. After watching this video, what are your thoughts about the idea of raising taxes on the rich in America to pay for our debts? **It makes no logical sense whatsoever. It is counterproductive to everyone in the nation.**

B. Have you ever held a job in which you were paid more than the owner of the company you worked for? **No**  
1. What happens to a company's ability to hire workers if its taxes are raised? **It diminishes. They have less money to pay the employees unless they raise their prices, which in most cases will cause loss in business.**

C. If businesses are taxed more because of their degree of success, what effect might that have on the future productivity of that company? **Chances are good that the greater they succeed, the lower their profits; thus, they are discouraged from growth.** What might happen if an individual is taxed at a higher rate based upon his personal success? **There will come a point when he will choose not to advance his position or grow his business any further because it would be more profitable to keep himself in a lower tax bracket.**

**III. The Rules of Charitable Giving: I Tim. 5:3-16**

Paul's 3 Tests to receive charity: 1) the MEANS test 2) The AGE test 3) The MORALS test. Read the passage above and state what Paul is saying in your own words:

A. The MEANS test states: **If a person is healthy and able to work and is in financial trouble through no fault of his own, or if he has a family that can help out, he should not be given charity.**

B. The AGE test states: **If one is too old to provide for themselves and no family can assist, then charity is proper**

C. The MORALS test states: **if the person's immoral lifestyle or choices are the cause of his poverty, he should not receive assistance unless he commits to repentance and taking responsibility.**

**IV. Woodbury and Whipple – the Early American View of Charity**

A. They wrote: "The poverty which proceeds from improvidence (rebellion) and vice (immorality) ought to feel the consequences and penalties which God has laid out for them." Read Ezekiel 23:36-39, 46-49; Joshua 7:19-25. What were God's instructions for dealing with open rebellion against God's law? **In these cases, it was stoning to death. The point, however, is that consequences must follow open rebellion against God's law.**

B. Why do you think the punishment was so severe in these examples **To cause the people to reverence God and His laws, and to fear violating them.**

C. Read Deut. 8:3-5. What are some of the purposes God has for us when we are hit with hard times?

**To humble us and cause us to depend more fully upon Him and His word. To learn that He chastens us to grow us, because He loves us.**

D. Read Job 5:17-27. Name some of the blessings missed out on when someone is “bailed-out” of the troubles caused by their own rebellion and foolishness: **We lose out on experiencing the touch of God personally in our lives; as well as his deliverance out of our troubles when we turn to Him when there is nowhere else to turn.**

## **V. Basic Principles to God’s Economics**

1. *Trust God and Obey His Commands.* Read I Tim. 6:17; Matt. 6:26,30,33; Psalm 65:9-13. Why should we trust God over anyone or anything else? **Because He commands us and we trust that His commands are righteous. He is the creator and sustainer of all life, and we are the apple of His eye – above all other life. Of course, then, He will provide for us! He desires faith revealed in our obedience and He is worthy of all faith in Him to provide for us.**
  2. *Acknowledge and remember that all your natural gifts, talents, and abilities are a gift from God.* Read I Peter 4:11; Eph. 2:10; John 17:7; Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 2:12. Therefore, why is it unwise to be prideful over our talents or giftings? **Because we have done nothing to earn them. They are dispensed by God’s sovereign hand and he may take them away at any time. God hates pride! Our best course is to be ever humble and thankful to Him.**
  3. *Thankfulness.* Read Heb. 2:12 (note: in this passage, who is speaking, and to whom is he speaking?); Luke 17:11-19; Psalm 100:4; Rom. 1:20-21. Why is thankfulness so important in a Christian’s life? **It testifies of the reality of our faith. Considering the price Christ paid for us, and the riches we have in Him now and forever, if we don’t praise Him with continual thankfulness there is a danger that we never knew Him.**
  4. *We are personally responsible for bringing fruit from our lives.* Read Luke 12:16-21; Luke 12:48; Luke 19:26. (a) Why is this principle so critical in Christianity, and (b) why do you think it is so lacking in our world today?  
**Fruit is the witness of our faith. But so many who come to Christ seem to be drawn forward by the promises of His blessings only, instead of by being humbled by becoming aware of their sins toward God, and their need for repentance and forgiveness. Without this awareness, we have no appreciation for or understanding of grace.**
  5. *This responsibility is for our blessing and for blessing others.* Read Matt. 6:2-4; Matt. 14:15-21; Psalm 128:1-6 (esp. vs. 2). What happens when we are diligent in applying our gifts, talents, and energy wisely, – even when we think we have little to give? **God sees it and counts its value according to our hearts intent, then He multiplies it so that many others are blessed.**
    - A. When a tree produces fruit, the nourishment and enjoyment of that fruit goes to others. When we bear fruit in our lives it blesses others and ourselves. Read Psalm 1:3; 92:12-14; Prov. 11:25. Name some specific benefits to ourselves when we become fruit-bearers: **Even into old age we will bear fruit and be productive. When we give out, we will receive back – usually more than we gave.**
    - B. What does “bearing fruit” mean, and what are the benefits or consequences from either being fruitful or not? (Prov. 11:30; Matt. 21:18-19; Luke 3:8-9) **Winning souls for God or even playing a part in their turning to Him by planting seeds or watering. Not bearing fruit will result in the danger of withering away.**
    - C. How would you tie this principle to working hard and being diligent? **Part of abiding in Christ is in the actual work of obedience. That is the part of our walk where we are responsible.**
- Read Matt. 6:19-31; Phil. 4:11-13. What is more important, a person’s economic condition or his/her spiritual condition? Or, put another way, what is more important – riches or contentment, and why? **Our spiritual condition will determine our joy, our security and our peace of mind. With those in place we can be content in all circumstances. This is worth more than all the riches on this earth – & we can take it with us when we leave this earth for heaven!**

## Thinking Like A Christian Video Series©

### The Philosophy of Science

#### Part 1 - Answer Key

1. Why is a Christian worldview of science important?

***A Christian worldview of science is important because the Bible and modern science represent conflicting authorities. Much of today's culture believes that science is the ultimate authority when it comes to knowledge rather than God and His Word. For many, "It has been scientifically proven" has replaced, "It is written." Many place their trust in the phrase, "science tells us..." instead of the phrase, "thus says the Lord." Christianity is therefore being rejected by more and more people because Christians are said to have subjective blind faith, whereas the scientist has objective facts; that Christians have superstitious religion, whereas the scientist employs reason. If Christians don't have a Biblical worldview of science; that is, if they don't understand the limitations of science, then they will continue to lose the culture war that exists between science and Christianity.***

2. What happens when we as Christians are unable to define the key terms of our beliefs? What happens when we allow non-Christians to define the key terms of our beliefs for us?

***If Christians cannot define the key terms of their beliefs then they do not have a full understanding of what they believe, and if they do not have a full understanding of what they believe then they will be unable to adequately defend what they believe. When Christians allow non-Christians to define the key terms of an argument they have essentially forfeited the argument.***

3. From the Romans 1:18-25 passage it was noted that mankind has been given innate knowledge of God. The visible creation is meant to stimulate man's mind to recollect the God-given ideas (e.g., God's invisible attributes) that man possesses intuitively. In other words, when man interacts with God's creation, which demonstrates God's power and divinity, man, as God's image, is forced in some sense to "think God." With this in mind, read the following verses that reveal specific attributes of God, and then consider the examples that have been provided of how creation reflects these attributes. If you are not familiar with some of the examples that have been given (for instance, if you don't know what the laws of thermodynamics are) we would encourage you to do some research to learn more about them.

Verses	Attribute	Reflected in creation
Psalms 104:24; Romans 11:33	Wisdom	The unique properties of water, photosynthesis, the womb, symbiotic relationships
James 4:12; Isaiah 33:22	Lawgiver	Laws of gravitation and relativity, electromagnetism, laws of thermodynamics
Psalms 36:5; Lamentations 3:22-23; Genesis 8:22	Faithfulness, Mercy	Sunrise, sunset, the seasons, harvests, rainbows, breathing, heart beating
Psalms 33:5; 119:6; 136; 145:15-16; Acts 14:16-17	Goodness, Mercy	Rain, rest from our labors, abundant food/clothing/shelter, sensory pleasures (pleasant tastes, sounds, smells, sights)
Psalms 62:11; 89:6-13; Job 26 (especially verse 14)	Power	The sun, nuclear energy, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes

Psalm 8:9; 68:34; Exodus 15:11	Majestic	The Grand Canyon, the ocean, the Milky Way Galaxy
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4. Can you think of additional examples in creation that reflect the various attributes of God?

*Answers will vary.*

5. One of God's attributes is holiness, which can be exhibited in His wrath against sin (Psalm 7:11). Looking to the Scriptures, how has God used His creation to exhibit His holy wrath against sin? Read the following passages: Genesis 6:1-8 and 13-20; Exodus 7:14 to the end of chapter 10; Exodus 14 (especially verses 26-28); Numbers 16 (especially verses 31-35); Numbers 21:4-8; Jonah chapter 1 (especially verses 4 and 17).

***Genesis 6:1-8, 13-20: God destroyed all life on the earth through a global flood (except Noah and his family and the animals aboard the ark) because every intent of the thoughts of man's heart was only evil continually. Exodus 7:14 to the end of chapter 10: God turns water into blood; uses plagues of frogs, lice, flies, and locusts; uses disease and boils; causes hail; and darkens the sun because of the sinful pride and arrogance of Pharaoh and the idolatry of Egypt.***

***Exodus 14 (especially 26-28): God parted an entire sea and then caused it to collapse on Pharaoh and his army.***

***Numbers 16 (especially 31-35): God causes an earthquake to swallow up the rebellion of Korah and causes fire to come down and consume those who were offering unholy incense.***

***Numbers 21:4-8: God sends poisonous snakes to bite the Israelites because of their sinful ingratitude.***

***Jonah 1 (especially 4-17): God causes a sea storm and uses a whale to punish Jonah for his disobedience.***

6. If you are a Christian, how did God pour out His wrath against your sins? Read Romans 5:6-11 (especially verse 9) and John 3:36.

***God poured out His wrath upon His own Son as punishment for the sins of those who belong to Him (i.e., Christians); for those who believe in the Son.***

7. Though general revelation (man's God-given innate knowledge) is sufficient to reveal God's existence to all men, leaving mankind without excuse (personally responsible), it is insufficient to give sinful man a saving knowledge of God. What are the two requirements for sinful man to have saving knowledge of God? Read the following passages: John 17:17; John 14:6 and 15-17; Hebrews 4:12-13; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16.

***The Holy Spirit and the Word of God.***

Reread Hebrews 4:12-13. Note that the Word of God in verse 12 is referred to as a person in verse 13 (no creature is hidden from HIS sight; all are naked and opened to the eyes of HIM). Who is the person being referenced in these verses? Who is the Word of God?

***Jesus Christ.***

Reread 1 Corinthians 2:6-16. Note in verse 9 that those who love God (i.e., Christians) do not come to know the things of God through their senses (eyes and ears) or through their own reasoning (the heart of man, which Biblically is the mind). The Holy Spirit must reveal the things of God to man. Again, note in verse 14 that natural man (i.e., non-Christians) CANNOT know the things of God without the Holy Spirit.

## Part 2

1. Why are our observations unable to provide absolute truth?

***Man's observations are finite, subjective, and constantly change. However, truth is infinite, objective, and never changes.***

2. What is inductive reasoning and why can't scientific induction provide absolute truth?

***Inductive reasoning is the attempt to derive a general law from specific instances. Put simply, induction is going from specifics to generalizations ("bottom up" logic). However, unless one can account for every single specific instance, a generalization cannot be concluded. Therefore, since scientists can never account for all***

*observable instances of any given specific within the universe, no unchanging generalizations (i.e., absolute truths) can be concluded by way of scientific induction.*

3. What is deductive reasoning?

*Deductive reasoning (“top-down” logic) is the process of reasoning from one or more general statements (premises) to reach a logically certain conclusion. If all premises are true, the terms are clear, and the rules of deductive logic are followed, then the conclusion reached is necessarily true.*

4. By what authority do scientists base their truth claims?

*Scientists appeal to published studies in peer-reviewed scientific journals as the basis for their truth claims. However, the scientific literature is constantly changing.*

5. By what authority do Christians base their truth claims?

*Christians base their truth claims on the Word of God alone, which never changes.*

6. Why are the truth claims of Christianity valid, whereas the truth claims of science are not?

*The truth claims of Christianity are true because they are logically deduced from the first principle (axiom) that the Bible alone is the Word of God. Additionally, the truth claims of the Bible never change because they have been revealed by God Himself, who never changes. By contrast, the truth claims of scientists are constantly changing because they are logically induced from finite observations of a universe that is constantly changing. Finite observations of a constantly changing universe via inductive logic cannot provide infinite and unchanging truth. Therefore, the truth claims of science are invalid.*

7. Define the following terms:

- a. Faith/belief – *intellectual assent to understood propositions (a proposition is an idea or plan put forward for consideration or discussion; the meaning of a declarative sentence that expresses something that can be true or false).*
- b. Fact – *anything done or that comes to pass (an act, a deed, an event) which is fixed and unalterable in reality.*
- c. Religion/Worldview – *a belief system (comprised of propositions that have been accepted or rejected) from which one derives his or her values and moral standards.*
- d. Reason – *the power of comprehending, inferring, or thinking, especially in orderly rational ways; the proper exercise of the mind.*

8. What is the difference between faith and blind faith?

*Faith is intellectually assenting to an understood proposition. Blind faith is intellectually assenting to an understood proposition that directly contradicts reality. All truth is propositional and truth never contradicts reality; thus, a proposition that contradicts reality cannot be true, and to intellectually assent to such a proposition is to exercise blind faith.*

9. Why is it blind faith to believe the proposition that all of life came from non-life?

*This is blind faith because the proposition that all of life came from non-life directly contradicts reality.*

10. It's foolish to trust our eyes (sensation) to give us truth rather than God's Word (revelation). Read Genesis 3:6 - how was sin introduced into the world?

*Sin was introduced when man chose to trust his sensory experience (the fruit was pleasant to the eyes) rather than the Word of God.*

11. Read Genesis 3:16-19 - what are the consequences for man having trusted his own eyes rather than the Words of God?

*Death; increased pain in child labor for women; the battle of the sexes (woman will strive to usurp the headship of man, and man will lord his headship over the woman); and great difficulty and toil for the man in earning a living.*

## The Philosophy of Science

### Part 3- Answer Key

8. Why is it important to have a Christian Worldview of Ethics as we consider the philosophy of science?  
*A Christian Worldview of Ethics provides a basis for absolute morality; a basis for saying that certain things are always right or always wrong. Science is often used to promote or condemn issues of morality, even though issues of morality (issues of right and wrong) deal with ideas, and ideas cannot be analyzed in a scientific laboratory. A Christian Worldview of Ethics allows us to deal with issues of right and wrong by appealing to an absolute authority who never changes – God. Science is always changing, ever learning but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth (2 Timothy 3:7); therefore, one cannot appeal to science as an absolute authority for anything, especially ideas concerning what is right or wrong. For example, some people believe that abortion is wrong because science has been able to show us what an unborn baby looks like in the various stages of development within the womb. They believe that abortion is wrong because science has “shown” them that it is wrong. While we as Christians are glad when a non-believer thinks that abortion is wrong, abortion is wrong whether science can show us pictures within the womb or not. Abortion is wrong because God’s word says that murder is wrong. We must appeal to God as our authority on moral issues, not scientific pictures.*
9. What is the relationship between science and morality?  
*Science instructs us on how to do, not on what we ought to do. Science can be used for good or for evil purposes. As the video pointed out, it can be used to cure disease or cause disease, to promote biological welfare or biological warfare. Science should not be guiding our moral practices; rather, morality should be guiding our scientific practices. Morality, not science, determines the relationship between morality and science.*
10. Why is it irrational to base ideas of morality off of our observations of matter?  
*Ideas about right and wrong are just that – ideas, and ideas are not made of matter. Studying the nature of matter cannot tell us what is right and what is wrong, or how we should live our lives.*
11. Thinking back to the examples given in the video, what potential dangers are there in arguing moral issues based on the truth claims of science? What can it lead to?  
*It can lead to the acceptance of abortion and homosexuality, earth/nature worship (e.g., the sin of global warming), racism, genocide, euthanasia, eugenics, etc. In short, it can lead to the acceptance and/or practice of the most heinous forms of sin. It degrades and devalues the sanctity of human life; human life is not to be sanctified, but rather is to be studied scientifically. Science demeans the soul of man when it worships the body of man.*
12. Why is it illogical and inconsistent for an atheistic evolutionary biologist to support the gay agenda?  
*It doesn’t make any sense for the atheistic evolutionary biologist to promote the gay agenda because the whole point of evolution (if there’s any point at all) is to evolve. But how can we evolve (how can the gene pool increase) if homosexuality increases? Natural selection selects against homosexuality because homosexuality doesn’t allow for procreation, which is the only way that human life can evolve.*
13. Evolutionary science classifies man according to race; what can this lead to? How does God look at man?  
*Classifying men according to race inevitably leads to racism, and sometimes genocide. The underlying belief of racism, which can then lead to genocide, is that some races of man are superior to others. Not all races are created equal, because they’re not created; they evolved, and some more than others. In stark contrast to this, Christianity does not look at men according to race. Galatians 3:28 says: There is*

*neither Jew nor Greek (racism), there is neither slave nor free man (classism), there is neither male nor female (sexism); for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Acts 17:26 says: He (God) has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth. God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34), He doesn't look on the outward appearance of man (1 Samuel 16:7). Man judges according to outward appearances (1 Samuel 16:7), which causes division. But God looks at the inward man, the heart of man, and the heart of all men is sinful. Romans 3:23 - All men have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Sin therefore unifies (rather than divides) all men, and causes men to recognize their need for a savior.*

14. What is meant by the statement - *matter is all that matters?*

*Only that which can be experienced through the senses (that which can be seen, heard, smelled, tasted, or touched) can give man any real knowledge or truth. Basically, nothing exists except atoms and empty space; everything else is opinion.*

15. According to scientific estimates, how much of the universe is made up of atoms? Of this atomic matter, how much is actually visible?

*According to scientific estimates, only 4-5% of the universe is made up of atoms, and of this, less than 1% of atomic matter is actually visible. Therefore, less than 0.04-0.05% of the entire universe is actually visible to the naked eye.*

16. According to scientific estimates, how much of the universe is not made up of matter at all?

*According to scientific estimates, over 70% of the universe is not made up of matter at all.*

17. Why then, is it foolish to believe the statement – *matter is all that matters?*

*If the vast majority of the universe (>70%) doesn't even consist of matter, it seems foolish to believe that matter is the most important thing. Furthermore, of the remaining 30% of the universe that is made up of matter, only 0.04-0.05% of that matter is even visible, and nothing can be said with certainty about visible matter because it is constantly changing. Truth, by definition, is something that never changes.*

18. Can science measure a straight line? Why is this important to consider?

*Science cannot measure a straight line because to measure a straight line requires two fixed points in space and time. But we must not forget that everything in the universe is in motion, nothing in the universe is fixed. Every electron of every atom is constantly in motion, changing its position. If everything is constantly changing, if there are no fixed points, then we cannot measure a straight line. This is important to consider because all scientific "truth" is obtained from experimentation, and regardless of how intricate an experiment may be, its basic process is the measurement of a line - measuring the distance of change (the line) from one point to another. Therefore, if science cannot measure a straight line – cannot observe two fixed points within an ever-changing universe, or even a single fixed point – then it cannot obtain a fixed point of truth within the universe.*

19. Why do scientists come up with scientific equations and laws if these equations and laws cannot provide certain truth?

*Scientists come up with scientific equations and laws because they are useful. Scientific laws and equations allow man to do things that nature would not otherwise permit.*

#### Part 4

1. How old is the universe according to scientific estimations?

*The universe is 12-14 billion years old according to scientific estimations.*

2. How old is the earth according to scientific estimations?

*The earth is about 4.6 billion years old according to scientific estimations.*

3. Is science wrong about the age of the earth and the age of the universe? Explain.

***Science is wrong about the age of the earth and the age of the universe because it fails to take into account that God created everything from nothing. The moment something comes into existence it has the appearance of age; it appears older than it actually is.***

4. From a Christian perspective, does it matter what science thinks about the age of the earth and the age of the universe? Why or why not?

***It doesn't matter what science thinks about the age of the earth and the age of the universe for the reasons given to the previous question. Furthermore, science cannot provide any truth for the various reasons that have been stated in previous classes – our eyes, our subjective experiences, cannot be trusted because they often deceive us; science uses inductive reasoning (going from specific instances to general principles), which can't provide truth; scientific equations are arbitrarily selected; science cannot even draw a straight line because the universe is constantly changing; etc. Christians must look to God and His Word when asked about the age of the earth/universe (or anything else), not to science. Only God can reveal to man the age of the earth/universe because He is the one who created the time/space continuum out of nothing. Science can only guess at the things of which God alone knows.***

5. If there is **any** evidence for a young earth or a young universe, then the Darwinian theory of evolution is completely falsified, since life has to have enough time to evolve. Is there any evidence to suggest a young earth and/or universe? Do some research on the internet and record what you find. Don't forget to cite your sources!

***Answers will vary.***

6. Which is the more important issue – the age of the earth/universe, or whether or not God created the earth/universe? Explain.

***The most important issue is whether or not God created the earth/universe because if He did, then God created man and man is therefore responsible to God. If there is no God, if life evolved on its own, then man can live however he wants. Man is not answerable to God because God does not exist. Man is not accountable to anyone if there is no God; man does whatever is right in his own eyes.***

7. Read Isaiah 40:21-22. Does the Bible teach that the earth is flat?

***According to this passage (and others), the earth is a circle.***

Verse 22 says that God stretches out the heavens like a curtain (causing the universe to expand). When was Isaiah written (do an internet search)? ***Circa 740-680 B.C.***

When did science first discover that the universe is expanding (do an internet search)?

***It is generally agreed that Edwin Hubble was the first to provide scientific evidence that the universe is expanding in 1929.***

How could the Bible state that the universe is expanding even though science had not yet discovered that fact?

***Because the Bible is the source of all truth, not science. Should the Bible conform to science, or should science conform to the Bible?***

What do you think would happen if scientists accepted the Bible as the only source of truth and knowledge? ***Obviously science must conform to the Bible. If scientists accepted the Bible as the only source of truth it would completely transform the sciences. When man acknowledges God as the source of all knowledge and truth, God is often pleased to reveal His wisdom to man. Science and technology would only benefit if scientists accepted the Bible as the only source of truth. Moreover, the type of scientific research being conducted would completely change. Much of what passes for scientific research today is simply meant to provide credence to man's sinful agendas (think global warming).***

8. Read Isaiah 40:12-14 (New King James version) and note the words *measured, calculated, weighed, scales, and balance* in verse 12. What does God think about man's abilities to measure, calculate, and weigh with scales and balances the things of heaven and earth?

***God is essentially mocking those men who would put their faith and trust in balances, scales, calculations, measurements, etc. (i.e., science) rather than in God. It is foolish to place one's trust in the methods that allow man to investigate the universe, rather than to place one's trust in the God who made the universe.***

If this is what God thinks, should we as Christians be placing our faith in the measurements and calculations of men? Have you been guilty of this? How so?

***Obviously Christians should be placing their faith in the Word of God alone, not in the measurements and calculations of sinful men. Answers will vary to the last two questions.***

Note the words *directed, counsel, instructed, taught, knowledge, and understanding* in verses 13 and 14. Man thinks that his direction, counsel, instruction, teaching, knowledge, and understanding is trustworthy because of his abilities to measure, calculate, and weigh with scales and balances. Does this sound familiar? Is God impressed with man's scientific knowledge and understanding?

***Man basing his knowledge off of his ability to measure, weigh, and calculate is exactly what we see today with modern science. Scientists profess to be wise, are arrogant and prideful, because they place all of their faith in microscopes, telescopes, etc. But God is not at all impressed with man's scientific "knowledge" and "understanding." In this passage (and in others) God is comparing man's knowledge against His own to make the point that man has no knowledge apart from Him. When God weighs man's scientific knowledge on His scales, it is found wanting; it doesn't measure up. As verse 28 of Isaiah 40 says, God's understanding is unsearchable. Man can use science to search the whole universe for understanding, but he will never find it this way, because God's understanding is unsearchable. It cannot be searched out by scientific methodology, it must be revealed by God.***

9. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. The passage begins by stating that we do not lose heart (we as Christians do not get discouraged). Why can we get discouraged if we focus too much on the things that we see?

***It is very easy to get discouraged when we focus too much on the things that we see going on around us. There is much pain, suffering, hatred, death, etc. in this world. Everything, including our own bodies, are in a state of decay and are breaking down. We can easily become depressed if we start to dwell on these things.***

How are we encouraged by taking our focus off of the things that we see?

***Though everything is breaking down and dying more and more each day, including our bodies, our spirit is being made more and more alive each day by the Holy Spirit through sanctification (if we are a Christian). Additionally, we look forward to receiving new incorruptible bodies in heaven, as well as an end to sin, suffering, pain, tears, etc. These are all ideas (and ideas are not made of matter) that provide a great source of comfort to the Christian.***

10. Why can't truth be shoved into a test tube or analyzed under a microscope?

***Truth isn't made of material stuff; it's not made of matter. It's ideas; propositions that can be weighed in the mind.***

11. Was there truth before the universe existed? When the material universe passes away, will truth pass away with it? Explain your answer and give Scripture(s) to support it.

***Truth existed before the universe existed because God is truth (Psalm 119:160, John 17:17 – the Father; John 14:6 – the Son; John 16:13 – the Holy Spirit) and God has always existed (Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 90:20 – the Father; John 1:1-3,14; Colossians 1:15-17; Revelation 1:8 – the Son; Hebrews 9:14 – the Holy Spirit). Likewise, truth will not pass away with the material universe (Luke 21:33; Matthew 24:35; Psalm 119:152) because God is truth and God will always exist.***

What does this tell you about truth?

***This tells me that truth is not made of matter and is not dependent upon matter in order to be true. Matter is dependent upon truth (i.e., God), not the other way around.***

12. How can science be so successful even though it cannot give us any certain knowledge or truth?

*Science enables man to do amazing things that the natural world would not otherwise permit, even though the scientific knowledge that allows us to do these amazing things is always incomplete, imperfect, and constantly changing. Science is successful when one understands its purpose, and when one understands that even flawed equations can be useful.*

13. What is the Christian Worldview of Science (how are we to view the sciences)?

*Science enables us to fulfill the mandate of Genesis 1:26-28. It gives us directions for doing things, or "operating" in this world. It doesn't accurately define or describe things, nor does it discover truth. It's a method for dominating and utilizing nature; it's merely a practical discipline that helps us live in God's universe and subdue it. To this end, science allows a very special glimpse into the mind of our Creator, and inspires a sense of awe and wonder at the brilliance and creativity of this mind. However, we must never worship the creation (the material universe), nor place our trust in the methods that allow us to investigate it (science). Truth is found in the Scriptures alone; the Bible has a monopoly on truth. It's God's Word that must be believed, not the experiential knowledge of sinful men.*