

# Biblical Christian World View: What does it mean?

by James Nickel

Having named this website Biblical Christian World View, what do I mean by these words? Although World View is often considered as one word, worldview, I am separating this word into its two components. With this proviso, let us unpack each word of this phrase in turn.

1. Biblical
2. Christian
3. World
4. View

## Biblical

The Bible reveals the starting point for all thinking because the Bible is the Word of the Creator God: Living, personal, triune, infinite, eternal, almighty, all knowing, everywhere present, holy, just, loving, merciful, and gracious. The Bible is infallible (absolutely trustworthy), inspired (God-breathed through human agency), and inerrant (free from error). There are no faults within it. It will stand forever and it is by this rule every human being shall all be judged on the last day. The Bible, consisting of the Old Testament (39 books) and New Testament (27 books), is the final and unchangeable standard of truth, the one authoritative rule for faith and practice (Romans 3:4; I Corinthians 2:5, 12-13; Matthew 4:4; II Timothy 3:16-17).

The Bible, while man-oriented (speaking to man's need of redemption from sin), is not man-centered. The Bible proclaims *first* the person, the glory, and the purposes of God, purposes that both include and transcend the individual. The Bible reveals God as Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End (along with all points in between). The Bible is therefore ultimately God-centered in the thrust of its message (Isaiah 44:6, Revelation 1:8; Revelation 22:13).

## Christian

Christian literally means "follower of Christ, the Messiah."<sup>1</sup> The word is only used two times in the New Testament (Acts 26:28; I Peter 4:16). In each context, the enemies of "The Way" (Acts 29:23; cf. John 14:6) use "Christian" in a derogatory manner. The Bible reveals the triune God in, through, and by Christ. To the Father God, Christ the Son is *beloved* and the Spirit of God *glorifies* Christ the Son. The Christian, the follower of "The Way," being a Christo-centric Trinitarian, will face opposition to the Light of Truth.

The Lord Jesus Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

First, Jesus is the Way. Way implies a pathway to walk upon. Man has chosen a pathway in opposition to the "way of holiness" (Isaiah 35). Christ presented before crooked man walking on a path leading to the precipice of perdition, an ethic, a lifestyle to follow, *and He provided the ethical power through His redemptive work to walk in it.* Christ is the way to wisdom (Colossians 2:3). Philosophy means "love of wisdom." Since Christ is wisdom and knowledge personified, then a true philosopher is an obedient lover of Christ.

Second, Jesus is the Truth. Man's problem is not just a matter of ethics; it is epistemological. He misunderstands the nature of Truth. Jesus said that He is the truth and that He enlightens every man that comes into the world (John 1:1-4). This enlightenment means that Christ bestows the ability upon all men to know what they know. *It is light in the person of Christ that makes any knowledge possible.* Jesus said, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you will know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). The truth that is in Jesus brings ethical and epistemological freedom.

Third, Jesus is the Life. In Him, there is true life or metaphysical reality. Through Him, the true *logos*, all things were made (Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-3). And, it is in the *logos* of God that all things consist and it is the word (Greek: *rhema*<sup>2</sup>) of His power that upholds all things (Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3). The Biblical Christian meta-

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<sup>1</sup> Messiah, or Christ, is a title. The Son of God was named Jesus, meaning "the savior from sin," at His birth. Lord represents is the Son of God's royal authority over all things, heaven and earth.

<sup>2</sup> *Rhema* means the express statements or utterance of a living voice.

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physic is that a personal *logos* has made the world giving life to all things. Not only has the *logos* made the world, the *logos* has also entered the world taking on human flesh, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father *in order to save it* (John 1:14, John 3:17). The Bible reveals a transcendent *logos* (an eternal, yet personal Creator). The created order of cause and effect reflects the way wisdom in the person of Christ made it (Proverbs 8:12-36).

The phrase *Biblical Christian* is therefore a necessary one. Some people call themselves Christians while rejecting the Bible in its totality as authoritative in every area of thought and life. A Biblical Christian is a person who submits to the whole Word of God (the entirety of Scripture) and believes that the whole Word of God applies to the entirety of life (in time and in eternity).

## World

In Scripture, “world” has several meanings. Based upon the context, world can refer to (1) the cosmos or universe; i.e., the created order (Acts 17:24), (2) the people of the world (John 3:16), or (3) the system of ethical rebellion. Regarding ethics, the New Testament often refers the attitude, outlook, and conduct that is in rebellion against God as “the world” (see I John 2:15-17 and James 4:4). God in Christ by His Holy Spirit has redeemed the Biblical Christian from ethical rebellion (this “world”). The Biblical Christian therefore sees the same world differently because of it. *He sees the world in rebellion as a world Christ came to save* (John 3:17, 4:42, I John 4:14).<sup>3</sup> By rejecting ethical rebellion, the Biblical Christian seeks to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (II Corinthians 10:5) by being salt and light, indeed, redeeming influences in the structures of society (Matthew 5:13-16). Note carefully, darkness is the absence of light but light is *not* the absence of darkness. The darkness that envelops an entire room disappears when one lamp is lit! Power flows from Biblical Christians touching the world of ethical rebellion, lighting and salting it thereby.

Since all things were created in and by Christ, then every aspect of the created order belongs to the Creator (Psalm 24:1). The Biblical Christian is one who sees *all things* in a comprehensive, reoriented, and Biblical perspective so that *all things* might serve the purposes of Christ (Colossians 1:15-18). By rejecting the ethical rebellion of the “world,” the Biblical Christian faith is truly *world affirming*.

There is consummative finality to the redemptive activity of God in this world. In the words of Dr. Glenn R. Martin, “The Biblical Christian also knows that subsequent to creation there was a Fall; and on this side of the Fall there is abnormality, not normality. But Biblical Christians are not caught in a flux of perpetual abnormality; they know that what currently exists has not always been and will not always be. Biblical Christians know that God in Christ will return to consummate history and implement the Kingdom of God in its full power over all that exists. Hence, they look forward in hope to the Second Advent even as they look back in faith to the First Advent.”

## View

“View” means perspective or interpretation. The Biblical Christian World View denotes how a follower of Christ interprets his or her experience of the physical world that God has made and the ethical world that God is redeeming.

Everyone has a view of the world. Everyone interprets day-to-day experiences in light of a given perspective. One’s view of the world is like putting on a pair of glasses. A person sees the reality around him (i.e., the way things are in God’s world) through these glasses. Because of the historic space-time Fall, the unbeliever cements the false “God does not exist” glasses over his eyes.<sup>4</sup> These cemented glasses do not alter Truth-Reality because the false glasses one sees through do not change the verity of the way things really are. *Hence, it is imperative that one has the right pair of glasses (i.e., the Biblical Christian World View) that truly describes what is really there.*

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<sup>3</sup> It is also the intent purpose of Christ to rescue (1) the created order (Romans 8:19-22) and (2) a vast number of the human race (Revelation 5:9-10; 7:9).

<sup>4</sup> These cemented glasses can only be removed through the dissolving solution of God’s unmerited grace revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ.