

I am Ricky Hankins, Jr, an incoming freshman and Exercise Science major from Daphne, Alabama. This is an essay on the analysis and study of the Christian worldview. I chose to write this essay on *Thinking Like a Christian by David Noebel*, as this scholarship would not only aid me in my journey to fulfill my purpose of helping others and bringing hope and joy into lives as a physical therapist but to advance my knowledge in Christianity and its worldview. I feel that this is my calling from God and have felt this way since my youth, spreading hope and joy through medicine.

A worldview is the core of what one will do in everyday life. One's worldview shapes their beliefs, their beliefs then shape their actions, furthering to shape one's daily life. All in all, a worldview is a foundation for all meaning that everything in one's life is based on it, from what one may eat for dinner to whether or not one goes to heaven or hell. Additionally, a worldview answers the questions about creation, fundamental problems in the world, and the solutions for these problems.

When examining the textbook, *Thinking Like a Christian*, one will analyze Christian worldview versus a secular worldview and then see that having a Christian worldview provides one with the knowledge that humanity was made with an intentional purpose and should value their lives as they are a true work of art. Whereas if one were to have a secular worldview one's life is ultimately viewed as meaningless and one is a random mass of atoms. One can see that having a Christian worldview is the more positive option of the two as one will live their life as they have a purpose and were created with intention as Psalm 139:14 says, "I will give thanks to you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Having a secular view on life contradicts those

positive beliefs and states that one feels life has no meaning and that the creation of humanity was totally random and a total accident.

When looking at the world we see that there is a problem. In today's world, one sees things like greed, hate, murder, and social injustice. Christian worldview offers a problem and that problem is sin and it is because sin entered the world, the world is not of how God created it. The great thing about problems, however, is that problems can be solved. Secularism offers no explanation and only offers an "oh well," or "it what it is," their view is that the world is imperfect and that there are just going to be those greedy and hateful people in this world and there is no solution to this problem.

As one analyzes the world we see that there is a problem in humanity. The Christian worldview offers a solution and that solution is Jesus Christ. In Romans 5:12 we see sin enter the world, sin has a consequence and that consequence is death as said in Romans 6:23. However, Jesus was our propitiation as he paid for our consequences with his life. In secularism the solution is to just "do better," and that solution is impossible. For one, to do better is a lot of work because there is a lot for humans to have to be better in to live up to perfection. Secondly, how can we as humans be better as we are a part of the problem, culture is on the decline and we are sinning every day sometimes even without realizing the said sin. Lastly, as mentioned earlier humans are only contributing to the problem which means the problem is only getting worse. So with a secular worldview, it is simply a lose-all situation, where there is no outlook to salvation. That is where the Christian worldview provides its solution. Since Jesus was our propitiation and he was perfect, he then saved the believers of Christianity from sin and they no longer have to pay that consequence for our sin. One just has to trust in him as our lord and savior.

Psychology is defined as the scientific study of the human mind and its functions, especially those affecting behavior in a given context. True Christian psychology is the recognition and accountability of sin and the need for a savior. The natural human instinct is to sin since the decision was made in the garden of Eden, so it can be learned that from man's sinful nature the need for a savior is dire. As mentioned by Francis A. Schaffer in the text, "The basic psychological problem is trying to be what we are not, and trying to carry what we cannot carry. Most of all, the basic problem is not being willing to be the creatures we are before the creator." This further displays man's deterrence from God's path that he set for mankind, and it is through the correct Christian view that one can achieve true Christian psychology.

A worldview is the basis of one's life, and all actions, reactions, and decisions all boil down to one thing; worldview. Christian worldview provides the answers of who is the creator, what are the fundamental problems in the world, and what are the solutions to these problems. Ultimately, one either has a Christian worldview or a secular worldview and depending on which one may possess determines whether they burn in damnation or arise to salvation. Throughout the analysis of the textbook, *Thinking Like a Christian by David Noebel*, the in-depth look into each compartment of the true Christian worldview delivers the message of what that worldview contains and why one should follow that path. Including small details of unrecognized deterrence from a true Christian worldview puts ignorance into perspective. However, the task at hand is simple, as mentioned in Romans 10: 9-10, "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is

with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”