N E W H O P E Presbyterian Church

BUILDING A BIBLICAL WORLD AND LIFE VIEW | A Select Bibliography

Dr. David F. Coffin, Jr. Spring 2006

"CONSTRUCTION" OF A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

Blamires, Harry. The Christian Mind. New York: The Seabury Press, 1963.

Challenging discussion of "The Lack of a Christian Mind" and "The Marks of a Christian Mind."

Edwards, Jonathan. "The Christian Pilgrim." In volume 2, *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1974, pp. 243-246.

Shows the essential character of the Christian life as a journey toward heaven, and the practical significance of this Biblical conception for Christian living. A most important, but today often neglected aspect of a Christian worldview.

——. Edwards, Jonathan. "Heaven, a World of Charity or Love." In *Charity and Its Fruits*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1982, pp. 323-368.

Wonderful view of the world which will abide when this world passes away.

Gaffin, Richard B., Jr. "Theonomy and Eschatology: Reflections on Postmillennialism." In *Theonomy. A Reformed Critique*. Williams S. Barker and W. Robert Godfrey, eds. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1990, pp. 197-224.

Very important discussion of how our expectation with respect to the end of this age is an essential component of any Biblical world view.

Helm, Paul. The Beginnings. Word and Spirit in Conversion. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1986.

———. The Callings. The Gospel in the World. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1987.

———. The Last Things. Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1989.

Fine popular studies of these important biblical themes by a professional philosopher who is also a careful and insightful student of biblical and historical theology. Together the trilogy sets forth the beginning, middle and end of a Biblical worldview. *The Callings* is the finest contemporary study of the idea of calling available.

Hodge, A.A. Outlines of Theology. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1983.

A.A. Hodge (1823-1886), son of Charles, was his father's successor as Professor of Theology at Princeton. This is a classic summary of the system of revealed truth at the heart of any sound Christian worldview, setting forth the biblical data, relating the parts to the whole, exposing errors, and noting historical views in a catechetical format.

Hoffecker, W. Andrew and Gary Scott Smith, eds. *Building a Christian World View*. 2 vols. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 19__.

A manual for college students clearly setting forth the key elements of a biblical view of the world with contrasting discussion of historic and contemporary alternatives. Vol. 1 treats God, man and knowledge; vol. 2, the universe, society, and ethics.

Hoover, J.A. Don't You Believe It! Chicago, IL: Moody, 1982.

Delightful handbook on right reasoning and the informal fallacies. Provides necessary tools for worldview construction and conflict.

Lewis, C.S. "Learning in War-Time." In *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses*. Rev. and expanded edition. New York: Macmillan, 1980.

Penetrating essay on why the Christian must come to understand the world and think from a Christian point of view about it.

Machen, J. Gresham. "Christianity and Culture." *Princeton Theological Review*. XI (1913): 1-15; reprinted in *Education, Christianity, and the State. Essays by J. Gresham Machen*. Edited by John W. Robbins. Jefferson, Maryland: The Trinity Foundation, 1987, pp. 45-59.

Very important essay on the calling of Christians to confess Christ as Lord of all, not by retreat from the world, but by bringing all the world in relation to Christ.

- Murray, John. *Principles of Conduct. Aspects of Biblical Ethics.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971. Outstanding discussion of the moral framework for a Biblical worldview.
- Moreland, J.P. Love Your God with All Your Mind. Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress Publishing Group, 1997.

According to Phillip Johnson, "J.P. Moreland exemplifies the Christian mind as it ought to be-tough and analytic, but also generous and caring. Christians who want to develop their minds in the service of Christ couldn't find a better teacher, or a better book for the task."

Packer, J.I. Concise Theology. A Guide to Historic Christian Beliefs. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1993.

An excellent contemporary summary of the system of revealed truth at the heart of any sound Christian worldview.

—. *Knowing God.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1973.

Classic study of the God we seek to honor in our view of the world.

——. A Quest For Godliness. The Puritan Vision of the Christian Life. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1990.

Enlightening study of that company of Christians called in derision "puritan", their thoroughly developed Biblical worldview, how they lived by it, and how they were a blessing to the world and a glory to God.

Piper, John. Desiring God. Meditations of a Christian Hedonist. Portland OR: Multnomah Press, 1986.

Pleasure in God as the heart motive of the Christian mind.

Ryken, Leland. *Worldly Saints. The Puritans As They Really Were.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1986.

Helpful study of a comprehensive Biblical worldview via the Puritans.

Stott, John R. W. Your Mind Matters: The Place of the Mind in the Christian Life. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1972.

Sets forth the Biblical case for faithful thinking as a necessary element of faithful discipleship.

"DESTRUCTION" OF UNBELIEVING WORLDVIEWS

Geisler, Norman L. and William D. Watkins. *Worlds Apart. A Handbook on World Views*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1989.

Covers theism, atheism, pantheism, panentheism, deism finite godism and polytheism, concluding with "Choosing a World View". Includes helpful summary charts for comparison and glossary.

Guinness, Os. The Dust of Death. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1973.

Penetrating critical analysis of the polarized worldviews of the sixties and seventies set forth in contrast to the Christian 3rd way.

Johnson, Phillip E. Reason in the Balance: The Case Against Naturalism in Science, Law & Education. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

For all who are willing to consider the possibility that naturalism takes off from the wrong starting point, because rational thinking is God-based thinking.

Lewis, C.S. Abolition of Man, or Reflections on Education with Special Reference to the Teaching of English in the Upper Forms of Schools. New York: Macmillan, 1947.

Brilliant exposé the de-humanizing tendencies of unbelief.

Myers, Kenneth A. All God's Children and Blue Suede Shoes. Christians and Popular Culture. Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, 1989.

Best study of the relation of a Christian worldview to poplar culture available.

- Nash, Ronald. *Worldviews in Conflict*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 19___. Outlines the Christian way of looking at God, self, and the world, holding it up against the tests of logic, reason, and experience.
- Noebel, David. Understanding the Times: The Religious Worldviews of Our Day and the Search for Truth. Summit Press.

A curriculum of world views for late teens and older.

Pearcey, Nancy. *Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity*. Intro. by Phillip E. Johnson. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2005.

James Sire: "Amazing in the depth of its worldview analysis ... superbly crafted ... best work of cultural analysis from a Christian standpoint available today."

Rookmaaker, H.R. *Modern Art and the Death of a Culture*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1970.

Late Professor of the Free University of Amsterdam and associate of Francis Schaeffer shows the significance of art as an expression of one's view of the world.

Schaeffer, Francis. Escape From Reason. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1968.

------. The God Who is There. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1968.

—. He Is There and He Is Not Silent. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1972.

Classic trilogy by the founder of L'Abri challenging believers to seek a biblical world and life view in antithesis to the philosophies of unbelief by considering their contrasting presuppositions.

—. How Should We Then Live? The Rise and Decline of Western Thought and Culture. Old Tappen, NJ: Fleming H. Revell, 1976.

Schaeffer's alternative to Kenneth Clark's "Civilization" showing the place of the Christian worldview in the development of Western culture.

Schlossberg, Herbert. Idols for Destruction: Christian Faith and its Confrontation with American Society. Nashville, TN: Nelson, 1983.

Proposes the analogy of idol-making as the best way to understand non-Christian worldviews, and then exposes and criticizes the idols of history, humanity, mammon, nature power, and religion as created in modern American culture.

Sire, James W. Chris Christian Goes to College. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 19__.

Example of a freshman year of a Christian student facing individualism, pluralism, relativism, etc.

Examines the typical errors of interpretation by cults and points out why they're wrong. Many of the same kinds of mistakes are typically at root of mistaken worldviews.

——. *The Universe Next Door: A Basic World View Catalog*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1976.

Begins with "What is a World View?" and a survey of Christian Theism followed with critical discussion of deism, naturalism, nihilism, existentialism, pantheism, and new consciousness

Sproul, R.C. Lifeviews. Old Tappen, NJ: Fleming H. Revell, 19__.

How to confront moral and social issues with a biblical response by understanding others' worldviews.

——. Objections Answered. Gospel Light, 1978; reprint Reason To Believe. A Response to Common Objections To Christianity. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982.

Non-technical manual outlining answers to the most common and frequent objections raised against a Christian worldview, from such philosophical questions as the problem of evil to the charge that the church is full of hypocrisy. Includes helpful summaries at the close of each chapter.

—. *The Psychology of Atheism.* Minneapolis, MN: Bethany Fellowship, 1974; revised ed. titled *If There Is a God, Why Are There Atheists? Why Atheists Believe in Unbelief.* Wheaton, IL: Tyndal House, 1988.

On why false worldviews are generated. A Biblical demonstration that unbelief is finally grounded in psychological pressures resulting from a sinful will rather than the intellectual inadequacy of Christian truth.