



Series
1

ANSWER KEY

Subjects 1-6

What IS a Worldview?

History

Theology

Philosophy

Economics

Science

You Are What You Think

Applying a Christian Worldview to All of Life

Greater Than I Ministries

Chapter One – What is a Worldview? Day 1 Study Questions

- A. In the introduction, we spoke about the battle of ideas. Name at least 3 ideas that are being fought in the culture around you and how those ideas might affect your life.

NOTE: These are possible answers. The students will hopefully come up with their own that are similar in nature

1. "There is no such thing as Absolute truth" OR "Nothing is absolutely right or wrong" OR "Boys and Girls are the same" /or "homosexuality is good - even exemplary"/ or "you can choose to be whatever sex you want to be depending upon how YOU feel."
2. "Capitalism is bad. Socialism is good."
3. "All cultures are the same." "All religions lead to the same God" It was stated that there are both physical and spiritual (moral) laws that govern the universe, and that it is unwise to blatantly disregard or disobey universal laws.

1. Would you jump off a 20-story building just for the kicks? **NO** Why not? **Fear of death or injury**
2. What physical law would come into play in this situation? **Gravity**
3. Name 2 traffic laws and the consequences that might come if you disobeyed those laws
 - 1) **Students should easily come up with their own answers**
 - 2) _____

The physical laws enforce the moral laws presented in the Bible.

- C. The Ten Commandments (**READ Exodus 20:1- 17**) represent the fundamental moral code presented by the God of the Bible. When any one of those ten moral laws are rejected or ignored, there will be consequences in the physical world. For example, when a society rejects the principle that adultery is always morally wrong, both the society and the individual people within that society – from adults to the youngest children - will suffer.

List 3 other examples of the physical consequences that might result from rejecting any of the remaining Ten Commandments.

NOTE: These are possible answers. The students will hopefully come up with their own that are similar in nature

1. **Imprisonment for stealing**
2. **Broken home from adultery**
3. **Eternal separation from God if rejecting God and Jesus and Holy Spirit**

Chapter One – What is a Worldview? Day 2 Study Questions

A. Read Hosea, chapter 4.

1. List 4 similarities between Israel in Hosea's time and America today.

Possible answers:

1) **We're breaking all Godly restraints and violent crime has skyrocketed (v2) .**

2) **The people are being destroyed because of their ignorance and lack of Godly education (v6) .**

3) **We have forgotten the Law of God (v6).**

4) **We are worshipping idols: ourselves, our cars and houses, Hollywood or Music stars, etc.**

2. In Hosea 4:6, what does God say the nation is lacking? **Knowledge - specifically the knowledge of God**

What have they rejected and/or ignored? **T_h_e_L_a_w_o_f_G_o_d**

3. Read Deuteronomy 4:1-18. List several blessings you can find that God promised for

Israel if they would simply hear (listen to and obey)

1. **List 4 blessings you can find that God promised for Israel if they would simply hear (listen to and obey) His words? 1) V1 -You will live (prosper) .**

2. **You will possess the land .**

3. **V3- You will be preserved/protected when judgment comes to others .**

4. **V6- Other nations will glorify God and honor you.**

5. Name at least 6 commands that God says either to do or *not* to do.

1. **V1-Listen to God's Word and obey (observe) .**

2. **Go in and possess the land .**

3. **V2- Do not add or subtract from His Word**

4. **V3- Be careful to observe the Laws. VS- Live out your faith in front of others .**
5. **V9- Watch yourself that you don't forget what you have seen and learned .**
6. **V10- Teach them to your children and grandchildren.**
7. **V15-18- Do not worship idols**

Application Question: How might your commitment to obey the commands listed above affect your life today as well as in the future?

(Examples) God will be with me. God promises great success in all I do. I will be a blessing to others. I will be given knowledge and wisdom.

Chapter One – What is a Worldview? Day 3 Study Questions

The Effects of Christianity Though History

A. Name at 7 of what you consider the most important changes Christianity has been responsible for, and what difference it might make in your life today if each principle had never been established.

1. Sanctity of Marriage;
2. Sanctity of Life;
3. Womens' freedom and dignity;
4. Education for all;
5. Charity and compassion;
6. Hospitals;
7. Modern science;
8. 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 – Christ always set the example of a life of service. His example shows the highest moral standards. His standards are clear, and if everyone lived by them this would be a perfect world

Chapter One – What is a Worldview? Day 4 Study Questions

A key element of holiness is a grateful heart, which is exercised by our daily appreciation of God's grace in giving us what we don't deserve. Thus, one of the main purposes of this lesson is to help all to understand the big picture of where God has placed us in History, and to cause our hearts to burn with thankfulness.

- A. The average lifespan in the 1600's was less than 40 years (some estimates say closer to 30). What difference would that make in your spiritual journey if this was true today?

Possible answers – I would be more serious about my spiritual life. I would put less emphasis on the things of this world.

- B. Up until the reformation, freedom for all was never a consideration. Tyranny always ruled. How different would our lives might be today if we were born in China, Russia, Cuba, or Venezuela.

We would not be experiencing the freedoms and rights we enjoy today: freedom of speech, religion, press, etc; as well as freedom to travel; and to make a living as we choose

- C. Have you ever thought about the radical advances that America brought to the world in such a short time, and what impression did this segment make upon your view of Christianity's role in America's prosperity?

Personal responses

- D. How does this put in perspective the importance of knowing history?

Without a knowledge of history, we can't possibly appreciate what we have and we can be lied to and manipulated to reject what we have in favor of a bad idea that has been repackaged to sound or feel good.

- E. Did the information in this section change your belief about America's early history? In what way?

Personal answers

- F. 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**

- G. The word "freedom" was emphasized greatly in this section. Thomas Jefferson defined Freedom as *the ability to make choices*. List 4 of the freedoms mentioned in this day's study or that come to your mind. How important is each freedom to you, your family or friends?

1. **Freedom: for the individual Importance: We can make our own choices in life and lifestyle**
2. **Freedom: of Worship Importance: No one is forced to believe in a god or specific religion. We can all live according to our own conscience.**

3. Freedom: Speech Importance: We can speak our minds freely. Free speech allows for differing opinions without censorship or other penalty.

4. Freedom: to pursue a career of our choice Importance: We won't be forced to do what we aren't good at or dislike. We can develop our own gifts and talents.

H. How or why might those freedoms lead to prosperity in a Christian nation, but not in an atheistic nation?

When we are free, we can aim to do whatever we love and are naturally gifted to do, and our creativity will be allowed to flourish - bringing blessings to others. We are much happier when our lives are not controlled. But in an atheistic country, people are controlled by those in power. They are told what occupations they can obtain, and they're not able to pursue their dreams because they are not free; therefore, there is no incentive for people to work harder than others because most of what they earn can be taken from them at the whim of the leaders. Without God's moral laws, freedom will be abused due to man's sinful heart

I. In your own words, explain and comment upon the Key Principle: *Complacency always leads to slavery*

It is said that freedom isn't free – because it requires each free person to do what is right and necessary to maintain freedom. In America, as example, we are the governors (a government of the people, by the people, for the people), thus we are responsible to take part in the governing process; i.e. by choosing representatives who have moral character and integrity, etc. We are responsible to live that same way in our homes and workplaces.

When we become complacent, we don't strive as hard for those principles and we'll allow others to gradually take our property and rights from us

Chapter One – What is a Worldview? Day 5 Study Questions

1. Do you agree with the statement “It is a foundational biblical truth that God expects us to join Him on His mission to redeem and transform our lost world?”. Why or why not?

Personal responses

2. What do you think the terms mean when Jesus says we are the “salt of the earth; the light of the world”?

Hints for answers: Salt is a preservative. It helps bring out flavors. It heals/disinfects. Light illuminates a room and dispels darkness. Light is analogous to truth and knowledge. Lights in dark places keep us from stumbling. Light helps us see clearer.

3. Do you think the section on “the culture wars” was in line with what you are seeing today in society? How does this information help to clarify the reasons for the chaos in the world today?

Personal responses

4. Name at least 4 areas of life where Christianity is being attacked today.

1) Our Christian heritage is being re-written out of history.

2) Evolution teaching has pushed God's creation account out of the schools.

3) 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.

4) Our freedom of speech is rapidly diminishing, as is our freedom to practice our religion (stand up for God or Jesus in public).

5. 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. According to the Matthew passage above, 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

6. From those scriptures, why do you think Christianity is having so little influence in the culture today?

(Personal responses) Example: Because we've given the education system over to the State (that is anti-Christianity) we cannot even speak the truth or warn others without persecution. And the churches have been intimidated to not speak up for fear of the same persecution.

7. Do you think God will hold Christians at least partially responsible for the moral collapse of our nation? **Yes**
Why? **Because HE has given us the highest moral code ever known. He has given us the responsibility to love others as ourselves, which means we are to not only share God's truth with others, but to warn them if they are on a path that will lead them to danger or death.**

8. 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 rejecting our old ways of thinking and living)

Chapter One – What is a Worldview? Day 6 Study Questions

1. How would you define a worldview?

(Personal responses) but one example is: YOUR DEEPLY-HELD BELIEFS that directly and dramatically impact Decisions and YOUR BEHAVIOR. (the same as a religion or ideology)

2. Do you think there is any difference between a worldview and a religion? If so, what?

Personal responses. Our view is that there is no difference.

3. Point out a few news issues being talked about on today's news broadcasts or newspapers that have at least 2 different sides that one might take on them.

Examples: Same-sex marriage; immigration; gun laws; free speech vs. politically-correct speech minimum wage laws; separation of the church from politics; welfare policies; abortion

4. What is a Worldview?

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"

1) Do you believe in every statement? **Personal response** State which, if any, you are unsure of: ____

a. **Personal response**

b. (If you have doubts, we ask that you keep an open mind as you continue through these classes)

2) What can we expect the result will be if Christians are not unified in what they believe?

We will be unsure in what we believe. We will be susceptible to deception. We will become divided and easily overcome by the enemy

3) How do our core beliefs about what is true and what is not affect our behavior? Give 3 examples

If we believe something to be true, we will follow it; if we believe it's not, we won't.

Many today - even many Christians - believe that their personal circumstances can justify stealing or lying, but that can become habitual and there will eventually be negative consequences. If we believe those things are wrong, we will consistently be honest and truthful, and we'll be known as trustworthy.

- 4) Read 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 and Colossians 2:8. In light of what was presented in this chapter, what do you think these verses mean in today's world?

We battle ideas and we need to know what we believe and why, in order to not be deceived into believing and living-out ideas that are not true or right.

5. 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?

Personal responses

- 2) What does "hollow and deceptive philosophy" mean to you?

Personal responses

- 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.

We live by His words. We stay close to Him by reading the Bible regularly (daily, as much as possible) and studying to know how to apply it in every area of life. We trust in His words more than in our own thoughts and ideas.

Chapter Two – History- Day 1 Study Questions

1. It was stated that the Bible is the beginning of God’s memory passed on to us. What does this mean to you?

(example) Since God is involved in everyone’s lives and He doesn’t forget, then history is a record of what He has done – and the Bible contains the most monumental events in His story.

2. But God did not stop His work with us upon the completion of the Bible. **H I s t o r y** is the continuation of God’s workings with mankind through the ages. This should be important to us because, as it has been said, “those who don’t know history are condemned to **r e p e a t** it. To illustrate this...
Give an example of the consequences you might suffer if you forgot a lesson you learned earlier.

Personal response

3. A large portion of the role of parents is to pass on to their children the wisdom of how to avoid making the same mistakes they made. What would happen to the child if even one of the parents lost their memory entirely?

Personal responses

4. Read Romans 15:4 and 1 Cor. 10:11. Why, then, is it important that we have a reasonable knowledge of history – especially in regard to God’s monumental interventions of the past?

So that we wouldn't be ignorant of the lessons others learned in the past. We don't want to make the same mistakes. From the examples of the past, we are warned what NOT to do, and we can have assurance that if we do things the right way, we can have success which gives us hope, so that we don't quit.

5. We have defined “history” as “His-Story”. In your own words, what does this mean?

Personal responses

6. What might be the results if the media, government or educational system of a nation taught a false version of significant historical events? And can you think of any examples?

The people could easily be manipulated by those who are being deceptive. We can then be controlled and kept ignorant of the effects of the ideas that history has proven to be harmful to us. Examples abound in today's school system regarding the true history of Christianity's influence in the world and America's founding fathers; the history of socialism, abortion, traditional marriage, homosexuality, "free speech", the history of the civil rights movement, etc

7. Name at least two current social or political “battlegrounds” that might benefit if everyone had a better understanding of the true historical background of the ideas in conflict? (ex: Israel vs Palestine).

- **The 2 dominant political parties in America**
- **The development of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution ... how trustworthy are they in today's world?**
- **The history of the education system in America from the founding until now.**

- **The historical background of all religions. Are they all the same -- leading to the same god, or equivalent ideas, behaviors, or results in one's life?**
8. We have stated that the Bible is **S u p e r n a t u r a l** in its Origin. What does that mean to you and why is that important?

Personal response

Chapter Two – History- Day 2 Study Questions

1. Read Isaiah 46:10, Daniel 2:21. What does God say about His role in history? **HE is in control. He lives outside of time. His predictions will always come to pass. He governs over all nations. He is the giver of all wisdom**
2. 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.**
3. 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
4. Why do you think God gave to us – and preserved for us – the Bible? **Personal response**
5. It was stated that the Bible consists of 66 books by 40 authors written in 3 languages, on 3 continents over a period of 1500 years, and yet its message never changes. How can that be explained, especially when compared to any other book? What words would you use to describe this?
6. Why is it important for all Christians to be aware of the overwhelming evidence of the *reliability* of Bible translations – especially compared to all other famous classical literature? **Because the first thing the enemy of our souls wants to do is create doubt in our minds regarding His Word. When we are sure that the content and meaning of the Bible has not changed in over 3,000 years of translations - unlike all other ancient books - we will have overcome one of the first major objections most non-believers use as an excuse to never read the Bible or consider Christianity at all.**

Chapter Two – History- Day 3 Study Questions

1. Read: Matthew 5:18, Matthew 24:35, Psalm 119:89, Isaiah 55:11. What does God say about the enduring power of the words in the Bible? **Every word will prove true and those truths will never change - on earth or in Heaven - forever**
2. 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 various portions of Scripture in existence. How does this compare with Homer's Iliad? **There are only 500 manuscripts of the Iliad in existence, and the Iliad outnumbers the other classical manuscripts by more than 10-to-1. The Bible dwarfs all others!**
3. In light of the facts as presented in the last question, read **John 3:19**. According to this scripture, why do the majority of "knowledgeable college professors" reject the Bible as more reliable than other ancient works? **Men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil.**
4. The New Testament has been proven to be over **98%** accurate, and the Old Testament has been proven to be over **95%** accurate in words and **texts/meaning**, in their translations over 1900 - 2,200 years. No other ancient book comes close to that degree of accuracy. Why are these important facts for Christians to be aware of? **Our confidence in what we believe and why would grow. We would not be blown about by every wind of doctrine-like a ship without a rudder - because we see how miraculously it has been preserved; thus we can depend upon it. It provides undeniable proof of the uncanny truth and accuracy of the New Testament because of the prophecies of Christ in Isaiah that were made well before Christ**
was born. No other work of prophecy in any other religion has ever predicted events with such extraordinary precision.
5. Knowing this, does the phrase "supernatural in its transmission" seem appropriate? **Yes**
State this principle in your own words: **Personal Response**
6. The Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in 1947, contain many Old Testament manuscripts dating from 100 B.C. One of the scrolls – the book of Isaiah – proved to be identical to the contemporary Hebrew Bible in over **95%** of the text.
 - a. Why would the Jews take such care to make such perfect copies?
They must have had a deep, holy, and reverential view of God to take such care in the duplicating.
 - b. What might that say to us today about our attitude toward Scripture? **It is an excellent example for us!**
Especially because Christ has come with the power to save all who believe!

Chapter Two – History- Day 4 Study Questions

1. Why do you think the emphasis on *remembering* or *not-forgetting* is so prominent in the books of Deuteronomy and Psalms? **Remembering Israel's history matters because of what we learn from it. The biblical references to Israel's history are tremendously important because of the lessons God wants us to learn**
2. In light of the last question, why should the study of history be important to Christians, and how might it benefit us? **Personal responses**
3. Considering the word Omnipresence, look up each of the scriptures below and paraphrase them according to how they relate to YOU and your life.
 - a. Psalm 139:7-12 **God is always watching over us**
 - b. Jeremiah 23:23-24 **Nothing escapes God's sight**
 - c. Proverbs 15:3 **God keeps watch over both evil and good He is in control.**
 - d. Colossians 1:17 **He is before all things – he prepares our paths**
 - e. Acts 17:27 **He is never far from those who believe**
4. Considering the word Omniscience, look up each of the scriptures below and paraphrase them according to how they relate to YOU and your life.
 - a. Matthew 10:30 **Our hairs are numbered – God knows everything about us**
 - b. Psalm 147:4 **He even counts the stars and knows their name – as He does us.**
 - c. Psalm 139:1-3 **He has known us at all times. There is nothing about us He doesn't know**
 - d. 1 Chronicles 28:9 **The Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. He even knows our thoughts and intentions**

Chapter Two – History- Day 5 Study Questions

1. Why did God make prophecies in the Bible and what does this matter to us? **Fulfilled prophecy means that a prediction was made regarding something that would happen in the future and it came to pass. God gives us prophecies to prove that He alone was the author of the event, providing sure proof that His word is supernatural -- coming from a source above and beyond the boundaries of time**
2. Name 6 statements from the prophesy of Babylon that were fulfilled in the historical accounts that followed.
 - The man responsible for conquering Babylon would be named Cyrus
 - God will open the gates of Babylon for Cyrus and his army.
 - Babylon – a city the size of Chicago and a world power at two different times in history - would be completely wiped out...never again to be inhabited.
 - It would be reduced to swampland.
 - Hyenas and Jackals will howl. Only Desert creatures will inhabit it
 - The city would rarely even be visited for ever after
3. How does this support the statement that the Bible is *supernatural* in its *message*? **These prophecies were made hundreds of years before they came true. The accuracy of the predictions, combined with the mathematical odds necessary for them to happen proves their "out-of-this-world" nature**
4. What was your impression from the account of archaeologist Edward Chiera about the devastation he witnessed of the remains of the city of Babylon?
Personal Response
5. READ Deuteronomy 18:20-22 along with Matthew 7:15,16. How can we know if a prophecy is from God and is reliable or not, and what does this say about the trustworthiness of the prophet?
All his prophecies must come true. He can never be wrong. If he's wrong once, do not believe anything he says because he is not from God and not to be trusted. They will be known by their fruits.

Chapter Two – History- Day 6 Study Questions

In the space below, paraphrase in your own words (minimum 250) the account of the prophecy against the city of Tyre (Ezekiel 26). Include in your essay the following:

- 1) Why did God condemn Tyre? (READ Ezekiel 28:1-10)
- 2) Describe each phase of the “waves” of destruction that came upon the city and how many years it took for the entire prophecy to be fulfilled
- 3) Your conclusions after studying this prophecy and how it supports the proposition that the Bible is *Supernatural in its Message*.

Why did God condemn Tyre?

The king was prideful, putting himself in the place of God. He considered himself all-wise. The people, like their king, took credit for their riches, not acknowledging God’s hand in blessing them. They coveted their riches.

The waves of destruction:

- **King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon laid siege against the city beginning in 585 B.C. But the people of Tyre moved all their possessions by ship to an island a half mile offshore. Even though Nebuchadnezzar had destroyed the mainland city - fulfilling Ezek. 26:8 - the new city offshore continued to flourish for nearly 250 years.**
- **Alexander the Great reduced Tyre to ruins in 332 B.C.**
- **The island city eventually repopulated but was levelled again in 1281 A.D. by the Moslems, completing the prophesied destruction.**

The student’s conclusions will be a personal response. Example: The evidence is overwhelming that the prophecy was uncanny in its detail and accuracy. Too many specific prophecies to be coincidental.

Chapter Two – History- Day 7 Study Questions

1. Had you ever heard the account of George Washington at the Battle of Monongahela? **Personal response** What was your impression? **Personal response, but an example would be “It appears that God was supernaturally protecting him because He had more for him to do in the future”**
2. This account was available in textbooks in America’s schools until the late 1800’s. Why do you think it is not included any longer? **They want to remove all inferences to the God of the Bible and the God of the Founders. And today, the educational elite is condemning the Founders in every way possible. Pride. They deny God because He makes them accountable for their own behavior. They live in darkness because they prefer it to the light.**
3. From the segment “New England Stood Still and Watched the Salvation of God”, what observations or comments do you have? **Personal responses: example - This is truly an uncanny event in history that demonstrates the supernatural hand of God over the country. And reveals the power of prayer.**
4. List 4 few similarities between this account and the Biblical account of the Israelites fleeing Egypt in Exodus 14:10-14
 - 1) **Their enemies – who were far more powerful than they – came to annihilate them**
 - 2) **They were afraid and cried out to God**
 - 3) **Their leader(s) called the people to trust God to deliver them**
 - 4) **God saved them miraculously – and did so over the waters of the sea.**
5. If God can deliver nations as He has Israel and America, can He deliver you through trials? **Personal response.** Read Jeremiah 32:27, 1 Peter 4:12-13, Deuteronomy 31:6, Proverbs 3:5-6, Isaiah 41:10, John 14:26-27, Matthew 6:25-27. From these Scriptures, what advice does the Bible give us for navigating through our trials?
 - **Jeremiah: Nothing is too hard for God.**
 - **1 Peter: God has a great purpose behind all our trials**
 - **Deuteronomy: Be strong and courageous. God will not leave us or forsake us**
 - **Proverbs: trust in Him and He will guide us**
 - **Isaiah: Fear not and don’t be discouraged. God will strengthen, help, and hold you up**

- **John: Don't let your heart be troubled or be afraid, because God will help you and teach you by His spirit.**
 - **Matthew: Don't worry. God is your provider. He will care for you.**
6. Based upon the scriptures listed above, how does the God of Christianity respond when His Children are in trouble?
He is with them in their trials and has a good purpose for them all. He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him! He is trustworthy.
7. Read Psalm 2. Compare the statements of God in this Psalm to the account of the French Armada and its foiled attempt to wipe-out the American colonies. Name 4 similarities.
- 1) **The nation (France) plotted against God's people**
 - 2) **The rulers/commanders/navy were determined to "break the bonds" between the colonist's possession of America. They wanted it for themselves**
 - 3) **God "spoke" to them in His wrath, showing His deep displeasure towards those attacking His people.**
 - 4) **God delivered the colonists to God's glory and broke the French like a potter's vessel.**

Chapter Two – History- Day 8 Study Questions

1. From the historical accounts of Washington and the Battle of Monongahela, the French Armada's attempt to destroy the colonies, and Ben Franklin's speech at the Constitutional Convention, state 3 principles dealing with God's involvement in America's history?

(Personal responses) (example)

- 1) **No doubt God had a plan for the nation and ensured that it was carried out.**
- 2) **He used willing vessels (like Washington, who expressed a Christian faith as well as unwilling vessels (like Franklin, who for most of his life rejected a personal faith) to accomplish His purpose. He still does!**
- 3) **He responds to us when we humble ourselves and cry out in prayer prayers_**

2. Go online and read the Declaration of Independence. (<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/document/>) and answer the following:

1. How many times is "God" – or names representing God – referenced? Give those names.

Three. Nature's God (God of the Universe), Creator, Divine Providence

3. List at the main reason (stated in the 2nd paragraph) why the American Colonies believed they had a natural right to break away from the rule of the King of England.

The government of England violated its divine purpose of securing to its citizens the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The long string of abuses and broken promises had become destructive to God's people; and in order to obey God, they were required to not obey the tyrannous rule of Great Britain.

4. According to the Signers of the Declaration, what basic God-given rights was the King violating, and how important is each?

- 1) **L I F E** . See Leviticus 24:17, Psalm 139:13-16, John 10:10.

This right is fundamental because: No one has the right to take another's life without just cause. God creates life and knits us together in the womb. Man has no right to end the life of any unborn child. God sets Himself apart from and condemns those who would steal, kill, and destroy the lives of others.

- 2) **L I B E R T Y** . See Luke 4:18, 1 Tim. 1:10 (references kidnappers/men stealers/slave-traders). **This right is fundamental because: It is God's design that men not be held captive or mistreated against their will. He made us to be free and to be accountable to Him for our lives. In order to serve Him, obey Him, and follow Him freely,**

we must be allowed to live free of tyranny and oppression. The purpose of Government is to protect and serve the people for righteousness sake (Romans 13:4).

3) The Pursuit of H **A P P I N E S S** . See Psalm 16:11, Psalm 37:4, Psalm 73:25–26, Matthew 13:44, John 15:11.

This right is fundamental because: Pursuing happiness is equal to pursuing joy as defined in the Bible. For those who believe in and live for God, He promises we will find joy - even in the midst of oppression. Repressive governments that ban the Bible and punish anyone who shares the Gospel are - by nature - opposing God's will, inhibiting the people from knowing God's joy, and are not to be promoted. Also, this right (the pursuit of happiness) can be traced to the principle of the Sacred Rights of the Conscience, which God has planted in every man's heart and which he should never be forced to violate.

Scriptures for additional study: See Isaiah 33:22; Ezra 7:24; Deuteronomy 17:6; Exodus 18:21.

Chapter Three – Theology- Day 1 Study Questions

1. Define “Theology”: **Theo = God logy = the study of. Thus, the study of God and religious belief**
2. Name some of the “gods” that people idolize in today’s culture, and what lifestyles these “gods” often lead them into.
 - **Self: Life revolves around ME. Selfish, prideful, egotistical, high-minded. They cannot enjoy intimate love**
 - **Wealth: Material things consume them. They are never satisfied. Their appetite can never be filled**
 - **Power: They never have enough. Ethics and morals may be dismissed. The end justifies the means.**
 - **Amusements: Always needing stimulus. A-muse means "not thinking". Never growing, never achieving**
3. Name at least 4 IDEAS that are being hotly debated in our culture today, along with the possible results if those ideas were to be adopted by *everyone* – including those in your family.
 - 1) **Idea 1: There is no absolute standard of truth or right or wrong**
Result: Everyone will do whatever they want, whenever they want, and to whomever they want. It’s chaos.
 - 2) **Idea 2: Marriage doesn't have to be only between a man and a woman**
Result: A man can marry a man, a little boy, a dog, or a plant. Marriage then becomes meaningless and society collapses
 - 3) **Idea 3: Socialism is good. Capitalism is evil**
Result: When no one owns his property, personal initiative and creativity is squelched and the nation becomes poor. The government can take rights and property at will from the people. Freedom is lost. Society collapses.
 - 4) **Idea 4: There is no God**
Result: Everyone behaves however they wish. Lawlessness becomes rampant. Crime increases. Freedom decreases. The conscience is suppressed, and evil behavior is no longer restrained.

4. The “gods” we set up in our lives will directly influence our behavior and determine our future. That is why we say that the most important topic of life is: “Who is **G O D**, and what does He **R E Q U I R E** of us?”
5. Everyone, at some time or other, wonders about God. When they take the time to think deeply about this, they ask at least 3 basic questions. Name those questions and the Biblical response to each.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) W H Y am I here? | The Biblical response: To glorify God |
| 2) What does God R E Q U I R E of me? | The Biblical response: Obedience |
| 3) What does God p R O V I D E for me? | The Biblical response: Forgiveness of sin and eternal life |

Chapter Three – Theology- Day 2 Study Questions

1. We have stated that Christians should not get caught up in arguments trying to prove the existence of God. Give 2 reasons why not, as stated in this day's study.

1) God does not need to prove to any man that He exists because He has written that knowledge onto every man's heart.

2) Never in all of Scripture do we find any attempt to *prove* that God exists. If God doesn't need to address in all the Bible, why should we?

2. In your own words, give a brief summary of the Cosmological Argument

Personal response: example – based on “everything has a beginning, therefore there must be a beginner”. Life must have begun somehow, and we believe God is the beginner.

3. Define ***axiom***, and why is this principle important when discussing biblical creation with an evolutionist?

An Axiom is the starting point – the foundational principle - upon which an entire argument rests. By definition the axiom cannot be proven, but it must be *defensible*. This is important because even science rests upon an axiom about how life began and their argument must be defensible.

4. Explain the difference between the axioms of the biblical creation model versus the evolutionary model.

The Christian worldview claims that Life came from life (God); whereas evolutionary science claims that life came from non-life. The Christian model can provide billions of observable and verifiable evidences of their axiom every day, but the evolutionary model cannot provide any observable and verifiable evidence at all.

Chapter Three – Theology- Day 3 Study Questions

1. Summarize the Teleological Argument: **Every design requires a designer. Every design is created with a specific purpose in the designer's mind.**
2. Name 3 of the most interesting or persuasive conclusions that may be drawn (in your opinion) from the examples of fine-tuning in the universe, solar system, and earth.
Personal responses chosen from the information in this chapter. Ex:
 - 1) **The electron to proton mass ratio (1 to 1,836) is perfect for forming molecules**
 - 2) **Our Sun is positioned just far enough from the Milky Way's center in a galactic Goldilocks zone (not too hot, not too cold!) to allow for the low radiation required for life**
 - 3) **The Earth's distance from the Sun provides for great quantities of life and climate-sustaining liquid water. If the earth moved just a fraction closer or further from the sun, life would not be possible**
3. In your own words, paraphrase the quotation on fine-tuning that you found to be the most convincing.
Personal response from the quotations of scientists included in this chapter. For example: Paul Davies (British astrophysicist): "There is for me powerful evidence that there is something going on behind it all....It seems as though somebody has fine-tuned nature's numbers to create the Universe....The impression of design is overwhelming"
4. Read Genesis, chapter 1. Name as many specific items of creation mentioned in this chapter that you can find.
The heavens (planets, stars, etc); the Earth; light; water; grass; herbs/seeds; trees; fish; birds; mammals; man; woman.
5. What can we learn about the characteristics of this Creator/Beginner by looking closely at the wide variety of everything created in Genesis 1?
He has a great imagination! He is orderly. He is not boring. He is brilliant in ways we can't imagine. His thoughts are so above ours it is incomprehensible.
6. What is the difference between rational faith and blind faith? Give examples
Rational faith can be supported by logic and evidence. Blind faith has no support whatsoever. Ex: Faith to fly is evidenced by airplanes; faith in an algebraic formula can be evidenced when that formula produces the

- predicted results. If the airplane doesn't fly or the formula didn't produce the results predicted, then to place faith in either would be blind and foolish.**
7. The strength of gravity was stated to be fine-tuned at 1 chance in 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000. Do you think that could have happened by coincidence? **No** Why? **It is well outside of the boundaries of random chance or blind luck. If those were the odds for betting one's life upon, to do so would be beyond ludicrous.**
8. Cars, wristwatches, and radios all have been designed by man. Can you name any living thing in creation that is not VASTLY more complicated than cars, wristwatches, or radios? **NO** If so, can you name one? **????**
9. Why, then, do many seemingly rational persons believe that living things did NOT come from a designer? (see Romans 1: 18-32)
- They choose to suppress the truth because they would rather live in the darkness than light. They have to abandon reason and logic. Once they do that, they become more like an animal than a human living by only what makes them feel good**
10. Read Psalm 139:13-14. What does this say about the design of Man?
- He was designed meticulously, from the smallest detail in the cell to the deepest complexities of coordination between the various systems within the body. God watched over every part of our growth in the womb with great care.**
11. How might this knowledge bring comfort and hope to all?
- He knows us more deeply, more intimately, and He cares about us more compassionately than any person ever could. He always has our best in mind!**

Chapter Three – Theology- Day 4 Study Questions

1. Argument #3: The **M O R A L** Argument. This states that “Because the **M O R A L** Law transcends (is above) humanity, this universal law requires a universal **Lawgiver**. “
2. Read Romans 2:1-16. What does this passage convey about the universal presence of a “conscience” in every human? (Who put it there? What does the conscience say to everyone? etc.)
God clearly states that everyone born has been given knowledge of God (con-science means "with knowledge"), by God Himself. Therefore no one can, in truth, deny His existence. The conscience tells us all that stealing, lying, murdering, coveting, committing adultery, and dishonoring parents is wrong. It condemns our hearts when we do those things
3. Do you agree with the idea that *everyone knows* certain behaviors - like stealing, lying, cheating, or committing murder - are wrong? Why or why not? **Personal responses**
4. The Christian worldview states that God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. What would be the result if God was NOT any one of those three attributes? (**Personal responses**) **Ex- If not omnipotent- There would be other gods - but none would be the god of all. There would be confusion. If not Omniscient, some gods could have knowledge that surpass another. Which god would we trust? Again, confusion would reign. If not Omnipresent - we could hide from him, and we couldn't be assured of his everlasting protection.**

How Can We Know God?

5. *General Revelation*. He is revealed *generally* to all men through inborn knowledge.
 - 1) Read Romans 1:18-23. What does this passage say about General Revelation? God’s attributes – His eternal power and His nature as God - are clearly understood and known by everyone in our hearts and minds --- our conscience. God reveals these things to us the moment we’re born. Everyone knows there is a God.
6. *Special Revelation*. God is revealed *specifically* in the **Bible**.
 - 1) Read 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:3; Hebrews 4:12. In your own words, where do the Scriptures come from, and what specific purposes do they perform? (**Personal responses**): **ex: 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. We will choose which words we agree with and which words we don't. When we look at the Bible that way, we are making ourselves judge and jury of God's words. Why even have a Bible? It really is all or nothing.**

What is the God of the Bible like?

7. God is:

- 1) **RULER**. Read Psalm 115:3; Prov. 16:9; Romans 8:28. What does this principle mean to you and how important is it? He is absolutely in charge. He is everything we need Him to be: Our protector, deliverer, provider, our lawgiver. He works all things together for our good when we put our trust in Him.
- 2) **RIGHTEOUS**. Read Psalm 119:137; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 145:17. What does this principle mean to you and how important is it? He always IS right, DOES right, JUDGES right. His righteous laws are a firm foundation for all of man's laws.
- 3) **RELATIONAL**. Read Gen. 2:18; Malachi 3:17; Matthew 14:14; John 3:16-18. What does this principle mean to you and how important is it? God cares about me. He knows it is not good to be alone. We are treated as His own sons. He is compassionate - He knows all about me and still loves me. He saves me.

8. Christianity states that God is Ruler, He is Righteous, and He is Relational. What would be the result if God was NOT any **one** of those three attributes? **Not ruler: Man could do whatever he wants to others. Not righteous: He could be wrong and do wrong to us and to others. He could command us to do evil. Not relational: He would be dispassionate, uncaring, unsympathetic, impersonal, distant, callous.**

Chapter Three – Theology- Day 5 Study Questions

1. What does Humanism believe about God? **(The humanist manifesto paraphrased) He is a myth and a crutch for the weak and unintelligent. It is foolish for anyone to believe in God.**
2. State at least one logical positive or negative result in an individual's life if he/she embraces this worldview? **He will be his own god and have no supernatural, all-powerful Father to guide and watch over him. He will have no absolute Truth to instruct him to determine right from wrong. He will miss out on the blessings that come from following Christ's example of putting others first (it is more blessed to give than receive). There appears to be nothing positive.**
3. From the highlighted beliefs of Humanism above, can you explain what relationship religion has with politics and education, if any? **Politics and religion are both belief systems that determine what is moral (right or wrong). The ideology that proceeds from each will form the basis of the education system that comes from it. Since the politics of a nation are an extension of the religion that dominates that nation, the education system will follow whatever religion dominates the political. Today in America, Humanism is the primary religion that dominates our political system, which, in turn, rules over the education system.**
4. Name at least 2 results that might occur when a nation embraces Humanism over Christianity?
 - 1) **Our basic freedoms (religious beliefs, speech, assembly, self-defense, etc) will be squelched**
 - 2) **The state will become god, the community will become more important than the individual, and the individual will become a simple part of a callous machine.**
5. "Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created; & believe that man is just one part of nature, the result of evolution."
 - 1) The foundational belief – the one upon which all the remaining beliefs of Humanism rest – is that everything in the universe – countless stars, comets, varieties of birds, flowers, animals with eyes that see, and, of course, human beings that can critically think – came about by chance, through an explosion, and without any intelligent designer. Do you see any evidence of this "something created from a chance explosion" in reality? **NO**. Does this seem logical to believe? Why or why not?
Personal responses
 - 2) List at least 4 dangerous consequences in the society around us that are the result of this worldview.

- 1. The lack of a healthy fear of God results in seared consciences, leading to lawlessness and unbridled passions**
 - 2. Science will show no constraint in their experiments to "be like God"**
 - 3. There will be a loss of respect for human life and increased worship of creation**
 - 4. There will be no foundation for unchanging law. Justice will be dependent upon which judge rules. Thus, practices such as abortion become rampant (2) God is ridiculed or ignored (3) God's laws are disobeyed, so everyone is being hurt (4) God is leaving our country.**
6. Read the Humanist Manifesto I @ <http://modernhistoryproject.org/mhp?Article=HumanManifest>. See the list of signers of the Manifesto at the bottom.
- 1) How many of the 34 signers were educators? **14.**
 - 2) How many were affiliated with religious denominations or organizations? **Between 7-9.**
 - 3) What significance does this have and how might this affect us today? The educators hold the most influential of all over the views and beliefs of the youth in the nation. Just these university 14 professors indoctrinated tens of thousands of students who went on to careers as future teachers, ministers, congressmen, Senators, Supreme Ct Justices, and even U.S. Presidents. The ministers affected hundreds of thousands of future ministers and the entire congregations that attend their churches. No wonder we see such un-Biblical thinking in America today!
7. Read Roman 1:18-25 and 2 Corinthians 4:4. What is the result of believing in Humanism? **Their "truth" is not true or right. They disdain the Bible. They don't honor God, though they innately know that He is. They are unthankful for the free common graces they receive; they are proud, hard-hearted; they profess to be wise - which makes them fools. They worship the creature (themselves and mother nature) rather than the Creator. They suppress the truth, so God gives them over to darkness.**
8. From the section 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.**

9. 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**

10. In Humanism, who is Ruler? **The State (man's government without God)**. 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.**

11. In Humanism, can you expect the ruler(s) to be relational? **NO**. What difference would that make?

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

Chapter Three – Theology- Day 6 Study Questions

How does the God of the Bible compare to all other “gods”?

1. In relation to rulership, describe Allah? **He is absolute ruler, but he rules alone. Submit or perish is the rule for survival. Because he rules alone, he has no understanding of mutual compassion or love.**
2. Regarding Islam, what strikes you about the descriptions of Allah? **He is cold, insensitive, uncaring - even to believers. To unbelievers, he is full of terror and hate. There is no forgiveness (as we know it). If he was my father, life would appear endless work to please him, and it would not be fun!**
3. “Even though Islam has proven that it is able to d **E S T R O Y** civilizations, it has yet to b **U I L D** one.” Have you seen evidence of this in our world today? If so, give examples. **Personal Responses. Ex: raq, Iran, Syria, etc are impoverished. Before Israel returned to the land, the Muslims had run the country into the ground. Much of it was a virtual wasteland. But within 20 years of Israel's return, it became one of the most lush, rich, and fruit-bearing nations in the world.**
4. What dangers do we see proceeding from this worldview today? **Personal responses. For ex:**
 - 1.The spread of terror, subjugation, and intolerance.
 - 2.The overrunning of other nations with no regard for the people and customs of those nations
 - 3.Great fear among the more peace-loving Muslims to speak up or stand up against those who live by terror
 - 4.Tremendous intimidation among those who have different worldviews to comply and submit
5. Personal question: Why do you think Islam is growing at the rate it is? Their religion encourages many children per family. Per Wikipedia: Globally, Muslims have the highest fertility rate, an average of 3.1 children per woman, which is well above replacement level (2.1) due to young age of Muslims (median age of 23) compared to other religious groups. Separately, their growth appears faster because they force many to convert, submit, or die.

What Does Islam Say About God? List the main points you believe answer each question.

6. Is he Ruler? **YES** Why? **(these are open to personal responses)**
 - a. **He is tyrannical, the all-powerful and all-knowing creator, sustainer, ordainer, and judge of the universe.**
 - b. **He is insensitive and unloving because he rules alone, unlike the Trinity in Christianity.**

7. Righteous? **NO** Why?

- Allah “forgives whom he pleases, punishes whom he pleases, and deceives who he pleases.”
- “Those who make war with Allah and his messenger will be killed or crucified or have their hands and feet on alternate sides cut off or will be expelled out of the land. (Surah 5:33).
- According to the Koran, his judgments are erratic and unjust. His command to behead the unbelievers is barbaric and inhumane beyond measure
- “If the unbelievers do not offer you peace, kill them wherever you find them” (Surah 4:91).

8. Is he Relational? **NO** Why? **Any combination of answers similar to those listed below are acceptable**

- a. The word or concept of love does not exist in the Koran
- b. Saying that he is closer than our jugular vein is not exactly comforting
- c. “He cannot be known, for he is beyond us” (the Koran)
- d. Nowhere in the Quran does it suggest that Allah desires intimacy with humanity. We are not His beloved – just one of his creatures
- e. “Allah is merciful because he did not kill me or leave me in peril.”

9. What have been the historical results of Islam in society regarding these 3 areas:

- a. **Economics: Poverty, ignorance, isolation. Most of the Islamic nations rank in the bottom 40% of all nations in GDP per capita**
- b. **Personal Freedom: They are controlled by the Mullahs who rule by iron fists in Islamic nations. Muslim pirates based in North Africa captured and enslaved between a million and a million-and-a-quarter Europeans in the 16th and 17th centuries. Women have few rights, if any.**
- c. **Hope of heaven: In Islam there is no assurance of heaven. One may obey all the commands and perform all the works, but salvation is never absolutely promised.**

10. List 3 areas of difference between the Islamic worldview and the Christian worldview, and state why each variance matters.

- a. **Allah is one god alone, unlike the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit of Christianity which is love-based and relational.**
- b. **Islam forces others to submit to their God – or pay the price. Christianity allows and encourages every person to choose for themselves as long as they treat others as they would be treated.**
- c. **Christianity believes that all people are created in the image of God and deserve equal treatment under the law. Islam does not. Only “true believers” have rights. Everyone else is either marginalized, enslaved, or murdered.**

Chapter Three – Theology - Day 7 Study Questions

Buddhism

1. What Does Buddhism say about the idea of god? List the main points you believe answer each question.

A. Is he Ruler? **NO** Why?

1) There is no God! There is no Creator.

2) _____

3) _____

B. Righteous? **NO** Why?

1) This faith encourages personal works of "righteous actions and behavior" that one must develop from within. But because there is no doctrine of sin that is accepted, it could only lead one to futility and discouragement. We all know that, as much as we may want to do right, we often don't possess the character or the strength to do so on our own

2) In the Buddhist view, man must save himself from the "suffering", "pain", or "unsatisfactoriness" of life (the concept of Dukkha). How does man do this? By following the enlightened teachings of the Buddha.

How can one be righteous? Never – unless attaining nirvana.

C. Is he Relational? **NO** Why?

1) There is no god; or- IF there is, he is unknowable and uninvolved

2) Buddhists do not believe "God created man in his own image"; but that Man has created "God" in his image

3) The individual, in effect, becomes his own god. Alone.

4) The faith does, however, encourage good works towards others.

D. What are the apparent results of Buddhism in society regarding these 3 areas:

- 1) **Economics: Buddhist communities are distinguished by their low standards of living and general poverty. This is because the economic policies of most Buddhist nations are communist/socialist**
- 2) **Personal Freedom: Followers are more likely to be indifferent to the social/cultural issues of life because "Life is an illusion". As a result, Buddhist communities are easily controlled by tyrants (50% of all Buddhists live in China; 13% in Thailand).**
- 3) **Hope of heaven: There is no hope unless one attains "nirvana", which is the extinction of life**

Chapter Three – Theology- Day 8 Study Questions

Hinduism

1. If there is not a single source – or holy book – that defines what ALL Hindus believe, what problems might arise because of this? **Confusion, resulting in lack of unity within families, the society and among nations.**
2. Imagine if there were many “gods”, what problems might arise among those who followed them? **Again, lack of unity. Chaos would reign in the culture. Great divisions would exist from community-to-community.**
3. Can a Hindu have an assurance of “heaven”? **NO** What difference might that make in a person’s life?
Hope would be short-lived. There would be very few reasons to live a "righteous life". There would be little incentive to make a difference in the world. People would find it convenient to live for themselves and their pleasures.
4. What are the consequences of the caste system upon the people in Hinduism? **Poverty. Because the system offers little or no rewards or possibilities for advancement, it destroys personal initiative to work and apply one's talents and energies for one's own benefit or for others' assistance.**
5. **What does Hinduism say about god? List the main points you believe answer each question.**
 - A. Is he Ruler? **NO** Why?
 - 1) **There are multiple "gods" to compete with each other**
 - 2) **Different sects have different gods.**
 - 3) **Because Hinduism is unique in that it is not a single religion but a compilation of many traditions and philosophies, the gods widely differ from one another.**
 - B. Righteous? **NO** Why?
 - 1) **Because of the conflicts between sects, traditions, and gods, there is no single standard of right/wrong**
 - 2) **When certain castes receive preferred status over others, Hinduism personifies favoritism and injustice**
 - C. Is he Relational? **NO and YES** Why?

1) There is no single god for all Hindus to have a relationship with. But each can choose one or more “gods” to worship and obey. But their relationship is not intimate. The gods do not indwell (live within) them.

2) When there is no unifying "bible" to define who their god is, and only tradition and personal philosophy remain to describe "god", how can one truly have a relationship with such an unknown deity?

D. What are the apparent results of Hinduism in society regarding the following 3 areas:

1) Economics: **(There are 6 bullet-points and a paragraph following them in this study. Students can choose from among those for their answers) Ex:**

- **One quarter of the world's poor (400 million+) live in India [BBC Aug 04]**
- **Two-thirds of people in India live in poverty**
- **Most Hindus expect a life of poverty and despair in the mega-slums...**

2) Personal Freedom: **Because their society is based upon the caste system, only those in the upper castes have any freedom. The remainder have virtually no hope of rising above the caste of their birth.**

3) Hope of heaven: **Only after suffering through countless reincarnations and, hopefully, rising in their caste, do they have a hope of merging with the “universal soul” (Brahman).**

Chapter Four – Philosophy- Day 1 Study Questions

1. What does the term *philosophy* mean, and why is it important to think through our philosophy? **Philosophy is the love 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.**
2. How do you think **your** Philosophy might affect...? **Personal responses. Ex:**
 - a. **Your occupation 1) It might constrain one from getting involved in a business that is not run with integrity. 2) One's philosophy may cause one to seek the immediate gratification of making as much money as possible while young in order to live a "high life", and never set about on a plan to become qualified for a good occupation that fits one's talents and interests. 3) It might inspire one to commit one's life to an occupation or career that fits his or her natural gifts, and which also allows to serve others in a meaningful and positive way.**
 - b. **Your future education Our beliefs about God will shape how we value education - or not. And if we reject the value of education, it will affect our entire life.**
 - c. **Your economic position If we live in a non-Christian country, we most likely would be born into a certain economic class, with little hope for upward mobility. If our theology does not include the ideas of Christianity, it may affect our work ethic, our integrity, and the priority we may place on money over other areas of life.**
 - d. **Your future marriage (or not) Our ideas of God will affect how we may honor and value (or not the institution of marriage. It will certainly affect our views on sexual relationships outside of marriage and the degree of our commitment to just one spouse when and if we marry.**
3. The topic of Philosophy deals in a large part with the questions: What is **R I G H T** and what is **T R U E**. Define, to the best of your ability, each of those terms: **If it is real, it will easily be seen in the world we live - it will not just be something we imagine. It will be tangible and repeating. If something is true it will always be true. It will never fail or deceive.**
4. Why do you think the meaning of these two terms has become so twisted in our culture today? **Because we have allowed others to tell us what to think, without questioning the validity of their statements. We are taught to not think -- to simply live by our feelings and not to exercise our own minds.**
5. What results do you see in our society from the redefinition of these fundamental words? **(personal responses) examples: The big thing today is trending toward virtual reality, which is an imaginary world that keeps us addicted to living to amuse ourselves experientially and emotionally. This can lead our society to a state where we may be unable to thrive or even function on our own in the real world, and we can be easily controlled by others.**

6. Do you believe that all knowledge leads to wisdom? **NO** Why or why not? **There can be pseudo or counterfeit knowledge – that which seems to be a true thought or has the pretense of being a true thought – but there cannot be false or fake knowledge. Pseudo knowledge might look good, sound good, feel good, but it is unwise.**
7. Define the term *knowledge*. **True thoughts of the mind.**
8. Explain what is meant by the statement, *Wisdom is the proper application of knowledge*.
Proper application of knowledge requires critically thinking through – or discerning between – opposing ideas or principles, and judging which is the most moral, true, and right path.
9. List a few examples of what could be termed “pseudo or counterfeit knowledge”
- **There is no such thing as absolute truth! (Is that statement absolutely true??)**
 - **You can be a boy or a girl today – depending upon how you feel.**
 - **All religions are the same**
10. Read Isaiah 11:2. What words are used to describe the Holy Spirit in this verse?
He is the Spirit of: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Might, Knowledge, the Fear of the Lord
11. Define what each of those words might mean to you personally. What difference would those qualities make in your life? **Personal responses. Ex:**
- **Wisdom: To be able to discern between truth and lies and to make good moral choices that God promises to honor**
 - **Understanding: To see clearly and be convinced of the truth of certain ideas, and thus able to walk confidently**
 - **Counsel: To have the heart to listen to God through His Word. god will then be my Counselor, guiding my path.**
 - **Might: In all things I am promised to be a conqueror by His Spirit. The battle belongs to the Lord!**
 - **Knowledge: Because I am able to discern true ideas from counterfeit, I will be “wiser than my enemies”. (Ps. 199:98)**
 - **Fear of the Lord: A proper understanding of whom I am in comparison to who God is, I will be kept from pride.**

Chapter Four – Philosophy- Day 2 Study Questions

1. Read Psalm 19:7-9 (English Standard Version). How does David describe the Word of God (Scripture), and what does the Word of God do for those who believe it?

1. The **Law** of the LORD is **perfect, reviving the soul**.
2. The **testimony** of the LORD is **sure, making wise the simple**,
3. The **precepts** of the LORD are **right, rejoicing the heart**.
4. The **commandment** of the LORD is **pure, enlightening the eyes**.
5. The **fear** of the LORD is **clean, enduring forever**,
6. The rules of the LORD are **true, and righteous altogether**

Now refer to the “DIVING DEEPER: THE CHARACTERISTICS OF TRUTH” section. What are the 5 characteristics that are listed? Truth is: **Eternal, unchanging, propositional, intellectual, inerrant**. How do these 5 characteristics of truth compare to the 6 words that David uses to describe the Word of God in Psalm 19:7-9 (i.e., perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, true)? **Eternal = “clean, enduring forever”; unchanging = “sure, making wise the simple”; propositional = These three verses in Psalm 19 are statements or propositions (declarative sentences) concerning the Word of God; intellectual = “pure, enlightening the eyes” (helping us “see”, or illuminating the mind or the intellect); righteous = “right, rejoicing the heart.”** (NOTE: there is no perfect answer to these questions!)

2. If Philosophy deals in a large part with the questions – what is RIGHT and what is TRUE? – how important is the Word of God in developing our philosophy, especially when we consider Psalm 19:7-9?

It is the standard, the benchmark, the foundation for what is true and right because it is pure, sure (certain and unchanging) and everlasting. It is our Rock.

3. If truth requires a mind that is eternal, unchanging, inerrant, and declarative, can truth exist apart from the God of the Bible? Put another way, is there any other philosophical belief system/religion that meets all these criteria of truth?

No. There cannot be any other truth. There can only be one truth. Other belief systems may contain truth that lines up with Scripture, but no other belief system is as well-defined, never-erring, and verifiable in reality.

4. Truth is propositional, and a proposition is the meaning of a declarative sentence. Below are some examples of Biblical propositions:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

The greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

No one can serve two masters.

Do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or drink, nor about your body, what you will wear.

Give 5 more examples of propositions from the Bible. (Examples:)

- 1) **Trust in the Lord with your heart and lean not on your own understanding.**
- 2) **Seek first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness and all these things will be added to you**
- 3) **Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up**
- 4) **The Lord is near to all who call upon His Name**
- 5) **Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly**

5. Not all propositions are true. List some false propositions (bad ideas). For example: Life originated from non-life; God does not exist; etc.

Men and women are the same; Man-made climate change is destroying the planet; All humanity evolved, they were not created; there is no such thing as absolute truth.

6. Our philosophy of life is based upon our IDEAS & BELIEFS about God. As Christians, it is vital that our ideas and beliefs about God are supported in Scripture. For example, what might be the result:

- a. If professing Christians believed that God would never send anyone to hell because God is love? Ex: There would be no restraints on our behavior; everyone could decide on their own what is right or wrong and there would be no everlasting judge or penalty.
- b. If professing Christians believed that God required them to do good works in order to receive eternal life? **Their good works would most always have a selfish motive. Their good deeds would be done to reward themselves, not for the benefit of freely giving to (loving) others.**

Chapter Four – Philosophy- Day 3 Study Questions

1. What does the word *amuse* mean?

Without thinking. Not thinking

2. In your opinion, what are some of the consequences of a society that becomes amusement-centered? **Personal responses. Ex:**

- **We will not develop our gifts and talents.**
- **We develop an attitude of "living for today", and sooner or later our lack of personal initiative will cause serious consequences in our life.**
- **We lose our focus upon what is important. We become focused on ourselves and live for pleasure**

3. Read Eph. 5:15 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 are the four main questions everyone asks, and why are they important to muse upon?

- a. **W H E R E** did I come from? **If we have no idea how we got here (other than by random chance) we'll have no idea how to answer the next question. This lends to personal depression. But if we believe a loving God created us we live with confidence and hope.**
- b. **W H Y** am I here? **If we know why, we have purpose. Having purpose allows for dreams and great hope.**
Without a purpose other than to enjoy this short life, our lives will be self-centered and shallow.
- c. **W H E R E** am I going? **Without a vision for the future or a plan to succeed, we'll plan to fail and walk as if blind.**
- d. **H O W** do I get there? **Without hope for a good future, a goal to aim for, and guidance to lead our paths, it would be like walking in circles and forever frustrated because we're getting nowhere.**

5. Read 2 Corinthians 10:4-5. What does Paul mean when he says that the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh (carnal, worldly)? **They aren't weapons like guns or knives.** What type of war does Paul have in mind (hint: we are in battle over **I D E A S**)?

6. If our weapons of warfare are not carnal, then what are the weapons of our warfare? (Hint: read Ephesians 6:10-18a, and don't forget about prayer.)

Truth; righteousness (living according to God's Word); being ready always to present the Gospel of peace to others; walking in faith – trusting God over self always; the helmet of salvation gives us boldness and courage –

knowing that no enemy of the Gospel can come between us and our Father; relying on the Word of God to fight against the lies; praying in the Spirit without ceasing.

7. Read Romans 12:1-2, Proverbs 1:20-33, and Proverbs 24:7. According to these verses, why should it be a priority in every Christian's life to focus on the "renewing of our minds"? State 5 reasons why this is considered wise?
- 1) **It is a reasonable response to God for all He's done for us that we give surrender our thoughts to His**
 - 2) **To arm ourselves to be able to see clearly to discern what God's will is, and to model what He considers good, acceptable, and perfect.**
 - 3) **God will pour out His Spirit on us**
 - 4) **He will make His words known and understandable to us**
 - 5) **We will live securely in His protective hands. We will be given wisdom higher than that of unbelievers.**
8. Read Romans 12:2. According to this verse, 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.**
9. Read Luke 6:47-49. Compare Jesus' analogy of building a house to our "Tree of Your Life" analogy. How are the two analogies similar?
- The foundation built solidly upon a rock in Luke is likened to the root system. When we build upon a solid foundation the house stands strong and secure, not easily "uprooted". The house is the belief system that grows out of or is built upon the roots or foundation.**
10. How important is it to come to Jesus, hear His words, and do them? Do these verses confirm our statement that good theology leads to good philosophy, which produces good fruit? Explain.
- (Personal responses) Ex: According these verses, Scripture states clearly that our entire life will either be prosperous, or it will be disastrous depending upon whether we believe and obey - or reject and rebel against - the Words of Jesus (God). If what we believe is good, right, and true (based upon Scripture), and we live according to those beliefs, then it must lead to good fruit – or positive results for ourselves and others.**

Chapter Four – Philosophy- Day 4 Study Questions

1. Why is it imperative for us to understand that our philosophy *must* be based upon the word of God?
Because philosophy is the love of wisdom, and wisdom is the practical application of knowledge. Wisdom is walking according to true thoughts of the mind (knowledge). And we obtain true thoughts of the mind (knowledge) from the mind of God – the source of all knowledge.
2. Reread the very 1st paragraph of this Day 3 section.
 - a. How many definitions of key philosophical terms can you spot in this 1st paragraph? **Four. 1) Philosophy = the love of wisdom 2) Wisdom = the practical application of knowledge 3) Knowledge = true thoughts of the mind 4) True thoughts of the mind always proceed from the mind of God**
 - b. What would be the result if we didn't have clear definitions, especially with regard to key philosophical terms?
We would be confused and unable to communicate among one another the key beliefs of our faith. Chaos would reign.
3. Our philosophy is the result of our fundamental beliefs about God, and those beliefs will guide us in every major decision we make.
 - a. What should be the source of a Christian's philosophy? **Scripture; the Bible**
 - b. Do you think most Christians understand the weight of this principle? **No.** Explain your answer. **It appears that most people are happy to receive their entire instruction from others once/week at most. Looking at society it is obvious that most Christians live by feelings and not by the truths contained in the Bible, because most don't read their Bibles.**
 - c. What would be the result if Christians mixed their philosophy with other philosophies? **It would be inconsistent and confusing, at best. Buddhism is all about works and never promises heaven, for example. This completely contradicts Christian theology. The religion would be untrue to one religion or the other, or both.**
4. We want a philosophy that will keep us sure-footed, safe, and headed in the right direction as we walk through life. What does our philosophy need to have in order to accomplish this?
A foundation of ideas and principles that are always true able to be tested in real life. Anyone who puts his or her trust in a philosophy that is not founded upon fixed laws and principles will be like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.
5. If everyone who fears the LORD and walks in His ways is promised blessings, what do you think is promised to those who don't fear the LORD and walk according to their own ways? Give 3 Scriptures that support your answer.
 - 1) **He'll be like a man who built his house upon the sand and was washed away when trials came.(Lk 6:47-49)**
 - 2) **They shall eat the fruit of their way and have their fill of their own devices. (they'll pay the appropriate consequences) Prov. 1:31**
 - 3) **But it will not be well for the evil man and he will not lengthen his days like a shadow, because he does not fear God (Eccl. 8:13)**
6. What is the philosophical litmus test that can be used to weed out phony philosophies? **Physical reality – because it exposes the truth of who we are. "You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time" ... and you can't fool God. Truth will always be confirmed in our physical reality.**
7. Why is it so important to critically think through the ideas that are presented to us, and what can happen if we fail to do so? **Without responsibly testing the ideas presented to us by others, we can be easily deceived by those with wicked and seductive motives, resulting in loss of health, freedom, or property.**

Chapter Four – Philosophy- Day 5 Study Questions

The 4 Main Philosophical Questions of Life

1. Humanism: Briefly explain how Humanism answers our four main philosophical questions.

- Where did I come from? **Prebiotic soup. We're highly evolved (in some ways) animals**
- Why am I here? **There is no underlying reason or purpose to your life**
- Where am I going? **Death, pure and simple. Your destiny is to break down into a chemical slushy, to go back to where you came from – meaningless chemistry.**
- How do I get there? **You're not going anywhere because your life is meaningless. The universe didn't have you in mind because the universe doesn't have a mind.**

2. What problems or benefits, if any, do you find in the answers that Humanism provides to our four main questions?

Question a: **We'll live like animals because that's all we are, as opposed to the biblical principle that we are the highest of all God's creation, made in His very image. Made to be priests, prophets, and kings.**

Question b: **Without a target to aim at, we'll never hit it**

Question c: **Without hope of heaven there's nothing left to live for other than personal satisfaction and pleasure while here. And if you have a physical impediment of any kind it would be even worse.**

Question d: **Again, this view leaves no hope, and provides no incentives to improve one's moral life**

3. Islam: Briefly explain how Islam answers our four main philosophical questions.

- Where did I come from? **Copied from the biblical text, Islam states that Allah created man but never associates him as being specially made in God's image or with His loving intent.**
- Why am I here? **To submit to Allah. The chief end of man is not to glorify God and to love Him forever (as it is in Christianity), the chief end of man is to bow down in submission to Allah. We solely exist to be subjugated – to be brought under the domination and control of Allah by way of conquest.**
- Where am I going? **Heaven. (maybe. Muslims never know for certain) Those who believe, and do deeds of righteousness – theirs shall be... "Gardens of Delight" (sensual pleasures)**
- How do I get there? **By enough good works to outweigh the bad, but only Allah knows if one passes the test. The believer may – or may not – make it to the "Gardens".**

4. What problems or benefits, if any, do you find in the answers that Islam provides to our four main questions?

- Man is not special. There is no real significance for our lives in relationship to Allah. There is no personal relationship with Allah or others, reflecting the Allah's image.**
- To cow down to Allah and force/subjugate others to do the same.**

c) We're not guaranteed heaven and we'll never know in this life.

d) There is very, very, very little hope. We'll live a life of perpetual doubts and insecurities. The soul will never be at peace because it has no guarantee of heaven. The closest one can get to assurance is – out of desperation - committing jihad by suicide – taking down as many unbelievers (enemies of Allah) as possible.

5. Buddhism: Briefly explain how Buddhism answers our four main philosophical questions.

a) Where did I come from? **A beginningless cycle of repeated birth, life, death, and rebirth.**

b) Why am I here? **To suffer (living in the state of “unsatisfactoriness”) through this life in a manner that will lead one to a higher reincarnated life.**

c) Where am I going? **The ultimate goal of Buddhism is to reach Nirvana: the cessation of existence in which the candle of life is blown out. Thus, until we're able to attain this state of nirvana (where you cease to be), we aren't really going anywhere. We're simply trapped in a karma-driven cycle of existences (reincarnations).**

d) How do I get there? **To dispel one's ignorance and cravings (via meditation) by realizing the Four Noble Truths and practicing the Eightfold Path, thus attaining Nirvana.**

6. What problems or benefits, if any, do you find in the answers that Buddhism provides to our four main questions?

a) **There can be no confidence in one's existence. No personal connection with anyone that lasts beyond one's life**

b) **The joy of life is diminished. The greatest goal is to withdraw from all reality.**

c) **The goal is to die to life if one reaches Nirvana. It seems to be a hopeless, lonely purpose.**

d) **The disciple is provided with very little motivation to improve upon one's circumstances in life. As a works based religion, it dooms the follower to a life with little hope for the future.**

Chapter Four – Philosophy- Day 6 Study Questions

1. Hinduism: Briefly explain how Hinduism answers our four main philosophical questions.
 - a) *Where did I come from?* **A past life, of a past life, of a past life, etc., etc., ad infinitum.**
 - b) *Why am I here?* **Because there is only an impersonal ultimate reality or spiritual force, rather than a personal creator God, there is no reason as to why we are here. Doing good works might help but there are no assurances.**
 - c) *Where am I going?* **To gain release from the cycle of reincarnation caused by karma. There are 4 goals one may aim at as a path to reach this release: 1) pleasure or enjoyment, particularly through love and sexual desire 2) wealth and success 3) Renouncing personal pleasure and power in order to seek the common good 4) Liberation from the cycle of lives in this material world, and the attainment of nirvana**
 - d) *How do I get there?* **3 paths: 1) works 2) knowledge 3) devotion**
2. What problems or benefits, if any, do you find in the answers that Hinduism provides to our four main questions?
 - a) **As with Buddhism, there can be no confidence in one's existence. No personal connection with anyone that lasts beyond one's life**
 - b) **No motivation to do anything meaningful in this life other than good works or tuning out of reality.**
 - c) **The goals are so vague and only bring hope of "redemption" after death, and the rewards are unknown. And with such diversity of goals, the culture would be equally divided and disjointed.**
 - d) **Because of the caste system, most people live without hope of real happiness in this life.**
3. Christianity: Briefly explain how Christianity answers our four main philosophical questions.
 - a) *Where did I come from?* **The breath of life that God personally breathed into Adam's nostrils was what authenticated man as being the unique image-bearer of God. We were lovingly and meticulously made by a very personal God.**
 - b) *Why am I here?* **To glorify God and enjoy Him forever!**
 - c) *Where am I going?* **Upon death, every man will be judged by Christ according to whether or not he or she repented and believed in Christ and His gospel. Those who rejected Christ and His gospel (unbelievers, non-Christians) will be sentenced to eternal damnation in hell and those who were granted repentance and given the gift of faith to believe in Christ and His gospel (Christians) will enjoy living in the presence of God forever and ever in the new heaven and the new earth, where: He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.**
 - d) *How do I get there?* **Through repentance and faith in Christ. Thus, salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.**
4. What problems or benefits, if any, do you find in the answers that Christianity provides to our four main questions?

- a) **We are motivated to love others as He has loved us. He speaks to us directly as a father to a child in His Word, giving us guidance and direction**
- b) **Because He presents Himself as righteous, good, and loving, we glorify Him by living righteously and by loving others, benefitting everyone – both believers and non-believers.**
- c) **Because our promise of heaven is so clear, we are motivated by His love to do and be all we can to share God’s righteousness and love with others. And the fear of God and the promise of hell for those who reject Him provides a deterrent for those who openly sin.**
- d) **Our motivations are pure, and out of love for our God and for others. The disciples live with wonderful hope and can be confident that all things work together for the good – and it will all end well!**
5. How important do you consider these 4 main philosophical questions to be? Have you ever put much thought into any or all of them? Why or why not? **Personal response**
6. Which of the 5 philosophical religions/worldviews seemed the most logical? **Christianity** Why? **(Personal responses)**
Example: All the main questions of life are answered in detail and are clear and reasonable. In reality, if everyone believed and lived according to these principles and purposes, it would be a perfect world.
7. Which of the 5 philosophical religions/worldviews seemed the most illogical? **Christianity** Why?
Again, because the doctrines and principles are so clear and spelled out in such depth, they can be tested in reality and followed by anyone. And the results of such a worldview have produced wonderful results that bring blessings to all who follow them
8. In what ways is the Christian worldview unique when compared to the other 4 religions/worldviews?
Our God is personal. Our authority (the Bible) is clear and accessible to all. The principles and doctrines establish a model for living that encourages love and good will towards all. The principles of diligent and responsible use of one’s gifts and talents to benefit others has created and will create wealth (material and/or spiritual) and blessings for all people.
9. What does it mean to bear the image of God?
To model before others the attributes and character of God; i.e. the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22,23)
10. Do you find the Christian concept of image-bearing to be a good answer to the question – *Why am I here?* **YES!** Does the concept of image-bearing provide significance/meaning/purpose to your life? Explain your answer. **Personal responses. Example:**
Absolutely. Because everyone now has as much significance and is just as honorable as anyone else: we are all children of the King. This releases us from the need to compete for “the seats in the front row”. We are all brought to the same level of humility as Christ Himself.

Chapter Four – Philosophy- Day 7 Study Questions

Testing the Faiths

(All questions call for personal responses and may vary accordingly)

1. Critical thinking requires the presence of contrasting thoughts or ideas coupled with the freedom to think those ideas through to their logical conclusions. Humanistic methods restrict the freedom to consider contrasting ideas, but Christianity strongly encourages such examination. List 3 ideas prevalent in today's world along with both sides of the argument.
 - 1) **Abortion - A) Pro-Abortion: The woman's body is hers alone to do with, thus the life in the womb is her right to decide what to do with. B) Pro-Life: The life in the womb is not the property of the woman, the life is sacred to God and belongs to Him. She does not have the right to take that life. It is equal to murder of the most innocent of lives.**
 - 2) **Marriage – A) Gay marriage: It is a right that any person be able to marry a man or woman because it's all about love. B) Traditional marriage: Has always been and must always be defined as between one man and one women because (1) homosexual unions lead to mental and physical health problems that affect all society (2) reduces the institution of marriage – which is the foundation of all societies – to simply a matter of feelings, not procreation (necessary for future generations) and loyal commitment. (3) creates confusing, unhealthy, and incomplete “family” units.**
 - 3) **Economics – A) Socialism: The state is responsible for assigning rights to all people “fairly”. To be fair, the government takes from those who are rich and redistributes that wealth to those who have less. In socialism, the government is given full responsibility to manage all resources and the people must give up many of their freedoms in order for the state to manage everything fairly. B) Free Market Economy: Based on the principle that rights come from God, and the people have the God-given right to their property. No one person or entity has the right to take from them without their consent. Instead of the state forcing equal pay, this gives everyone equal opportunity to succeed and creates wealth for far more people than any other system.**
2. The Axiom – which can also be called the philosophical root – of a religion or belief system will eventually lead to “fruit” in the form of consequences (good or bad) in our life. Name the axiom – or root idea – at the foundation of the 5 religions and the fruit it has produced.
 - 1) **Humanism – There is no God. Man is evolving and in control of everything. Consequences: Lawlessness abounds. Everyone does what he thinks is right. Those who are religious are demeaned or persecuted. This philosophical base promotes socialism, communism or Marxism and has ruled in Stalin's Russia, Hitler's Germany, Castro's Cuba and Mao Tse-Tung's China – all of which displayed tyranny at the highest level.**

- 2) Islam – **Allah is not relational and is to be submitted to, not loved. Consequences: Allegiance to Allah requires fear and force. The greatest threat of terrorism to nations worldwide has come from Islam in the last 30 years because their holy book, the Quran, promotes Jihad (holy war) with the objective of forcing all people to submit under the domination of Allah.**
 - 3) Buddhism – **There is no God, and Life is an illusion. Consequences: they have no clear doctrine to govern life other than to retreat from material reality; therefore, the religion has little or no affect upon the nations or the culture at large. Encourages withdrawal from culture. Poverty is rampant.**
 - 4) Hinduism – **No main god, and but many. Confusing and chaotic in doctrines. Consequences: Confusion. Undefined purposes and principles. There is no unity among believers because each can choose his/her own “god”; thus, there is no clear doctrine to guide the lives or the society of Hindus. Poverty abounds.**
 - 5) Christianity - **God is Relational, Ruler, and Righteous. Omnipotent, Omniscient, and omnipresent. He is known through the Bible. Consequences: Every individual is accountable to God Himself; yet is to be free to worship God and serve man with his God-given gifts and talents. Because the doctrines of Biblical Christianity are spelled out so clearly, it has provided a firm foundation upon which to build societies that value human life, promote individual freedom and opportunity, and enjoy the safety and stability that comes when the fundamental laws and rational doctrines of morality govern the people. Although no nation is capable of perfection due to the presence of sin in all mankind, the unity created by the principle beliefs of the Bible influenced the creation of the most powerful, influential, charitable society in history.**
3. Comparing these 5 faiths, why do you think Christian society seems the most free and prosperous than the civilizations that have grown from the seeds of the other religions?

Due to the main principles of:

- **personal freedom and accountability**
- **salvation by grace alone through faith alone and not of works,**
- **rights come from God, not man**
- **God is our provider when we seek him first,**
- **we are made to work, and to do so as unto the Lord**
- **education for all is highly promoted**
- **We are called to love and serve our neighbors as ourselves, and in so doing, love God...**

Christianity encourages unity through humility. Charity toward others. Strong economics because everyone is encouraged to work and be educated. Creativity and inventiveness abounds because freedom is promoted

Chapter Four – Philosophy- Day 8 Study Questions

Scientific Validation – Testing the Faiths

1. How does modern science confirm or deny the foundational axioms of each major religion?
 - 1) Humanism: **Axiom – Life came from non-life. There is zero evidence to defend this claim. However, the evidence of intelligent design abounds in the universe. The 2nd Law of Thermodynamics indicates the universe had a beginning and is winding down – not evolving.**
 - 2) Islam: **The Quran’s claims about creation are proven false. “Every living thing” was not created from water.**
 - 3) Buddhism: **None of the foundational axioms about life being an illusion and man being a product of thousands of reincarnations have any scientific support from which to defend their positions**
 - 4) Hinduism: **There is no substantive argument given to support the position of reincarnation. The multiple gods that populate the Hindu religion provide no continuity of thought and fall far short of providing a sound moral, rational, and legal system upon which to build a civilized culture.**
 - 5) Christianity: **Two of the major axioms are 1) Life came from Life (God) and 2) the Bible is the supernatural Word of God. Both claims can be vigorously defended by science (biology, botany, and archaeology).**
2. How adequately or inadequately does each faith answer some of the fundamental questions of life (Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going?). Be specific. (for example, “Buddhism gives no explanation of how life began”). Give more than one example if you can.
 - 1) Humanism – **Very inadequate. Evolution is irrational and unsupportable in explaining how life began. They provide no meaning for life and no hope for the future.**
 - 2) Islam - **Very inadequate. They have no logical explanation for how life began. Islam provides no rational purpose for life and the hope for the future is limited to sensual pleasures only.**
 - 3) Buddhism - **Very inadequate. Without a book to define their beliefs combined with their axiom of reincarnation, they fall far short of answering where we came from, why we are here or where we are going.**
 - 4) Hinduism - **Very inadequate, and similar to Buddhism. With multiple gods, no holy book, and the axiom of reincarnation, they too provide no firm answers or assurances for any of the main questions of life**
 - 5) Christianity - **Highly adequate. All the questions are answered in detail and can be defended with multitudes of evidence (Creation by design of God; the biblical plan of salvation evidenced by billions of changed lives; purposes for living validated in the myriads of charitable acts and benefits provided for others by Christians through the ages)**
3. Name the main scientific contribution of each of the scientists below as listed in today’s study
 - 1) Sir Francis Bacon: Established the scientific method of inquiry based upon experimentation and inductive reasoning

2) Johannes Kepler: **Established the laws of planetary motion**

3) Rene Descartes: **Father of Modern Philosophy**

4) Isaac Newton: **Responsible for the laws of motion and universal gravitation; discoverer/inventor of calculus**

5) Dr. Francis Collins: **Led the landmark Human Genome Project which accomplished the completion of a finished sequence of the human DNA instruction book**

4. Personal question: Based upon the question above and after reading Joshua 1:8 and Proverbs 2:1-8, do you believe God is ready and able to inspire you in the areas He has gifted you? **YES** And what is necessary for you to receive that inspiration, according to those scriptures?

Meditate regularly on the word of the Lord, listening for His instruction, and praying continually - asking for wisdom and understanding which God promises to give liberally to those who diligently seek Him.

Chapter Four – Philosophy- Day 9 Study Questions

Historical Collaboration – Testing the Faiths

1. Using human history to test the end results that proceed from the ideas of each faith is a powerful tool for evaluating all. List at least 3 results from each worldview that are obvious from the historical records presented in this chapter and state and why those results either support or suppress individuals and nations.

Personal responses based upon the text in this study. Examples:

1) Humanism

- a) **The 1962 Engel v. Vitale decision created a landslide of destruction in the form of divorces, broken families, suicide, and violence**
- b) **Hitler's embrace of Darwinism resulted in the Holocaust and World War II.**
- c) **In America in particular, we have seen the sanctity of life devalued with millions of abortions occurring annually and legislation brought forth to allow infanticide up to and even after birth.**

2) Islam

- a) **The decimation of the once great and prosperous Persian culture**
- b) **The leveling or plundering of many European cultures that had been built up by Roman influence**
- c) **The introduction in the 21st century of the barbaric, vicious and senseless holy wars that are reaping havoc among the nations of the world today – even within Muslim nations.**

3) Buddhism

- a) **Due to the policy of individual non-involvement, the nations that are predominantly Buddhist are among the most tyrannical countries in the world**
- b) **Buddhism is not known for promoting or supporting hospitals and care for the poor and the sick**
- c) **In Buddhism there is no acknowledgement of sin. The root cause of human suffering, they teach, is considered to be "ignorance" (unsatisfactoriness), which can only be remedied through meditation. Law and order in the society is not a priority to be enforced**

4) Hinduism

- a) **No involvement in the culture**
- b) **No policies for taking care of the poor and the sick**
- c) **Hinduism does not actively promote or support the development of hospitals and charity**

5) Christianity

- a) **Slavery has been ended in Christian nations, while it still exists in various forms in most other nations**
- b) **Women's freedom and dignity is established. In contrast, women are still treated as second class citizens in the majority of world nations**
- c) **Hospitals and healthcare available for all abounds in Christian nations and benefitting all.**

2. After reading the sidebar above titled *What About the Crusades?* what do you think is the most critically important answer for those who cite the Crusades to support the frivolous claim that Christianity is responsible for as many violent acts as Islam? **Personal responses based upon the sidebar in the lesson. Example:**

Much of the violence attributed to Christianity was perpetrated by those who falsely claimed to be Christian but in fact proved by their actions that they were not. Christian means “follower of Christ”, but nowhere in the Bible does one find Christ promoting wars of aggression. (See <https://thefederalist.com/2015/03/04/like-most-people-president-obama-gets-the-crusades-wrong/> for further research if you wish)

Chapter Five – Economics- Day 1 Study Questions

1. Why do you think money (economics) plays such a large part in the Bible? **Personal responses, but similar to: We live in a material world where “stuff” makes us comfortable and – sometimes – happy for a while. Because we see the material and not the spiritual it’s easy to attach value to the “stuff” while neglecting the spiritual – attributes like compassion, kindness, and integrity.**
2. Define *economics*
Economics deals with the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.
3. How do the economic ideas you embrace affect your life? Name a few examples. Personal responses. Ex: Worries over money can cause anxiety, depression, misplaced energy, wasted time, and entrapment in lifestyles that might lead to many “toys” and pleasures, but leave one unhappy and empty.
4. From this segment on American inventions, can you state what the relationship is between personal freedom and the explosion of creativity it brings about? **Personal responses. Ex: When we have personal freedom, we can choose to enter an endeavor or occupation that interests us and one that we love to work at. Since we are made in the image of the Master Creator, we all have creative instincts that God has placed in us which can lead to innovation and inspiration. In nations where personal freedom is quenched, so is the creative spirit.**
5. Similarly, why might the dynamic of a free-market economy contribute to an explosion in scientific discoveries? (Consider the words *competition* and *profit*) **Free market economies allow the people to keep the profits from their hard work and creativity; thus motivating us to work harder, think deeper, and invest our time wiser. And because we deal with competitors, we'll continue to improve upon our product to stay ahead.**
6. Look up on the Internet: *AFA.net - How Socialism Nearly Destroyed the Pilgrims* – What further evidence does this provide that demonstrates the Biblical principles of free market economics? **History teaches that when everyone is forced to share the profits of all, some will apply themselves far less vigorously than others, disparaging those who worked harder and causing them to become less motivated - reducing the total production of goods and services noticeably.**
7. Read Psalm 119:98-100. What does this scripture say is the key for anyone who desires to be creative and innovative? **Study the Bible and expect to receive inspiration for how to best apply your talents and gifts to succeed, build, or create.**

Chapter Five – Economics- Day 2 Study Questions

A. 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) 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 away 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 (the Father).**
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 and 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 or our labor, or God will take away what 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**. Why, then, do you think a system that encourages integrity and courtesy might help control our sin nature? **Many cheat, steal, or take advantage of others. Some work less diligently than others, while everyone makes the same.**

B. Lessons from the Parable of the Talents (Matt. 25:14-30).

1. 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? (personal responses) examples:
We are not to measure ourselves against how others may or may not perform. We are all to take whatever we're given (talents) and do our best with it. Give our gift to God in service to Him and others
2. 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**
3. Those who used their talents to bring a return on the investment were rewarded with more! What were the fruitful ones promised? **To everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.**
4. He who did nothing with the investment lost everything. In this parable 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.

5. 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 (as we NEED, not necessarily as we WANT), while receiving constant care from God**

6. Explain the difference between 1st, 2nd and 3rd party purchases. **1st Party purchases are those made by yourself, for yourself.**

As such, we pay more attention to cost and quality. 2nd Party purchases are when we buy something we like, but with someone else’s money. We pay attention to quality but not price, and the money is spent more wastefully. 3rd Party

purchases are made by those who don’t worry about quality or price because they buy products with other people’s money and for other people’s use. This most always results in frivolous spending and lowered quality. This defines most government programs.

Chapter Five – Economics- Day 3 Study Questions

1. Why is it good to develop a strong work ethic? Name at least 3 ways this will benefit you. **Personal responses. Ex:**
 - 1) **We'll be willing to work no matter what. Thus, we will never be without.**
 - 2) **We'll stand out amongst others who don't work hard, often leading to promotion.**
 - 3) **We'll be proud of the work when the job is finished, giving us personal satisfaction**
2. Name at least 2 ways a poor work ethic might hurt you. **Personal responses. Ex:**
 - 1) **You'll have less control over your life because you'll be a less desirable employee**
 - 2) **You'll have little satisfaction in your life because of having little to look back on and be proud of**
3. Why are we assured of getting a lower quality product at a higher price when government controls it? **Because there is far less personal accountability when working for the government. The government does not need to worry about losing money because it does not make money - it spends other people's money. Thus, the worker isn't motivated to work harder, longer, or more creatively.**
4. What might be the results in your life if you and others did not have the freedom to choose your own occupation? **Personal responses. Ex: We would most likely not be gifted or interested in that area; thus, we would be less happy and productive**
5. Read Ex. 20:15, 17. How do the 8th and 10th 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.**
6. 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 been much of a gift from him to God, and we would be in debt to another (if they reneged on the deal).**
7. 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? (Name at least 3 ways) **Personal responses. EX:**
 - 1) **She uses all the material resources along with her personal talents, energy, and time to bring a return for her husband and family.**
 - 2) **She is thrifty and a good manager of the household income that she is responsible over (for feeding, clothing, etc.)**
 - 3) **She is generous**

Economic Competition

8. 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 selfish by nature. We, and others, need personal accountability.**
9. 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.**
10. 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 can be raised as high as the maker wishes; production decreases.**
11. **The principle of Comparative Advantage**

12. What happens to personal productivity when a person works at a job he or she loves? **It increases and heightens**

the quality. WHY? He will not be bored or uninterested. He will take greater pride in his work.

13. 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, bringing us joy in our lives that wouldn't be there without our work. And God promises that our service will not be wasted - He will bless us accordingly as He sees fit.**

Chapter Five – Economics- Day 4 Study Questions

1. 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. Everyone is to give equally.**
2. 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.**
3. In your own words define Social Justice and state why you think these policies might hurt a hard-working person who has earned a higher wage or position than another.
Social Justice isn't based upon merit (how hard one worked to achieve his position or wealth) but upon perceived need. Thus, if someone is lazy and poor, they deserve to be provided for economically and physically at the expense of those who have worked for what they have. When the government forces this upon employers or society there is no accountability, and poverty increases.
4. Biblical justice requires that everyone receive equal *opportunity*, not equal income. 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.**

Where does Wealth Come From?

5. In Free Market Economics (Capitalism), where does wealth come from? **It is created from thin air by ideas and hard work. The best scenario is when everyone works.**
6. Keynesian Economics (modern Socialism) says wealth comes from a large, but fixed “pot of gold” in the world. Do you agree? **NO** Why? **(personal responses) examples: It doesn't explain the radical prosperity that came out of America since its founding. It is obvious that wealth comes from ingenuity, creativity, hard work, and free market economic principles.**
7. Why can the idea of government-mandated wealth redistribution programs be considered stealing? **Because its basic principle is that rich people have more than they need, so it's the responsibility of the government to decide how much a person needs and can keep of their own money, and the government can take the rest. Under any definition, that is stealing.**
8. Can you name some of the programs currently imposed on Americans that promote wealth redistribution for the sake of “fairness”? **Welfare. Food stamps. Gov't-run Health Care. Free cell phones. Free tuition for illegal immigrants but not for citizens. Free health care for anyone with no conditions.**
9. What are your thoughts about entitlement programs in light of today's study? **They demonstrate the failing principle of 3rd party purchases. They're wasteful, low quality, and require no accountability. They are unjust and**

Chapter Five – Economics- Day 5 Study Questions

1. After reading the “Let’s Tax the Rich More” section above, what are your thoughts about the idea of raising taxes specifically on the rich in America to pay for our debts? Give specific reasons for your answers. **Personal response may vary. Ex: It makes no logical sense whatsoever. It is counterproductive to everyone in the nation. It violates God's eternal laws and invites consequences from doing so. It inhibits the ability of those who have the most successful business to grow their business; thus, curtailing job-creation.**
2. Why do you think most employees aren’t paid more than the owner of the company they work for? **Because the owner has much more invested in time, money, and sweat in building a business to the point where it can provide a salary to support others.**
3. What happens to a company’s ability to hire workers or give raises to their workers if its taxes are raised or they are forced to pay a minimum wage by the government? It diminishes. **They have less money to pay the employees unless they raise their prices, which in most cases will cause loss in business. They will lose their best employees to companies that can afford to pay them better, or those employees will be let go in favor of less qualified (and cheaper) employees.**
4. If businesses are taxed more because of their degree of success, what effect might that have on the future productivity of that company and why? **Chances are good that the greater they succeed, the lower their profits; thus, they are discouraged from growth.**
5. What might happen if an individual is taxed at a higher rate than others based upon his personal success, and why? **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. It will discourage initiative to do better.**
6. What are your thoughts about the 3 tests (Means, Age, Morals) the Apostle Paul lists for determining whether or not someone is to receive charity from the church? **Personal responses will vary. Ex:**
 - 1) **The means test states that if one has the means to work -if he is healthy and able to work - then he should do all he can to get work and the church would only help in emergencies. This makes sense. It is compassionate but requires the person to be personally responsible for his own welfare.**
 - 2) **Age test - If one is too old and unable to work, the family or church should help. This encourages everyone to work even into older ages - which is not a bad thing. Studies prove that retiring to do nothing productive often shortens life & proves unfulfilling**
 - 3) **Moral test - If one is living an immoral and irresponsible life, giving him free assistance only deepens the**

problem. Tough love is, in this case, a better way of helping the individual.

7. We say that it is better to give than to R **E C E I V E**. Can you give an example of an instance in your life when you experienced this first-hand? **Personal response**

8. Why do you think Americans give more to charitable causes than any other nation? **(personal responses)**
examples: The Christian worldview has been so prevalent from the earliest days in America that it is imbedded in our "DNA" to be charitable; and combined with the uncanny prosperity we have enjoyed - again, as a result of Biblical precepts of personal responsibility, a strong work ethic, and free market economic policies - we benefit from a substantially higher standard of living than the vast majority in the world, allowing us the ability to give far more to charity.

9. From what you've learned in today class, what do you think are the consequences *to the Church* when the government is given the responsibility to provide free healthcare, free food, and free disaster relief? **We become complacent and uninvolved. We lose out on the blessings God intends for us if we exercise compassion towards those in need of help. We surrender to the government one of the areas of service to others that we are most qualified to provide; and rather than people giving glory to God, they give it to government.**

Chapter Five – Economics- Day 6 Study Questions

1. The Bible is much more supportive of an economic system that...
 - a. Respects private property. Read Ex. 20:15,17; Ex.22:1-4. Name several things these scriptures say about respecting 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 more than fully recompensed. Thieves shall be punished**
 - b. Rewards the work ethic. 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; we and those we associate with will be held in respect and honor.**
 - c. Requires personal responsibility. Read Luke 19:11-26. How is God's attitude illustrated in this parable? **God shows His great displeasure toward the one who is lazy in applying his talents and gifts.**
2. 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? **Diligent, creative, quality, hard work**
3. Consider the principle: "The smaller the government, the richer the people. The bigger the government, the poorer the people" Is this true? **YES.** Why or why not? **Governments grow by taking over more and more of the responsibilities of the states and the people. In order for the government to become large, it requires a greater burden on the taxpayers - resulting in poorer people. The opposite is obviously true.**

Lessons from the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Read Luke 10:25-37)

4. What are the 2 greatest Commandments: **1) Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength 2) Love your neighbor as yourself**
5. 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.**
6. Do you think, from this parable, that Jesus is implying that the church (corporate and individual) has a responsibility to care for the poor more so than the state (government)? **Absolutely!**
7. Name several actions (at least 3) that the Samaritan businessman displayed which exemplify what it means to "love your neighbor as yourself". **1) He showed compassion 2) He gave of his own time 3) He paid out of his own pocket**
8. 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. Charity 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.**
9. Is Jesus saying that our primary way showing our love to our neighbor is to lead him/her to say the sinner's prayer?* **NO.** If not, what IS our responsibility? **To love others practically, without prejudice, and out of sincere care for their well-being on earth and in eternity.**
10. Read 1 Corinthians 3:6-7; 1 Timothy 1:15; 2 Timothy 1:8-9. Who is responsible for saving a soul? **The Spirit of God**
NOTE: We are certainly not advocating that leading another to Christ is not a part of our calling, as God moves and 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.*

Chapter Five – Economics- Day 7 Study Questions

Remembering Woodbury and Whipple – the Early American View of Charity

1. 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.**
2. Why do you think the punishment was so severe in those examples? **To cause the people to reverence God and His laws, and to fear violating them.**
3. 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. To teach us patience and give us an eternal perspective on life - not to place our priorities more highly in the material world than we ought.**
4. 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.**

5 Basic Principles to God’s Economics

1. *God is our provider.* Matt. 6:26,30,33; Psalm 65:9-13. Why should we trust God over anyone or anything else? **Since He created everything, He can provide without limitation anything necessary for our lives: food, clothing, shelter. On top of that, He provides comfort, forgiveness, protection, grace, and never-ending love. 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.**
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? **We will be judged, not for condemnation, but for an accounting of what we did with our lives - knowing that we've been purchased and pulled out of the darkness and brought into the light of truth, goodness, and blessings overflowing. And though we still live in a world filled with sin, trials, and heartbreak, we have been given the promise that all things will work together for the good. With all these blessings showered upon on us, and each of is given gifts and talents from God Himself, how could we justify being complacent in our lives? To whom much is given, much is required.**

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? **We will be judged, not for condemnation, but for an accounting of what we did with our lives - knowing that we've been purchased and pulled out of the darkness and brought into the light of truth, goodness, and blessings overflowing. And though we still live in a world filled with sin, trials, and heartbreak, we have been given the promise that all things will work together for the good. With all these blessings showered upon on us, and each of is given gifts and talents from God Himself, how could we justify being complacent in our lives? To whom much is given, much is required!**

Conclusion

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 - and we can take it with us when we leave this earth for heaven!**

Chapter Six – Science- Day 1 Study Questions

1. Why is a Christian Worldview of Science important? **Answers may vary. Examples: Because science is viewed by many as the "god" of this world – and the scientist is the ultimate "answer man", Christians and others can be misled or deceived into believing and buying into bad moral ideas that are presented as good in the name of science. For example, abortion is o.k. because "it's just tissue"; homosexuality is the result of the "gay gene" and should therefore be accepted; we should exercise population control to curb the effects of global warming; etc. We live in a day and age in which people look to science for knowledge and truth, even with regard to moral issues. However, as Christians, we believe that knowledge and truth must be revealed by God, especially when it comes to morality. Thus, it is important to understand the usefulness of science, but also the limitations**
2. Words mean something. What happens when Christians are unable to define the key terms of our beliefs (like *faith*, *religion*, or *tolerance*, etc.)? **Answers may vary. Examples: 1. When we don't define terms it will inevitably lead to confusion for obvious reasons. 2. Our definitions lose their original meaning when the world redefines them, and usually they become redefined for the worse.**
3. Explain your understanding of what is meant by the phrase *absolute truth consists of all of the propositions of the Bible - the Word of God - and their logical implications*; then give 2 examples from the 10 Commandments (remember that for every negative command there is a positive implication (i.e., if lying is wrong, then telling the truth is right)) **Personal responses may vary. Example: Absolute truth is made up of true propositions (true always, everywhere, and for all people) and the truths that are implied by those propositions. For example, a) the inference from the command *You shall not steal* is that everyone has personal property God has given them and we are to respect their property. b) Honor the Sabbath by doing no work implies that we are made to work physically as well as to honor God spiritually.**
4. What happens when we allow non-Christians to define the key terms of our beliefs for us? **They will be given different meanings that inevitably will water-down the power of our beliefs and eventually create completely new meanings**
5. In your own words, what is *Absolute Truth*? **Absolute truth is always true (eternal), everywhere and for all people. It can only emanate from an infinite source, and that source is the mind of God.**
6. What would you think of those who claimed to speak the truth, but you could find no evidence to support their statements? **(personal responses) examples: Unreliable. Untrustworthy. A highly questionable authority.**
7. **What would be the result if scientist were not allowed to present an alternate or contrary theory to one that had been previously deemed to be correct? His ideas would be silenced, and others would never be given a chance to critically investigate the principle. There could be no progress made if the original idea was wrong and it might bring great harm to others who trusted in a false idea.**

8. Explain in 150 words or less why it is important to understand the Christian worldview of science. **Personal responses are required and can be gleaned from – but not limited to - the opening paragraphs in this lesson.**

Chapter Six – Science- Day 2 Study Questions

1. 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 glory, power, and wisdom, 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, consider the examples that have been provided of how creation reflects these attributes, then add a few observations of your own. If you are not familiar with a particular example (for instance, if you don’t know what the laws of thermodynamics are) we would encourage you to look it up.

Verses	Attribute	Reflected in creation
Psalm 104 (the whole Psalm) and vs 24 in particular; Romans 11:33	Wisdom	The unique properties of water, photosynthesis, the womb The order within creation: the earth is set on foundations; the oceans are set with boundaries; He provides food for all creatures.
James 4:12; Isaiah 33:22	Lawgiver	Laws of gravitation and relativity, electromagnetism, laws of thermodynamics We see laws all around us that allow the physical universe to exist. The 10 Commandments reveal the brilliance of God’s laws in society
Psalm 36:5; Lamentations 3:22-23; Genesis 8:22	Faithfulness, Mercy	Sunrise, sunset, the seasons, harvests, rainbows, breathing, heart beating His faithfulness is seen in the daily rising of the Sun because of the perfectly timed rotation of the earth. His mercy is seen when even the wicked enjoy its warmth
Psalm 33:5; Ps 136; Ps 145:15-16; Acts 14:16-17	Goodness, Mercy	Rain, rest from our labors, abundant food/clothing/shelter, sensory pleasures Sensory pleasures (pleasant tastes, sounds, smells, sights) for all .
Psalm 62:11; Ps 29; 89:6-13; Jeremiah 10:12; Job 26 (especially verse 14)	Power	The sun, nuclear energy, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes He created the universe with his Word. He rules the seas, the rain, the clouds
Psalm 8 (“majestic” is also translated as “excellent”); Ps 68:34; Exodus 15:11	Majestic	The Grand Canyon, the ocean, the Milky Way Galaxy The order within creation: the earth is set on foundations; the oceans are set with boundaries; He provides food for all creatures.

2. One of God’s attributes is holiness, which can be exhibited in His wrath against sin (Psalm 7:11). Looking to the Scriptures below, 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 caused an earthquake to swallow up the rebellion of Korah and caused fire to consume those who were offering holy 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.

3. 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.**
4. 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.**
5. Define *Science* - **Science comes from the Latin *Scientia*, meaning knowledge, and it is systematic knowledge concerning the physical world and its phenomena as obtained through the scientific method.**
6. 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 is biblically defined in this case as *the mind*). The Holy Spirit must reveal the things of God to man. From these verses, how can we know the truth of God?
The Spirit of God must first speak directly into us and give us the desire to know Him. He must open our eyes.
7. Why is defining scientific terms so critical? **It is necessary for accurate communication -- especially when it comes to KEY terms that are used in worldview thinking. Terms like Love, Faith, Truth, Grace, Mercy, etc., if defined incorrectly, can completely alter the message of the Bible.**
8. Define the Scientific Method: **Observation, experiment, formulation, testing and hypothesis. The scientific method is the principles and procedures for the systematic pursuit of knowledge involving the recognition and formulation of a problem, the collection of data through observation and experiment, and the formulation and testing of hypotheses.**

Chapter Six – Science- Day 3 Study Questions

Day 3 Study Questions

1. Why should one ever believe that he has discovered absolute truth through observation? **He should not. This question is to be omitted.**
2. Why are our observations or experiences unable to provide absolute truth? Give 3 reasons. (student may choose from the 4 points at the front of today's text) Example:
 - 1) **No individual can experience all possible variations in observations throughout time**
 - 2) **A scientist can never be certain that every single variable has been accounted for and controlled for in his experiment**
 - 3) **No scientist can state with assurance that nothing will change in the future**
3. What are your thoughts regarding the statement "if truth is derived from experience alone, then nothing can be said about the future, since no one has yet experienced it"? **Personal response. Ex: It's not possible to predict how an experiment might react in the future because the universe is constantly in motion and changing.**
4. Holmes could have come to various incorrect assumptions in the segment about the "left-handed" perpetrator of a crime. Can you state an instance where you came to a conclusion based upon an observation you made that later turned out to be untrue? **Personal response.**
5. Why are multiple tests on the same experiment so important in the scientific method? **Because observation is unreliable. The senses tend to deceive us, they're not to be trusted**
6. Define inductive reasoning and give one example. **Inductive reasoning is the attempt to derive a general law or principle, from specific instances. It is otherwise called bottom-up logic. For example, I looked outside this morning and the lawn and driveway were wet and I presumed it rained in the night, but I did not know that the sprinklers were installed yesterday and ran during the night.**
7. Reflect on the three scriptures stated at the end of this lesson. What is God saying about the reliability of the Words of Scripture, and how can a foundation of absolute truth guard us against "bad science"? **He never changes – ever!**

His truth has always been true and will endure and remains the same forever and ever. His truth is solid as a rock.

When we draw our inferences from a source that is always true, and we follow the rules of experimentation accurately we should always arrive at true conclusion.

8. Can you think of some examples of “bad science” that resulted from inductions built upon a faulty foundation?

Evolution is true based upon examples of change within species, but science cannot find examples of evolution *between* species, where one species evolves into another; climate change is real because of falsely devised computer models; a hypothetical gay gene is responsible for homosexuality – yet such a gene has never been found.

Chapter Six – Science- Day 4 Study Questions

1. Define the following terms:
 - a. Faith/Belief- **intelligent assent to understood propositions, assent in this case is unreserved trust in the proposition.**
 - b. Fact – **anything that is done or that comes to pass. It is an act, a deed, or an event, which is fixed and unalterable in reality. It is always true.**
 - c. Religion/Worldview – **Religion and worldview are synonymous and is a belief system comprised of many propositions that we have either accepted or rejected, and from which we then derive our values and our moral standards.**
 - d. Reason – **the power of comprehending, inferring, or thinking, especially in an orderly, rational way. It's the proper exercise of the mind.**
2. What is the difference between faith and blind faith? **Faith has reason to support it. Faith is reasonable. Blind faith is based upon no reason at all. Blind faith is unreasonable and foolish.**
3. Why is it considered blind faith to believe the proposition that all of life came from non-life? **Because there is no reasonable evidence to support such a proposition – especially one that has such drastic consequences if it is wrong.**
4. As we've stated before, it's foolish to trust our eyes (sensation) to give us truth rather than God's words.
Read Genesis 3:16-19 - What are the consequences for man having trusted his own eyes rather than God's words? **Besides both man and woman experiencing the curse of death and the breaking of intimate communion with God, the woman would experience pain in childbearing and be at odds with her husband and the man would experience pain in tilling the ground that is cursed with weeds and thorns.**
5. Summarize the two opposing axioms of the evolutionist theory and the biblical creation theory.
Evolution: Life came from non-life
Creation: Life came from Life
6. Which theory of the beginning of life makes logical sense, Darwinian Evolution or Biblical Creationism, and why? **Biblical creationism - because it agrees with what we see in reality. It is supported by our scientific knowledge in multiple areas. Darwinian evolution simply falls apart from the very first precept. Life cannot and did not evolve from non-life and then mutate from simple forms to more complex forms. All life is intricately complex and there is no proof of this proposition. Following its principles leads to no hope for the future, a dog-eat-dog mentality, no basis for morality (quite the opposite), and poor critical-thinking skills. Biblical creationism is defensible, logical, verifiable, and reasonable. Following its principles leads to a high value of human life, compassion for others, and wonderful hope for the future.**

Chapter Six – Science- Day 5 Study Questions

1. We believe it is impossible for all life to have evolved- from a “single cell”, or an explosion, or millions of mutations. We see no evidence in all of creation to support such statements. However, we stated that there is evidence that everything had to be created with the *appearance of age*. How does this provide an intelligent argument for a young earth? **Knowing that the essential elements of all life are made up of highly complex systems that had to be fully formed to function provides irrefutable logic that everything had to have been created with the appearance of age from the beginning, telling us that there is no way of determining age without the Maker’s input on the matter. Because there are countless examples of organisms or cells within those organisms that could never have evolved - or functioned at all - unless they came into being in full working form, it is perfectly logical that every living creature must be created fully formed at its inception and thus have the appearance of age. A human baby could never survive without a parent to feed, care for, and protect it until a mature age. A single child could never reproduce unless there was a female present concurrently.**
2. Read Matthew 24:35, Psalm 119:89, Isaiah 40:8. What is more important, the physical, material things of the earth, or the invisible, spiritual things? Why? **According to the Word of God, the invisible, spiritual is far more important; because the material universe has a life expectancy. We know that the universe and everything in it is winding down and will end someday, but the immaterial, spiritual will last forever.**
3. Discuss the statement that was made: “Truth cannot be analyzed in a scientific lab, observed under a microscope, or shoved into a test tube’. Why not? **Because ideas are immaterial and only physical material can be put in a tube and tested. What is the temperature, length, or width of a thought?**
4. Which is the more important issue – the age of the earth/universe, or whether or not God created the earth/universe? Explain. **The latter. Because if there is no God, we the negative ramifications are huge. We are then reduced to evolving (or devolving) animals with no hope for the future and nothing has a purpose and there is no plan. But with God as Creator the possibilities in this life and the next are full of hope and purpose.**
5. Watch the YouTube video titled “Irreducible Complexity” at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NaVoGfSSSV8>. In your own words, explain the proposition that is presented here, using the example of the mousetrap. **The mousetrap was invented by man with one purpose: to catch mice. It is made of a fixed number of parts, all designed to their proportionate sizes with specific roles to play in the process of catching the mice. If one part is missing, not only does the device not perform its intended function, but it has no purpose whatsoever. One cannot reduce the parts of the trap without making it useless. The human body has millions of these irreducibly complex machines in the body. Why should we believe the mousetrap is a product of design, but not the human body?**

6. From a Christian perspective, does it matter what science thinks about the age of the earth and the age of the universe? NO Why or why not? **Because their opinion has no basis for objective measure. No one but God was there when the universe was created, and the scientist's measuring tools are miserably inadequate and open to error. 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.**
7. If there is **any** evidence for a young earth or a young universe, then the Darwinian theory of evolution is completely falsified (according to Darwin himself), since life has to have enough time to evolve. Is there any physical evidence to suggest a young earth and/or universe? Do some research on the internet and record what you find (we would suggest AnswersinGenesis.org.) Don't forget to cite your sources! **Personal research is required. Examples: 1) [Very little rock sediment on the seafloor](#). If sediments have been accumulating on the seafloor for three billion years, the seafloor should be choked with sediments many miles deep. 2) [Soft Tissue in Fossils](#). If dinosaurs lived over 65 million years ago, why do some dinosaur fossils still contain well-preserved soft tissues?**
8. Read Isaiah 40:21-22. Does the Bible teach that the earth is flat? **NO**
9. Verse 22 says that God stretches out the heavens like a curtain (causing the universe to expand). When was the book of Isaiah written (do an internet search)? Why is this an important fact? **Circa 740-680 B.C. It's important because of the myth that is often believed – based upon an untruth – that Christianity is backwards and taught in the past that the world is flat. Christians are called to demolish such lies. (2 Cor. 10:4-5)**
10. 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**
11. Should the Bible conform to science, or should science conform to the Bible, and why? What do you think would happen if scientists accepted the Bible as the only source of truth and knowledge? **(personal responses) example: Science should conform to the Bible. If science accepted the Bible as its primary source, the theory of evolution (taught as fact in today's world) would no longer be promoted, and people would not be able to use science as an excuse to disbelieve, disregard, or disobey God. 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)

Chapter Six – Science- Day 6 Study Questions

1. 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.**
2. 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**
3. Thinking back to the examples given in this day's study, 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.**
4. Read Psalm 8. According to this Psalm, how does God look at man in relation to the rest of creation? **Man is the epitome - the highest level - of all things God created. He made all creation for our benefit. He has put all things under our authority to be good stewards of - entrusting us with its care.**
5. Why does this view of man make more sense logically than the Darwinian view that man is no better than an animal? **The Biblical view conforms with reality. If human life is just an accident and we're no better than the**

animals, then all our faculties of thinking, reasoning, and loving are no better than the "survival of the fittest" mentality of beasts. But when we acknowledge that we're made in God's image, we can truly live compassionate, good, fulfilling lives that bring benefit to all creation. The Darwinian view degrades man for his abilities to think rationally, to create, and to be valuable as human beings. It leads to the devaluing of life, calling some "unworthy to live" and others "More worthy" (yet many of those deemed most "unworthy" have made some of the greatest contributions to humanity.)

6. Read 1 Corinthians 1:25, 1:27, 2:14. What does the God say about the foolishness of man in relation to the wisdom of God, and why do you think He says this? **Compared to God, man's wisdom is nothing better than foolishness. After all, He is omniscient (He knows everything!)**

Chapter Six – Science- Day 7 Study Questions

1. Baryonic matter (which includes atomic matter), otherwise called **ordinary** matter, is defined as **material substance that occupies space, has mass, and is composed predominantly of atoms**
2. According to scientific estimates, how much of the universe is made up of atoms? **4-5 %** Of this atomic matter, how much is actually visible? **Less than 1 %**
3. Describe Dark Matter: **dark matter is a hypothetical form of matter that is invisible; it doesn't absorb or emit light; and it doesn't collide with atomic particles but exerts gravitational force**
4. What percentage of the universe is made up of Dark Matter? **23-25%**
5. Describe Dark Energy: **Dark energy is the name given to the anti-gravitating influence that's accelerating the rate of expansion of the universe. It's not composed of known particles like protons, neutrons, or electrons, nor of the particles of dark matter, because these all gravitate. We simply don't know what it is.**
6. What percentage of the universe is made up of Dark Energy: **70%**
7. Therefore, according to scientific estimates, how much of the universe is not made up of physical, observable matter at all? **.04% (NOTE: this number was not included in the text, but it is computed by recognizing that only 1% of the atom is material, and the rest is space. Since atoms make up approximately 4% of the known universe, then $1\% \times 4\% = .04\%$)**
8. Why then, is it foolish to believe the statement – *matter is all that matters*? **Answers may vary. Example: Because if that is true, all that should matter - or all that is worth considering - accounts for less than 1 % of what exists materially in the universe. In other words, placing our ENTIRE focus on the material might be a very unwise use of so much of our time. It would seem that it might be far more wise to investigate the spiritual - or non-material - since it makes up 99% of life Considering that the Bible says this life is a vapor, and that the main purpose here is to prepare for eternity, it makes more sense to consider the spiritual while also learning of the material.**
9. Knowing that all the material universe relies upon the nucleus of atoms as the foundation of all matter in the cosmos, and that science has no answers for why the positively-charged protons in an atom do not repel each other as they should and fly away into oblivion (which would result in no life), read Hebrews 1:3 and Colossians 1:16-17. How do these verses provide a reasonable answer to this mystery? **God answers this question for us. Why? Because He made us to know enough about the universe at some time to ask that question. His answer is clear: He holds everything together by the Word of His power – or the power of His Word. By accepting the axiom that all life came from Life (God) and He created everything from the atom up, it is easy to accept the idea that He holds everything together by His power.**
10. Read and consider 2 Corinthians 4:18 in the context of today's focus. What does this say to you about the prescient (prophetic, predictive, visionary) truth of the Bible? **It clearly states the idea that the things we see are not that important compared to the things unseen. The Bible states this idea consistently from beginning to end. No other belief system is so well-defined, defensible, and unwavering.**

Chapter Six – Science- Day 8 Study Questions

1. What is meant by the phrase *the basic process of scientific experimentation is the measurement of a line*?
Scientific experimentation relies upon multiple tests of the hypothesis, because the material universe is always moving; thus, the results of each test must be recorded on a graph and compared to the other tests. The line (the conclusion or "law") is drawn to connect all the data points in what appears the most reasonable common path. That path becomes the "formula, proposition, or law".
2. Can science measure a straight line perfectly? **NO** Why is this important to consider? **Science cannot measure a straight line because this requires two fixed points in space and time. But 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. Thus, we cannot measure a straight line. This is important because all scientific "truth" is obtained through 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 - it cannot observe two fixed points within an ever-changing universe - then it cannot obtain a fixed point of truth within the universe**
3. How does the example of measuring the boiling point of water support the statement: "Scientific equations are never discovered - they are selected"? **The scientist had a variety of boiling points to choose from and he selected the one that seemed the best choice. because matter is always in flux, experiments cannot be expected to perfectly replicate from one to the next; thus, they must be averaged or approximated in some way or another.**
4. Why do scientists come up with scientific equations and laws if these equations and laws cannot provide certain truth? Because they are useful. Scientific laws and equations allow man to do things that nature would not otherwise permit.
5. Modern atheistic science claims to be the highest authority when it comes to measuring matter. Read Genesis 1:1 along with Job 28:24-26 and Isaiah 40:12. Which authority do you consider more trustworthy, and why? **(personal responses may vary) example: In the beginning GOD ... If there is a God and we can become assured that He gave us the Bible to instruct and guide us, that settles the matter. Is. 40: 12 makes it hard to refute the fact that the Maker of all things would have the best "tape measure"!**
6. Recalling the example of using a ruler to measure a straight line between electrons, what is the only way this can be accomplished perfectly? **By freezing all the electrons in time and space.**
7. Read Job 38:5. When it comes to measuring a line, what does God say about man's abilities to do so with absolute accuracy? **He is inferring that it is foolishness for man to think he can determine the exact measurements on earth - measurements that are perfect and never changing. Only God can do so because he is in control of every electron and every atom.**
8. Finish this sentence: "Observing physical matter that is always changing cannot provide Truth that is **unchanging**".
9. In your words, what has been the main point of this entire segment? **Answers may vary. Example: Science can be extremely useful, but it is not exact and 100% reliable all the time, because the universe is always moving. Today's "laws" might change tomorrow. Therefore, it certainly cannot - and should never try to - place itself in the position of God. And especially considering the determination of what is morally right or wrong, science has no right at all, since morality cannot be measured, weighed, or observed in the material world.**

Chapter Six – Science- Day 9 Study Questions

1. What is the mandate that God gives to man in Genesis 1:26-28, and how does this relate to the uses of science?

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." By understanding that the material world is made to support humanity, science would spend more time and effort in research on how to use the material world to benefit mankind. As a result, there might be a lot less hunger in the world if science wasn't so busy trying to "play God" with the earth and its creatures through misguided policies of population control, overreaching environmentalism, etc. Examples: 1. saving whales but aborting children 2. preventing controlled burns in dense forest area, which has resulted in huge forest fires due to the abundance of fuel the dead growth provides in hot weather. 3. Environmentalists have closed many dams in draught-ridden California (one of the greatest suppliers of fruit and produce in the nation) decreasing the food supply -- all to save the "delta smelt" which is not endangered.

2. Name at least 4 technical advances that have assisted us in improving the lives of mankind through science.

Answers may vary. Examples:

- 1) **The heart-lung machine**
- 2) **The computer**
- 3) **The automobile**
- 4) **The polio vaccine**

3. Name at least 4 risky or deadly technical "advances" that have harmed the lives of mankind through science.

- 1) **Atom bomb**
- 2) **Human cloning**
- 3) **Sex change operations**
- 4) **Abortion**

4. Discuss the proposition: "Success in science is when a desired objective or goal is attained by means of manipulating the natural order of things." What do you think this means? **Science finds ways to make something do what it wasn't necessarily designed by God to do in order to produce or provide something that will benefit mankind.**

Give a few examples **(Answers may vary)**

- 1) **Scientists manipulated the laws of gravity; i.e., they used other laws to override the law, in order to allow a very heavy airplane to fly, without gravity causing it to fall**
- 2) **They found ways of controlling the combustion caused when lighting gas on fire by creating an enclosed cylinder to power an engine**

3) By combining several organic materials with crude oil and manipulating the chemistry of the materials synthetic plastics are made.

5. Read Isaiah 40:12-14 (New King James version) and note the words measured, calculated, weighed, scales, and balance in verse 12 and answer the following questions.
- 1) 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.**
 - 2) 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? **Example: 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 according to the last 2 personal questions)**
 - 3) 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? What are your thoughts on this subject? **This is exactly what we see today with modern science. Scientists professing 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 only find shades of it without God inspiring him with understanding. God's perfect understanding is unsearchable. It cannot be discovered by scientific methodology outside of His revelation.**
6. 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; but by looking at life through His eyes we can understand and be at peace.**
7. Read Hebrews 11:1-6. How are we encouraged by taking our focus off of the things that we see or feel? **By knowing and believing that what we can't see (like atoms, protons, neutrons, electrons) is what makes up what we can see, our faith in the God who created all things to operate in such an incomprehensible, brilliant, unfathomable way is**

increased daily. The more we see God working in our lives and through His Word, the greater our faith becomes and the more assured we become of the power and wisdom of God.

8. What is the Christian Worldview of Science (how are we to view the sciences)? **Answers may vary. Examples: 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 all things, nor does it discover truth. It's a method for dominating and utilizing nature; it's 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 if we want to put our knowledge through science to the best use.**