

## CHAPTER FOUR

### WORLD VIEW

Very few things influence our lives more than our worldview. My son Matt taught a message from the following: ‘Sow a thought, reap an action; sow an action, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a life-style; sow a life-style, reap a destiny.’ Solomon wrote, “*As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.*” A worldview is the filter through which we examine experiences and information. Worldview is shaped by ideology, and ideology is formulated from thoughts, opinions and ideas. As mentioned, I have written this book from a Judaic-Christian worldview. As a Christian, I believe that truth exists, and that it is knowable. The original man, Adam, was placed in a garden. He was to guard it, cultivate it and produce fruit in it. His passive neglect gave rise to the original sin. The problem in the garden was not the environment; Eden was a perfect environment. The trouble began when Adam permitted an intruder, Satan, to introduce the sinister ideological weed of disobedience. Since that time, numerous diabolical weeds have been scattered in the soil of the heart of man on earth. Many of these weeds have corrupted our worldview. Let us consider some of the most prevalent and damaging philosophical weeds that poison our worldview.

The first weed originates with the Greeks. Again, Christianity has its roots in Judaism. The Bible is a Jewish book, the patriarchs were Jews, and the apostles were Jews. Jesus was, and is, a Jew. Our Western culture retains elements of that heritage; however, that culture has been colored by 3,000 years of Hellenistic thought. Greek thinkers gave us the rich and vibrant language of the New Testament (New Covenant), but they also blended man’s reasoning into God’s statutes.

Around 500 BC, Protagoras wrote, “Man is the measure of all things.” This, of course, is a cornerstone of the religion we call secular humanism. One hundred years later, Aristotle described God as an “energizing force.” This is one of the hallmarks of New Age philosophy. Socrates, using his “dialectal methods,” had his students arrive at their own ideas of such things as goodness, justice, right and wrong. In so doing, he rejected the Biblical position of absolute truth, and he gave birth to situational ethics and moral relativism. The devastating effects of these dastardly theories remain as contaminates with us today.

Out of this context and attributed to Plato, came the damaging philosophy of dualism. Dualism teaches that there are higher and lower levels of thought and activity. The upper level of thought and activity consists of such things as meditation, reflection and contemplation. Plato placed philosophy and religion in this upper level. The lower level of thought consists of material things, which Plato

described as temporal and physical. Unfortunately, work and occupations were placed in this lower level. Later, Augustine placed Christianity into Plato's framework. He separated the "contemplative life" from the "active life." Things such as Bible study, preaching and evangelism were put in the higher realm. Like Plato, he put work in the lower realm. This had the result of separating the secular and the sacred. The effect of which was to decentralize and marginalize the sacred from normal daily life.

Once Christianity was marginalized, its relevance diminished. Categorizing the faith prepared Western cultural soil for several other philosophical and spiritual weeds. The philosophical weed sown by Isaac Newton was an effort to banish God from nature. Using his research, he was able to prove the law of gravity is a scientific law. Unfortunately, he concluded that there is a scientific explanation for every phenomenon. Newton did not want to allow room for any inexplicable principles or experiences in nature. He eliminated the supernatural, since miracles violate natural law. The worldview that comes out of this has infiltrated some cessationists' Christian thinking. If we accept this principle then often the sad conclusion is, "You have a lump, it is malignant, you have cancer and you're going to die." You see, that is the law of nature. The attempt by some self-styled and so-called scientists to remove God from nature is insidious and futile. It is an effort by the creature to remove itself from the Creator.

In his book the Origin of Species, Charles Darwin wished to dismiss God from life in general. The ideological weed that he sowed stated that the biological supersedes (or eliminates) the supernatural. In other words, the basic struggle of humanity is not a spiritual struggle, but rather a biological struggle, and in this struggle the fittest will survive. Because of his erroneous conviction regarding evolution, it has been said, "Darwin wanted to make a monkey out of our parents." Unfortunately, many of us still attribute the majority of our personal and relational struggles to be physical, even though the Scriptures clearly teach, "*We wrestle not against flesh and blood.*"<sup>1</sup> We blame much of our personal conflicts on our boss, our spouse, our neighbor or someone else. We have bought into the idea that the visible world is more real than the invisible. That is exactly what Darwin proposed. The conclusion is a precept, which states, "If I cannot see, feel, hear or touch it, it does not exist". Darwin's fixation on the natural went hand-in-hand with Newton, stating that everything had a logical explanation.

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<sup>1</sup> Ephesians 6:12

Newton banished God from nature and Darwin banished God from our lives. However, Freud took it a step further and banished God from our souls, the very seat of personhood. The soul, which is the seat of our personhood, contains our volition, our emotions and our intellect. In place of the satanic powers of darkness mentioned throughout the Scriptures, Freud substituted various complexes, neurosis and psychosis. According to him and contrary to scripture, you no longer have a demon; you have a neurosis. Freud said the struggle of life was no longer a struggle of satanic origin and demonic forces, but it was our id, our ego and our super ego. Satan and the supernatural become an invention of human intellect to explain problems of good and evil. Besides Freud said, "It's not your fault. Look at who raised you. Your dad was a carouser, your mother was an alcoholic, so no wonder you are messed up." Now doesn't that have a familiar ring to it? Adam said, "*It's not my fault, it's the woman You gave me.*"<sup>2</sup> Eve countered, "*The devil made me do it.*"<sup>3</sup> Freud did not originate the idea of shifting the responsibility and the blame. This may be fine to a degree, but the ultimate question remains, "Did you sin or not? I don't care if your dad was a horse thief, that's my horse that you're riding."

Newton, Darwin and Freud set the stage for Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels and Vladimir Lenin. The ideological weed of communism, or militant socialism, attempted to entirely exclude God from society. If God is not in nature, not in our lives, and not in our souls, then God must be banned from society. Karl Marx proposed that, "Religion" (especially referring to Christianity), "is the opiate of the masses." In Marx's mind, the peace that comes from a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ was ridiculed as a spiritual valium. Lenin claimed that "Religion is the opiate of the masses." Secular humanism is an attempt to overthrow spiritual truth. This would have been an obvious progression. The conflict of the ages is reduced to class struggle. Dialectical materialism taught that the struggle of humanity could only be won by creating a classless society. For the former Soviet Union, the secular humanist conclusion became the state religion.

Our worldview affects the way we view God and humanity. Efforts to exclude God from the earth that He created have brought about catastrophic consequences. We have tampered with the spiritual DNA of life, and in so doing we have created a monster. We do not understand that the invisible spiritual world is more real than the visible material world. The fundamental problems on earth are spiritual in nature, and they require a spiritual solution. The Christian worldview is our

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<sup>2</sup> Genesis 3:12

<sup>3</sup> Genesis 3:13

meager effort to see the world through the eyes of God. The Scriptures speak of an unshakeable Kingdom ruled by an unchangeable King. This Kingdom is rising, it is coming and it is advancing. God's solution to the world's struggle comes in the form of a King and a Kingdom. As for me, Jesus Christ is the 'origin of species,' not evolution or natural selection.