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“Viewing Like a Christian”

 Throughout the book “Thinking Like a Christian,” I learned many life lessons, habits, principles, philosophies, and ideas of what a Christian life should look and feel like. This book greatly influenced my way of thinking in many areas of life. Not only has it affected me and my way of life, but it has also affected many others around me who have seen me grow and will continue to see me lead a life, as an example, full of Christian worldviews. Here are just a few of the many ways in which this book impacted me and how I can use it to impact those around me.

 Theology. “Is there a God, and what is he like?” This question is one that I get often, and, in the past, I have stumbled my way through answering it. Growing up a Christian, there was never any doubt in my mind whether there was a God or not. That was preached into my soul, along with his marvelous characteristics. But it recently dawned on me in the last few years, wandering, Is there really a God? Do I know that for myself? If I did not understand this myself, how would I be able to explain it to others? “Thinking Like a Christian” was just a confirmation of what I have heard from my pastors and youth staff. It led me to look in the scriptures. Psalm 19 says, “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun.” The book says there is no excuse as to why the world does not believe in a God. For it is so clear! All nature, in Heaven and in Earth, exists to give him glory, and that is evident.

 Biology. “How did life originate, and what difference does it make?” Going to a public school presented many opportunities throughout my high school career to witness to others who maybe did not quite carry the same beliefs and values as I did, particularly in sciences. There were many occasions in which I was confronted with the idea of evolution, Theistic evolution, and the “Big bang” as the origin of life. Not only are these totally opposite of what is true, but they go as far as to take away glory from God, and that does not please him. Of the three that I listed, Theistic evolution is the idea of evolution that I encountered the most, and again there were times when people explained it to me, and I had no idea how to combat their ideas with my beliefs. At times, it almost seemed right because the origin of the belief was God. Thankfully, this book has rooted me with scripture to go against this idea next time I hear from it. “And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.” (Genesis 1:31). According to this verse, God would not allow creatures to evolve into something seemingly better than they are because that would go against this scripture saying that God beheld everything he made as good.

 Ethics is one area in which I have struggled when it comes to learning how God has designed us to live. After the fall of Adam and Eve, every human from then on was given the ability to see what is right and what is wrong, and, unfortunately for us, human nature leans towards the things of evil, even when we know what we should be doing. Today, what God says is right and wrong has been put into the grey with no black and white line for actions, beliefs, and ideas. Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns.” The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity. Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness. (Psalm 96:10 and 13). Both verses, which are found in the book, show me truly how amazing the word of God is. When you dive into it, it truly gives you the ability to give an answer when you are faced with questions like, “Who says what is right and what is wrong?” For it is written in 2 Timothy 2:15, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

 Politics is one venue in which I am soundly rooted! From my grandpa to my parents, I have been shown both sides of the spectrum and they have given me the great opportunity to make my own choice when it comes to politics. I will not disclose on which side I stand, but I will say I have aligned my political beliefs with the Word of God, and, since I have found solid ground, I will not be shaken. Throughout my teen journey, I faced many political beliefs, but God has proven himself faithful showing me what is righteous in the world of politics and what is not. Unfortunately, you can get yourself in a bad spot professing political beliefs and ideas, but thankfully, this book has given me the tools to sit down, listen, and politely express my opinions to people who believe much differently than I do.

 There are many other areas in which this book has helped me to expand my Christian world view. These few examples are the ones that stood out the most to me regarding what we as Christians face today. I am grateful for the opportunity to go through this module, and I am eager to continue growing and hopefully help others in the journey of how we as Christians view the world.