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Scholarship Essay

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How Is God In Everyday Life?

 Growing up in a Christian household and going to to Christian schools has set a solid foundation for my faith. I’ve learned great amounts about the nature of God and the historical context found within the Bible. However, when it comes to learning apologetics and applying my faith to real life situations it is only just the beginning. Thinking Like A Christian by David Noebel with Chuck Edwards and senior year apologetics has taught me what it really means to be a Christian in modern society.

 In order to understand Christian living, one has to be understand what a worldview is. “Every worldview attempts to answer questions about creation, the fundamental problems of the world, and the solutions to those problems” (page 3). Most Christians have a worldview of theism, which means “God is.” A worldview should make one have inner beliefs that in part have outward behaviors. In regards to modern society and modern government, Christians are losing the act of applying a Christian worldview to every aspect of life. “Men have forgotten God”- Alexander Solzhenitsyn. Anti-Christian acts such as hookup culture, pornography, and abortion are heading towards normalization. These things and more are degrading an individuals morals and judgements; and overall, these things are desensitizing individuals. Christians need to wake up and realize Christianity is the only logical and consistent faith in the world.

 The ten aspects to apply Christianity to, which has been addressed in the first few chapters of the Bible and addressed in Thinking Like A Christian are these: theology, philosophy, ethics, biology, psychology, sociology, law, politics, economics, and history.

 “The theology of Christianity is the affirmation of the existence of an intelligent, powerful, loving, just, and awesome God who exists in the Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit” (page 20). God has chose to reveal himself to mankind in these two ways: general revelation and special revelation. General revelation is God revealing himself through natural means such as science, logic, and human conscience. Special revelation is God revealing himself through the supernatural in miraculous ways such as visions, dreams, the Bible, and most importantly— Jesus Christ.

 Basically, Christian philosophy claims that Christian doctrine is consistent and aligns with findings of science, history, and personal experience. For example, the Second Law of a Thermodynamics, the impossibility of spontaneous generation of life from non-life, genetic information theory (DNA), and the Anthropic Principle all support God’s existence (page 38). The universe is so finite that the probability of us existing is basically impossible. Everything that God is aligns with science.

 When it comes to biology, the creationists model better fits science than the evolutionary model. However, this doesn’t mean that evolution is completely false. Creation was simply God creating the first spark of life and then directing His creation through evolution. So in theory, God created evolution. Life is similar to the most complex of machines. Like machines, life needs an intelligent designer (page 53). Moreover, DNA is analogous to human languages because of the structural identity between the DNA code and a written language (page 54). Chance is not an option if one truly understands the complexity of life. Chance cannot produce such intricate order (page 53).

 Psychology is the study of soul and the mind. Christianity and psychology are compatible because “the very essence of religion is to adjust the mind and soul of man (page 69). Because of God, man is more than body. There would be no conscience if man was only dependent on the his or her physical brain. God created free will in order for us to choose Him, and because of free will and mans sinful nature, people have “psychological problems.” God gave us responsibility for our own behavior. God also created an objective morality. That is why we feel guilt. God has to be real in order for there to be a universal morality. Ask anyone if they think murder is ok. 99% will say no because God is present deep down. According to Christianity, most mentally ill are just people with unsolved personal problems. Most will go to a therapist but that is not the solution. God wants us to reconcile with him and he wants us to take responsibility. “ Man has rebelled against God; he has real guilt feelings about this rebellion, and so he must reconcile himself with God or face unsolved personal problems” (page 73). We must not misunderstand sin with psychological problems or a psychological kink. It is just our nature to sin and we must reconcile with God. God sent Jesus Christ to shed His blood for us because of our sinful nature. Without Jesus Christ, we wouldn’t be able to reconcile our sins. It is Gods way of protecting us. Another way God is psychology is the problem of suffering. In a humanists view of psychology suffering has no meaning but for Christians it has great meaning. Most complain about suffering but God uses suffering to bring about positive changes to an individual. “Finding meaning in suffering is a feature unique to Christian psychology” (page 75). We must trust God to help us with our problems and understand that we need God, and we must not “take the serpents word that we can make ourselves into gods” (page 76).

 When it comes to sociology, an atheistic approach is that society influences the individuals morality and actions. The approach basically deems an individual helpless from the pressures of society. This is not how God intended it to be. The Christian belief is that an individual’s decisions will influence the society they live in. Key words to take from this is collectivism and individualism. “The view that society exclusively shapes reality is called collectivism; the view that only individuals affect reality is called individualism” (page 96). In short, God values every single individual more than society because He wants the relationship to be personal.

 By now we should know that humans are deeply flawed. So long that flawed human beings are in charge of creating law, they will continuously try to align law with people’s own selfish interests. There should be an absolute standard that we base our laws on because “God is the ultimate law giver to whom all human authorities are accountable” (page 105). We are drifting toward legal positivism, which is an idealistic approach to law, because people believe that law is caught up in constant societal change (or evolution); therefore, making it okay to adjust laws. However, because God’s character is unchanging and we are made in the image of God, law should be the same.

 All in all, Thinking Like A Christian by David Noebel has opened my eyes to God in the real world. He is present in every aspect of life and we shouldn’t do life without Him. Moreover, Christianity is the only consistent worldview when it comes to science, logic, economics, etc. Because of this book, I will pay attention more closely to what professors and world leaders say and do. Our nation is drifting farther and farther away from God and it is our jobs as Christians to change that.