

## Thinking Like A Christian

The lessons of this Bible study have benefited me in many ways. It has helped me expand my knowledge of God, how He wants us to live our lives, and how I may help others see the world the way He does. It has also given me an interesting perspective that is different from how I viewed my own life before. I truly feel both blessed and better from it's teachings.

Throughout Lesson 1, I was taught, not only what a biblical Christian worldview was, but how to obtain it, and that Christianity is the one worldview based on truth because God is right and "Christianity is true." It also taught me that being Christian and having a Christian worldview will help me to become a leader of faith and help lead other people in the right direction. In addition, I learned the difference between theism (the belief that God is), and atheism (belief that God is not). Theism is ultimately different from atheism in that theism sees existence as being meaningful, demonstrating meaning beyond itself, and that atheism sees existence as having little importance, with no recognition of a god. I value the idea of theism most because it is one of the main discussions concerning the Bible. It says that God is, God created, God loves, God judges, and God is both omnipotent and ever-present. It continued by explaining how God sent himself in the human form of Jesus Christ and died for our sins. Many Christians believing in theism may find themselves questioning their beliefs, but the importance of this study is to be confident in our readiness for the real world and how we as Christians can react to non-believers.

This study has also taught me the meaning of philosophy and that Jesus Christ is the basis for it. Philosophy deals with very important things in our lives and affects how we live each day. The two basic questions of philosophy are, "What is real?" and "How do I know what is true?" There are many ways to understand and answer these questions, mostly centered around our beliefs and our values. For example, some people only believe in what their five senses allow. There is no spiritual realm present here. This view is naturalism; meaning, there is no god, only matter, which makes up the beliefs of those who call themselves atheist. Another philosophy is believing in the non-natural that expresses that the world we can see is just an illusion and the only thing that is real is the unseen, spiritual dimension. Finally, the view of Supernaturalism demonstrates what the Bible shows you and presents a different way of interpreting reality.

God created everything, so if it wasn't for Him, we would have nothing. That has been very clear to me since I was very young, as has remained important to me throughout the years. God truly wants us to be able to understand that and believe that all things have been created through Him and in His likeness. He is the reason for our existence, and He holds this world together. There is a difference between biblical reasons for believing God created life (which would be through God's word in the Bible), and people's reasons which are based on the observation of nature (observations and experimentation). As Christians, we can explore both and know which approach to use. This can be displayed when speaking to non-believers and people who put their faith in science.

I also learned the principles of ethics. Ethics is very close to the other disciplines that have been taught in this lesson: theology, philosophy, biology, and psychology. It is a way of knowing what is right by reading the Bible. God shows us a certain standard, shown to us

through his own morals seen in the Bible. What makes God the ultimate standard for what is right, you may ask? Well, because God is righteous, we are to be righteous. Because He is love, we are to love. Because God is the truth, we are to be truthful. Because God is gracious, we are to forgive. He is pure of heart; therefore, we are to follow Him and believe in Him. In short, he is the very best role model.

Jesus brings peace in everything, no matter what it is! He brings peace in families, friendships, the church, and the nation. God brings peace because God wants all people to love everyone, get along with one another, and coexist happily. Without God, there would be no peace and this world would be a disaster. He continuously provides us the basis for individual liberties and justice for all people. The world would not be able to survive without a governing presence. With that said, there are many different types of governments from which to choose, but it all depends on your belief system as to which is right for the believer. Regardless, as a Christian, it is evident that all that we need is in His word, the Bible.

Before reading and going through this Bible study, I had no idea that I was going to learn so many things. I honestly thought I was well-versed on the Bible and really did not fully comprehend that it addressed all of the topics discussed. I truly never would've thought that there were so many questions that it would answer, that would not only give me the knowledge, but also help me to better understand my own beliefs and my view of the world. I'm so incredibly glad I had this opportunity. It showed me that the Bible is way more than a reference book, but a book of hope and self-discovery. I would not have traded this experience and spiritual journey for anything.

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