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When reading “Thinking like a Christian” by David Noebel, it is important to not only understand what the book is discussing, but to learn from it and apply its values to everyday life. The book is broken up into multiple different chapters; each chapter focusing on another aspect of today’s society and how a Christian should view these topics. The three main chapters that I learned from are Psychology, Politics, and Economics. Although it might seem intolerant to have a Biblical worldview in life, this book reveals how to present a proper view on this subject and how to live this out in one’s daily life.

In today's world, science tries to tell us that everything we say, think, or do has a reason behind that and psychology is the study of these things. One of the first things this chapter taught me is that “another problem arises from Secular Humanist and Marxist: how can the materialist position account for free will.” The simple fact the book lays down is that these non-Christian ideologies do not give us hope that we have freedom in what we say or do. Rather, these ideologies promote the idea that we must think, say, or do something because of psychology and because it is how an individual's brain works. However, the Christian view of this issue is that God has given us the free will to choose what we say, think, or do. For example, the secular view of “psychological guilt” is the guilt of society being so cruel because “people do nothing individually that would incur actual guilt.” However, this is wrong. The Christian viewpoint on this issue of guilt is that guilt is the conviction of sin. Due to us having free will, we also sin, and due to our sin, this is proof that we as individuals can do something to “incur actual guilt.”

The next chapter that impacted me was the chapter on Politics. Especially in today's culture, everywhere you turn it seems like new political issues are popping up that people argue and fight over. With two zealous sides fighting over these issues, it can be so easy to get wrapped up in the fighting and forget God's plan for a Christ-ordained regulation of the state. James Madison once said "If men were angels, no government would be necessary." However, due to our flesh and sinful desires, it is important that a government be established. The other side of this issue is that God wants a government that isn't a totalitarian dictatorship. This impedes God's will by taking away the right to free will which we have been blessed with. When the Founding Fathers wrote the Declaration of Independence, they made sure to include the proclamation "all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights." As David Nobebel points out, this proclamation serves two main points in the founding of our government. The first being that we were created by a supernatural being, and the second is that this being is the foundation for human rights. However, when Christians get involved with the government, we are bound to be faced with a secular, sacrilegious ruling. The bible gives us an excellent example of this in Acts chapter four. Peter and John were asked to stop teaching the words of Jesus and they replied, "Whether it's right in the sight of God for us to listen to you rather than to God, you decide." Francis Schaeffer gives excellent commentary on this by saying, "The bottom line is that at a certain point there is not only the right, but the duty, to disobey the state."

Another chapter in which I was taught something very important, is the chapter on economics. In the modern world, there are two main economic ideologies. The first being socialism, and the second being free market or capitalism. The bible teaches us that money should be earned and that we have a right to incur property. One of Jesus' many parables talks

about two men, one who kept his money and buried it, and the other investing his money and making a profit. Jesus then promotes the man who invested his money and says he did what is right. Some Christians who adhere to socialism claim that owning private property is greedy and sinful. However, the free market promotes the idea of earning your paycheck, property, and anything else that you can claim as yours. Christians who believe in the free market system view the idea of socialism as a lazy way of earning money, which it is. The idea that someone could sit around and not do anything all day, but still make a living and can survive off of a free paycheck promotes the idea that we can be as lazy as we want and still get anything we want. Also when it comes to economics, God asks us to be faithful and give ten percent of our earnings to the church. We do this out of obedience and faith. God can easily promote and grow the church without our money, but he asks us out of obedience to give to him. It is the act of obedience that God blesses. When it comes to our tithe, God also takes it very seriously. There is an account in the bible, where a couple dropped dead after lying about their tithe and money that belonged to God in the book of Acts.

In conclusion, this book had so much to teach and I learned a great deal from it. Every chapter was a new topic, and every page was a new lesson. Whether the lesson was on Psychology, Politics, or Economics, I was able to see how to better view these topics in a Christian way. I personally will be looking forward to these next few years at Louisiana College and cannot wait to be able to apply the topics and lessons that I learned in this book. I was able to learn about free will, the founding of our nation and government, and socialism versus the free market. I was able to view these topics in a God-ordained way. It is in viewing everything I do through the lens of Scripture that allows me to approach each circumstance and bring God's light to it.