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Schaeffer Scholarship Submission Essay

I am very thankful I have had the opportunity to study the *Thinking Like A Christian* book by David Noebel and Chuck Edwards. This text has shown me a different perspective of what living for Jesus is like. The book expanded my knowledge on the difference of the supernatural world verses the natural world. I enjoyed learning that there are millions of different views and ideas of people based on whether they believe in the supernatural or whether they only believe in the natural world. The book goes into more specific topics such as: theology, philosophy, biology, psychology, ethics, sociology, law, politics, economics, and history that all relate to each other and prove the existence of biblical worldviews.

The first topic that we studied was theology, the study of existence, nature, and attributes of God. By diving deeper into the meaning of theology I have come to understand that there are two different foundations that Christianity primarily rests on. Those include special revelation and general revelation. Special revelation directly comes from the bible, where general revelation “refers to the means by which God reveals Himself to mankind through the physical universe and the moral order.” General revelation can be revealed through God’s creation and our observations of it. Special revelations can be described by the three Rs’s: Ruler, Righteous, and Relational.

The next chapter covered Philosophy. “What is real, and what is true?” There are multiple different philosophy including human tradition which is based on elemental forces of the world, and the Christian philosophy which focuses more on the fact that Christ is the explanation for the universe and everything in it. One thing in this chapter really caught my attention. The exact words from an unknown source were, “You can either believe that truth comes from within yourself or believe in a source outside of yourself.” Because I believe that God created man, which is stated in Genesis 1, I also believe that His greater power is what our truths originate from. Without his omnipotence, the Christian life would be a much more confusing and chaotic belief system. The greatest source of reality is the bible because all scripture is “God breathed” (2 Timothy 3:16).

Biology has always been a subject that I find intriguing. Charles Darwin’s Theory of Evolution has completely messed up the world’s idea of life. The reason that it is a theory is because it can’t be proven true. Coming from a bible believing home, I’ve always had my guard up when it comes to talk of evolution in school. However, after studying Thinking Like a Christian, it has helped me to understand why some people are so adamant on their reasoning for evolution. Evolutionists do not believe in Creation and refuse to accept that the universe was created by a greater Being. Creationists trust the bible and its description of creation through God. One of the biggest complexities that cannot be described by an evolutionist is the spontaneous origin of genetic information. DNA is so specific and so complex that there is no possible way it could have just appeared from nothing. The only explanation for the intricate design is through an intelligent creator.

The next chapter was the one that I found myself struggling to comprehend the most- Psychology. The main idea was that man has guilt about his sins, so he must connect with God or man will face unsolvable personal problems. Christian psychology allows for a person to understand themselves and recognize their sinful nature and their need for Christ. It is the study of soul and mind. Another thing I found interesting from the psychology chapter is the idea of being totally committed to God. For example, there was a story about a chicken and a cow. In the story, the two animals saw a sign that read “Steak and Eggs – $7.50.” The chicken suggest they stop for some food. The cow replied, “For you that is just contribution, but for me that means total commitment.” The chicken is like a luke-warm Christian who only gives a little to God but doesn’t make any sacrifices. However, the cow represents a follower of Christ who is totally committed to God, willing to give his life. This story really stood out to me because it made me think about where I stand and if I am more like the chicken or the cow.

My favorite chapter was by far the one on Ethics. I enjoyed learning about how everything is not always black and white, but there is a lot of gray areas which we don’t always understand. However, we can get several of our answers from the bible and by talking to the Lord ourselves. Christian ethics is grounded in the character of God. All of our moral beliefs originate from the first humans of creation, which were created in the image of God. However, through the human’s sinful nature, our beliefs have become corrupted. The bible is the only absolute truth. “Christian ethics relies on God and His Word for the full explanation of the moral order.” Christian morality and secular morality are no where near the same thing. Secular moralities rely on the ideas that human beliefs are enough for an ethical code, where Christian morality relies solely on the Word of God. I have one to understand that not only is it important to understand my own personal worldview, but to also understand the secular worldviews as well.

In every situation that I face as a Christian, it is important to first understand that the others and their worldviews before trying to explain why your own is more credible and reliable. Although humanism, a system where thought comes from man, is becoming more popular every day, I believe that it is important that Christians go to the bible for their complete understanding and living the biblical worldview. Although I struggled comprehending some of the topics in the study, I am very grateful for the accountability and opportunity to reflect on a mind opening book.