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Francis Schaeffer Scholarship Essay

In the time that I have spent on this earth, I have never seen some of the things in the way the *Thinking Like a Christian* workbook has taught me to. As I read and worked through this book, it has taught me how to see the world through a biblical worldview. Living life through a biblical worldview allows you to understand God and to know how to see the world. A biblical worldview also allows you to understand someone's relationship with God and the world combined. This workbook has taught me that being or calling yourself "religious" and doing religious things, such as reading the bible or praying, does not necessarily make me a Christian but thinking about life in a certain way does. A verse in the bible from Matthew talks about loving the Lord with your mind. This means that we should think about Him and how we should apply His principles to our lives. The workbook has taught me things such as how to approach a situation with a non-believer, why the bible is the ultimate source for truth, and what determines right from wrong.

One of the most challenging tasks for any Christian is learning how to handle situations in which a non-believer is involved. It is hard for someone, like myself, to hear people disgracing God's word and talking about all of the reasons there is not a God, such as science. Teachers have taught children all through their adolescence that the world was created through a mass explosion. In my eyes, I see that God created every living and non living thing on this earth, and created earth itself. The bible says that there is no excuse as to why people should not believe that there is a God. The universe and all that inhabit it are too complex to have been created any

other way. Throughout the book, I had to connect God's existence to theology, philosophy, ethics, and psychology to prove his existence. If I were to approach a non-believer, rather than trying to force my beliefs upon them, I would lead by example. To be Christian to me is being kind to everyone and not judging someone for who other people see them as but by how I get to know them myself. Living life using that tactic and those mannerisms will help you to not only be a better person for yourself, but to live through God's example and how He would want you to treat others. As I read through the lesson, I learned that God wants us to shut out all of the evil and hatred that is involved in our lives. This further explains my point of treating others with kindness and not judging anyone based on another's perspective of that person.

You may find yourself asking the question, "Why is the bible the ultimate source of truth?" There are several different religions around the world with their own sacred writings, some of these being Hindu with their Qu'ran. Other religions such as Buddhists, Mormons, and Jehovah's Witnesses have their own different forms of sacred writings as well, so why is our bible the ultimate truth? As I read through this section in the workbook, page 41 says that our Bible is believed by us Christians to be the "right" sacred book because the Bible was authored by different men faced with extremely different circumstances and how their lives changed for the better as a result of the acceptance of the Lord. Page 41 also says that our Bible contains an immense amount of moral truth, which supports its divine inspiration. Just by reading the Bible itself, in my eyes, it can and does make our lives better and provides multiple reasons as to how it was written in and is God's word. I believe that Scripture gives us a layout through God's word and how we should choose to live our lives. You can find sources for truth within yourself and through an outside source.

In our society, people have different ideas about moralities. How do we know which ones to follow? Some people say that their parents are the ones who gave them their ideas on ethics and what is right and what is wrong. C.S. Lewis says that although your ethics can be vastly different based on your background and who taught you your ideas about ethics, there are still clear right and wrongs. We use this knowledge of right and wrong when we think about our Christian God. In the book, I learned that Francis Schaeffer says that the Lord had a character and not all things are the same to him. Some things conform to His character, and other things are opposed to His character, such as His rights and His wrongs for our lives. As I got further into this section of my workbook, page 89 taught me that when you are viewing things in a biblical worldview, ethics are tied into the character of God. Knowing this information leads us with an answer to our question, “Who says what is right and what is wrong?”, with God says what is right and what is wrong through His word.

Thinking Like a Christian has opened my eyes to so many new ways to think about the outlook on life, and I wish I had been introduced to the workbook sooner. As I worked through the book, I had to answer challenging questions on how I do everyday tasks in life. The book introduced me to new ways of thinking and how to handle many different situations through God’s worldview. I was asked to explain how I would approach a non-believer, in which I followed by leading by example and living through God’s example. I would also treat people with respect just as He would want me to. I learned about a very interesting topic, which was how to believe that the bible was the ultimate source for truth. Page 44 taught me that there were 40 different people that have written things in the bible, and they all shared one common thing—that the Lord helped all of their situations through his word. I had to focus on the importance of

how to tell right from wrong. Francis Schaeffer talked about ethics being tied to the character of God, further explaining that God is the reason we know what is right from wrong using the biblical worldview. Throughout the book, I learned entirely of the love my Lord and savior has for me and all of the ways His word and Scripture has shaped my life. For this reason, *Thinking Like a Christian* changed my life for the better and has given me a better outlook on life.