Thinking Like a Christian

From reading and working through “Thinking Like a Christian” I have learned so many knew and interesting things about my religion. Some of the main points I that impacted me and that I learned new things about would have to be different world views of religion, the history of Christianity, and the biological aspects of Christianity as well.

Diving right into what I have learned about worldview topics the book states that several worldview categories to know about. These categories would be listed as Atheism (No God), Pantheism (God is all), Panentheism (God is in all), Deism (God is transcendent), Finite Godism (God is finite),and polytheism (God is many). I learned that this is just one of the very many ways some people determine their worldviews on religion. Some people split it up along theological lines. This came to me as such a surprise and such an interesting new bit of information to learn about because when I thought about religion in my own mind it was such a simple thought compared to all the complex and different worldviews there are out in the world. In my mind I just always imagined that there were many different types of religion and that everyone had their own version of how they chose to go about living their religious lives and that was that. But “Thinking Like a Christian” has really opened my eyes to all the different types of worldviews on religion and how little I really had thought about it and knew about it. Another very important aspect I learned was that worldview is split into 10 different disciplines those being: Theology, Philosophy, Biology, Psychology, Ethics, Sociology, Law, Politics, Economics, and History. While the main point of the text was mostly based upon a Christian worldview, I found it interesting to learn about how all the viewpoints come together and all that there is to learn about each religion. It all seems to trace back to the Philosophy and the Theology of worldview in the end which is very interesting to me as well in the book it gave this example of a fruit tree splitting into outward behavior and inward beliefs and showing how they come together and unify the aspects of worldview. This also showed me how cutting worldview into disciplines made for an easier comparison between other competing worldviews which was helpful and interesting to learn about in the end.

Moving on to another large topic a learned about from “Thinking Like a Christian” was the biological aspects and all the different theories about biology in religion. The book states that the roots of modern science are grounded in a Christian view of the world. Which was very interesting for me too read about in the book because I always thought people were more one sided about science and religion. It was usually one or the other not many people believe they go hand in hand. So for me to read in the book about all the ways they go hand in hand was very educational and eye opening. The book then goes very deep into the subject of evolution. Stating the God created the first spark of life and then evolution took over. Although there are many different theories about evolution in the book as well. It goes on to talk about all the ways that if the theory of evolution is to be perceived as the truth, then it undermines a lot of what The Bible has to say about how we as humans came to be in this world. The book states that if evolution is true then the story of The Garden of Eden is just an allegory. This was all very interesting and new information for me considering I had never learned anything about the theory of evolution before. Although it didn’t change any of my opinions about how we came to be on this earth it was important and eye opening knowledge that I did learn from reading this book that I would have most likely never learned about without the help of reading this book. It is also important that I learned about some of the different biological concepts about how we came to be on this earth as we are today.

Lastly I learned a great deal more about the History of Christianity. My whole life I have believed in the historic truth about the stories of Jesus Christ just out of pure faith to my religion. Although my faith in God was unwavering it was still amazing to learn about some of the real historical truth to it beyond what is in The Bible. In the book it states that putting aside the proof of The New Testament there are two other counts where the proof of Jesus was proven to be witnessed. The book states that the Jewish historian Josephus referred to Jesus at least twice in his Antiquities of the Jews, and another example would be early historian Cornelius Tacitus about Jesus as well. This was interesting and important to me because outside of my faith in The Bible and my religion on its own this was the first piece of information about people having proof of Jesus through their own experience. I had of course heard stories from todays world about people dying and coming back to life and spoke of seeing Jesus in their time of death but this was real hard proof and it was something that I was very interested and grateful to the book for being able to learn about. This has only made my faith stronger, and I have truly learned so much from reading this book.

From reading “Thinking Like a Christian” I truly have gained so much more knowledge about so many different aspects of my religion that I had never even begun to consider before opening up this book. This book truly has taught me so much more about the worldviews of religion, the biology of Christianity, and the History of it all as well.

Works Cited

Thinking Like a Christian by David Nobel