



"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'"
(Luke 12:20 NIV)

BIGGER BARNES

(Readings: Luke 12: 16- 21)

There is a parable told by the Master that has a lesson today for all of us. It is about a man who had his own "World View". He thought that he had life all figured out.

He would work really hard and save his money. He would invest in stocks and bonds and then at a very early age, he would retire. Then he would take it easy. He would travel the world, and have fun. It never occurred to him that before he could enjoy one day of his dreams, he would die of a heart attack. What a fool!

Unfortunately, this man has a lot of company. Many people live their lives with this same "World view". They spend all of their time and energy working for their own future. They have no time left for the needs of others. No time left to seek after God.

THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

Very few would classify themselves among the wicked. They understand that they may not be "saints", but they often remain confident that God will overlook their shortcomings.

What does the Bible tell us about the righteous and the wicked? We find an interesting definition in the Book of Malachi, Chapter 3 (v.18):
"Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between **him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.**"

The message is very clear. Those who serve God are considered righteous. Those who do not serve God are "wicked". Nothing is said about sin or evil. The difference between people is established by very basic facts. Do we serve God or are we serving our own needs and desires?

SERVING GOD

Serving ourselves is instinctive and natural. We do not require any particular education or training to be found among the wicked. How then, do we serve God?

The Word of God is our key. If we are going to serve the Creator, His Word is the only place where we can gain the knowledge that will be needed.

Read and study God's Word. Seek understanding by asking others who are experienced in the word to help you.

Serving God involves **knowing**, and then **doing** His will, and not our own.

OUR EXAMPLE

Jesus showed us the way by his example. He showed us how to serve God by first learning and memorizing the scriptures. He understood God's will, and then made a conscious decision to always do those things that pleased his Father.

Things Concerning

The Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ

"But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord."

WORLD VIEW

The verse quoted above from Numbers 14:21 presents us with a "World View". It is confidently expressed that in the future, this earth will be completely filled with God's glory.

This "World view" is an accurate and true description of the future of this planet. We are certain that this is a reliable view because these words were spoken by Almighty God, to his servant Moses. (We could do no better than to accept this "World view" as our own).

MANY VIEWS

There are, in fact, a variety of "World Views" out there. There are many ideas about the future.

Some say there is no hope. They believe that we live our lives and die and that this world will eventually be destroyed by the foolishness of man.

Others say that the earth will be burned up and that the faithful will be scooped up into the heavens to escape the fire.

These and many other views, too numerous to mention, are all the products of a common misunderstanding of the purpose of God.

YOUR WORLD VIEW?

It is important for all of us to have our own "World View". We owe it to ourselves to have a reasonable answer to the questions of life. Why am I here? What is life all about? What does the future hold? Do I have a future?

Supplement to The Christadelphian Advocate



YOUR CHOICE

We can refuse to think about these things if we choose. Common sense tells us that sooner or later, we will face the end of our life. It follows that if we ignore the possibility for a future life, we have accepted our inevitable fate and tomorrow we die.

How much better it may be if we take the time now to seek some real answers to our questions.

We tend to think that we have time on our side, but we can never be sure. We all have known friends who are no longer with us, fate having taken them away before their time.

Are we different? Are we special? Will we live out our days? Why would we have any advantage, if we have ignored our Creator, the only one with the power to preserve us?

ACT NOW

There is no time like the present to come to terms with your own "World View". We recommend that you adopt a "World View" that is supported in the Word of God.

If you would like to have a free monthly copy of "Things Concerning" sent to a friend please let us know. VISIT THE ADVOCATE WEB SITE: www.christadelphian-advocate.org

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PRINCIPLES TO CONSIDER WHEN YOU DEVELOP YOUR OWN WORLD VIEW



Scripture Based

Our "World view" must have a reliable base. There should be a good foundation for our belief.

The Bible is the Word of God. There is no other writing, no other source of information that will provide us with sufficient evidence to build a faith on. The scriptures alone have endured through the ages providing us always with a constant benchmark for our convictions.

The Creation

There are two major views available to you. You can believe the Bible, that "in the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth," OR, you can accept the popular theory that it all happened by chance.

It is important to understand that evolution is only a theory, and that scientists are still searching for something really tangible to base this view on.

Start collecting the articles that are being published about their views on the origin of the world. You will soon realize that there is a great diversity in the theories, and that they really do not have any reliable answers for you.

Purpose?

The Bible presents a purpose for the Creation and for our existence. None of the alternative "World Views" provide us with any reason for our lives.

The earth was created to be inhabited with people and to be filled with God's glory. (see Isaiah 45:18 and Numbers 14:21)

This purpose provides us with a reason for our lives. We can be a part of this wonderful plan.

If this earth is eventually going to be filled with people and His glory, then it follows that these people must learn to glorify God.

If we accept this vision of the future, we can direct our lives towards this goal by learning now, how to glorify God with our lives.

Free Will

One of the most important principles in God's plan is that people have a choice in their lives. He has given us free will to develop our own "World View" and to decide whether or not we care to be a part of the future glory.

It may seem that no one would choose to ignore the possibility of a future life, but millions do. The widely accepted "World View" is to simply "eat and drink for tomorrow we die." (see 1 Cor. 15:32)

Because God has allowed us to have our own free will in these matters, many choose to follow after their natural instincts (which are prone to evil), and the world is a terrible place.

GOD is Longsuffering

God is not willing that any perish, and He is patient and longsuffering with the choices that we tend to make in our lives. Some wonder why a loving God would allow the resulting evil. It is for our future well being that He endures our foolishness, hoping that we will accept His help and change our ways.

Elements for a scriptural "World View"

The Earth

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." (Gen 1:1)

"While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." (Gen 8:22)

"And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice." (Gen 22:18)

"One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever." (Eccles 1:4)

"The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men." (Psa. 115:16)

"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." (Matt 5:5)

"All the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD." (Num 14:21)

"And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one. (Zec 14:9)

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." (Matt 6:10)

THE KINGDOM

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever." (Dan 2:44)

"And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High,

whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him." (Dan 7:27)

" But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Mic 4: 1-3)

THE BLESSINGS

"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away. (Rev 21: 3-4)

OUR PART?

"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." (Rev 22:12,14)