

5 Class 5 Worldview Solutions and Redemption

General Observations concerning Worldview Solutions

1. Worldviews always include a vision of what the solution to the problem is.
2. The nature of the problem, as perceived by the worldview, will absolutely dictate how the solution is conceived and applied.
 - 1) Thus, to be wrong in determining the nature of the problem guarantees being wrong concerning the solution.
 - 2) Being wrong establishes the issues and the method by which solutions can be found or created. Thus, to be wrong as to the problem means that the right solutions might be found for the wrong problem, but the wrong solutions will be devised for the wrong perception of the right problem or the wrong problem.
3. There are three contributory categories that feed into a worldview's vision of the solution to human's problem:
 - 1) Ultimate Reality – What is ultimate reality, and how does the human problem relate to ultimate reality?
 - 2) Truth - What is truth, how can we know it, and in what sense does truth guide us to rightly understand the human problem?
 - 3) Conception of a Plan - How do the first two categories help us to determine the nature of the solution and how the solution can be applied to human experience?
4. Every other worldview (other than Christianity) cannot give a true explanation of what the problem is and how the problem can be solved. This is true of every ideology, ethic, religion, philosophy, or governmental theory.
 - 1) A false understanding of reality, creation, humanity, history, ethics, and religion cannot result in a true understanding of the solution and the real hope for humanity.
 - 2) A false understanding of what is the solution and how it may be applied is either SUPERFICIAL or CATASTROPHIC (as we saw last week).

Christianity, the Solution, and Redemption

1. Christianity states that the essential problem with humanity, and every manifestational aspect of it, relates directly to human sin as it pertains to the person of God, the will of God, the sovereignty of God, and the revealed moral law of God.
 - 1) To be wrong about ultimate reality is to be wrong about everything else, because everything else relates to the centrality of ultimate reality.
 - 2) A false perception of ultimate reality determines a false approach to everything.
2. Furthermore, Christianity teaches that the resultant suffering and loss in human experience (both individually and socially) are directly related to this wrong connection to God.

- 1) Every sin, mistake, and wrong done in human history relates at the fundamental sense to a wrong belief about or a wrong approach to ultimate reality.
 - 2) To be wrong about God leads to darkened understanding and great suffering.
3. Therefore, the core problem of the human existential problem is in the human soul as it relates to God.
- 1) No matter what the presenting problem is, at some point and level, the real problem relates to God.
 - 2) Every solution at this deep level connects to God, His truth, and His saving work.
4. And there can be no human peace, joy, fulfillment, human development and actualization until the relationship to God is restored.
- 1) No peace
 - 2) No joy
 - 3) No fulfillment and human development/actualization
 - 4) No righteousness and harmony among people
5. Christianity says that it is from this restored relationship to God that we are able to rightly understand ourselves and rightly relate to others.
- 1) We must first be rightly related to God
 - 2) Upon this basis of right relationship to God all other solutions can be perceived
 - 3) From our life with God, we extend His goodness to others
 - 4) This forms the grid for our social and societal harmony and justice
6. This means that Christianity's belief about the solution must be understood in the context of spiritual redemption.
- 1) Fact – Christianity establishes the existential human experience of life, joy, peace, goodness, and harmony on our right relationship to God (See: Ten Commandments and the Two Great Commandments). Thus, the harmony and peace of the entire world is found in the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - 2) Christians and the Church must rightly understand the gospel, which teaches how to be rightly related to God through Christ, then apply this to human relationships.
7. Therefore, this means that Christians and the Church cannot embrace the ideas that the problem and the solution are:
- 1) Political
 - 2) Sociological
 - 3) Societal
 - 4) Psychological
 - 5) Economic

The sin problem touches all of these categories, but the solution to problems in these categories begins with being right with God in Christ.

8. In fact, Christianity argues against understanding the main problem being in the horizontal perception of life...we are only able to rightly relate to each other when we are first rightly related to God. To switch the horizontal into the first priority is to go about the solution in the wrong way.

Christianity's Design concerning Redemption

1. Redemption as a concept deals with humanity's sin problem, which separated humanity from God, resulting in violation of God's will, transgression of God's law, and a separation from God Himself. Thus, the solution must first bring humanity back to God in a moral and spiritual sense. This is the existential problem of the sin problem. The saving work of God in Christ solves this existential problem, its personal experience in human existence, and it provides a platform for right relations with others.
2. Redemption, as it relates to humanity's return to God, must be achieved and applied by God to humanity's problem
3. God made the promise to accomplish redemption through the covenant established with the ancient Jewish patriarchs, but the extent of God's saving covenant promise includes all of human history and the entire world.
4. This covenant of redemption pointed to the coming Messiah Lord who would accomplish in human history this redemption. This was fulfilled in the incarnation of Jesus Christ who represented humanity/God's people in His active righteousness and saving work of atonement on the cross.
5. The application of the merits of redemption through the Messiah/Savior benefits God's chosen people, those who will have faith in Christ.
6. The chosen people of God (believers) are from all periods of history all over the world, from every people group, according to God's sovereign will. Eternity will demonstrate how God saved many people from many groups around the world.
7. God applies the power of Christ's saving work to human individuals through the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit bringing the person to conviction of sin, repentance of sin, and saving faith in Jesus Christ. This is done as a work of divine grace in the power of the Holy Spirit sovereignly applied to the person.
8. Christianity explains that the right relationship of the believer to God the Father through the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross establishing a right relationship with God the Father through a justified state before God on the basis of Jesus' death for our sins and His righteousness imputed to our account. In this way, the believer is made righteous before God. In this way, righteous is attained in the human soul and manifest in life. Active human righteousness is based on the imputed righteousness of Christ through the regenerative work of the Holy Spirit (See next point).

9. The Holy Spirit brings new birth (regeneration) to the believer, causing repentance and faith in Christ; this establishes a new life lived in righteousness in sanctification experienced progressively in the power of the Holy Spirit, transforming the life in every area. There is progressive growth and godly living. This is the basis for new relationships and new patterns of life in all aspects of human engagement.
10. The salvation of individuals is part of the presence of the kingdom of God on earth, and the collective connection of Christians together in covenant fellowship and accountability, which is called the church. Thus, the church is the kingdom of God on earth in human experience. In this way we see how the church is fundamental to gospel work and life on earth in human history.
11. As the kingdom of God grows on earth through the spread of the gospel light pushes back against the darkness until the day of Christ's return, the eschatos, in which Christ's sovereign authority and power are applied to the following results:
 - 1) Banish evil
 - 2) Finish the saving work of God on earth
 - 3) The end of history and the beginning of eternity
12. Christianity argues that there can be no justice, righteousness, peace, and harmony on earth between people until the kingdom of God comes in the lives of sinners transforming them into disciples of Jesus. And one day, in the eschatos (in Jesus' second coming), the world will be renewed, creation will be re-constituted, and all goodness will reign in human experience forever.

Christian Redemption and Reconciliation (relational and social)

1. The internal components of redemption in Christ, found in the human mind, heart, and will, enable the Christian to establish loving and mutually satisfying relationships with other people.
2. The reason for this is that self-idolatry is conquered in Christ. The person no longer wants to be first, no longer needs to be perceived as right in front of people or assumes that he is in control. Now the person finds satisfaction and joy in holiness, love, and unselfish relationships with others.
3. This results in peace, harmony, and mutual respect, and it allows for positive relationships to develop and grow between people.
4. The essential aspects that have been described immediately above will be applied in every human social unit:
 - 1) Marriage and family
 - 2) Business
 - 3) Friendship
 - 4) Government

Christian Redemption and Personal Human Joy and Peace (psychological self-awareness)

1. Self-perception in the context of God's created design

- 1) Thus, in Christ and in God's saving work, we see ourselves as God created us originally.
 - 2) We see ourselves clothed in the righteousness of Jesus, being completely accepted by God.
 - 3) We see ourselves complete and fulfilled in Christ.
 - 4) We no longer need to compete with other people for meaning, purpose, and value.
 - 5) We are free to be what is right in God's sight.
 - 6) This gives us great fulfillment and satisfaction.
 - 7) We live for eternal reality in every present moment of life; this is enough for us.
2. Experience the love, joy, and satisfaction of your humanity in God's love and pleasure
 - 1) We experience true love from God, and we experience true love for God.
 - 2) This gives us a love for Him Who is love, and it gives us love for what He loves.
 - 3) This also gives us pleasure, joy, and satisfaction in God alone.
 - 4) This also give us delight and pleasure in all things that God takes pleasure in.
 - 5) All other loves, joys, and pleasure are superficial and false to us.
3. All self-centered hindrances to love are removed
 - 1) We no longer need to be self-elevated in our own minds and in the minds of others.
 - 2) We are free to be God-centered and others-centered.
 - 3) Self-centered idolatry is destroyed, and we are free to be happy unselfishly.
4. Human satisfaction in total completeness is accomplished and experienced
 - 1) We experience the joyful awareness that we are what God created us to be.
 - 2) We, thus, experience, the fulfillment of that completion.
 - 3) We are content and happy with God.

Summary Categories of Application of Redemption

1. No solution is effectual and helpful unless it begins with redemption with God.
2. Any and all philosophies and ideologies that claim to bring solutions without God are:
 - 1) False
 - 2) Superficial
 - 3) Bring suffering to the human race
3. This is why Satan pushes false human solutions, because they turn humanity from God, the right solutions, and creates pain and suffering.
4. Christians and the church must remember the following:
 - 1) The Christian worldview presents the solution to the human problem by bringing humanity to a right relationship from God in Christ and His saving work.
 - 2) A right relationship with God through Christ creates all other human solutions individually and socially.

