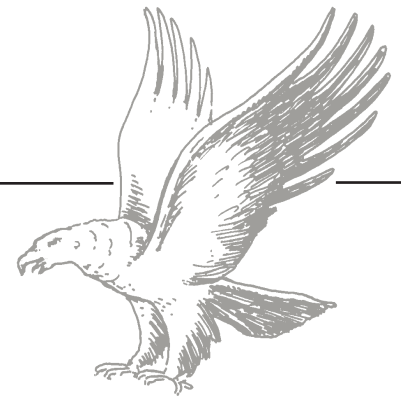


Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”
Isaiah 40:31*



April 12, 2015

Why Worldview Matters

How we look at the world and everything in it is not a topic for idle philosophical speculation. It governs every detail of how we make our decisions and live our lives. It defines who we are.

“You should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart” (Eph. 4:17-18).

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light . . . finding out what is acceptable to the Lord” (Eph. 5:8-10).



Each one of us has a mental model of how the world operates and the role we play in it. Philosophers call this framework of beliefs our “worldview” (from the German *Weltanschauung*). That view of reality may have been handed down to us from an older tradition; or perhaps it’s a figment of our own imagination. Whatever the source, it’s there and it guides every step we take.

Our worldview begins with our perception of God. Does He exist or not? If so, what does He (or “it”) consist of? What is my relationship to Him?

That concept of God, in turn, heavily influences how we make decisions in

our lives. Are truth and integrity essential, or are they negotiable depending on our moods? Is sex a sacred gift that should be reserved for one special person for a lifetime, or is it a recreational activity that we can pursue however we choose? Is human life sacred, or are the people around us tools who can be used and discarded for our pleasure? How we answer these questions—and the life we construct from those answers—is shaped by how we view the universe in which we live, and specifically, God.

The linkage between our view of God and the life we live is not hard to trace. If we are convinced there is no God, that this universe and everything in it, including us, is the result of blind, random chance, then life’s meaning is determined solely by whatever definition we assign to it. We can choose a mad descent into nihilism, or we can dedicate our tiny speck of existence to making the world a better place. Either way, it’s entirely our call, not God’s. But we also know that both of these options will result in the same outcome: our life will be of no eternal consequence what-

soever. Our worldview by necessity rules out any eternal meaning.

On the other hand, if we believe that God exists and that everything we see, including us, is here for some grand purpose, then our life is part of that larger puzzle. Even if we don’t understand the big picture, we trust that God does, and that everything will eventually come to a meaningful conclusion. That conviction will motivate us to live our lives according to a standard higher than ourselves.

But what if we view all this metaphysical stuff as a waste of time, and prefer to live our lives day-by-day, paying no attention to these deep questions? Then the principle still applies—*this mindless existence is our worldview*, and we will live our lives accordingly: indifferent, careless, and oh so petty.

Whatever worldview we adopt, there is one thought that should influence our thinking: This world is what it is, and *what we think about it will not change that reality*. It is to our advantage to make sure our worldview aligns with that reality—or we could be in for a nasty surprise at the end.

– David King