

THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW OF PHILOSOPHY

Session 4: Day 1

The Christian Worldview of Philosophy



Read the following section before watching the video of session 4.

A philosophy is the body of ideas that flow out of our worldview.

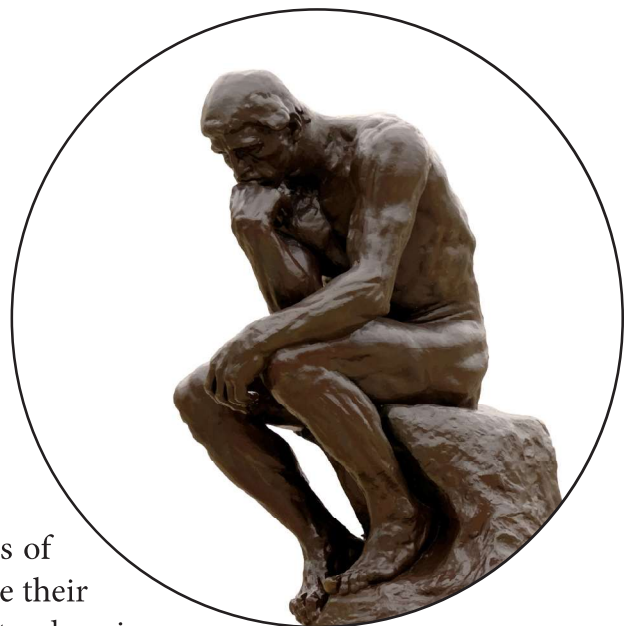
Our philosophy guides all our decisions in life; and those choices we make will bring blessings or troubles as a result. Therefore, it would seem very wise to think through those ideas which make up our philosophy before we take serious steps in one direction or another.

These ideas will determine our choices regarding:

1. A future spouse
 2. “Hooking up” before marriage
 3. Our future career
 4. Our work ethic
 5. Our priorities in life
 6. Our goals in life
 7. Our friends
- Etc.

Every worldview leads to its own end. Thus, considering the end before we begin can save much grief in the future.

We will look at the competing philosophies of the major worldviews of today, and compare their “end” with each other. Let’s see how they stand up in the light of critical questioning.





Watch part 1 up to the title “The Fruit of Our Ideas” (13 min, 28 second mark). Observe only. Don’t try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, consider or discuss these questions:

1. From this first segment of video, how do you think **your** Theology (our beliefs about God) might affect your:

- Occupation (personal responses) examples: 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.
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- 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.
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- 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.
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- Future marriage (or not marrying) 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.
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2. The video spoke of “anti-intellectualism” taking over in America. Why do you think this is?

(personal responses) Example: Abraham Lincoln said: “We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. (cont....)

THINKING LIKE A CHRISTIAN: SERIES 1

...We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power. ... But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us."

("A National Day of Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer." Proclamation March 30, 1863)"

Complacency always leads to slavery. When a nation becomes prosperous, the people become lazy. They stop being diligent to carefully examine the ideas presented to them because "it's too much work to think. I'd rather amuse myself". We stop thinking for ourselves.

3. What does the word Amuse mean if the root syllables are defined?

To Not Think.

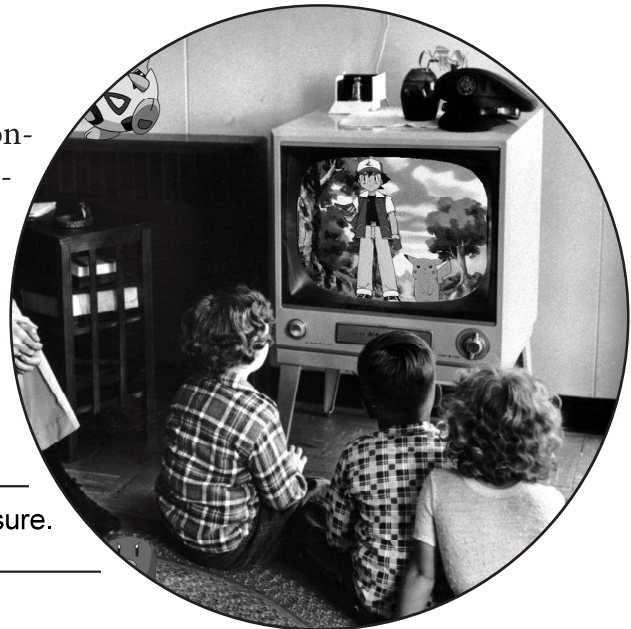
4. In your opinion, what are some of the consequences of a society that becomes amusement-centered?

(personal responses) examples: 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.



5. The topic of Philosophy deals in great part with the

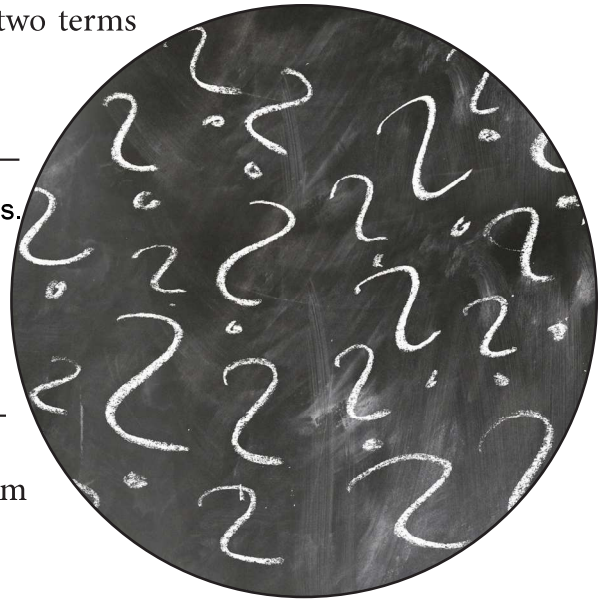
questions: What is Real and what is True. Define, to the best of your ability, each of those terms:

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.

6. Why do you think the meaning of those two terms have 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.



7. What results do you see in our society from the redefinition of those 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

8. What are the four main questions everyone asks, and why are they important to muse upon?

- W h e r e did I come from?
- W h y am I here?
- W h e r e am I going?
- H o w do I get there?



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 4, Day 1.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5
Colossians 2:8

Deuteronomy 6:5
Luke 10:27

John 14:6
John 18:37-38

Session 4: Day 2

The Fruit of Our Ideas



Part 1 again up to the title “The Fruit of Our Ideas” (13 min, 28 second mark). You may take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

1. Read Ephesians 5:15 and Philippians 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.

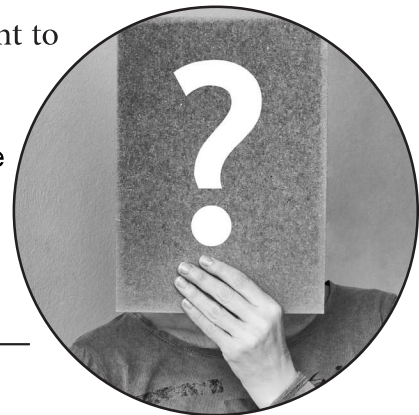
Live our faith before people by being consistent in our godly behavior.

2. What does the philosophy mean, and why is it important to think through our philosophy?

Lover of wisdom. If we don’t think clearly about what we choose

to believe and compare it to the Bible, we will be easily

deceived by others.



3. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 states:

: (In your own words) EX: We are in a battle, but our weapons aren't typical weapons of war.

We battle ideas that go against God's Word.

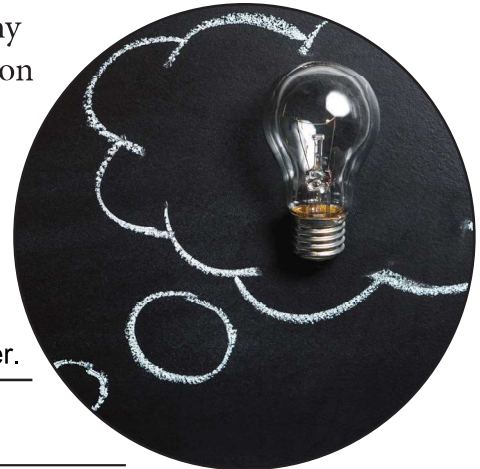
4. This means that we are in a battle over i d e a s.

5. *Read Romans 12:1-2.* According to these verses, why should it be a priority in every Christian's life to focus on the "renewing of our minds"?

If we conform to the world's ideas, we will be going against

God. But if we transform our thinking by conforming to the

words of scripture we will be on His side and we will prosper.



6. What is the source of the ideas a Christian is to base his/her philosophy upon and how are we advised to learn those ideas? (*See Proverbs 2:1-6*)

The Bible. Learn the principles and precepts contained in the Word. Listen carefully and consider
the words. Pray for wisdom and apply oneself to learning. Expect to learn brilliant and valuable things
from the Word of God.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 4, Day 2.

1 Corinthians 1:25

1 Corinthians 3:19

1 Timothy 1:3-7

Session 4: Day 3

The Fruit of Our Ideas



Watch part 1 beginning at the title “The Fruit of Our Ideas” (13 min, 28 second mark). and continue to the end of Part 1. Observe only. Don’t try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

Our philosophy of life is based upon the IDEAS which proceed from our beliefs about God. As Christians, it is vital that our beliefs about God are supported in Scripture. For example, what might be the result...

1. If professing Christians believed that God is LOVE, but that hell doesn’t exist?

For example: We would have no answer to the question "why would a God of love allow evil men to never be punished for their wickedness?"

Or, believing there is no hell, we would live however we want - with no fear of punishment.

2. If professing Christians believed that God required them to do good works in order to receive eternal life?

We would have no appreciation or thankfulness for Christ's work on the Cross. His grace would have no effect on our lives, and our religion would be no different or better than any other.

Our philosophy is the result – or outgrowth - of our fundamental beliefs about God, and those beliefs will guide us in every major decision we make.

3. What should be the source of a Christian’s philosophy? The Bible



4. Do you think most Christians understand the weight of this principle? (personal responses)

5. What might some results be if Christians embraced a philosophy that combined the words of Christ, with the teachings of Buddha, for example?

It would be inconsistent. Buddhism is all about works and never promises heaven, for example.

The religion would be untrue to one religion or the other.

6. Do you believe that all knowledge leads to wisdom? No Why or why not?

Only Godly knowledge - or knowledge that comes from the mind of God - is true and unchanging.

Much of the "knowledge" that the world promotes today is man's creation and is not true

7. What does the Bible usually mean by the word fruit when it is used in scriptures such as Galatians 5:22-23?

The result, either positive or negative, of a person's philosophy, worldview, belief system, or religion.

8. In order to not be deceived by bad ideas, it is important that we test those ideas. According to the video, how can we test an idea to see if it is true?

Check it according to the Word of God. Search the Scriptures to find if the idea - or truth claim - is confirmed in the Bible. Then, look to see if when the idea is applied in reality it produces consistently good - or bad - results.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 4, Day 3.

Genesis 35:11

Deuteronomy 28:11

2 Kings 19:30

Psalms 1:3

John 45:35-36

Ephesians 5:9

Session 4: Day 4

Blessings and Consequences



Watch part 1 again, beginning at the title “The Fruit of Our Ideas” (13 min, 28 second mark). and continue to the end of Part 1. You may take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

1. Read Psalm 1 & Psalm 128, along with Joshua 1:8-9. Name as many blessings and/or curses that are promised as a result of the ideas or acquaintances we embrace.

- . If we walk in God’s ways we will be: secure in our footing;

- provided for; fruitful and productive;

- prosperous in this life and in the next.

- If we rebel we will live wasted lives – unproductive and fruitless,

- not prosperous in life and

- in the end we will be separated from God and His people forever.

- _____
- _____

2.. What is the key to wisdom according to Psalm 111:10?

The fear of the Lord

Why do you think a healthy understanding of this idea is meant for our good?

The laws of God are there for our good, but there are always consequences for going against laws.

When we fear disobeying His laws we are much more apt to walk in safety and live in the path of
God's blessings.

3. According to the video, a wise philosophy must be based upon Truth. What relationship does this have with reality?

If something is true it will be confirmed in real life.

4. A key principle presented in the video is that there must be LAW in order for there to be Order. This is true for the physical laws as well as the Moral laws.

5. Read *Exodus 20:1-17*. Name at least 2 moral laws that our society is suggesting we disregard as “old fashioned” or “overly-restrictive”.

• You shall not commit Adultery

• Honor your father and Mother

• Do not covet. Also.. Love God; honor His Name, etc.

6. What difference has this made in our society?

There is no fear of God. Everyone does what he thinks is right in his own eyes. There are no
absolute, unchanging rules. Lawlessness is rising. Without the specific knowledge from the
Bible to inform people of God's eternal laws, there is no standard for knowing what is right or wrong.
"My people perish from lack of (His) knowledge."

7. Do you know of any friends or acquaintances who have been caught up in those ideas?
_____ What appears to be the results in their lives?

(personal responses)

8. Read Deuteronomy chapter 28. Name at least 5 promises of blessing for obeying and 5 consequences of disobeying God's moral Laws.

Blessings for Obeying God's moral Laws

- The cities, the nation and all the land will be blessed with an abundance of harvests, sun and rain
- The people will be blessed in bearing children, and children themselves will be blessed
- The livestock and all the food provisions will overflow to bless the people
- All your enemies will be overtaken and controlled by the Lord
- All that the people set their hands to do God will bless with success

Consequences for Disobeying God's moral Laws

- The cities, the nation and all the land will be cursed with draught, pestilence, and unproductive harvests
- The people will be cursed in bearing children, and children themselves will be cursed
- The livestock and all the food provisions will be cursed
- Your enemies will overtake you.
- All (or most everything) that the people set their hands to do will fail. They will be overrun by diseases. The land will suffer.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 4, Day 4.

Colossians 2:8

Matthew 24:11

John 3:21

John 14:6

Session 4: Day 5

Comparing and Contrasting the Philosophies of Today's Major Worldviews



Watch part 2 up to the segment titled “Critical Thinking” (17 Min. 41 sec).
Observe only. Don't try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you've viewed the video, answer the following questions.

Comparing and Contrasting Christian Philosophy Against Other Major Worldviews

1. According to Humanism, what constitutes reality?

The natural – or material – world. Only what we can taste, touch, see, and smell.

Does this make sense to you? _____ Briefly explain: (personal responses)

2. Christianity is based upon the belief that reality consists of the Natural and the Supernatural. How would you explain this in your own words?

(personal responses)

Science vs. Religion; Faith vs. Reason



3. Define FAITH according to modern science?

Blind, foolish belief in superstitious fables

4. Define FAITH according to Christianity. (in your own words)

(personal responses) Example: Firm trust based upon propositions, ideas, or objects (personal or impersonal) that we have tested and believe are proven to be absolutely true and trustworthy.

5. Does a modern scientist need faith to believe in Evolution? Explain:

(personal responses) examples: Their fundamental premise is based upon "faith" in the proposition that everything we observe through our senses evolved from nothing, yet there is absolutely no evidence to support their theory... which is the textbook definition of blind faith.

Many people today – both “scientists” and Christians – consider faith to be “feelings-based,” or emotional in nature. This could be termed “blind” faith, because it moves one to believe without true understanding, perception, or discernment.

6. Is it wise to put one’s trust in feelings alone? Why or why not?

(personal responses)

7. What could go wrong if we live only by our feelings?

(personal responses) examples: Our ability to think and reason clearly will be severely impaired, while at the same time make us extremely biased in our decision-making --- to the extent that we may be unable to even consider another point of view

8. Would you want another person to love you based upon their feelings only? _____
If not, what would you hope they would love you for?

(personal responses)

9. How important is it to have evidence to support placing your faith or trust in something or someone? Give an example:

(personal responses) examples: Very important. Someone may seem to be very truthful and sincere, but may rely on our blind faith to take advantage of us

10. Christianity has been described as the “thinking-man’s faith” because believers are challenged to “test the spirits” (*1 John 4:1*), search the scriptures (*Acts 17:11*), and reason with God (*Isaiah 1:18 KJV*).

Why is this important when committing to a faith or worldview?

Because without rationally thinking through any idea and examining its claims, we can find ourselves in deep trouble if those claims aren't true. Ideas have consequences - either positive or negative, and often it is the bad ideas we succumb to unthinkingly that cause us the greatest trouble and heartbreak.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 4, Day 5.

Genesis 1:1
Romans 1:20

1 John 4:1-6
Acts 17:2-5

Acts 17:10-12
Isaiah 1:16-20

Session 4: Day 6

Critical Questions of Life



Watch part 2 up to the segment titled "Critical Thinking" (17 Min. 41 sec).
Observe only. Don't try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you've viewed the video, answer the following questions.

1. What governmental systems are based upon ideas common to Humanism?

Socialism _____, Communism _____, Marxism _____.

What do these systems believe about God? He does not exist; and He is only a crutch : the "opiate of the masses"

2. Read Isaiah 1:18, Mt. 22:37, 2 Pet. 1:16, 1 Pet. 3:15. What do these scriptures say about the importance of thinking rationally and reasonably about the ideas being presented to us in the world?

God wants to reason with us and to love Him with all

our mind, therefore our reasoning is very important

to him. We aren't to believe anything quickly

without evidence, but we are called to be

knowledgeable about what we believe and

why, in order to be confident and able to

stand up for our faith.



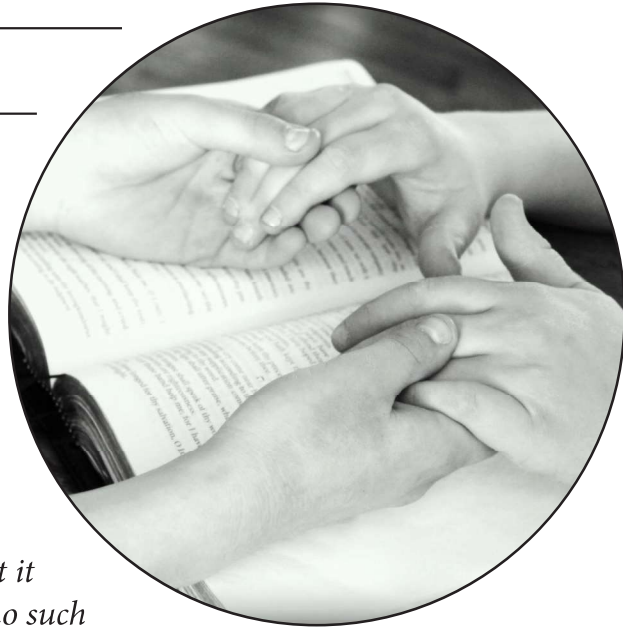
3. How do the major religions answer these questions?

Answers to the 4 Critical Questions of Life

	Where did I come from?	Why am I here?	Where am I going?	How do I get there?
HUMANISM	The zoo	No reason or purpose	Nowhere	There is no place to go
ISLAM	Created from clay & water over time	To submit to Allah	Paradise or Hell (no one can know until death)	Good works, jihad (killing the infidel) MIGHT get you there
BUDDHISM	The results of our past life(s)	To reach Nirvana	As far as you can IMAGINE (it's all in your mind)	Meditation
HINDUISM	The results of our past life(s)	To find joy	A mystical ride	Meditation, Karma experience, reincarnation
CHRISTIANITY	Uniquely Created by a loving Father	To Worship God and enjoy Him forever	To Heaven. To live forever in God's loving presence with the His family of believers (His adopted children)	By Faith in Christ (sincere surrender to Him in response to his love for us - which He displayed by dying in our place)

4. How important do you consider these questions to be, and have you put much thought into any or all of them? Why or why not?

(personal responses)



5. Read 1 John 2:3-6, 9, 4:13-21, 5:1-2.
Mormons are told in their doctrine that *“if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right. But if it be not right you shall have no such feelings”* (Doctrine & Covenants 9:8); thus, their fundamental beliefs are to be based upon feelings.
How is a Christian to know he or she is saved?

1. By our desire and willingness to obey God's Word - and it shows in our life
2. We love the brethren (other believers)
3. We unashamedly proclaim that Jesus is God. We are constantly reminded by God's Spirit in us that we belong

to Him. This is most often revealed by our sensitivity to our sins (- or our wrong-doing when we knew it was wrong); but we immediately ask Him (and/or others) to forgive us, and committ ourselves to not repeating our sin. (note:

SIN is an old-English archery term meaning "missing the bullseye" - of perfection)

4. We believe with our whole mind, soul, and strength that Jesus is God.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 4, Day 6.

Genesis 1:26-28a
Isaiah 66:2

Ephesians 3:9
Revelation 4:11

Romans 1:21
1 John 3:20-25

1 John 5:1-5

Session 4: Day 7

Critical Thinking



Watch the part 2 beginning at the segment titled “Critical Thinking” (17 Min. 41 sec), and watch to the end. Observe only. Take notes if you choose. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

1. What does it mean to think critically over an idea?

To view an idea from opposing viewpoints, thinking them through by weighing each idea according to whatever evidence and logic is available to be applied to the idea; then, making a determination regarding your assent to (agreeing with and committing to) or rejection of the idea.

2. In 1792, when the U.S. Constitution was adopted, adult literacy was over 95%. Today, it is estimated that more than half of all adults are functionally illiterate. This means that in a complex society such as ours, over 50*% either cannot read at all, or they read very poorly; and they are unable to critically think. Why do you think this is important?

(personal responses)

*Note: this figure is estimated to be between 45-55%



3. Were you aware of the history of the development of modern science as presented in this video? (personal responses)

4. Name at least 3 of the scientists mentioned, along with what a significant fact about each.

Scientist: Sir Francis Bacon (1561-1627)

Significant Fact: Bacon was a philosopher who is known for establishing the scientific method of inquiry based on experimentation and inductive reasoning. Bacon established his goals as being the "discovery of truth, service to his country, and service to the church."

Scientist: Johannes Kepler (1571-1630)

Significant Fact: • Kepler was a brilliant mathematician and astronomer. One of the founders of the science of astronomy.
• He did early work on light, and established the laws of planetary motion about the sun.

Scientist: Sir Isaac Newton (1642 -1726)

Significant Fact: An English mathematician, astronomer, theologian, author and physicist (described in his own day as a "natural philosopher") who is widely recognised as one of the most influential scientists of all time, and a key figure in the scientific revolution. Though he held some views that were not in conformity to fundamental Christian doctrine, he nonetheless was deeply impacted by the Bible and the faith of Christianity.

5. What might this knowledge (of the rich influence of Christianity in science and philosophy) impact our Christian worldview today?

We realize that Christianity's influence in the world of science has been huge; and though no Christians are perfect, it has been the Christian view of intelligent, clear thinking in pursuit of the knowledge of God in the Universe that has inspired discovery and innovation like no other worldview ever known. When we begin our thinking with the belief that all creation comes from the mind of God, we will not make the mistakes we see modern science has making today

6. Why do you think Christians are so silent in the battle of ideas in the world of philosophy and science today?

(personal responses) examples: We have been taught to separate the spiritual from the material, the mind from the heart, and faith from reason. We have thus become anti-intellectual; yet our God is Omniscient, --- All knowing.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 4, Day 7.

On Critical Thinking:

Job 34:1-4
1 John 4:1

On Education:

Hosea 4:6
Proverbs 1:7
Proverbs 2:6

Proverbs 15:4

Deuteronomy 6:6-7
Proverbs 22:6

Session 4: Day 8

The Four Elements of Critical Thinking



Watch the part 2 beginning at the segment titled “Critical Thinking” (17 Min. 41 sec), and watch to the end. Take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

1. Can you recall the definition of Faith according to Webster’s 1828 dictionary that was presented in this portion of video?

“The assent of the mind to the truth of a proposition advanced by another, by a belief, or by probable evidence of any kind.”

2. This means that God gives us good R e a s o n for believing in Him.

3. How does this definition require critical thinking rather than believing based upon blind faith?

We are required to weigh all sides of an idea until one is convinced of one idea over others. But we weigh PROPOSITIONS, or ideas and thoughts that propose to be true.

4. From the video, Christianity says the Bible is true because its truths can be T e s t e d.



5. List some of the reasons that support Christianity's truth claims using the 4 elements of critical thinking.

> **Common sense observation:**

- 95% of ALL human beings believe in a God
- All C r e a t i o n declares the glory of G o d.

> **Scientific validation:**

- The 2nd Law of T h e r m o d y n a m i c s states that the universe had a B e g i n n i n g, and that it is gradually winding down.
- The impossibility of S p o n t a n e o u s Generation:
That Life can come from non-life.
- There are massive amounts of I n f o r m a t i o n in a molecule of DNA.
This leads to the conclusion that there must be an I n f o r m e r.

> **Historical collaboration:**

- From the History class, what prophecy was fulfilled that was confirmed by archeology?

That Babylon would be totally annihilated in specific ways and by specific conquerors as predicted by the Bible hundreds of years before.

- Look up “*Does archeology support the Bible? - Answers in Genesis.*” List at least 5 Biblical accounts that were confirmed by archaeology: Some examples of many:

1. Abraham's home city of Ur was excavated by Sir Leonard Woolley, with surprising evidence of near-luxury.
2. The customs of Patriarchal times, as described in the Bible, are endorsed by archaeological finds at such places as Ur, Mari, Boghazkoi, and Nineveh. These were written records from that day—not just put down in writing many centuries later. They bear the marks of eyewitness reporting.

3. Solomonic cities such as Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer (1 Kings 9:15) have been excavated. Solomon even used similar blueprints for some duplicated buildings.
4. Isaiah 20:1 was challenged by critics because they knew of no king named Sargon in lists of Assyrian kings. Now Sargon's palace has been recovered at Khorsabad, including a wall inscription and a library record endorsing the battle against the Philistine city of Ashdod (mentioned in Isaiah 20:1).
5. The death of Sennacherib is recorded at Isaiah 37:38 and 2 Kings 19:37 and is confirmed in the records of Sennacherib's son, Esarhaddon. It was later added to by Esarhaddon's son Ashur-bani-pal.

> **Logical Conclusion** (based upon all 4 criteria from above)

- The fundamental principles of Christianity are confirmed in real life, and found to be A p p l i c a b l e and T r u s t w o r t h y.
- The fundamental principles of all other religions are proven to be I l l o g i c a l, I n a p p l i c a b l e, U n t r u s t w o r t h y, and D a n g e r o u s

6. *Personal question:* Based upon what we have covered in this video, could you conclude that the Biblical worldview of Philosophy is superior to any other worldview that competes for our minds today? _____. Why or why not?

(personal responses) Note: keep in mind that an answer is required - one way or the other.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 4, Day 8.

Romans 1:18
Ecclesiastes 3:11

Psalms 19:1
John 1:1

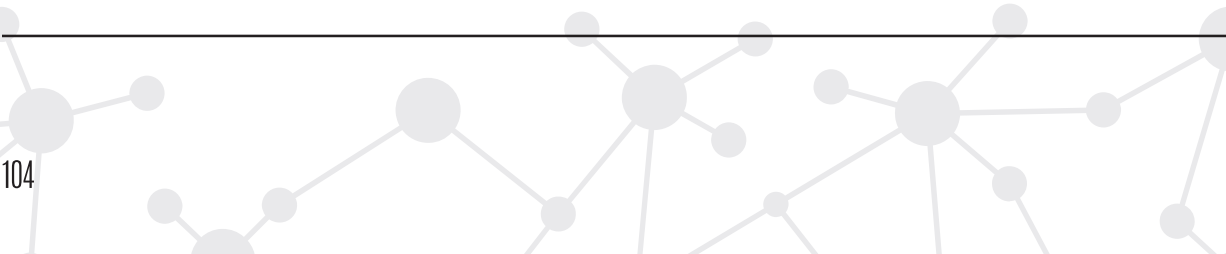
John 3-4
Hebrews 11:3

Genesis 1:1



Please take the time to reflect and pray about what you learned and discussed so far. If you have questions, write them down to share during the next session.

A series of horizontal lines for writing.



THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW OF ECONOMICS

Session 5: Day 1

Part 1 - The Power of Economic Freedom



Read the following section before watching the video of session 5.

Howard L. Dayton, Jr., founder of Crown Financial Ministries, stated in his book Leadership:

Jesus talked much about money. Sixteen of the thirty-eight parables were concerned with how to handle money and possessions. In the Gospels, an amazing one out of ten verses (288 in all) deal directly with the subject of money. The Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 verses on faith, but more than 2,000 verses on money and possessions.

The most obvious reason for this abundance of instruction on riches and possessions is due to the fact that our possessions can so easily become a replacement for god in our lives. Because we are born into a material world, the material can capture our attention, cause worry and anxiety, and distract us from the eternal. Our God wants us to avoid those traps.

According to Webster's dictionary, the study of economics deals with the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. Thus, it is intimately concerned with defining how wealth (goods, possessions, or resources) is generated, obtained or spread among individuals and nations.



As we saw in the first video – “What is a Worldview and Why Does It Matter?” – the Biblical worldview of early America brought not only tremendous benefits to U.S citizens, but also to nations throughout the world.

In this video, we will examine why this is so. We

will also look at the Biblical view of charity, poverty, welfare programs, and the work ethic.

In this age, many are questioning the economic system of capitalism (free market economy) and more are embracing socialism as the most “fair” way of governing the public wealth. Let’s compare and contrast these opposing worldviews and decide for ourselves which follows the Biblical model and therefore, makes more sense.



Watch part 1 up to the title “Private Property and Individual Responsibility” (11 min, 27 second mark). Observe only. Don’t try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, consider/discuss the following questions.

1. From this segment on American inventions, can you state what the relationship is between personal freedom and the explosion of creativity it brings about?

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.

2. 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.

3. Look up on the Internet: *AFA.net: How Socialism Nearly Destroyed the Pilgrims.*
(<https://www.afa.net/the-stand/culture/2016/11/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.

4. In the Parable of the Talents, not everyone was given equal income or gifting – but all had equal opportunity. Do you think God would expect more fruit from a citizen of America, compared to a comrade in China? Yes Why? (see *Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 12:48b*)

To whom much is given, much is required. We have been given far more than the citizens of China: Personal freedom, Economic freedom, religious freedom.



 *Scriptures to look up or review from Session 5, Day 1.*

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

Matthew 25:14-30

Luke 12:48b

Session 5: Day 2

Principles of God's Economics



Watch part 1 again up to the title "Private Property and Individual Responsibility" (11 min, 27 second mark). You may take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you've viewed the video, consider/discuss the following questions.

Biblically-based economics is grounded upon the principle of human freedom as stated in our Declaration of Independence – that rights come from God alone, and man is to be free to pursue his dreams without government interference as long as he follows God's moral laws.

1. Read *Habakkuk 1:13A; Titus 1:2; James 1:13b*. Are there any limitations to God's freedom?

He can't look at evil/wickedness/sin. He can't lie!

2. Genesis 1:26-28 states that man is made in God's image. What does this imply about the limitations God places upon Man's freedom?

Our freedom is the same as God's: We're not to pursue or stare at wickedness and evil. We are to not lie. "Obey His laws and we are free to do what we want!"

The Biblical View: Free Market Enterprise

Eight Principles of God's Economics

Principle 1: Man is made to be free.

Read *Jeremiah 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

Principle 2: God has entrusted man with gifts and blessings, which can be viewed as the personal property and resources he has placed in our hands.

Read *Genesis 11:1-9*, especially 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.

Principle 3: God has made man to be productive.

Read *Matthew 25:26-30*. What are the consequences that come from wasting your natural gifts and talents?

What we have will be taken from us and given to others.



Principle 4: God requires all men to be good stewards of those gifts and blessings.

Read *Matthew 24:45-47*. What are the rewards God promises for faithful stewardship?

He will be promoted by his Master.

Principle 5: God has made man to be responsible and accountable for the management of his property/resources.

Read Matthew 24:48-51. What consequences will come to the unfaithful one?

Destruction

Principle 6: God has made man to enjoy the fruits of his labor.

What can we learn from Ecclesiastes 5:18-19; Proverbs 10:4-5; Proverbs 12:11; Proverbs 13:4, :11 regarding this principle?

This a gift of God. God promises blessings for honest work, but curses for laziness.

Principle 7: God has made man to bless others with the fruits of his labor.

Read Luke 6:38, 12:16-21. What physical and spiritual results come from being generous or selfish with the fruit of our labor?

Our cup will overflow from sharing of our income or our labor, or God will take away what we consider valuable – either while on earth or after this life.



Principle 8: Man is sinful.

Read Romans 3:23; Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 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.

Lessons from the Parable of the Talents (*Matthew 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 Matthew 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?

Everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance

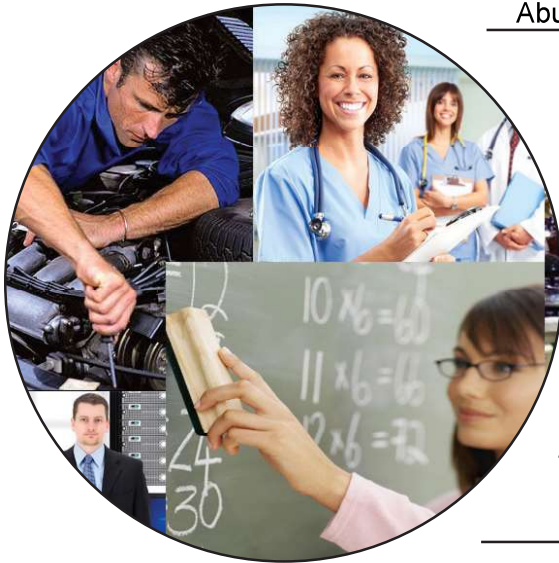
4. He who did nothing with the investment lost everything. In the “Talents,” He lost Heaven. Not because he didn’t earn it, but because he actually attributed evil motives to God. He did not have faith, and without faith, Scripture says, it is impossible to please God. *Read Matthew 25:16 and Colossians 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 Deuteronomy 11:13-15; Proverbs 13:4.* What are the promised results of doing all our work diligently “as unto the Lord”?

Abundant provision from heaven along with constant care from God.





Scriptures to look up or review from Session 5, Day 2.

Habakkuk 1:13a
Titus 1:2
James 1:13b
Genesis 1:26-28
Jeremiah 34:12-22
Genesis 11:1-9
Matthew 25:26-30

Matthew 24:45-47
Matthew 24:48-51
Ecclesiastes 5:18-19
Proverbs 10:4-5
Proverbs 12:11
Proverbs 13:4, :11
Luke 6:38, 12:16-21

Romans 3:23
Genesis 6:5
Jeremiah 17:9
Matthew 25:14-30
Colossians 3:22-24
Deuteronomy 11:13-15
Proverbs 13:4

Session 5: Day 3

The Work Ethic and Individual Freedom



Watch part 1 beginning at the title “Private Property and Individual Responsibility” (11 min, 27 second mark) and continue to the end of Part 1. Observe only. Don’t try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, consider/discuss the following questions.

1. Why is it good to develop a strong work ethic. Name at least 3 ways this will benefit you?

(personal responses) examples:

- We will be willing to work no matter what; thus we will never be without
- We will stand out amongst those who don't work hard
- We will 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) examples:

- You'll lose control over your life because you'll be a less-desirable employee
- 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)

Session 5: Day 4

Economic Freedom and Quality of Life



Watch part 1 beginning at the title “Private Property and Individual Responsibility” (11 min, 27 second mark) and continue to the end of Part 1. Observe only. Don’t try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, consider/discuss the following questions.

Private Property & Individual Responsibility

1. Read Exodus 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.

2. Read Genesis 23:10-17 and 2 Samuel 24:18-24. Why do you think Abraham and David insisted upon paying for property even when they were offered it for free?

When we pay for something it proves our ownership. David believed that his gift to God should cost him something. If he received it free of charge it would not have not been much of a gift from him to God, and we would be in debt to another (if they reneged on the deal).

3. God designed a world in which the existence of private property encourages people to be responsible and fruitful. Read Proverbs 31:13-31. How does this woman make full use of her property? (Name at least 3 ways.)

- She uses all the material resources along with her personal talents, energy, and time to bring a return for her husband and family. She is thrifty and a good manager of the household income that she is responsible over (for feeding, clothing, etc.). She is generous.

- _____
- _____

Economic Competition

4. What core Christian belief is the reason for the 3 divided branches of government and the idea of “checks and balances” in America? (*See Romans 3:23; Jeremiah 17:9*)

Sin is in all of us. We are all selfish in our nature.

5. 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.



6. 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.

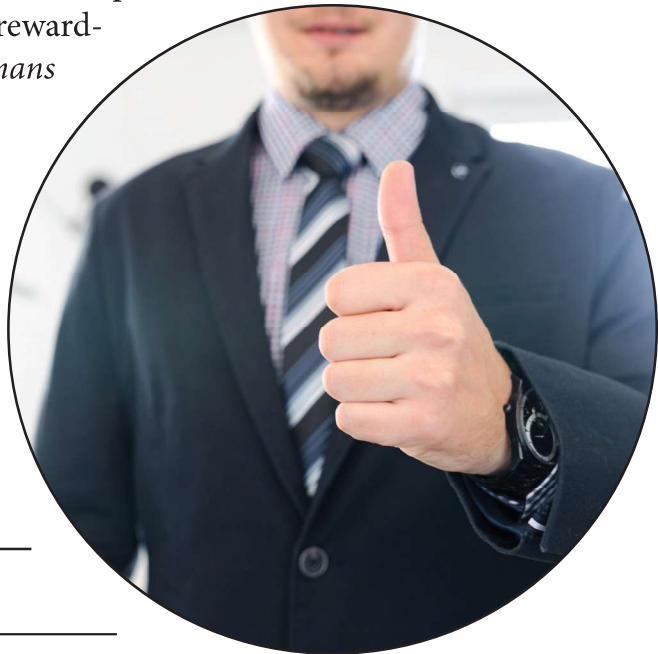
The Principle of Comparative Advantage

7. What happens to personal productivity when a person works at a job he or she loves?

It increases Why? They will not be bored or uninterested. They will take great pride in their work.

8. When we use our best talents and interests to provide a service that benefits others, we're rewarded as well. How? (*Read and compare Romans 12:4-8 and Luke 6:38.*)

We'll know we are doing what we were
created to do. And God promises that our
service will not be wasted – He will bless us
accordingly as He sees fit.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 5, Day 2.

Exodus 20:15, 17
Genesis 23:10-17

2 Samuel 24:18-24
Proverbs 31:13-31

Romans 3:23
Jeremiah 17:9

Romans 12:4-8
Luke 6:38

Session 5: Day 5

Economics - Part 2



Watch part 2 up to the segment titled “Private Property” (13 Min. 57 sec). Observe only. Don’t try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, consider/discuss the following questions.

1. Read Acts 2:44-45 and Acts 4:32-36. Describe the type of economic system that seems to be portrayed in these verses Communism; yet in that type of system the people are forced to give up their property to the state for “equal” distribution. Read Acts 5:1-4, especially v-4. Were these disciples forced to forfeit their property? No
What was their motive for selling their goods and contributing to the community?

Thankfulness to God for the financial blessings they enjoyed, combined with a sincere love for the brethren; as well as a desire to see others come to the saving faith of Christianity.

2. In what way today can we each live out the same spirit as the early church of Acts?

Become less focussed on our own personal material comfort and more upon using our gifts, talents, and money for the benefit of others. By understanding the value of giving our tithes to ministries.

3. *Read Acts 5:1-10 and Acts 6.* This system is never spoken of again in the New Testament after Acts 6:1. What caused the system to fail?

Communism cannot succeed because of Sin. Some are selfish and hold back.

4. What impressed you in the video segment by Bill Whittle titled Wealth Creation?

(personal responses) examples: The illustration of the basket weavers and the arrow-makers makes perfect sense.

5. In the video segment Wealth Creation, how does complexity, creativity and free trade create wealth?

Complexity: There is always a job available for anyone who will work because there are so many degrees of complex parts - or jobs - that can be done that increase value. Even the most inexperienced workers can learn a job that will contribute to the profit of a company.

Creativity: When we are allowed to keep a portion of the profits generated from our work, we will exercise our creative gifts to build our product more efficiently and/or make it more desirable for the end-users.

Free trade: When we aren't inhibited from trading freely, without penalties, more markets are open to our products or services and both production and wealth increases -- because more people can benefit from the product. Everyone becomes better off.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 5, Day 5.

Acts 2:44-45
Acts 4:32-36

Acts 5:1-4
Acts 5:1-10

Acts 6:1

Session 5: Day 6

Communism/Socialism/Collectivism



Watch part 2 up to the segment titled “Private Property” (13 Min. 57 sec). Take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, consider/discuss the following 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. 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.

4. Can you name any current social programs that work against this idea?

Food stamps given with no incentive to work. Free tuition for illegal immigrants but not for citizens encourages bitterness and resentment among the citizens, and an entitlement mentality among the recipients of unearned benefits.

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 — also known as “Progressivism” today) 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.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 5, Day 6.

Exodus 30:15

Session 5: Day 7

Wealth Redistribution



Watch part 2 up to the segment titled “Private Property” (13 Min. 57 sec), and watch to the end. Observe only. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, consider/discuss the following questions.

1. Why is the idea of government-mandated wealth redistribution programs considered stealing?

Because its basic principle is that rich people have more than they need, so its 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.

2. 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.



3. What do you think of Thomas Jefferson’s definition of Freedom: “the ability to make choices”? What does he mean?

The fewer the choices we have, the less freedom we have to be and do what we want. When someone else takes away part of wages or our possessions, we simply have less money and other assets to purchase what we need or desire; and thus have less freedom to enjoy the fruit of our labors.

Session 5: Day 8

Private Property and Individual Responsibility



Watch part 2 beginning at the segment titled “Private Property” (13 Min. 57 sec), and watch to the end. Take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, consider/discuss the following questions.

Private Property and Individual Responsibility

The Bible is much more supportive of an economic system that...

1. Respects private property.

Read Exodus 20:15,17; Exodus 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.
- Thiefs shall be punished



2. 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.

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, excellent work

3. 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.

4. Consider the principle: "The smaller the government, the richer the people. The bigger the government, the poorer the people." Is this true? Yes Why?

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.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

(Read Luke 10:25-37)

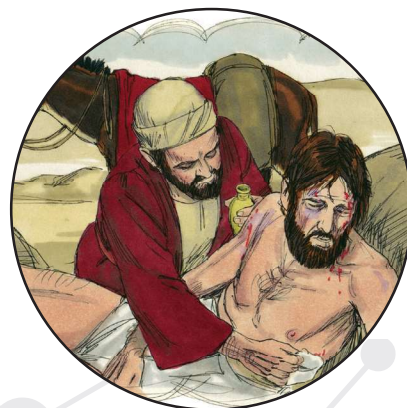
5. What are the 2 greatest commandments:

- 1) Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength
- 2) Love your neighbor as yourself

Lessons from the Parable:

6. 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.



7. 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

3. Name several actions (at least 3) that the Samaritan businessman displayed which exemplify what it means to “love your neighbor as yourself”.

- He showed compassion.
- He gave of his own time.
- He paid out of his own pocket.

4. 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

5. 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.

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

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



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 5, Day 8.

Exodus 20:15,17
Exodus 22:1-4
Proverbs 12:11
Ruth 2:1-8
Proverbs 31

Genesis 2:2a
Genesis 2:15
Exodus 20:9
Exodus 31:17a
Luke 19:11-26

Luke 10:25-37
1 Corinthians 3:6-7
1 Timothy 1:15
2 Timothy 1:8-9



Please take the time to reflect and pray about what you learned and discussed so far. If you have questions, write them down to share during the next session.



Session 5: Day 9

Economics - Part 3



Watch part 3 up to the segment titled “The Biblical Laws for Dispensing Charity” (12 min., 32 sec.). Observe only. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, consider/discuss the following questions.

1. Why do you think the early church took the position that the poor are not entitled to the property of others?

1. That would be stealing. If given voluntarily it is not stealing; but when it is not, it is against the commandment

2. Often (not always), the poor are poor because they refuse or neglect their responsibility to work and apply themselves

2. Explain how can a person contribute to the wealth of a society even if they work for free?

They are doing something that needs to be done. If they do so to help another person or organization, they are freeing up that person or business to do something else that must be done.

3. What are your thoughts regarding the segment about Davey Crockett and the proposal to pay for the victims of the Georgetown fire with government money taken from the people?

(personal responses) examples: It makes perfect sense to call for private citizens to volunteer their time and money to assist because it encourages a spirit of love and personal care for others - which is a benefit to all. If the government is given the responsibility it will be done without a personal touch and with little or no degree of accountability - often nullifying God's purposes or design in allowing the tragedy.

4. How could this lead to theft and corruption if continued?

The politicians remain in power as long as people continue to vote them in and people donate to their re-election campaigns - or bribe them with money or favors for favors in return. Politicians are then tempted to give favors (the people's money or government favor) in return for those people's support.

Session 5: Day 10

Economic Justice



Watch part 3 up to the segment titled “The Biblical Laws for Dispensing Charity” (12 min., 32 sec.). Take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, consider/discuss the following questions.

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

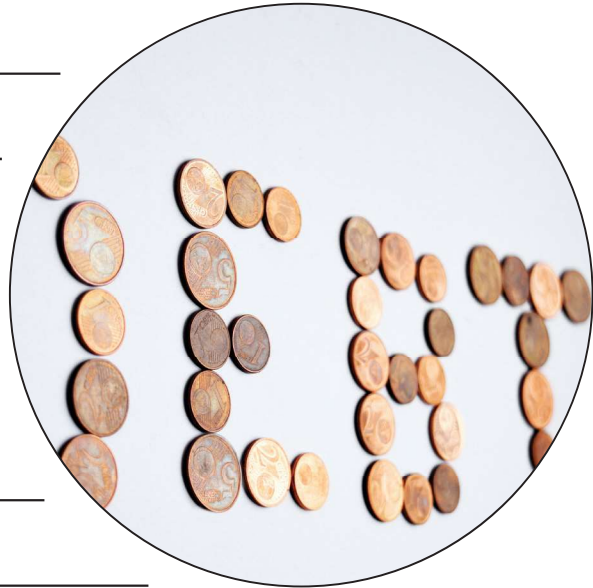
1. Read *Leviticus 19:15*; *Proverbs 11:1*; *Luke 19:11-26*. In contrast to the communistic philosophy of redistribution, what does the Bible say about “taking from the rich to give to the poor”?

Righteousness is shown by impartiality no matter a persons income status. All are to be weighed on equal scales. Everyone is accountable according for their gifts from God.

2. Read Proverbs 22:7; Luke 14:28-30.
Is it moral and wise to amass debt that cannot be paid? No Why?

Unwise because the debtor becomes the slave.

Not repaying a debt is stealing from the lender & brings dishonor to the debtor.



3. How would this principle apply to government debt?

When the government creates debt it must find ways to make up for it - either by raising taxes, printing money without collateral to back it up, or by borrowing it - which only increases the debt by adding the cost of interest and makes the government beholding to - or slaves to - other governments or businesses that can demand repayment in other forms of favor. It brings dishonor to the nation and its people.

Let's Tax the Rich MORE!

4. After watching this video, what are your thoughts about the idea of raising taxes specifically on the rich in America to pay for our debts?
(personal responses) examples:

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.



5. Have you ever held a job in which you were paid more than the owner of the company you worked for? (personal responses)

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

6. If businesses are taxed more because of their degree of success, what effect might that have on the future productivity of that company?

Chances are good that the greater they succeed, the lower their profits; thus, they are discouraged from growth

7. What might happen if an individual is taxed at a higher rate based upon his personal success?

There will come a point when he will choose not to advance his position or grow his business any further because it would be more profitable to keep himself in a lower tax bracket. It will discourage initiative to do better.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 5, Day 10.

Leviticus 19:15
Proverbs 11:1

Luke 19:11-26
Proverbs 22:7

Luke 14:28-30

Session 5: Day 11

Biblical View of Charity



Watch part 3 beginning at the segment titled *The Biblical Laws for Dispensing Charity* (12 min., 32 sec), and watch to the end. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you've viewed the video, consider/discuss the following questions.

1. 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) examples:
- 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 - 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 shortens life & is 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.

2. 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 responses)

3. 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 then the vast majority in the world, allowing us the ability to give far more
130 to charity.

4. From what you've seen in this video, 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

5. If Jesus had the power to heal all sickness on the Earth, why did He not do so, according to J.W. Robbins of The Trinity Review?

Because the Father did not command Him to. We need to show the same respect to God by refraining to do "good works" that He has not called us to do.

- Christ was without sin. Was it a sin to not heal everyone? No
- Christ had one instrument for healing: B e l i e f
- Christ looked for apostles who weren't just interested in His ability to F e e d and H e a l them.

6. Free Market Economics or Government Programs: Which do you think is best in the long run for the individual's prosperity?

(personal responses) examples: Free market. Because it requires accountability, which calls for hard work, courtesy to others, personal responsibility, and is fueled by a desire to better oneself to achieve success.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 5, Day 11.

1 Timothy 5:3-16

James 1:27

Session 5: Day 12

Early American View of Charity



Watch part 3 beginning at the segment titled “The Biblical Laws for Dispensing Charity” (12 min., 32 sec), and watch to the end. Take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, consider/discuss the following questions.

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 Deuteronomy 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.

Matthew 6:26,30,33; Psalms 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 to turn.



2. Acknowledge and remember that all your natural gifts, talents, and abilities are a gift from God.

Read I Peter 4:11; Ephesians 2:10; John 17:7; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 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 Hebrews 2:12 (Who is speaking, and to whom is he speaking?); Luke 17:11-19; Psalms 100:4; Romans 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.

- Why is this principle so critical in Christianity?

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 us given gifts and talents from God Himself, how could we justify being complacent

in our lives? To whom much is given, much is required.



- Why do you think it is so lacking in our world today?

So many who come to Christ seem to be drawn forward by the promises of His blessings only, rather than by being humbled by becoming aware of their sins toward God, and their need for repentance and forgiveness.

Without this awareness, we have no appreciation for or understanding of grace; and without a proper understanding of God's grace (unmerited favor) we miss the whole point of the cross.

When we understand the radical gifts (forgiveness and the receiving of His love) and promises (eternal life as His adopted children) that God gives to us, it is bound to produce gratefulness in us that results in our passion to forgive, give, and live for others.

5. This responsibility is for our blessing and for blessing others.

Read Matthew 6:2-4; Matthew 14:15-21; Psalms 128:1-6 (esp. vs. 2). What happens when we are diligent in applying our gifts, talents, and energy wisely, – even when we think we have little to give?

God sees it and counts its value according to our hearts intent, then He multiplies it so that many others are blessed.

6. *Read Matthew 6:19-31; Philemon 4:11-13.* What is more important, a person's economic condition or his/her spiritual condition? Or, put another way, what is more important – riches or contentment, and why?

Our spiritual condition will determine our joy, our security and our peace of mind. With those in place we can be content in all circumstances. This is worth more than all the riches on this earth – & we can take it with us when we leave this earth for heaven!

7. What is the greatest Biblical Economic Principle?

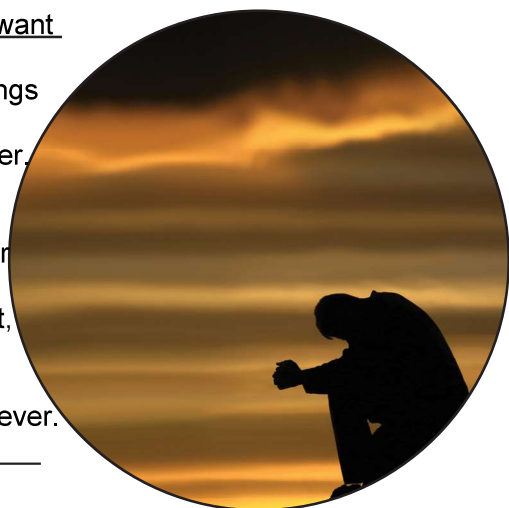
T r u s t in G o d and K e e p His C o m m a n d s

Why do you think this is important? (*Read Hebrews 11:6; Matthew 6:24-34; Matthew 6:31-36*)

(personal responses) examples:

Trusting in material things will always let us down. We always want
more, we'll never be satisfied. And someday those material things
will rust and rot. We can't take them with us when this life is over.

Faith is only as valuable and reliable as the object we place our
faith in. Trusting in God is placing faith in the highest, strongest,
most trustworthy and powerful Entity in all the universe and forever.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 5, Day 12.

Ezekiel 23:36-39	Psalms 65:9-13	Luke 17:11-19	Matthew 14:15-21
Ezekiel 23: 46-49	Peter 4:11	Psalms 100:4	Psalms 128:1-6
Joshua 7:19-25	Ephesians 2:10	Romans 1:20-21	Matthew 6:19-31
2 Chronicles 16:9	John 17:7	Luke 12:16-21	Philemon 4:11-13
Deuteronomy 8:3-5	Rom. 12:6-8	Luke 12:48	Hebrews 11:6
Job 5:17-27	1 Corinthians 2:12.	Luke 19:26a	Matthew 6:24-34
Matthew 6:26,30,33	Heb. 2:12	Matthew 6:2-4	Matthew 6:31-36

Additional Resources:

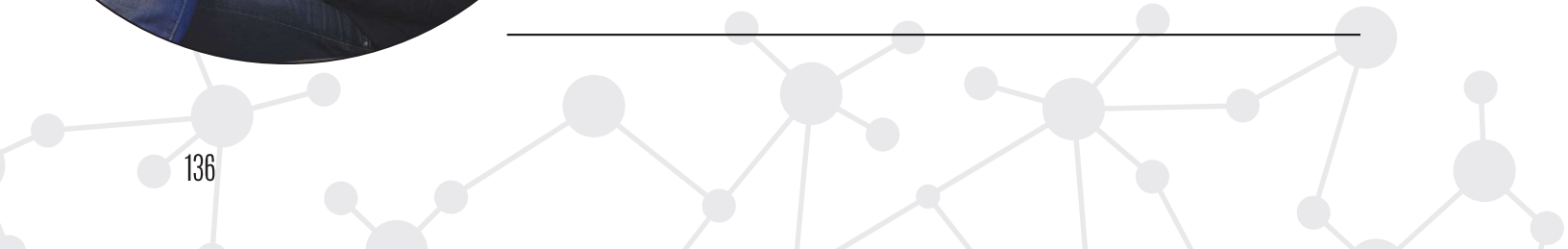
The Bill Whittle Channel on YouTube

The Trinity Foundation - www.trinityfoundation.org



Please take the time to reflect and pray about what you learned and discussed so far. If you have questions, write them down to share during the next session.





THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW OF SCIENCE

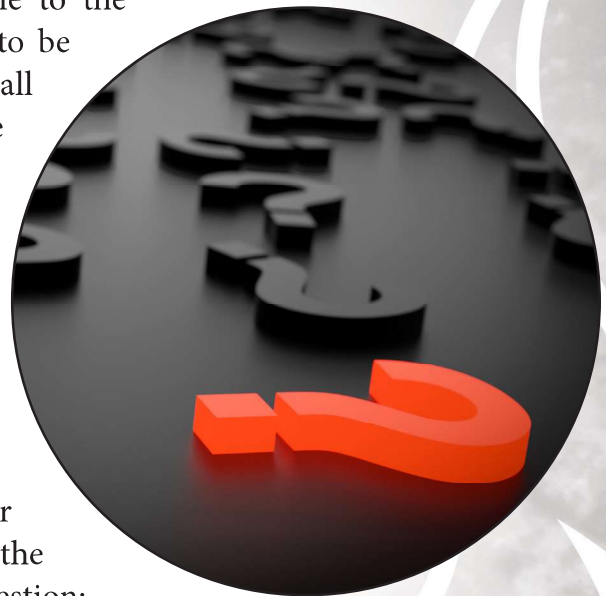
Session 6: Day 1

Science - Part 1



Read the following section before watching the video of session 6.

From the time the Bible became available to the common people, Scripture was considered to be the inerrant Word of God, the source of all Truth. But today, instead of quoting scripture as Truth, we quote the latest scientific research. We have come to believe that what scientists say is more reliable – more true – than what the God of the Bible has to say. We are told – and many outside (and inside) the church believe – that the Bible has nothing to say about the complex issues we deal with in the 21st century; thus, we should turn to the modern scientist to guide us in our evolution as a species. But just a glimpse at the condition of our world today begs the question: How’s that working out for us?



In the last few decades, the intelligent design arguments have begun to affect the evolution/creation debate in a quite profound manner. However, in order for the average Christian to be even somewhat effective in debating a skeptic in this area, we often must be extremely familiar with the arguments on both sides. Usually, we are forced to follow the skeptic into rabbit-trail-after-rabbit-trail in order to “catch” him in a flaw in logic.

We believe that an even more powerful (and simple) tool of persuasion is the tool of Truth. Absolute truth is truth that never changes regardless of where you are in space or time. Yet we are told in this “scientific” world we live in today that there is no such thing as absolute truth. Truth, they say, is always relative to where you are in time and space. In other words, truth is always changing, and science will keep us informed when it does.

Therefore, we believe that the best argument is the one that can be supported in the real world.

If a proposition is true, we should see it verified repeatedly in the real world. If we cannot verify it, we must be very cautious in depending upon it as true.



In our study of the world of modern science, we must begin by asking a few simple questions: Can science give us absolute Truth? If it cannot, should science be relied upon to teach us about “changing morals” and proper behaviors? On the other side we should ask: Are Science and Christianity compatible? Can a Christian be a scientist? WHY do we need Christians in the fields of science?

The bottom line: Science has positioned itself as the god of this age. White-robed scientists are the priests, and the latest scientific research is their “book of truth”. All the while, our world is becoming more vile, vicious, and volatile. Is there a connection?

Let’s put a microscope to it.

The Importance of Defining Our Terms



Watch the introduction followed by part 1 up to the title “3 Reasons Why Science Can Never Give Us Absolute Truth” (11 min, 48 second mark of Part 1). Observe only. Don’t try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you have viewed the video, consider/discuss the following 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 of science.

2. Words mean something. What happens when we as Christians are unable to define the key terms of our beliefs (like faith, religion, or tolerance, etc.)? What happens when we allow non-Christians to define the key terms of our beliefs for us?

Answers may vary. Examples: 1. When we don't define terms it will inevitable 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. In your own words, what is Absolute Truth?

(personal responses) examples: Truth that is always true. Never varies. Dependable. Applicable everywhere

4. What would you think of someone who claimed to speak the truth, but you could find no evidence to support their statements?

(personal responses) examples: Unreliable. Untrustworthy. a questionable authority



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 6, Day 1.

John 14:6

John 17:17

John 18:37

1 Corinthians 3:19

Session 6: Day 2

What General Revelation Tells Us About God



Watch part 1 again up to the title “3 Reasons Why Science Can Never Give Us Absolute Truth” (11 min, 48 second mark of Part 1). You may take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, consider/discuss the following questions.

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, and then consider the examples that have been provided of how creation reflects these attributes. 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 104:24; Romans 11:33	Wisdom	The unique properties of water, photosynthesis, the womb
James 4:12; Isaiah 33:22	Lawgiver	Laws of gravitation and relativity, electromagnetism, laws of thermodynamics
Psalm 36:5; Lamentations 3:22-23; Genesis 8:22	Faithfulness, Mercy	Sunrise, sunset, the seasons, harvests, rainbows, breathing, heart beating

Psalm 33:5; 119:6; 136; 145:15-16; Acts 14:16-17	Goodness, Mercy	Rain, rest from our labors, abundant food/clothing/shelter, sensory pleasures (pleasant tastes, sounds, smells, sights)
Psalm 62:11; 89:6-13; Job 26 (especially verse 14)	Power	The sun, nuclear energy, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes
Psalm 8:9; 68-3; Exodus 15:11	Majestic	The Grand Canyon, the ocean, the Milky Way Galaxy

1. One of God’s attributes is holiness, which can be exhibited in His wrath against sin (Psalm 7:11). *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).*

Looking to the Scriptures, how has God used His creation to exhibit His holy wrath against sin?

Genesis 6:1-8, 13-20: God destroyed all life on the earth through a global flood (except Noah and his family and the animals aboard the ark) because every intent of the thoughts of man’s heart was only evil continually.
 Exodus 7:14 to the end of chapter 10: God turns water into blood; uses plagues of frogs, lice, flies, and locusts; uses disease and boils; causes hail; and darkens the sun because of the sinful pride and arrogance of Pharaoh and the idolatry of Egypt.
 Exodus 14 (especially 26-28): God parted an entire sea and then caused it to collapse on Pharaoh and his army.
 Numbers 16 (especially 31-35): God causes an earthquake to swallow up the rebellion of Korah and causes fire to come down and consume those who were offering unholy incense.
 Numbers 21:4-8: God sends poisonous snakes to bite the Israelites because of their sinful ingratitude.
 Jonah 1 (especially 4-17): God causes a sea storm and uses a whale to punish Jonah for his disobedience.

2. 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.

3. 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.

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

Who is the person being referenced in these verses? Jesus Christ

Who is the Word of God? Jesus Christ

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



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 6, Day 2.

Romans 1 (the whole chapter)

Job 38 (the whole chapter)

Romans 3:11-12

Session 6: Day 3

Truth that is Always True – Past, Present, and Future



Watch part 1 beginning at the title “3 Reasons Why Science Can Never Give Us Absolute Truth” (11 min, 48 second mark of Part 1) and continue to the end of Part 1. Observe only. Don’t try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

1. Why is defining 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.

2. Why should one ever believe that he has discovered absolute truth through observation?

Because the material world is always changing, and Absolute Truth - by definition - can never change.

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.”

Answers may vary. Examples: Simply answered: Because we cannot observe the future until it occurs, and by then it will be in the present.

4. Can you remember examples in the Bible of God predicting the future? Name a few.

Answers may vary. Examples:

- Genesis 3:15 - God predicts the battle between Adam and Eve's seed (Christ) defeating Satan
- Gal 3: 29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Abraham was promised in Genesis he would become the father of many nations.
- Jeremiah 50-51 - The fall of Babylon and the name of the conqueror who would not be born until 100 years after the prophecy
- Isaiah 9:6 - Christ's coming is prophesied



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 6, Day 3.

Isaiah 41:23

Daniel 2:45

Isaiah 53

Isaiah 44:7

Mark 10:32

Session 6: Day 4

Defining Science



Watch part 1 beginning at the title "3 Reasons Why Science Can Never Give Us Absolute Truth" (11 min, 48 second mark of Part 1) and continue to the end of Part 1. You may take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you've viewed the video, answer the following questions.

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

Give 3 reasons from the video.

- Man's observations - what he experiences - are finite, subjective, and constantly change.
- Truth is infinite, objective (it can only be interpreted in one way)
- Truth never changes.

2. Why are multiple tests on the same experiment so important in the scientific method?

Because varying circumstances can provide varying results.

3. Define Science: Science literally means
knowledge.



Answers may vary. Example:

4. Define the Scientific Method (in your terms): observation, experiment, formulation,
testing, and hypotheses.

Answers may vary. Example:

5. Define Empirical Knowledge: Knowledge gained by observing and studying the components
of the material universe



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 6, Day 4.

Proverbs 3:5-6

1 Corinthians 2:14

John 14:17



Please take the time to reflect and pray about what you learned and discussed so far. If you have questions, write them down to share during the next session.





Session 6: Day 5

Science - Part 2



Watch part 2 up to the segment titled "Let's Be Reasonable" (9 Min. 55 sec).
Observe only. Don't try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you've viewed the video, answer the following questions.

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

(this is a repeat question from Day 4. It will be deleted in the next reprint)

2. 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 responses) example: Driving through the desert, I thought I saw water in a lake up ahead. But there was no lake, and there was no water. And I was still thirsty!

3. From the illustration of “Holmesian deduction” on the video, can you state why we can say that Holmes is NOT making *deductions*, but rather *inductions*?

Answers may vary. Example:

He was drawing conclusions from observations that were not necessarily true.

The definition of induction is: The method of reasoning from particulars to generals, or the inferring of one general proposition from several particular ones - - in other words, coming to a general, overarching conclusion

based upon observations that may or may not be true; thus, the general conclusion may or may not be correct.

A deduction begins with a known truth and draws each conclusion from what can be logically inferred from that truth.

For example, because the Bible says that stealing from anyone is wrong, it may be deduced that others have a right to own personal property.

4. Why is it important that we know the difference?

Answers may vary. Example:

Because relying on evidence that is not proven to be true

can lead us to reach false or unreliable conclusions.

When we rely on faulty information, it can hurt us

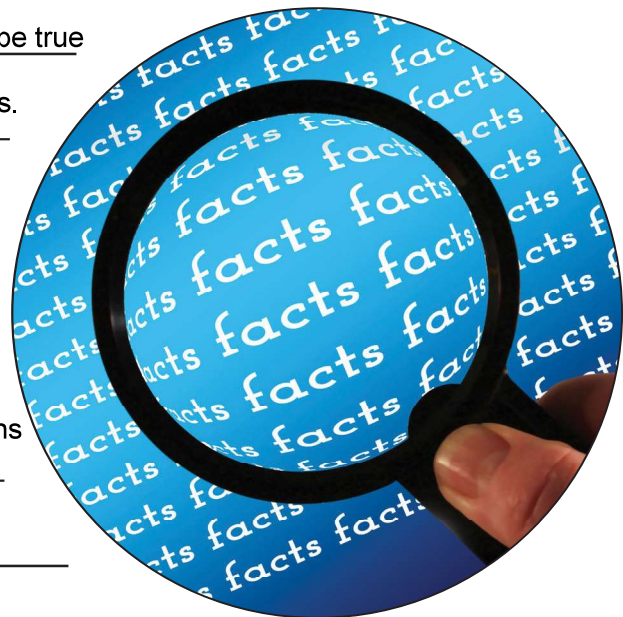
as well as others.

Thus, it's vital that we investigate ideas or

propositions thoroughly to see if they are true

before acting upon them or making further decisions

based upon them..



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 6, Day 5.

The Bible says it is the source of Truth:
2 Timothy 3:16-17;
Hebrews 4:12

Hebrews 13:8
1 Corinthians 2:14
John 14:17

Session 6: Day 6

Inductive Reasoning vs. Deductive Reasoning



Watch part 2 up to the segment titled "Let's Be Reasonable" (9 Min. 55 sec).
Take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you've viewed the video, answer the following questions.

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

Inductive reasoning is the attempt to derive a general law from specific instances. Put simply, induction is going from specifics to generalizations ("bottom up" logic). However, unless one can account for

every single specific instance, a generalization cannot be concluded. Therefore, since scientists can never account for all observable instances of any given specific within the universe, no unchanging generalizations (i.e., absolute truths) can be concluded by way of scientific induction.

2. What is deductive reasoning, and why is this manner of reasoning more dependable?

Deductive reasoning ("top-down" logic) is the process of reasoning from one or more general statements (premises) to reach a logically certain conclusion. If all premises are true, the terms are clear, and the

rules of deductive logic are followed, then the conclusion reached is necessarily true. It is more dependable because it begins with a premise that is always true and reaches its conclusions based upon that point.

3. Why can Christians claim that our truth claims are valid, whereas the truth claims of science are not?

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

4. As best as you can, name a few ideas that science has claimed to be true, that were eventually proved wrong.

Darwinian evolution claims that all life evolved in gradual steps - from the simplest life forms to the most complex over billions of years. To prove this, they point to:

1. The fossil record. However, the Cambrian explosion disproved this idea.

2. "Embryos of animals, birds, lizards, etc, all resemble each other, therefore they must have evolved from a common ancestor" (- Darwin). It was later discovered that each of those embryos actually resembled most closely the embryos of the same species that they came from. The first drawings depicting this "scientific truth" came from Earnst Haeckel, who (as proved later) had faked the drawings.

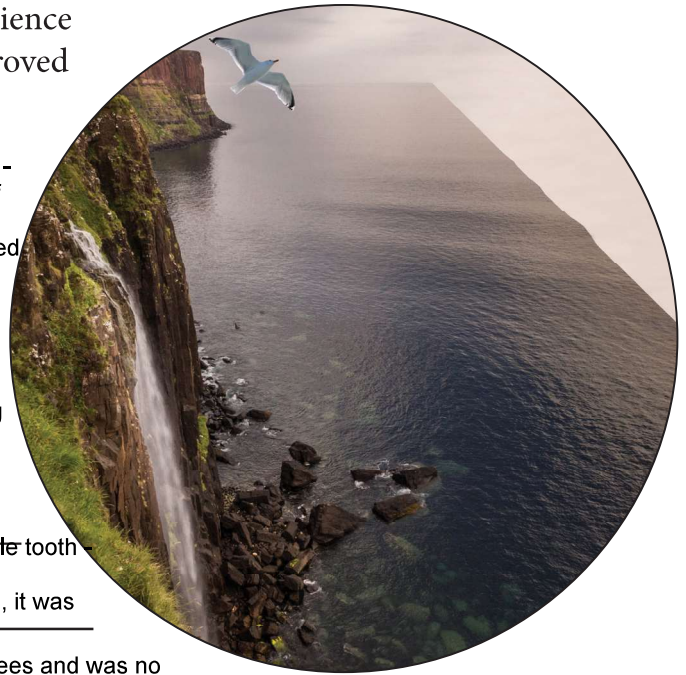
3. Prehistoric man - hoaxes and "wrong conclusions":

- "Piltdown Man" was proven to be a fake.

- "Nebraska Man" - based upon assumptions made from a single tooth but the original classification proved to be a mistake.

- "Lucy" - Proclaimed to be a "missing link" in 1974, but in 1994, it was

revealed that Lucy had an anatomy ideally suited to climbing trees and was no different from other apes we are familiar with.



5. What consequences might have come to those who followed those fallacies?

Answers may vary. Example:

People were "propogandized" in huge numbers into believing "science's" false, unverified, illogical evolutionary claims, leading them to disbelieve the Bible. Theologeans, not knowing the truth behind these so-called "proofs", began compromising the Bible to conform with the latest "scientific" ideas; and both the Bible and the church lost credibility.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 6, Day 6.

Isaiah 1:18

Colossians 2:8

1 Corinthians 2:4-5

Malachi 3:6

Psalms 100:5

Session 6: Day 7

Reasonable Faith or Blind Faith?



Watch part 2 beginning at the segment titled “Let’s Be Reasonable” (9 Min. 55 sec), and watch to the end. Observe only. Don’t try to take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

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

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

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

This is blind faith because the proposition that all of life came from non-life directly contradicts reality. There are no evidences seen in all the material universe of non-life producing life.

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

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



4. The starting point, or fundamental axiom of modern science regarding where life began is evolution – that life came from non-life. Have you ever seen this occur in real life?

No. Is this reasonable to believe in? No Why or why not?

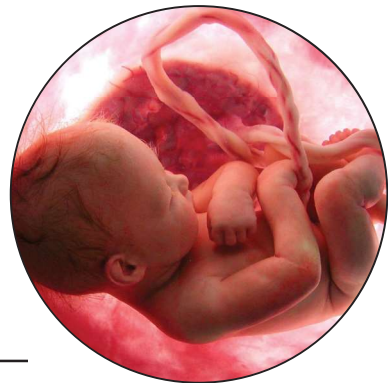
Scientific method requires simple observation of the material world. When the world supplies NO evidence for such a life-impacting philosophy, why would one be so foolish to embrace it?

5. State the starting point, or fundamental axiom of Christianity regarding where life began.

Life came from Life. God, who is eternally-existent, created everything in the universe.

And everything He created was made to replicate according to its kind. We see evidence of life-coming-from-life occurring billions of times

daily, substantiating our claim.





Scriptures to look up or review from Session 6, Day 7.

Genesis, Chapter 1

Session 6: Day 8

Reasonable Faith or Blind Faith?



Watch part 2 beginning at the segment titled “Let’s Be Reasonable” (9 Min. 55 sec), and watch to the end. Take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

1. Define the following terms:

- Faith/belief: Intellectual assent to understood propositions (a proposition is an idea or plan put forward for consideration or discussion; the meaning of a declarative sentence that expresses something that can be true or false).

- Fact: Anything done or that comes to pass (an act, a deed, an event) which is fixed and unalterable in reality.

- Religion/Worldview: A belief system (comprised of propositions that have been accepted or rejected) from which one derives his or her values and moral standards.

- Reason: The power of comprehending, inferring, or thinking, especially in orderly rational ways; the proper exercise of the mind.

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

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

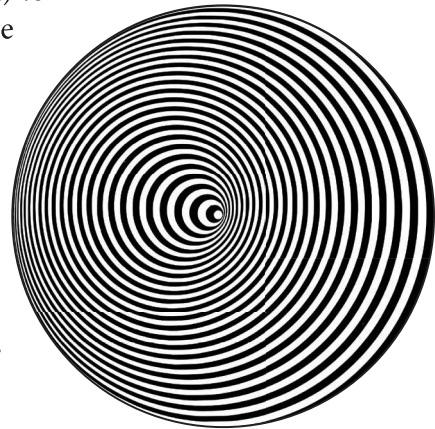


3. Why is it blind faith to believe the proposition that all of life came from non-life?

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

4. As we've stated before, it's foolish to trust our eyes sensation) to give us truth rather than God's. *Read Genesis 3:16-19.* What are the consequences for man having trusted his own eyes rather than the Words of God?

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



5. Which theory of the beginning of life makes logical sense, Darwinian Evolution or Biblical Creationism, and why?

Answers may vary. Example: Darwinian evolutions simply falls apart from the very first precept.

Life cannot and did not evolve form 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.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 6, Day 8.

Hebrews 11:6

Psalms 78

Proverbs 23:7

Session 6: Day 9

Part 3 - Is Matter All That Matters?



Watch part 3 up to the segment titled “Can Science give us Truth? Just give it to me straight. What’s the bottom line?” (16 min., 24 sec.). Observe only. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

1. Why is it important to have a Christian Worldview of Ethics as we consider the philosophy of science?

A Christian Worldview of Ethics provides a basis for absolute morality; a basis for saying that certain things are always right or always wrong. Science is often used to promote or condemn issues of morality, even though issues of morality (issues of right and wrong) deal with ideas, and ideas cannot be analyzed in a scientific laboratory. A Christian Worldview of Ethics allows us to deal with issues of right and wrong by appealing to an absolute authority who never changes – God.

2. 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.

3. 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

4. Thinking back to the examples given in the video, what potential dangers are there in arguing moral issues based on the truth claims of science? What can it lead to?

It can lead to the acceptance of abortion and homosexuality, earth/nature worship (e.g., the sin of global warming), racism, genocide, euthanasia, eugenics, etc. In short, it can lead to the acceptance and/or practice of the most heinous forms of sin. It degrades and devalues the sanctity of human life; human life is not to be sanctified, but rather is to be studied scientifically. Science demeans the soul of man when it worships the body of man.

5. Read Psalm 8. How does God look at man in relation to the rest of creation?

Man is the epitomy - 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.

6. 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.)

7. Is it foolish to allow scientists to determine for mankind what is morally right or wrong? Yes Why or why not?

Morality is not made of material stuff. Morality is made of thoughts, propositions, and ideas that are impossible to place in a test tube or investigate through a microscope. Studying the sun or a starfish or any material object will teach us nothing about what is right or wrong.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 6, Day 9.

Romans 1:18-20

Galatians 3:28

1 Samuel 16:7

2 Corinthians 4:18

Session 6: Day 10

Is Matter All That Matters?



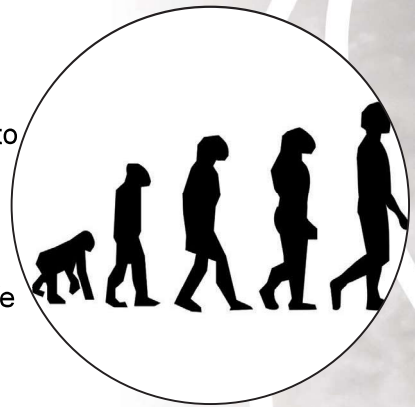
Watch part 3 up to the segment titled “Can Science give us Truth? Just give it to me straight. What’s the bottom line?” (16 min., 24 sec.). Take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

1. Why is it illogical and inconsistent for an atheistic evolutionary biologist to support the gay agenda?

It doesn’t make any sense for the atheistic evolutionary biologist to promote the gay agenda because the whole point of evolution (if there’s any point at all) is to evolve. But how can we evolve (how can the gene pool increase) if homosexuality increases? Natural selection selects against homosexuality because homosexuality doesn’t allow for procreation, which is the only way that human life can evolve.



2. Evolutionary science classifies man according to race. What can this lead to and how does God look at man?

Classifying men according to race inevitably leads to racism, and sometimes genocide. The underlying belief of racism, which can then lead to genocide, is that some races of man are superior to others. Not all races are created equal, because they’re not created; they evolved, and some more than others. In stark contrast to this, Christianity does not look at men according to race. Galatians 3:28 says: There is neither Jew nor Greek (racism), there is neither slave nor free man (classism), there is neither male nor female (sexism); for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Acts 17:26 says: He (God) has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth. God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34), He doesn’t look on the outward appearance of man (1 Samuel 16:7). Man judges according to outward appearances (1 Samuel 16:7), which causes division. But God looks at the inward man, the heart of man, and the heart of all men is sinful. Romans 3:23 - All men have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Sin therefore unifies (rather than divides) all men, and causes men to recognize their need for a savior.

What if everyone viewed “race” the same way as God does (*see Galatians 3:28*)?

There would be no cries of "racism" dividing us from one another. We would view each other as equal members of one race:

the Human race, and children of the same Father, descended from the same human parents.

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

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

4. 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? .04-.05 %

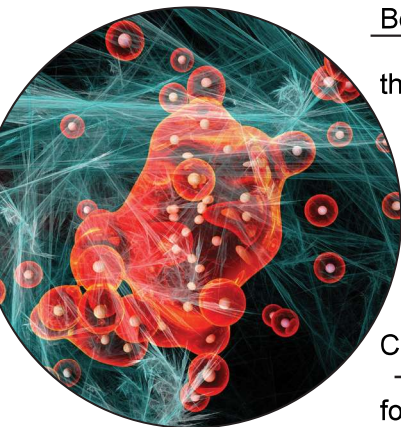
5. According to scientific estimates, how much of the universe is not made up of matter at all? 70 %

6. 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 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 a far wiser
thing 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 learning of the material.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 6, Day 10.

Genesis 1:26-27

Psalms 8:4-8

Galatians 3:28

2 Corinthians 4:18

Session 6: Day 11

Absolute Truth vs. Educated Guesswork



Watch part 3 beginning at the segment titled “Can Science give us Truth? Just give it to me straight. What’s the bottom line?” (16 min., 24 sec.) and watch to the end. Don’t take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following 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. Recalling the video example of using a ruler to measure a straight line between electrons, what is the only way this can be accomplished perfectly?

Freeze all the electrons in time and space.

3. 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.

4. Finish this sentence: “Observing physical matter that is always changing cannot provide Truth that is unchanging”.

5. 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.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 6, Day 11.

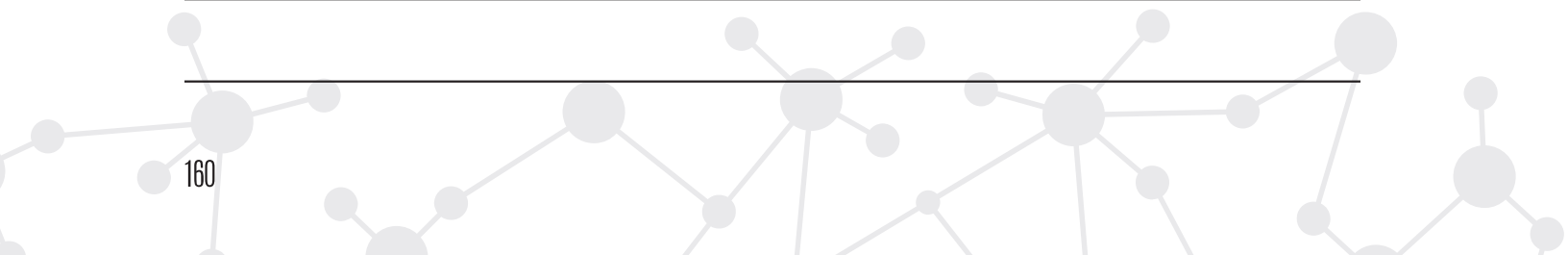
Job 38:5

Isaiah 40:12

Proverbs 8:29



Please take the time to reflect and pray about what you learned and discussed so far. If you have questions, write them down to share during the next session.



Session 6: Day 12

Absolute Truth vs. Educated Guesswork



Watch part 3 beginning at the segment titled “Can Science give us Truth? Just give it to me straight. What’s the bottom line?” (16 min., 24 sec.) and watch to the end. Don’t take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

1. Can science measure a straight line perfectly? No

Why is this important to consider?

Science cannot measure a straight line because to measure a straight line requires two fixed points in space and time. But we must not forget that everything in the universe is in motion, nothing in the universe is fixed. Every electron of every atom is constantly in motion, changing its position. If everything is constantly changing, if there are no fixed points, then we cannot measure a straight line.

This is important to consider because all scientific “truth” is obtained from experimentation, and regardless of how intricate an experiment may be, its basic process is the measurement of a line - measuring the distance of change (the line) from one point to another. Therefore, if science cannot measure a straight line – cannot observe two fixed points within an ever-changing universe, or even a single fixed point – then it cannot obtain a fixed point of truth within the universe.

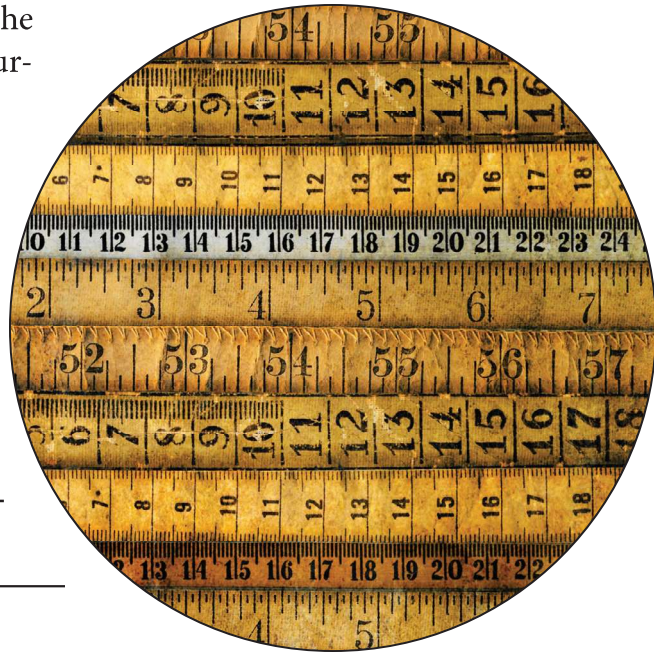
2. How does the example of measuring the boiling point of water support the statement: “Scientific equations are never discovered - they are selected”?

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 in some way or another.

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

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

4. 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) 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 that

the maker of all things would have the best "tape measure"!

5. Were there any ideas presented that were new or particularly interesting to you?

(personal responses) _____



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 6, Day 12.

Job 28:25

Job 38 (the whole chapter)

John 1:3

Colossians 1:16

1 Corinthians 8:6

Session 6: Day 13

Part 4 - Who Should You Trust, the Scientist or God?



Watch part 4 up to the segment titled “So what IS the Christian Worldview of Science?” (11 min., 16 sec.). Observe only. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following 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 in the video that there is evidence that everything had to be created with the appearance of age (we will touch more upon this idea on question 5 below). How does this provide an intelligent argument for a young earth?

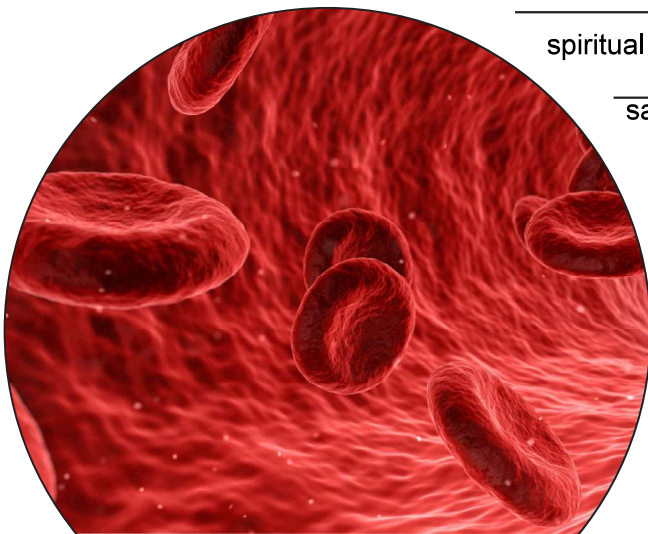
Because there are countless examples of organisms or cells within those organisms that could never have evolved - or functioned at all - unless they came into being in full working form, it is perfectly logical that every living creature must be created fully formed at its inception and thus have the 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. What is more important, the physical, material things of the earth, or the invisible, spiritual things? Why?

(personal responses) example: Material things pass away and are meaningless when this life is over.

They also do not bring us lasting contentment or satisfaction. But the spiritual things - love, friendship, companionship, joy, etc. - bring satisfying and lasting rewards in this life and the next.



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?

Answers may vary. Example: Truth is not material. It is a thought or idea - it is immaterial. Therefore, it can't be measured on a ruler or tested in a tube. This idea alone dispels or negates any idea that "matter is all that matters.

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

Obviously, the more important is whether or not God created ...because if there is one God who created it all, then He is obviously 1. Omnipotent -He is all-powerful and can do anything, even create it all by speaking it into being instantaneously. 2. Omniscient -He is all-knowing and far more intelligent and wise than we could ever dream; and 3. Omnipresent - present everywhere at all times. We cannot escape from his judgment if we attempt to try to be the god of our little world, as many secular scientists attempt to do today.

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 is irreducibly complex because it requires a specific number of parts, each of a specific size, and placed in specific locations in order to function - or to have any purpose at all. If any one of the parts is not present, or is the wrong size, or in the wrong place, the trap won't work and it is purposeless.

It had to be designed for its purpose and everything had to be in place in order to work. The human cells are far more complex than a mousetrap, but the principle is the same: they could never function or live if just one of their necessary "parts" was missing or didn't meet the exact specs required. The cell is a miracle of perfectly designed engineering.



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 6, Day 13.

2 Corinthians 4:18

Genesis 1:3

Hebrews 11:3

Session 6: Day 14

Who Should You Trust, the Scientist or God?



Watch part 4 up to the segment titled “So what IS the Christian Worldview of Science?” (11 min., 16 sec.). Take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

1. How old is the universe according to scientific estimations (do an internet search)?

13.8 Billion years old - give or take a few billion.

2. How old is the earth according to scientific estimations (do an internet search)?

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

3. Is it possible that science is wrong about the age of the earth and the age of the universe? Explain.

Answers may vary. Example: Science is wrong about the age of the earth and the age of the universe because it fails to take into account that God created everything from nothing.

The moment something comes into existence it has the appearance of age; it appears older than it actually is.

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

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

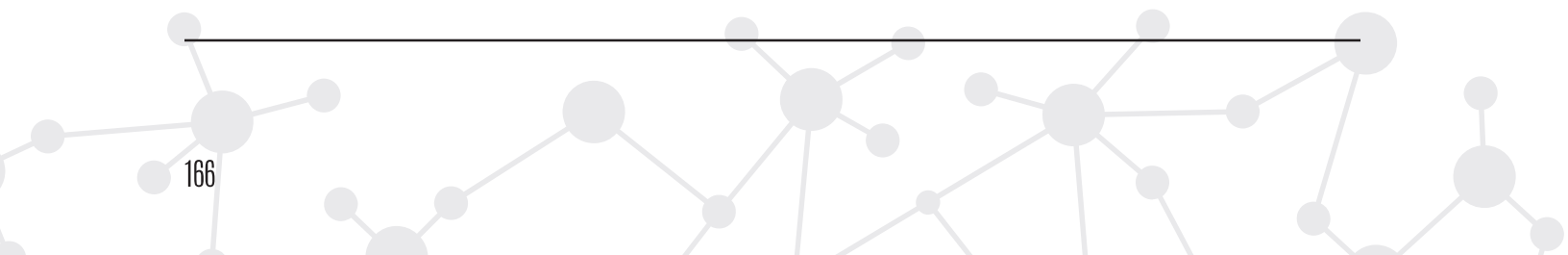
5. If there is any evidence for a young earth or a young universe, then the Darwinian theory of evolution is completely falsified (according to Darwin himself), since life has to have enough time to evolve. Is there any physical evidence to suggest a young earth and/or universe?

Do some research on the internet and record what you find.

(We would suggest AnswersinGenesis.org.) Don't forget to cite your sources!

(personal responses)





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

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

7. Verse 21 says that God stretches out the heavens like a curtain (causing the universe to expand). When was *Isaiah* written (do an internet search)?

NOTE: Stated in verse 22 - not 21. This will be corrected in the next printing.

Circa 740-680 B.C

8. 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

9. Should the Bible conform to science, or should science conform to the Bible? What do you think would happen if scientists accepted the Bible as the only source of truth and knowledge?

(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).



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 6, Day 14.

Genesis, Chapter 1

Proverbs 1:20-33

Proverbs 3:5-6

Session 6: Day 15

What IS the Christian View of the Purpose of Science?



Watch part 4 beginning at the segment titled “So what IS the Christian Worldview of Science?” (11 min., 16 sec.), and watch to the end of Part 4 and the Conclusion following. Don’t take notes. Pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following 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:

- Heart-lung machine _____
- The computer _____
- The automobile _____
- The telephone/cell phone _____

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

- The Atom Bomb _____

- Human cloning
- Sex change operations
- 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:

- 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.
- They found ways of controlling the combustion caused when lighting gas on fire by creating an enclosed cylinder to power an engine.
- By combining several organic materials with crude oil and manipulating the chemistry of the materials, synthetic plastics are made.

5. Jesus “manipulated” creation many times to accomplish specific purposes. We call these miracles. Name a few of the miracles of Christ and state what His purpose was in each.

Answers may vary. Examples:

- Jesus turned water into wine. 1. So the Father would be glorified - even if only by the few who knew. 2. To bless others.
- Jesus healed the blind (more than once) 1. Out of compassion 2. To bring glory to the Father by the few who were aware
- Jesus walked on water 1. To calm the fears of the disciples. 2. To challenge Peter's faith. 3. To increase the faith of the disciples



Scriptures to look up or review from Session 6, Day 15.

Genesis 1:26-28

Miracles: Matthew 8:1-4

Matthew 8:23-27

Matthew 14:14-21

Matthew 15:32-39

Matthew 21:18-22

Luke 17:11-19

Session 6: Day 16

What IS the Christian View of the Purpose of Science?



Watch part 4 beginning at the segment titled “So what IS the Christian Worldview of Science?” (11 min., 16 sec.), and watch to the end. Take notes and pause/rewind/replay as you wish.



Once you’ve viewed the video, answer the following questions.

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

God is essentially mocking those men who would put their faith and trust in balances, scales, calculations, measurements, etc. (i.e., science) rather than in God.



It is foolish to place one’s trust in the methods that allow man to investigate the universe, rather than to place one’s trust in the God who made the universe.

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?

Obviously Christians should be placing their faith in the Word of God alone, not in the measurements and calculations of sinful men.

(Answers will vary to the last two questions.)

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?

Answers may vary. Example:

Man basing his knowledge off of his ability to measure, weigh, and calculate is exactly what we see today with modern science. Scientists profess to be wise, are arrogant and prideful, because they place all of their faith in microscopes, telescopes, etc. But God is not at all impressed with man's scientific "knowledge" and "understanding."

In this passage (and in others) God is comparing man's knowledge against His own to make the point that man has no knowledge apart from Him. When God weighs man's scientific knowledge on His scales, it is found wanting; it doesn't measure up. As verse 28 of Isaiah 40 says, God's understanding is unsearchable. Man can use science to search the whole universe for understanding, but he will never find it this way, because God's understanding is unsearchable. It cannot be searched out by scientific methodology, it must be revealed by God

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

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

5. Read Hebrews 11:1-6. How are we encouraged by taking our focus off of the things that we see?

Answers may vary. Example:

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.

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

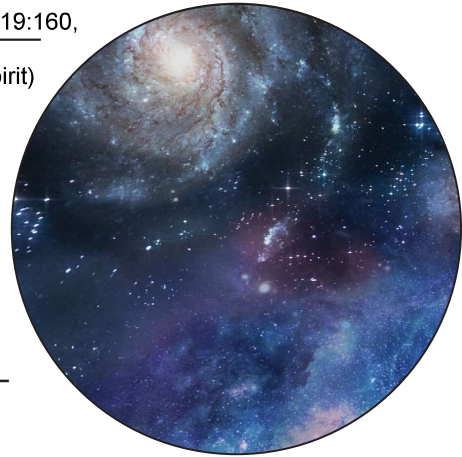
Answers may vary. Examples:

Truth existed before the universe existed because God is truth (Psalm 119:160,

John 17:17 – the Father; John 14:6 – the Son; John 16:13 – the Holy Spirit) and God has always existed (Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 90:20 – the

Father; John 1:1-3,14; Colossians 1:15-17; Revelation 1:8 – the Son; Hebrews 9:14 – the Holy Spirit). Likewise, truth will not pass away with

the material universe (Luke 21:33; Matthew 24:35; Psalm 119:152) because God is truth and God will always exist.



7. What does this tell you about truth?

This tells me that truth is not made of matter and is not dependent upon matter in order to be true. Matter is

dependent upon truth (i.e., God), not the other way around.

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 things, nor does it discover truth. It's a method for dominating and utilizing nature; it's merely a practical discipline that helps us live in God's universe and subdue it. To this end, science allows a very special glimpse into the mind of our Creator, and inspires a sense of awe and wonder at the brilliance and creativity of this mind. However, we must never worship the creation (the material universe), nor place our trust in the methods that allow us to investigate it (science). Truth is found in the Scriptures alone; the Bible has a monopoly on truth. It's God's Word that must be believed, not the experiential knowledge of sinful men.



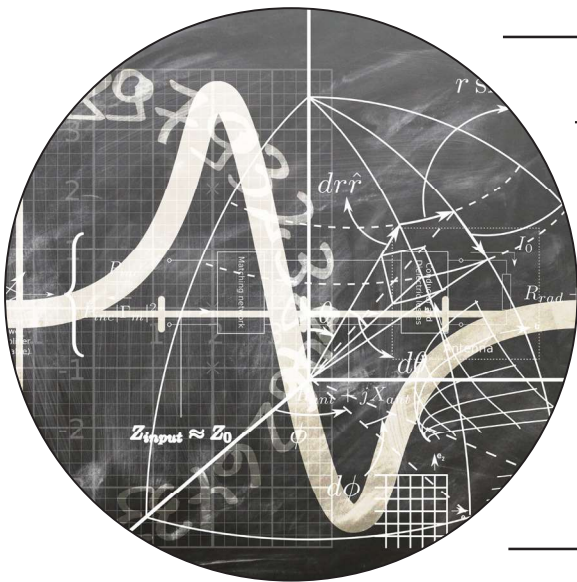
Scriptures to look up or review from Session 6, Day 16.

1 Corinthians 10:23-33
Colossians 3:15-17

1 Timothy 4:6-8
Hebrews 11:1-6



Please take the time to reflect and pray about what you learned in this series.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Supplemental Reading

Listed below are suggestions for supplementary reading if you wish to delve deeper into the subjects covered in the videos. Any one of these books will provide the reader with valuable information in forming and reinforcing a Christian worldview!

We suggest only choosing one book from the list below.

(The average minimum age for these materials is estimated at 14.)

TITLE	AUTHOR	AVERAGE COST	SUGGESTIONS
<i>Understanding The Times</i>	<i>Dr. Jeff Myers, David A. Noebel</i>	<i>\$15-30</i>	<i>Read chapters as they correspond with each video subject. Summit.org provides an entire curriculum to accompany this book.</i>
<i>How Christianity Changed the World</i>	<i>Alvin Schmidt</i>	<i>\$15</i>	<i>Read one chapter each week and write a one-half to one-page summary.</i>
<i>NEW Evidence That Demands a Verdict</i>	<i>Josh McDowell</i>	<i>\$13</i>	<i>Read one chapter each week and write a one-half to one-page summary.</i>
<i>How Shall We Then Live</i>	<i>Charles Colson, Nancey Pearsey</i>	<i>\$13</i>	<i>Read one chapter each week and write a one-half to one-page summary.</i>
<i>Worldly Saints- The Puritans As They Really Were</i>	<i>Leland Ryken</i>	<i>\$16</i>	<i>Read one chapter each week and write a one-half to one-page summary.</i>
<i>The 5,000 Year Leap: A Miracle That Changed The World</i>	<i>W. Cleon Skouse</i>	<i>\$15-17</i>	<i>Read one chapter each week and write a one-half to one-page summary.</i>

Resources by Subject

Listed below are suggestions for supplementary reading by worldview topic.

History

- America's God and Country (book), by Dr. Ben Carson
- Building on the American Heritage (DVD), by David Barton, Wallbuilders.com
- How We Got the Bible (book), by Neil Lightfoot

Theology

- The Case for a Creator, by Lee Strobel
- Humility (book), by Andrew Murray

Philosophy

- Already Gone (book), by Ken Ham, Britt Beemer
- The Marketing of Evil (book), by David Kupelian

Economics

- Freedom and Capitalism (book), by John W. Robbins, TrinityLectures.org
- Capitalism and Freedom (book), by Milton Friedman

Science

- Intelligent Design Collection (3-DVD), IllustraMedia.com
- Case for a Creator (DVD), IllustraMedia.com
- The Atheist Delusion (Movie), AtheistMovie.com
- MORE Videos from Living Waters, www.livingwaters.com/video/movies

What's Next?

Congratulations! You are ready for Series #2: Thinking Like a Christian Sessions 7-12 where we will cover the worldview topics of Psychology, Ethics, Sociology, Law, Politics, and Education.

For information on where to purchase Series #2 videos and/or the Study Guide Workbook for Series #2, please contact Greater Than I Ministries. (<https://gtimin.com>)