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Thinking Like A Christian Reflection

As a student who has attended private school my entire life, I confidently approached this textbook under the assumption that I would know all about the information presented to me. As I began to read *Thinking Like A Christian,* by David Noebel, I immediately realized how wrong my prior intuitions were. This book begins with a general portrayal of what it is actually about and establishes a trouble-free guide to get the full experience out of it. The first chapter of this book provides a general knowledge about worldviews and how they typically differ depending on who you ask. The topic shifted to Christian worldviews, and how they are compiled of ten different categories, some of which include politics, philosophy, biology, theology, and several others. As far as I was concerned, topics such as these were separated from each other, and often caused controversy when brought together. After learning about the distinction between sacred and secular, I realized that each of those categories are all considered sacred instead of secular. This is due to the fact that God established this worldview throughout early Genesis, which was carried out by Jesus in his life, death, and resurrection.

Although I was never into philosophy, I thought that philosophical views depended on science and sought evident meaning for life. Many people, such as myself, would often argue that philosophy and Theology often contradict each other, which makes the formation of one’s worldview rather difficult. Upon reading about philosophy in this book, I learned that Theology is practically the foundation for philosophy. As humans, we are drawn towards either materialist, naturalist, or supernaturalist views. Although, without the existence of Theology, we would not be questioning these philosophical aspects because there would be no meaning behind our want for understanding. Fortunately, Christian philosophy provides practical, in-depth answers because it usually uses Sacred Scripture to answer those questions.

In order to have a Christian worldview, the idea of evolution should be disregarded as a logical belief. Theology is deeply rooted in science, and is the reason for the endless studies that have been conducted throughout history. Science has discovered and understood that our universe was created orderly and functions under certain conditions. In order for something as large and complex as our universe to maintain order for millions of years, an outside cause had to purposely create it. One concept that stood out to me is that the theory of evolution requires more faith than Theology. The theory of evolution quite simply contradicts science, history, and even reason. This means that in order for the world and our existence to be comprehensible, the existence of God must be taken into consideration.

Before reading this book, I thought that psychology was merely the study of the brain and its various components, such as feelings, emotions, thoughts, etc. I learned a lot about this topic, including how psychology is the study of the soul and mind, which is why Theology is needed to fully understand it. For instance, humans typically believe that with suffering comes a greater purpose. This means that when we suffer, we seek a deeper meaning behind our suffering that allows us to grow as people. This idea is, in fact, a Christian psychological view. As humans, we feel as though we have moral responsibilities. We know when we are doing wrong and understand that we are doing wrong. This ties into guilt, which was embedded in us as an effect of Original Sin. Our moral inclination to do good is a direct result of being made in God’s image and likeness, which is proven through Christian psychology.

One topic that really stuck out to me in this book was politics. Beforehand, I believed that organized government was good because its purpose was to protect the general population, but I learned how the foundation of government went far beyond simply protecting people. I quickly learned that this dates back to God’s intent with the first humans. As we know, humans suffer from concupiscence, the inclination to sin, because of the Fall of Adam and Eve. God envisioned government as a method of preserving the basic rights of humans by establishing law. Our concupiscence is oftentimes a threat to the basic rights of many humans, so organized government is necessary to preserve these rights. Something else that stood out to me is how our own government is a government of Christianity. Our Constitution claims that there should be  separation of Church and state. This confused me because our Pledge of Allegiance says, “One nation, under God.” In actuality, the men who established our system of government were heavily Christian-influenced. This makes sense because they understood God’s worldview and how humans have suffered from our own sins. They also understood that the basic rights of humans were based on God’s unchangeable image and likeness. This is why these rights have remained the same hundreds of years after our nation’s development.

When history and theology enter the same conversation, there are millions of different worldviews regarding the correlation between the two. One concept I learned was the validation of Jesus’ existence by a variety of early historians, some of which include Josephus, Antiquities, and Cornelius Tacitus. Not only did these historians acknowledge Jesus’ existence, they all mention Jesus being put to death by Pontius Pilate. I also learned that history is filled with purpose, which means that everything humanity has conquered is the direct result of God’s plan. From the very beginning, humans began to betray God and themselves. Despite the wars, slavery, genocides, and everything else humans have put each other through, they have learned from these mistakes and became greater. This shows that God is present throughout history. God provides humanity with purpose that will ultimately lead to God’s goal for mankind, the day of judgement. History proves that when humans obeyed God’s order and accepted the Christian worldview, society has been progressive.

In conclusion, I learned all about a true Christian worldview and what it contains. This book has taught me how to incorporate a Christian mindset into all aspects that a worldview contains. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and I am glad to say that I was able to learn so much about the religion that I assumed I already knew.