

THE WORLDVIEW SERIES

A DEFENSE FOR AN ACTIVE, ENGAGING
AND CULTURALLY RELEVANT FAITH

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“OUR BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW AND THE CHURCH” – PART 1

THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS WORLDVIEW

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Maturity, Worldview, Apologetics, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text:

Acts 17:28

Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “*Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious (spiritually minded); :23 for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: :24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. :25* Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. **:26** And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, **:27** so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; **:28 for in Him we live and move and have our being, :29** Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, **we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising. :30** Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, **but now commands all men everywhere to repent, :31** (why?) because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

OUR BIBLICAL WORLD VIEW AND THE CHURCH

DEVELOPING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

1.) What Is The Church?

And Before We Go There – Think On This:

As Americans and being children of western civilization – the offspring of the enlightenment – we are profoundly effected, molded and shaped by the Judeo-Christian worldview that has been foundational to modern civilization.

Throughout history – from its inception the church has been an unrelenting force in cultural change and the betterment of a society.

Question Here: - What Comes to Your Mind?

When you think of church? What comes to your mind when you think of Christians?
What comes to your mind when you think of Jesus Christ?

The First Mention of the Church in its Greek Context is Here;

Matthew 16:18

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build **My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Church: grk: ejkklhsi÷a ekklesia, ek-klay-see'-ah;

The gathering together. The meeting up of those called out of and away from the world. A congregation engaged in convocation. A Jewish synagogue, or Christian church community comprising of those trusting in Christ Jesus here on earth or the gathering of the saints either in heaven or on earth or where Christ is. The assembly of souls.

Romans 16:5

Likewise *greet* the **church** that is in their house.
(just as this church met in the house 20 years ago)

There is an Old Testament Equivalent

Deuteronomy 4:10

The LORD said to Moses, “**Gather** ‘kaw-hal’ the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may (1) learn to **fear** (to communicate reverence or be in awe) Me all the days they live on the earth, and (2) *that* they may **teach** their children.’

Ephesians 1:22-23

And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, :23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

The body of Christ (Church) is comprised of two aspects:

1) There is the **universal (worldwide) church** which consists of all those who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. **“For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink” (1 Corinthians 12:13).** This verse says that anyone who believes is part of the body of Christ and has received the Spirit of Christ as evidence. The universal church of God is all those who have received salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

2) There is the **local church** as described **in Galatians 1:1-2: “Paul, an apostle ... and all the brothers with me, to the churches in Galatia.”** Here we see that in the province of Galatia there were **many churches**—what we call local churches. A Baptist church, Lutheran church, etc., is not the church, as in the universal church—but rather **is a local church**, a local body of believers.

The **universal (worldwide) church** is comprised of those who belong to Christ and who have trusted Him for salvation. These of the **universal (worldwide) church** are to seek fellowship and edification in a **local church**.

Simply Put

The Church is the Body of Jesus Christ, who is the Head of the Body. Jesus leads, guides, provides, instructs, and develops toward maturity the church, locally or universally.

The Church is a living entity and is subject to all the dynamics of an entity. The church is alive and moving and in a constant state of development and growth. These energies all come together to make for a powerful, effective, fluid and exciting experience.

But What’s Happening Now Is Truly Remarkable

We are, founded in ignorance, willingly turning away from our roots, culture, morality, and foundations. In a Post-Modern, Post-Christian America, everybody gets a crack at defining and describing what the church is or how it should work, or be BASED UPON their desire and their wants and their needs.

The Church is the Guardian of God’s Revealed Word on Earth.

1 Timothy 3:14-15

These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; :15 but if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in **the house of God**, which is the **church** of the living God, the **pillar** and **ground of the truth**.

The House of God = The Church, not a building, is the “Pillar”

The Church is also the “Ground” Of The Truth. The Church is to be known as the Place and People of The Truth.

To determine if you are in a true, biblical church or not;

You must first judge the church’s teachings, Its influence, its witness, its impact, its love, its worship, and its obedience to Christ against the Bible.

Many today are making a fatal mistake not knowing what a church is.

Clip #1

“how the church lost me”

what does he mean? – can a church lose someone, really?

Clip #2

“I learned how it works. It was like a business”

What does she mean? What can we know from her experience?

How does the church work – I would like to know because the Holy Spirit is the driver of it and he is in control”

Clip #3

It’s just not real or relevant to me anymore
But it is to me and others. So why are we different?

Clip #4

I don’t think God was Who I made Him
We are not to make God anybody. HE IS WHO HE IS.

Clip #5

I don’t have the relationship that my mom sees
But what does your relationship to God look like according to scripture?

Clip #6

I don’t know if Jesus was the son of God
Correct, you must come to Jesus as the son of God – but why don’t you?

Clip #7

I am still a Christian, I just don't go to church anymore
Why?

Clip #8

Evolution or sexuality and the Bible
Is there some other truth out there that earthlings have missed?

“You Lost Me” Are you sure? Or did you walk away?

Luke 13:24

“**Strive** to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

ajgwni÷zomai agonizomai,

Matthew 7:13-14

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. :14 Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

My Observation Is

This is and will continue to be the breeding ground for apostasy. This attempt to change the church rather than **be** the church, is rooted in spiritual self justification for things like the Emergent church and the many other fancy names given to it. The disgruntled masses are living out a Biblical warning of the last days.

Grow Up and Join The Conversation,

That Jesus Christ is LORD and you need to (1) repent of your bitterness. (2) ask Him to forgive you for your rebellion against Him. (3) Ask for forgiveness for having gossiped about other people. (4) actually, literally – start physically reading your Bible all by yourself and learn how to listen to God instead of all the noise in your life.

The Cross

Come Forward for Prayer Tonight

End of Study

© By Jack D. Hibbs, May 23, 2012