

Francis Schaeffer Scholarship

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and most important commandment and this study has helped me further achieve that. It has helped me develop a biblical worldview, has impacted my life by changing the way I think, and has helped me better understand what my purpose is here on earth.

I have learned that a biblical worldview is understanding God, the world, and my relationship to God and the world. The biblical worldview can be divided up into ten categories: theology, philosophy, biology, psychology, ethics, sociology, law, politics, economics, and history.

Theology is the study of the existence, nature, and attributes of God. This section in the study has taught me the cosmological, teleological, and moral arguments. The cosmological argument is everything that begins has a cause. The universe began to exist therefore the universe has a cause. That cause is God.

The teleological argument is the idea that there is evidence of design in the universe that suggests a designer. An example of design in the universe is us. Our bodies are made with a complex detailed design that only a designer could make. That designer is God.

The moral argument is every moral law has a moral lawgiver. Since moral laws do exist, God exists. All these arguments will better help me explain to people when they ask me to prove God’s existence.

Another thing I learned from this study is that God is relational. The study uses a story about a farmer to teach this lesson.

One hot summer day when the fields were dry, a thunderstorm hit and caught the barn on fire. The farmer hurried and got all the animals out before it was too late. He noticed an anthill and felt bad because there was nothing he could do to save them because he couldn’t communicate with them.

The message of this story is God became one of us so that he could communicate to us on a personal level and show us that he is a relational God.

The second section in the study is philosophy. Your philosophy is the way you behave due to the way you think about life. The major question

people have about life is “What is my purpose?” And your answer will differ based on your philosophy and belief in naturalism or supernaturalism. A naturalistic worldview is like a box, they only believe what is in the box. They do not believe in anything outside of the box. Supernaturalistic worldview is the belief of reality outside of the box (earth). I learned non-believers live different lives than believers because we have different answers to the question “What is my purpose?” Believers know their purpose is to live for God and make his name known. This allows us to live different lives because we know everything good or bad has a purpose and is a part of God’s plan.

The next few sections are biology, psychology, and ethics. It talks about the evolution theory and right and wrong. I learned that the way you view the origin of life matters. Are we a little “higher” than the apes or a little “lower” than the angels? Scientists have observed that living organisms have a complex structure and way of living. Meaning our cells and the way organisms work together. Scientists do not know how this complex structure came to be, so it leads them to believe (even non-believers) that with such a complex structure that it had to be made by a complex designer.

I also learned about absolute standards. Which means a standard that does not change for any reason. Like an inch, no matter where you live an inch is an inch. In the same way, God has an absolute standard for us, it does not change with situation, location, culture, or time. God gives a list of absolutes in the bible, the Ten Commandments. A couple of commandments are, do not kill and do not lie. God looks at both of these sins as equal. So committing murder and telling a lie are the same amount of sin in God’s eyes, because to him sin is sin, no matter the sin.

Another thing I learned is that guilt is like an alarm clock. An alarm clock’s purpose is to alert you when it is time to wake up. Even though you do not like it because it disturbs you from sleeping, you do not get mad at it because it is doing what it is supposed to do. So guilt is just your subconscious alarm clock. The feelings of guilt are a “wake-up call” to alert you to stay away from your sinful behavior.

The next sections are sociology, law, and politics. I learned the people you are surrounded by influence your life. Your first interaction with the world is your family. It is important to raise your kids by modeling a godly lifestyle. It is also important to go to church to get another social community

that can teach you about God. The church is called to meet the larger needs of society in the roles of proclaiming sin and salvation.

The economics section in the study talks about how everything belongs to God. I learned to think of the world as God's garden and people as the managers of it. We are accountable for how we use our natural resources and for what we produce with our work. The money we earn and how we spend it reflects how we worship God. A few things we can do to worship God and not the world are to volunteer, give donations, and teach others the word of God. The most important thing we can do is to teach others about God because that will help them for the rest of their lives, and allow them the opportunity of eternal life.

I also learned about some of the histories of the bible. "It took forty different people: soldiers, shepherds, statemen, common men, and kings, centuries apart, writing in different moods, coming from different continents: Egypt, Judea, and Italy, writing in three different languages: Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic, about many of the most controversial topics, know to man and put all of their writings together." And yet the bible reads like one story from the book Genesis to Revelation. The most significant event recorded in the bible is Jesus' death and resurrection. It assures us of God's love and acceptance by placing our trust in Him.

This study allowed me to develop a biblical worldview and has impacted my life by changing the way I think. It has helped me to love the Lord with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all my mind.