

A CHRIST-CENTERED WORLDVIEW

SERIES: PARENTING IN A PANDEMIC | WEEK 3 | 9.27.2020

Will you join me in prayer?

Father,



We are just so humbled before You, Lord, that we can anchor our worship on your truth. Father, I know a lot of us have come before You today with a lot of brokenness, a lot of questions, a lot of hurt; some of us are filled with hope but we're all over the place. Lord, this is your body made up of many parts so, Lord, I ask that your Spirit would be great in this place, that my words would be your words, that everything we talk about and everything we do would lead back to You and your worship and your glory and your honor; that it would build your Kingdom forever and ever. Amen.

My name is Pastor John, I'm one of the executive pastors here. If you're new, thank you for joining us, we're really glad you're here. If you are first time here, we just want to kind of connect with you, so our blue wall location is right out these doors, we'd love to connect with you after service or come up front, I'd love to talk to you and answer any questions you may have if you're new, but thank you for joining us. I just want to also say thank you for everyone online. I know that many of our people are worshiping in their homes or in their cars or wherever they are, and so we just want to thank you for joining us. We love you, we miss you, but we're glad you're here and you're connecting in and you're worshiping with us and serving together, and so we miss you, love you, thanks for joining us. Outdoors, we thank you for being here in fellowship but also where you feel comfortable with being.

If you have your Bibles you can turn to Colossians Chapter 2. I'm gonna come in hot this morning. Okay? Is that okay? All right. For those who know that's kind of my personality, so get ready, I'm warning you I'm coming in hot. Okay? Colossians Chapter 2, we're gonna be in Colossians most of this morning but we're going to jump around, but mostly Colossians 1 and 2.

Let me give you a statistic. Okay? I want you to listen to this: Roughly 70% of Christian college students going off to college—again, roughly 70% of Christian college students going off to college end up leaving their faith during the first semester first year on campus. So let me just say that again, 70% of Christian, that's Christian college students, students that would say, "I'm a Christian," end up leaving their faith in the first year that they're attending college. Here's my question to you: Why? How many of you—raise your hand—how many of you have ever asked that question? Why are we losing our college kids? Okay. Some of you in high school may be asking the question: What's going on in college that I would lose my faith? Some of you that may be in college are like, "I get it." Some of you who are parents trying to raise your children up to fear the Lord and to walk in obedience are terrified of that. Fair? Okay. Let me try to give you a scenario, I'm going to paint a picture of why I think this happens. Okay?

70%

So we're going to call him little Timmy. All right? Little Timmy, and again I'm coming in hot, little Timmy is raised in a family that goes to church. Okay? Ever since little Timmy was born He goes to church and He learns about Bible stories from his church and from the teachers in his church, he learns about David and Goliath, and he learns all the good stories in the Bible. And little Timmy's family goes to church most Sundays—unless they're busy... or over the summer... or maybe if there's a sporting event—most of the time little Timmy's family goes to church. And his family are Christians, Timmy's family are Christians, and Timmy's parents are Christians, mom is Christian, dad is Christian, and Timmy is raised to think about Christian things when he's at church. And whenever little Timmy asked about it they say, "Well, the Bible says that we ought to believe this and so we believe it."



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So little Timmy grows up and He pursues his friends for influences, and he pursues his athletics, and he pursues school, and little Timmy is a Christian. Then little Timmy becomes big Timmy. He goes to college and the professor says, "Timmy, why do you believe that?" And Timmy digs deep and he thinks about it and he says, "Well, the Bible says so." And the professor says, "Well, why do we have to believe the Bible?" And little Timmy's faith crumbles. Right? And here's the question – Right? – here's the question: If we're honest, does Timmy have a Christ-centered worldview? Maybe not. Maybe He has a Christian family worldview. Maybe He has a self-worship worldview with religion attached to it. What's going on here? So here's the question we're gonna wrestle with: How do we as Christians—if you love Jesus and you want to live a Christ-centered worldview—how do you teach a Christ-centered worldview to your children?

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How do you do it? How do you do it in a way that not only would Timmy know His faith but He would know why He believes what He believes. You see, that's what a worldview is all about? Why do you believe what you believe? This is important, this is an important question that we need to talk about and influence. And listen, let's just be honest, if you turn on your television, if you turn on your phone and go to a social media app, Christians are not portrayed really as logical thinking, as smart, who kind of analyze what they believe and have reasons why. That's not what you see in Hollywood. You turn on a television show and we're kind of knuckleheads. Right? They're kind of emotional and they don't really know why they believe, they just believe. And we're seen in movies and we're seen in television shows as kind of close-minded, kind of blind-faith people. And so this is what's being taught as we consume media, as we consume things all the time. This is the narrative that we have, our children and us, receiving this. And for those who are walking in Christ, you think about it, you're like, "Yeah, I mean, these are things that I recognize all the time where I see a television show or I watch a movie and I'm like, "Man, that's a lie. That's not representing what we actually believe."

And we have a filter in which we can understand, okay, this is a lie and this is a truth, and this is why this is a lie and this is why this is the truth, but the question becomes: Why do we believe what we believe? And let me just kind of paint the picture of what a worldview is. A worldview is something where you ask the questions that matter; some of the most important questions in the world you ask yourself and then you have an answer to those questions. And listen, some of you—I'm going to read some of these questions—some of your answers could be even as simple as saying, "You know what, I don't know the answer to this question." But I would argue that that's your world view, that you don't really know, and that no one can know. But here are some questions that everyone kind of asks themselves.



Here's the first one: Where did everything come from? Where did everything come from? I mean, we're here. Right? We can touch each other, we can see the things around us—what happened, how did we get here? Is this random? Is this purposeful? How did we get here and why are there things that look the way they look? What happened? How did we get here? Here's another one: Who are we? Are we spiritual? Are we just animals? Are we kind of a combination of both? What are we? Why are we— are we different than other

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animals? Are we the same as other animals? Who are we? Here's another one: What's wrong? How many of you turn on the television and you clearly think, *Okay, something's wrong*. I look around and I see the world and, yes, some of us we have great days but then there's also really hard days and we're like something is broken and we have to figure out what is wrong. Is it the government that's the problem? Is it people that's the problem? Is it the culture I was raised in? What is wrong because everyone sees that something is wrong and we ask the question what is it? Fair?

Here's another one: What's the cure? What's the cure to this broken world that we witness every day and we experience every day. What's the cure? Is it government? Is it education? Is it self-help? What's the cure? How do we fix this? Is there a utopia that we should fight for and push everyone out that doesn't like—how do we fix this thing that we all know is broken? Again, we all ask these questions, don't we? Here's the last one: Is there hope ultimately in life? Is there hope? Are we just worm food when we die? Is there something beyond this? Is there something that we can anticipate or is there nothing? Do we just make it up?

And so here's my argument: That if you're a Christ follower, when you hear me say those things you probably, hopefully, are like, "You know what, I know the answers to those questions." But my challenge is this—I want you to understand that you need to know them on a deeper level, especially as you raise your children. Listen, I've discipled hundreds of students and I promise you this: "because the Bible says so" isn't enough. And because you were raised that way isn't enough. And by the way, here's the beautiful thing: Because we have Truth with a capital T—parents, look at me—if you live out a Christ-centered worldview you don't have to be afraid of questions because you have Truth. Truth can hold up to questions, lies don't.

But here's the problem. Okay? Coming in hot. Here's what I'm seeing: I don't think a lot of us live out a Christ-centered worldview, and I think our children see that and because of that they don't have a Christ-centered worldview of their own because they mostly will adopt what you actually live, not what you say. Because here's the thing, what you tell people to believe, what you tell your children to believe, and what you actually believe could be very different things. You hear me? Don't lie—but I lie. Don't swear—but I swear. Don't cheat—but I cheat. Don't worship anybody but God—but I worship a lot of things but God. So there could be a disconnect. And this is the thing, if we are going to raise our children to love the Lord, we need to understand what we believe, why we believe, and I'm going to give you some principles, some tactics that should be everywhere in your home often.

a disconnect

But here's the thing, I want you to agree with me on this. Okay? And I think I'm going logical here. I think everyone in this room has an answer to those questions. I really do. Everyone in this room. So for those that are like, "You know what, I never really think about those questions a lot" —that's your answer, "I don't want to think about it." For some of you who have those questions and it's maybe a cynical answer to those questions—that's your answer, is that you think there's really nothing there. For some of you, your answers align with Scripture but you don't actually believe them, you don't live like you're purposeful, you don't live like there's hope eternal, but yet you can answer those questions. Some of you have a disconnect. Some of you are like, "Lord, help me through the Holy Spirit to live out that which I believe," and I think most of us, hopefully, in this room are kind of there.

But I want to read something the Apostle Paul in the Colossians church, he's kind of dealing with this issue in the church. And so in the church of Colossians there are a lot of empty philosophies, a lot of deceitful philosophies that are coming into the church, people who are trying to teach a worldview that

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is not Christ-centered. And so Paul is going to talk to the church and he's going to challenge the church about arming themselves against these empty deceits. And so Colossians Chapter 2, verse 8, says this:

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit,

— Paul says —

according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

– COLOSSIANS 2:8 (ESV)

And so Paul is warning us, as I am today, to say you need to understand the worldviews that are false and why they're false, and you need to anchor yourself on a Christ-centered worldview that is true and why it's true.



Here's the first thing we must teach our children—if we want a Christ-centered worldview—we must teach them this: That all beliefs have a claim, all of them. So I'm going to walk you through a couple of these beliefs and I'm going to prove it to you that all beliefs have a claim no matter who you are or what you believe, there's a claim attached to it.

Theism

Here's the first one: Theism. Most of us here as Christian believers this would be kind of be our worldview. So theism is defined as it's a claim that God is a personal Creator that intervenes in personal affairs. So He created the world, He is separate from but He is personal. He is intimate. He cares about that which He created. In fact, He came and wrapped Himself in flesh and died so that He could set His creation free from sin. He is a personal, intimate God who loves that you pray to Him, that wants to teach you why He created you. He is an intimate God. This is what Christians believe theism is.

- God created the world
- God is a personal creator who intervenes in personal affairs
- God is a personal, intimate God

Naturalism

Here's another one: Naturalism. Naturalism is basically this: That the world is kind of this closed, physical kind of system and human beings ultimately evolved, and that the universe is nothing but physical. So in application that means that, listen, you kind of think about love and feelings and emotions but it's kind of just chemical reactions; and though you have desires and passions, there's kind of just random atoms clashing against each other and that it's a closed physical system. So anything you think happens after death there's not a shot. Any meaning that you think is greater than yourself you're just kind of making it up, or culture is making it up, or society is making it up. And this is the problem—I want you to just know this—that most of our, a large part of our educational system teaches this. This is the worldview that is taught and I'm going to tell you why this is dangerous. It's not dangerous to learn it, it's dangerous when our children apply it.

- Claims there is no God
- Humans are just highly evolved animals
- The universe is a closed physical system

Pantheism

Here's another one: Pantheism. This is kind of God is like the total of reality. It's this idea that that He's kind of all of

- God is the totality of reality; thus, we are all divine by nature

nature, that He's just physical, so He's not personal, He's just physical. So a lot of Eastern religions, think of like *Star Wars* – Right? – like there's this "force" and it's kind of what God is and so you can kind of tap into it but it's not personal, it just exists. This is an idea of how the world operates and what our role is in it.

Islam

Here's another one: Islam. They would believe there is only one God and that He doesn't have a son and that God revealed His truth through what? Through His prophet [Mohammad] and through the inspired book of the Qur'an, but that god is kind of distant and cold and He has this works-based revelation in which you have to try to achieve. And he's not a personal, loving god, He's an authoritative god. This is a world view.

- There is only one God, He has no son
- He is authoritative, distant and cold
- He has revealed His will for all people through His final prophet, Muhammad, and His eternal word, the Qur'an, a works-based goodness one has to achieve

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

Here's our last one and I want to just say a lot of philosophers will call this "moralistic therapeutic deism." Okay? This is a word and I know this is a little educational but I want you to follow me here because I actually think most people fall into this. So here's what it says: That God just wants us to be happy. He just wants us to be happy and nice to other people, and He intervenes in our affairs only when we ask Him for help. This is kind of the American secularism. I call it fairy godmother worldview. Right? The genie in the bottle worldview. And some of you are like, "Oh, man, Pastor John, that's kind of what I think." Let's be honest. That's kind of what I think God is. God doesn't really care but, yeah, every once in a while I can ask Him for something and if He gives it to me then I say, "Yeah, You're a good God," and the rest of time you're like, "I got this."

- God just wants us to be happy and nice to other people
- He intervenes in our affairs only when we ask Him for help

Self-Worship

Or some of us, here's another one, some of us have a self-worship worldview. What do you mean by that? It means you actually don't believe anything until you want to believe it. That you like some things about Christ, but not other things. And you like some things about pantheism, but not other things; and you like some things about naturalism, but not other things. And so you're a self-worshiper, you grab the things that *you* love because you're on the throne and you say, "This is what I believe." But, in fact, you just believe *you* are god. And that's a dangerous thing because as people see what you believe by how you act it affects what you say to be true. Right? Because if you say you love the Lord but you live as you love yourself more than God, that's a worldview that you're showing to everyone around you.

- You don't believe anything until you want to believe it
- You pick and choose what you like and don't like about Christ, about pantheism, about naturalism, etc.
- You grab the things you love and say, "This is what I believe."

And so these are the worldviews and I just want to say, just a personal testimony, I grew up in the church and I never heard this but I remember going to this Bible study when I was a young man and I knew how to answer the questions that were "churchy" questions. I grew up in the church, so I knew like Jesus, God, Bible, one of those three I would get it kind of right. Anybody know what I'm talking about? College, high school kids, you know what I'm talking about? Somebody asks you a question in

church and if you say Jesus in the answer or God in the answer or Bible in the answer, they'll just kind of have sympathy over you and be like, "Yeah, I guess you're kind of right." Even if you have no idea what you're talking about, you're just playing the game.

And so I'm playing the game with this older man that's leading a Bible study. I'm playing the game. I do not believe what I say, I never ask the question, "Is this my faith?" I just know about Christian church. And so I said the answer and He called me out and he said, "You do not believe that and you are not in your Word." He called me out and said, "That is not what you believe. That's what you just said, but you don't believe that. There's nothing in your life that's evidence that that's what you truly believe." And he was right. And all of a sudden he said this, he said, "What you think about God, what *you think* about God is the most important thing about you because it shapes everything else; not what you say, but what you think about God—who He is.

**What you think about God
– not what you say, but what *you think* about God –
is the most important thing about you because it shapes everything else.**

Is He personal, loving? Is He judgmental, distant? Is He non-existent? Is He everywhere spiritually but you kind of control that through your self-worship ideas? What you think about God is the most important thing about you. And I'm telling you right now, students, college kids, you need to ask the question: Why do I believe what I believe? Parents, you need to ask the question to your children: Why do you believe what you believe?

Here's another one: All beliefs have reasons. They all have reasons. Some of you believe what you believe because it's logically consistent. I would argue that a Christ-centered worldview is logically consistent. I could argue that. Some of you had an emotional experience, you encountered something about God in your past and that's why you believe and it's kind of an anchor to why you believe what you believe. First Peter Chapter 3 Peter says to the church, 1st Peter Chapter 3, verse 15:

¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

– 1 PETER 3:15 (ESV)

He's saying listen, have a defense for why you believe what you believe. Listen to me, parents, you should talk more about your testimony to your children than anything else. If you are a Christ follower, if God has changed your life, you are to talk about that often. And here's where we miss, it's not, "We believe the Bible," it's: "This is why I believe." "This is my story." "This is what I used to think." "This is what I used to do." "This is how I used to act." And you need to talk about those things. "I was empty and I was alone and I didn't have meaning and it wasn't satisfying me and this is how I lived." And you should tell your children the decisions and the actions you had and the consequences of those.

Why? Because then you should talk about the hope you have in Jesus and how He changed the way you saw the world and how He gave you peace that surpassed understanding and how He anchored you on truth, and how you were once lost, but now you're found. Rather than just saying, "Yeah, we're Christians." This is the why; this is why we give our lives to Jesus. This is why we read the Bible. This

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is why we pray. This is why we need a community of believers. We don't just do it, we explain the why often. Are you following me? The why matters because, listen, I promise you, at one point in their lives somebody's gonna ask the question why. And so you need to share your whys often—this is why I believe what I believe.

Hey, professor, why I believe the Bible? Because Jesus came back from the dead. He conquered death. He was a physical, human being who physically died and physically came back from the dead. And as He was alive He used the Bible, He quoted the Bible, He affirmed the Bible. And if the guy conquers death, I'm in. I'm in, because nothing you can give me, professor, is going to be greater than what a person that conquered death can give me. And if He says it's the Word, it's the Word. That's why I believe, professor. What do you believe? Why do you believe it? Are you following me? Our faith is not blind, church, it's not blind.

Children, teens, questioning your faith, college kids questioning your faith—come talk to me, come talk to me, I've got a lot of whys for other worldviews. Hey, if you want to rid yourself of all desires, isn't that a desire? Hey, hey, if everything's meaningless, if we're just physical, then why does it matter if you care about another person? Aren't we just random atoms? Aren't you just making that up? I have a lot of whys, too. And so know your whys, talk about your whys. Listen, faith conversations are huge in your families, you can tell I'm passionate about this. All beliefs have claims, all beliefs have reasons. This is one of the most important ones: All beliefs have implications ("ifs")—if this is true, then this is true. Are you following me? Ifs are huge when you're talking about why you believe, what you believe. If this is true, this must be true.

So Paul's speaking to the church again in Corinthians and he's emphasizing this idea that Christ came back, that He raised Himself from the grave, that He conquered death, that He was physical, that He physically died, and He physically conquered death. Paul is arguing this to a Greek culture, that worldview did not hold anything physical of value, it was just spiritual things were the valuable things, and so Paul is talking to a church where there's opposing worldviews pressing into the narrative.

And so Paul in defense he sees that the Greeks are talking about this idea that no, Jesus didn't come back from the dead, He didn't need to come back from the dead, this is kind of silly, why are you believing that? Just believe that Jesus is spiritual, believe that stuff, don't believe the physical resurrection, that's not important. And Paul's hearing these things and he's saying no-no, the physical and the spiritual are both good because God made both, and that your worldview, Greeks, is wrong, it's a wrong worldview. And so Paul is going to respond to the church with a bunch of implications, he's going to give you a bunch of ifs. Watch what Paul does here because we are to be doing this in our own lives and with our children, 1st Corinthians Chapter 15, verse 14, says this, listen to what Paul does:

¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

– 1 CORINTHIANS 15:14-19 (ESV)

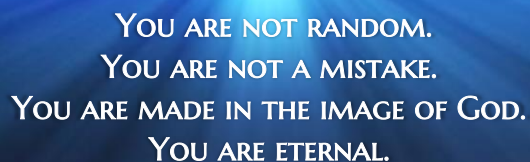
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So Paul stands in front of the church and he says, "Listen, if you don't believe that Christ came back from the dead then everything you believe is in vain, you should be pitied." He's saying if you do not have this anchor then the ifs that follow means that you are worshipping a god who isn't God, truth that isn't truth, and that's a big deal. Do we believe the Word of God is inspired? Yes, because God came back. If we don't believe it's inspired there's a lot of ifs that come there. That means He's a liar and He's not perfect. Are you following me? The ifs matter, and we talk about the ifs all the time. We think about these worldviews all the time and we sometimes don't actually ask the question if. I would argue as a culture we're not asking the ifs of naturalism when we teach that to our children, we're not asking the ramifications of that. So let me kind of flip the script here and talk about the ifs of naturalism. Okay? And I'm going to explain why this matters.

So, what is the meaning of the universe? Well, if it's just physical there's no ultimate meaning. Okay? What is the purpose of life? Well, if we're just physical there's no ultimate purpose, you just make it up. What's the difference between right and wrong? There are actually no differences, it's subjective. Right? No difference, you're just making it up. Maybe society will tell you what's right and wrong and if you want to operate healthy in the society you're going to walk in that, but there is no ultimate right and wrong. It's just kind of based on the culture. What about free will? Not a chance, it's just atoms; randomly chemicals just making you come this morning but you didn't really have a decision, you just came because that's just what the chemicals did.

Here's why this matters and I'm not making fun of it, you need to ask questions like this. When you look at the world around you, you are seeing implications, application of this worldview in the lives of our young people. When you see an overemphasis on the physical, when you see depression and suicide and anxiety rising up, and then you ask the question—we teach that you are random and a mistake, what do we think is going to happen if they live out that worldview?



YOU ARE NOT RANDOM.
YOU ARE NOT A MISTAKE.
YOU ARE MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD.
YOU ARE ETERNAL.

And so here's what we need to fight against and, listen, I'm going to fight this: You are not random, you are not a mistake—lies. You are made in the image of God, you are eternal, you have been separated from this creation because you were formed by your Maker. You are stewards of this world, you are eternal, and not only that but you are loved deeply. In fact, the God who created you, the

personal, infinite God came and died because He loved you so much He did not want you to be separated from Him and He rescued you back into right relationship with God. You can know your Creator. He's given you spiritual gifts. You are eternal. That's the truth. [APPLAUSE]

And listen, church, we need to be bold about that truth. We need to be bold about that truth. "Yeah, John, but the science..." Who created science? "Yeah, but that's not truth." Where does truth come from? Are you following me, church? The ifs matter. If Jesus conquered death, it's a game changer for us—and He did, He did. And the evidence is not just even in Scripture; the evidence is in how the culture, how Nero, how everyone responded to this fact. And literally we have our dates associated with that event. It's not a small event. It doesn't take small talk, it takes deep conversations and dives into those things.

And so your ifs in your houses and in your families should be evident. Why do we believe what we believe; if we believe this, what does this mean in our family, in our lives? We need to talk about the fact that we are not random with our children, that we are not a mistake with our children; that as human

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beings when we dive into these conversations about what is in this world, what is made up in this world, listen, a lot of you in this room are very intelligent and you know that we just scratch the surface of what we actually know. Right? We scratch the surface of the complexity and the order and the purpose in which we see in the world, we're just scratching the surface. We don't know why these things happen and we have a lot of questions. And that's why Rick Warren would say we have to humble ourselves and recognize we are ants trying to figure out the internet and we have gaps in our understanding, but we have a God who made His truth known to us and there's no gap there.

And so we filter everything through the truth of who God is and so when the world tells you to think the way you think, you say no-no, what does the God who came back from the dead think about that? You arm yourself with truth, you arm yourself with it. All beliefs have claims, all beliefs have reasons, all beliefs have implications, and the last one, all beliefs have actions.

You may not live what you confess, but you live what you really believe. This is a quote that I love and I think it's true. And so parents I want you to, if you take nothing from this morning, it's this: I believe that what you tell your children to believe and what they actually believe could be very different things, and as a parent you need to close the gap. Are you following me? So when your children act a certain way, think a certain way, you need to be quick to say not, "I didn't tell you to think that way" —just die to that. You need to say, "Why do you think that way? Who taught you that? What does it mean if you actually live that out? What do you think is true? How do you get your truth?" These are the conversations you need to have. We can't just say "because we believe," "because we're Christians," or that "the Bible says." We need to have understanding of why we believe what we believe.

So I have a last little testimony. I have a good friend of mine who's a hospice nurse and she, during kind of a missionary trip, she told the group that she was a hospice nurse for many years, like 20 years and she saw a lot of people face death. And she says in that environment—she was not a believer—and she saw that there were believers and unbelievers. Right? And she kind of classified them as two, as a believer now, because that's really what there is; there's the slavery to Satan, or obedience and slavery to God. These are the options. Satan's on the fence, so you can't sit on the fence, he owns the fence. So you have two options. And she's saying so there's unbelievers and there's believers and when they face death what she noticed was believers had a different response to death than unbelievers—there was a hope there, there was a peace there. And this is what she said, she said, "After 20 years I finally said I need to be on this side."

And I would argue I don't know if any of those believers ever shared their faith with that nurse, but they lived out their worldview and it impacted her because when they faced death they lived what they believed and it was different. And there were differences between who they trusted and how they—she said a lot of unbelievers they faced death with bitterness, there was a bitterness there. And I would argue if you live your whole life worshiping yourself, sure there's bitterness when you have something you can't control. But she said that's why I became a believer. Isn't that amazing?

So as a church we have this goal to live Christ-first lives. This is the goal of our church that we would be Christ first in our families, in our homes, that we would have these conversations about Christ-centered approach and it should affect everything you do. It should affect how you live, how you decide to spend your resources, how you decide to spend your time, your gifts, your energy, what you look at when you look at your house, and the reason you buy what you buy. It should affect everything because it's for God, it's for His glory, not yours. This is our anchor. This is what we want to have happen here as believers.

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And so next week we have a guest speaker coming, his name is Michael Ramsden, he's the president of Ravi Zacharias International Ministry. And next week we're going to actually move to two services, so we're going from one service onsite and two services online to now two services onsite. Right? So 9 o'clock and 10:30 next week we're gonna have this amazing guest speaker who's going to continue this conversation about worldviews. He's going to shape how he goes to these colleges and he debates worldviews for the glory of God because Christian doctrine is strong enough to hold water when you have questions about it.

But as a young man, I just want to say this, when I was a young man growing up in the church I came across Ravi Zacharias, he's recently deceased, but I came across a book¹ called *Can Man Live Without God* and it was a time in my life where I was seeking to know why I believe, what I believe, and is it my parents' faith, is it my faith? And I started to read this book and he was just asking questions about what it would look like *if* we actually lived without God—and it was terrifying. And all of a sudden I recognize that the world around us wants to adopt biblical worldviews when it's convenient and throw them in the trash when it's not. And in that book he called me to be all in. And I remember it had a profound impact on me because here was a brilliant man asking brilliant questions that I needed to ask. And because of that He has a special place in my heart because He was obedient and he was talking about why He believed what He believed, and it made an impact on a young man who needed to have those conversations.

And I promise you, some of you in this room you need to have these conversations and I would love to have them with you and I know a lot of us would. Some of you need to have these conversations with your children because right now you are letting somebody else teach them how to believe. Shame on us, church. I don't want somebody else teaching my child to be random when I know that they are children of God. And so I'm okay with them learning different worldviews, but man, I am armed to challenge the lies and to bring in truth to the conversations in my family and my home because God deserves our worship physically, spiritually, emotionally, intellectually. He deserves it. He does not call us to laziness. He does not call us to apathy. He calls us to passionate obedience.

And so we're going to close with a time of giving and I'm going to read this passage that Paul has in Colossians Chapter 1. Now, for those who are new with us we just are thankful that you're here. If you're if you're not new with us and you're walking with the Lord, this is the time to give back. Give online. If you have any questions about giving, we'd love to answer your questions at the blue wall.

But as I talked about Paul talking to the church of Corinth, Paul is going to read this passage. And after I read this passage we're going to go right into a time of worship where we state what we believe, but I want you to recognize how Paul's passage here in Colossians Chapter 1 is so absolute. He's laying out what drives Paul to be beaten and shipwrecked and be imprisoned, this deep Christ-centered worldview that compels him to act. And this is what it says in Colossians 1 starting in verse 15, I just want you to maybe close your eyes and just listen to this, Paul says this to the church:

¹ Transcriber edit: In the video the book title is stated as *Man Can't Live Without God* — the correct title of the book is *Can Man Live Without God*. Available along with other Ravi Zacharias books at [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/).

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¹⁵ He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

– COLOSSIANS 1:15-20 (ESV)

Amen. Let's worship.

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