

# Editorial: Worldview, Missions and Theology

In this second special issue on worldview we want to explore in depth the mission implication of worldview, missions and theology? Specifically how does worldview relate to reaching the remaining unreached of the world? As we study the articles related to this fundamental subject, it should become obvious that mission personnel, including their support base, (not to say anything about the Church in general) should have a solid biblical worldview, that has been stripped of modern-day secular humanism, as well as all its other related “isms” of modern Western culture. Mission personnel must have biblical answers to the ultimate questions of life, especially as they face the unreached Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist non-Christian religions and cultures most of which are well developed systems of belief, having long standing traditions, all of which rest on an essential supernatural worldview.

Without such a worldview missionaries should stay at home and their supporters and directors should insist on this until they get a thorough biblical oriented worldview. Mission personnel should get all the help need to make this happen as soon as possible. A biblical worldview will give missionaries the “steadfastness of the faith” that will “thoroughly equip” them for the greatest of all “good works.” (See Col. 2:4, 5 and 2 Tim. 3:16, 17)

Three basic reasons could be given for this position: First, Christian faith and life, plus the Christian message that we communicate, cannot be divorced from the ultimate questions of life nor from the answers we give to them that make up a Christian worldview. Worldview determines our operational beliefs, which in turn controls and effects what we value and what we see as good and right, which determines what we think about life and living, which in the final analysis results in what we actually do or not do in life.

For instance, why are so few Christians involved in mission, either as “goers,” or “stayers” to support those who go? Might not this lack of mission interest and involvement be the main reason why so many of the world’s peoples today are still unreached? Indeed, might it not be a worldview issue? If it is true that we do what we value, and do not do what we do not value, and that what we value (or not value) is based on our operational beliefs, which rests on the answers we give to the ultimate questions of life, then in the ultimate sense we can conclude that our lack of interest and involvement in reaching the unreached must be a worldview issue.

Second, we cannot communicate the Gospel message adequately without a biblical theology which forms our worldview. Jesus specifically mandated that we take to the nations “this Gospel of the Kingdom.” But we cannot proclaim this Gospel without proper foundations of a biblical worldview that is grounded in true truth, that rests in biblical theology. Without a Christian worldview, it is highly unlikely that we will go to the nations, or if we go that we go with the proper motivation (values). If we do not have true satisfying answers to the ultimate questions of life concerning God and His character we should not go as missionaries. Also it is not likely that we will. When we deeply understand our God and that He is as much the God of the nations as He is our God, that He created all the worlds (Hebrews 13:3), both visible and invisible reality (Colossians 1:15,16) will we go and go with the right message and motive. Although God needed nothing in Himself, yet He created mankind from one source giving mankind everywhere life and breath, including a place to live, so that they should seek after Him because they truly belong to Him. (See Acts 17:24-27). To the degree that we ignore this, to that same degree will we remain uninvolved, or go

with wrong motives if we go, and likely preach “another gospel” rather than “this Gospel of the Kingdom.” (See Matt. 24:14)

Third, if for no other reason missions, especially to the unreached world, needs to develop a biblical worldview, that is non-Western and non-secular, *for strategic reasons*. The non-Western unreached world, are miles away from secularism and naturalistic systems of thinking and belief. They are far closer to a biblical (supernatural) view of life than any modern-day Western humanistic secularism.

The book *Touching the Soul of Islam*, by Dr. Bill Musk is to the point. In this valuable book Dr. Musk explores the worldview of Muslim people and shows how radically different it is from that of Westerners. Then he demonstrates how Christian missionaries should use the Bible to develop a biblical worldview. This is needed since the Bible expresses a worldview that is similar in many areas to Muslim thinking. In other words, missionaries must learn the Bible, and the worldview it reveals, since when we speak from this worldview it will help us communicate the Gospel in a meaningful and effective way to Muslims. It will help us bridge the gap and thus help us become more effective in our work.

This is equally true for every other unreached people. Missionaries can effectively reach the unreached in today’s world with relevant communication that is based on a biblically grounded worldview. It is impossible without it!

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