

# **SHAPING THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW WITH SCRIPTURE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Liberalism, post-modernism, materialism, feminism, African traditional religion; these worldviews exist today in the academic institutions, and they are opposing the Christian worldview.

### **Definition of Christian worldview:**

#### **Worldview**

It is a set of presuppositions and beliefs that we use to interpret and form opinion and values concerning life, humanity, family, authority, justice, truth, duty, etc.

It is the way we understand reality.

It is the basis from which we make daily decisions.

#### **Christian worldview**

It is the comprehensive understanding of the world that is formed by the authority of the Bible and the person of Jesus Christ.

The Christian worldview give answers to all the questions of life. Those answers provide a solid foundation for unique attitude and action that shape life and history in ways no other worldview has or ever can do.

## **TEXTS**

2 Timothy 3:16-17

## **BACKGROUND AND CHALLENGES**

Special revelations in the form of dreams, vision, and prophecy

Superstitions: witchcraft, taboos, magic or spells

No Scriptures, no resources, no libraries, etc.

## **AREAS AND QUESTIONS A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW HAVE ANSWERS**

God	Is there a transcendent supreme being?
Creation	Where did the world come from?
Humanity	Who are we?
Moral order	Who makes rules? What is the basis of right and wrong?
Death	What happens to people when they die?
Purpose	Why do we exist?

## **HOW TO DEVELOP A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW?**

Christian worldview is primarily formed when things we learn are framed within the context of God's truth found in the Bible and are supported by our life experience with those who taught us.

The formula applicable in all worldviews: training, teaching, time, practice leads to trusting the truth claims passed on. As a result a worldview is formed.

**The following must be affected by the Christian worldview:**

- Mind – thinking
- Morality – conduct or behaviour (Lifestyle)
- Ministry – practice / philosophy / experience

**Our institutions must be Christ-centred. We need the mind of Christ.**

Romans 12:2, *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect”.*

1 Corinthians 2:16, *“But who has the mind of the Lord that He should instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ”*

2 Corinthians 10:4, *“We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ”*

2 Corinthians 3:14, *“But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ”*

2 Corinthians 4:4, *“In whose case the god of this age has blinded the mind of unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God”.*

2 Corinthians 11:3, *“But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ”*

**Why Johnny can't preach?**

- Two things: Johnny cannot READ  
(Johnny cannot THINK)  
Johnny cannot WRITE

Shaping the Christian worldview with Scripture require instructors to teach student:

To read the Bible

- How to read the Bible for all its worth?
- How to live by the book?

Courses:

- Bible reading and studying discipline
- Biblical hermeneutics and exegesis

To think spiritually

How to argue biblically?

Course:

Theology and ethics

To write academically

How to develop argument, claims, proposition, or thesis

## **THE ESSENTIALS OF SHAPING A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW**

Philippians 4:9, *“The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you”*

### **1. TRAINING**

What do we instruct our student?

Shepherd-Expositors

### **2. TIME**

How much time do they need? How much time do we use?

Three years and four years

One hour class

One hour of mentoring

### **3. TRUTH that can be TRUSTED**

What is the content of the training? Is it trustworthy? Is that truth our conviction?

Scripture / The Holy Bible

Systematic theology, biblical theology, historical theology, practical theology

### **4. TRADITION**

What are things that so important that we intend to pass them to our students?

These are things that we practice regularly because we value them highly.

Bible reading and study, expository preaching, counselling, serving, etc.

### **5. PRACTICE (modelling)**

Do we practice what we preach?

Pulpit preaching, public preaching, parenting, prayer, personal devotions, purity,

leadership, family, marriage, church attendance, financial responsibility and giving,

Training is the combination of the truth claim we teach and the reality of how our students experience that truth, for experience will determine the extent of which the truth claim will be trusted or rejected (Anonymous).

## **Questions**

Does it matter what and how our students are taught or instructed?

Does it matter what kind of time we spend with our student?

Does it matter if they are learning to trust God's Word or the truth claims?

Does it matter what we are passing on?

Does it matter how we live our lives and how we influence our student with our faith?

## **CONCLUSION**

Having a Christian worldview means living as an obedient Christian in all of life.

The Christian worldview is shaped when students apply it in everyday life in such a way that it becomes a dominant influence that affect their decisions and actions.

The Christian institutions must aim at improving the quality of living in this world with the mind saturated by Scripture, and the character being Christ-like, and the practice always in line with the mind of Christ.

The instructors in all institutions should be agents of godly change by adhering to these:

- Openly share your faith

- Confidently and convincingly teach the Christian worldview

- Daily demonstrate a Christian living

  - In your teaching be patient, loving, impartial, and prayerful

  - In your relationship with other faculty and staff

  - In your relationship with students.

The essence of Christian worldview is not knowledge but to bring every thought captive to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It should captivate the thinking of every Christian and should be internalized and then applied to every contemporary issues. This should be considered the high calling of Christian Institution of Higher Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.