

The Christian World and Life View

Introduction

A. Relevant Scripture passages.

For with Thee is the fountain of life, in Thy light shall we see light. Psalm 36:9

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105

The entrance of Thy words giveth light, it giveth understanding unto the simple. Psalm 119:130

Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge, ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered. Luke 11:52

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world, he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. John 8:12

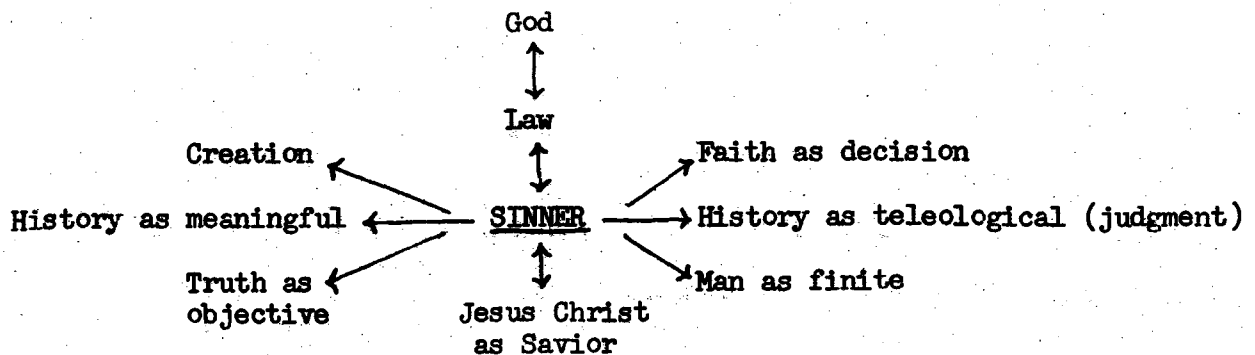
Jesus saith unto them, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father, but by Me. John 14:6

In Whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Col. 2:3

B. Quotations.

He who with his whole heart believes in Jesus as the Son of God is thereby committed to much else besides. He is committed to a view of God, to a view of man, to a view of sin, to a view of redemption, to a view of the purpose of God in creation and history, to a view of human destiny, found only in Christianity. This forms a "Weltanschauung", or "Christian view of the world", which stands in marked contrast with theories wrought out from a purely philosophical or scientific standpoint.

(James Orr, The Christian View of God and the World, p. 4)



The rational task of the apologist for Christianity is just the natural task of the advocate and exponent of any great generalization of science, to vindicate it, on the basis of evidence, as the most reasonable hypothesis to explain undoubted facts. . . . Christian apologetics is the explication of the fact that the Christian religion explains the world, man, and human history more comprehensively and more satisfactorily than any other explanation which can be devised.

(J. M. Sweet, The Verification of Christianity, pp. 17,18)

Christianity therefore has, or, one may even say, Christianity is a comprehensive view of all things - it takes the world, both material and spiritual, to be an ordered system. Consequently, if Christianity is to be defended against the objections of other philosophies, the only adequate method will be comprehensive. While it is of great importance to defend particular points of special interest, these specific defenses will be insufficient. In addition to these details, there is also needed a picture of the whole into which they fit The naturalistic philosophy that engulfs the modern mind is not a repudiation of one or two items of the Christian faith leaving the remainder untouched; it is not a philosophy that is satisfied to deny miracles while approving or at least not disapproving of Christian moral standards; on the contrary both Christianity and naturalism demand all or nothing; compromise is impossible. At least this will be true if the answer of any one question is integral with the answers of every other. Each system proposes to interpret all the facts; each system subscribes to the principle that this is one world. A universe, even James' pluralistic universe, cannot exist half theistic and half atheistic. Politics, science, and epistemology must be all one or the other.

(Gordon H. Clark, A Christian View of Men and Things, p. 25)

. . . Christian philosophy, taken as a whole, is that system of thought (or world-view) which results from man's thinking under the influence of the Spirit which God has given, which recognizes as authoritative the Word He has spoken, and which places, at its very center, Christ, the Word Who became flesh Rational and empirical philosophies assume that a complete and sufficient world-view can be constructed by human speculation alone, while Christian realistic philosophy insists that an over-all view can be constructed only in the light of the plan and purpose of the Creator as it is set forth in His Word.

(Warren C. Young, A Christian Approach to Philosophy, p. 202)

Science	Philosophy	Psychology	Sociology	Education	Anthropology
The Christian World and Life View					

C. The Christian World and Life View in Outline.

The Position of Revelation

The Area of Focus

The Biblical Answer (sample only)

The Modern Alternative

God as Creator

Metaphysics

- 1. Infinite/Finite concept
- 2. The world is there
- 3. The world is rational
- 4. Man created to know, love, & obey God with fulfillment

Metaphysical Singularism
(some form of pantheism, usually in a process.)

God as Truth

Epistemology

- 1. There is objective truth
- 2. Truth can be known
- 3. Truth is practical and rewarding

Relativism
(no absolutes)

God as Holy Love

Ethics

- 1. Actions are related to metaphysics and epistemology
- 2. There are absolutes
- 3. Morality is necessary and practical
- 4. Morality is rewarding and self-fulfilling

Amorality
(no final right and wrong)

God as Savior and Lord

Religion

- 1. There is an object of faith - God as person
- 2. There are methods of grace - faith, love, and hope
- 3. There is atonement
- 4. There is an objective or legal relationship with God and an accompanying experience of assurance and certainty

Ecumenism
(religions differ only in some form of development)