

KEEPING FAITHFUL TO OUR LORD IN A GROWING HOSTILE CULTURE

Key Verse: Romans 12:1–2

Session #1 Current Culture, the Bible, and Secular Public Education

1. Introduction
2. Current culture

<p>BIBLEFRAMEWORK Molds of Culture Since 1600—Part 1</p> <p>Reformation: faith alone in Christ alone [1600s]</p> <p>Enlightenment: reason alone in Man alone [1700s]</p> <p>Romanticism: personal experience and feelings alone in Man alone [1800s]</p>	<p>BIBLEFRAMEWORK Molds of Culture Since 1600—Part 2</p> <p>Romanticism: personal experience and feelings alone in Man alone [1800s]</p> <p>Existentialism (modern): self alone [1900s]</p> <p>Existentialism (post-modern): social group alone [post 1960s]</p>
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3. The Bible
 - a. Must be brought into full contact with each area of life
 - b. Christian young people
 - c. The Bible Framework (www.BibleFramework.com)
 - d. Transforming our minds

4. Secular Education

<p>BIBLEFRAMEWORK SECULAR LEGAL HOSTILITY TO BIBLICAL FAITH</p> <p>[There must be legal and constitutional limits on the ability of homeschooling parents “to teach their children idiosyncratic and illiberal beliefs and values”. . . . [Government control must be exercised against] “parents [who] want to teach against the enlightenment. . . . <i>Parental control over children’s basic education flows from the state</i> (rather than visa versa). States delegate power over children’s basic education to parents. . . .”</p> <p>Kimberly A. Yurako, “Education Off the Grid...”, <i>California Law Review</i> 96 (February 2008) (She is a professor at the Northwestern University School of Law)</p>	<p>BIBLEFRAMEWORK John Dewey on Christianity & Democracy</p> <p>“I cannot understand how any realization of the democratic ideal as a vital moral and spiritual ideal in human affairs is possible without the surrender of the conception of the basic division to which supernatural Christianity is committed.” [A <i>Common Faith</i>, p. 84]</p>
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5. Conclusion

We need to see the total framework of the 66-book library.

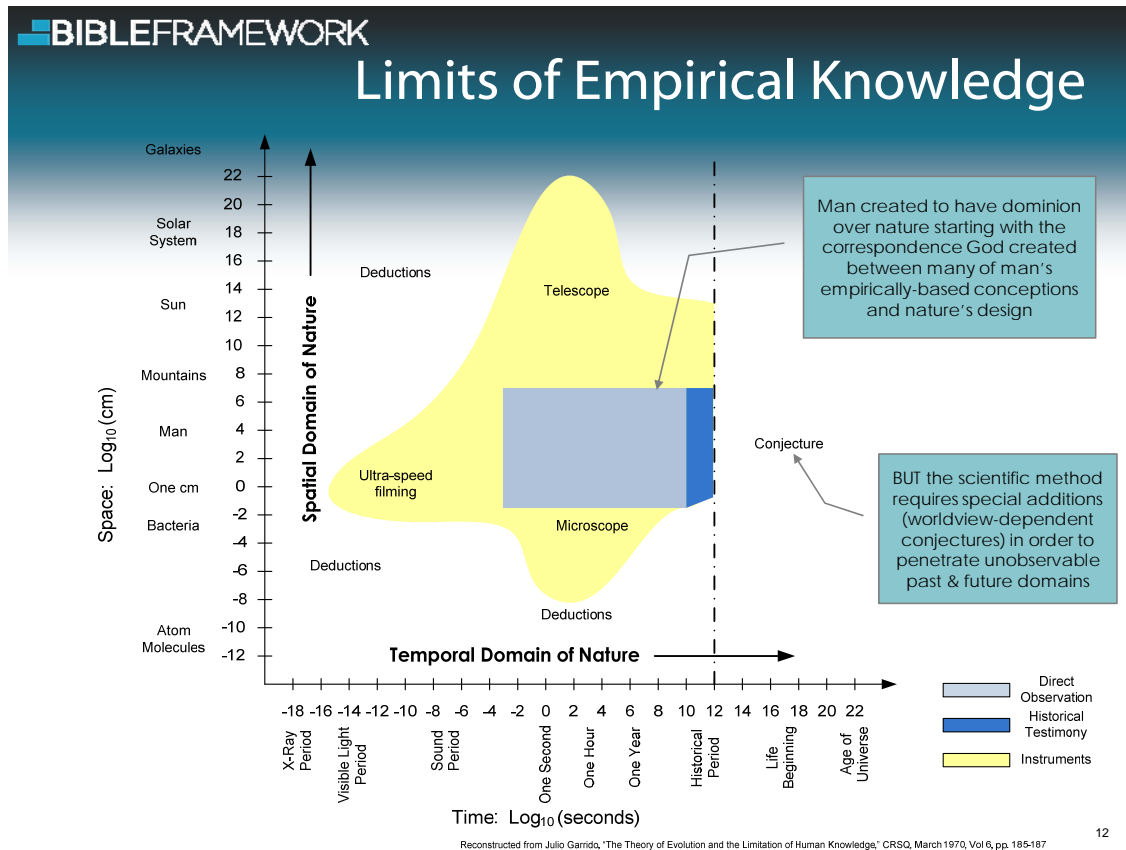
Bible authors' use of the framework—Joshua 24:1–23; Acts 7:2–53

Session #2 Creation vs. Natural Histories, Psychology of Self-Identity, and Environmentalism

1. Review & Introduction
1 John 2:14; 4:4-5; Col. 2:8-10
2. Creation
Genesis 1-2

This special, verbal revelation of origins is deeply personal and so triggers consciousness of our Creator before whom we are morally unacceptable. Thus there is a negative response that creates substitute (1) fictional natural history; and (2) fictional relationship of man to his environment

3. Fictional Natural History



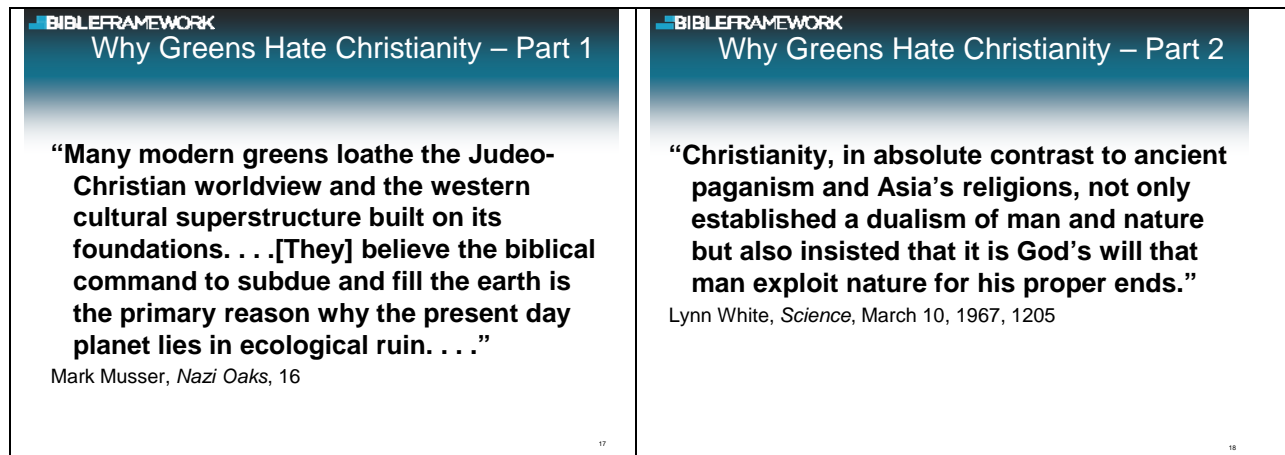
- a. Has to rely upon slow, low-power processes that require "deep time" to accomplish the necessary work. But there are observed high-power processes that do not require "deep time" to accomplish the work such as _____

- b. Relies upon pre-relativistic physics that requires “deep time” to explain light arriving on earth from outer space billions of light years away. But new creationist cosmogonies utilizing relativity show that the creation event of expansion would have caused a vast difference between earth time and galactic time.
- c. Has to project observed animal and plant adaptation to different environments to conceive of unlimited self-transformation and a fictionalized notion of “natural selection.”

4. Fictional Relationship of Man to His Physical Environment

Genesis 1:26, 28; 2:8–9, 15; Hebrews 2:7–9

- a. Modern environmentalism grew out of the 19th century Romantic Movement that emphasized the natural environment as an ecological community with man as a minor part who should leave nature in its supposedly pristine state. It has become today a nature-religion akin to ancient Baalism in the Old Testament.
- b. Modern environmental thinkers view biblical faith as their #1 enemy



- c. Modern environmentalism rushes policies into play before the science work is done, and obsesses over Malthus’ “sustainability” argument.

5. Conclusion

Two completely different foundations: either become “conformed” to the anti-creation mold imposed by secular education and government policy, or be transformed by learning of God’s creative designs and purposes for man and nature.

Praise God for His

- a. Sovereignty (We aren’t in control—that’s why we pray—in contrast to the substituted hyper-regulatory state that “protects” man and nature)

- b. Eternality (He has placed us in His eternal plan where there are no meaningless “accidents” with an origin and a final judgment in contrast to the substituted “deep time” of meaningless cosmos)
- c. Omnipotence (His mighty creation power shown in both His old and new creations of man and nature, fulfillment of His promises, answer our prayers, enable our growth in contrast to an all-powerful self-transforming nature)
- d. Omnipresence (He is with us in all the details of life so we are not alone in His universe in contrast to a totally impersonal cosmos with a few tiny specks of personality here and there)
- e. Love (He cares for us as well as the sparrows so we should care for His work in contrast to a loveless cosmos in which we have to supply the love without reciprocity)

Session #3 Fall & Flood vs. Natural Histories, Psychology of Self-Identity, Environmentalism, Racism

1. Review & Introduction

Romans 12:1–2; 1 John 4:4–5; Col. 2:3, 8–10

See the slide pictures from Lesson 1 on the “molds” of the ages

BIBLEFRAMEWORK The “Mold’s” Suppression of Worship of God	
Personal Creator	Nature is all there is
Eternality	Deep Time
Omnipresence	Impersonal Universe
Omnipotence	All powerful Nature
Sovereignty	Fatalism & Hyper-regulatory state
Love	Sentimental deity & total dependency upon other people’s love

Reaction to God’s revelation that triggers shame and guilt is the creation of fictionalized natural history and man’s relationship to nature (an inversion of the true creation design). The result is direct suppression of God’s attributes (see conclusion to the 2nd session) and thus, even if saved, a compromised mind rendered incapable of a genuine personal relationship with the Lord—no praise, no

acknowledgement of sin, no thanksgiving, and no confidence to make serious supplication.

2. The Fall & the Flood

Genesis 3:1 fundamental epistemological choice—what is our ultimate truth authority?

3:7–8 psychology of fallen-ness—shame & guilt

3:14–17 first disruption of nature, botanically and zoologically, and of man

anatomically—by God due to man’s sin, not due to man’s neglect of the environment

3:20–21, 24 exclusion of man from God’s “sacred space” enforced by capital punishment and first slaughter of an innocent animal to show the horrible cost of redemption from sin

4:5–7 psychology of anger, depression, thoughts, and feelings—the “flesh” and demonic enablement

6:5–8 second disruption of nature caused by man because of God’s further curse upon his sin with a “graceless” judgment upon rejecters of His Word of grace. No grace outside of God’s plan of salvation

6:18–21 the greatest ecological rescue ever done was done by man under God’s supernatural direction

3. The Fictional Natural History Deepens

Added to the negative reaction to creation with projections of slow, low-power processes relying upon “deep time”, pre-relativistic notions of space and time effects on star light, and biological adaptations to different environments, we now have:

- a. Acceptance of natural evil (animal & human death, storms, earthquakes) as “normal”
- b. Denial that a Righteous and Just God rules nature

4. The Fictional Relationship of Man to His Natural Environment Further Perverted


Romans 8:20–22 as goes man, so goes nature

- a. That natural evil exists as a result of God’s judgment is too threatening to acknowledge, but man’s conscience is still enough “sin-conscious” to fear a geophysical apocalypse—climate change, asteroid, etc.
- b. Addition of a counterfeit “fall” blaming man for misruling nature and over-consuming natural resources because of his excessive birth rate.

<p>BIBLEFRAMEWORK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Environmentalists’ Hatred for Man as Special Creation</p> <p>Ingrid Newkirk, <u>President of PETA</u>: “<i>A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy</i>”</p> <p>Peter Singer, <u>Ethics Professor at Princeton</u>: “<i>The Judeo-Christian religious tradition is our foe.</i>”</p> <p>Prince Phillip of England, <u>President Emeritus of the World Wide Fund for Nature</u>: “<i>In the event I’m reincarnated, I would like to return as a deadly virus, in order to contribute something to solve overpopulation.</i>”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>25</small></p>	<p>BIBLEFRAMEWORK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Environmentalists’ Hatred for the Whole of Judeo-Christianity</p> <p>“To the modern environmentalist, the Judeo-Christian worldview is an anti-natural religion. It’s emphasis upon transcendentalism over holism, freedom of private property over collective ownership, shepherding and farm life over wilderness romanticism, domesticated animals over wild animals, and sacrificial lambs over animal rights, is all directly counter to modern environmentalism’s romantic ideals.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>Mark Musser, <i>Nazi Oaks</i>, p 94.</small></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>26</small></p>
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5. The Fictional Psychology of Personal Identity

- a. Creation & Fall provide full disclosure of everyone’s “identity” (doctrine of anthropology)
 - (1) As specially created as the image of God we are spirit & matter, not matter only (our heart & brain have a language-speaking, logic-using mind & conscience with a sense of eternity)
 - (2) As specially created as the image of God we are divided sexually—a difference that involves both spirit and matter, unlike animals. God has a “feminine side”—Isaiah 49:15; 66:13; Matt. 23:37.
 - (3) Within the design of (1) and (2) every person is unique from conception—Psalm 139:16
 - (4) Because of our fallen nature we all have mental attitude sins, distorted emotions, and cannot plumb the depths of our hearts—Jeremiah 17:9 (God revealed the unconscious mind long before Freud!)
 - (5) The New Testament epistles provide revelation of our new identity “in Christ” (Chafer’s *Systematic Theology* lists 33 riches of His grace!)
- b. THEREFORE my personal identity is discovered as I learn about the image of God that makes me qualitatively different from animals, about His binary sexual design of man, my unique strengths and weaknesses from conception, and how my flesh—sin nature—works. And from my regeneration at believing in Christ alone I discover the spiritual assets I have in Him. My identity is what God reveals in His objective Word over and above my own interpretations of my personal feelings and experiences—not the Romantic notion that I must not rely upon any external objective aids to discovering my identity.

<p>BIBLEFRAMEWORK</p> <h3>Today's University Students</h3> <p>“Our culture has replaced self-discovery with self-construction. Everybody is expected to create and manage his or her own identity. Personal achievement thus becomes the main means of justifying one’s existence. The pressure that this mindset creates is devastating. . . .Most students. . . .are desperate to find a purpose beyond their own meager hopes and wishes.”</p> <p>RZIM Team Member, University of Massachusetts, 2016</p> <p>28</p>	<p>BIBLEFRAMEWORK</p> <h3>Sigmund Freud 1856-1939</h3>  <p>The concept of sexual orientation was first used by Freud, and its effect, if not intent, was to radically resituate sexuality from its biblical/creational context to something completely new: the foundational drive that <i>determines and defines human identity</i>. . . . By defining humanity according to sexual desires and segregating it according to its gendered object, Freud was—intentionally or not—suppressing the biblical category of being made in God’s image, male and female, and replacing it with the psychoanalytic category of sexual identity.</p> <p>Rosaria Champagne Butterfield, <i>Openness Unhindered</i>, p 94f</p> <p>29</p>
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6. Conclusion

To remain faithful to our Lord in an increasingly hostile culture, we must be transformed by the renewing of our minds. What is the mold that our age tries to press upon us?

- a. Substitution of fictional natural history to erase creation, the true origin of evil in man and nature at the fall.
- b. Substitution of fictional man-nature relationship to transform the true complex synergism between man and nature into the false and trivial synergism that can be managed merely by environmental regulations.
- c. Substitution of a fictional psychology of personal identity to undermine the authority of God’s Word over revealing our identity by urging us to create our identity out of our feelings.

Session #4 Noahic Covenant & Babel vs. Secular Theories of Civil Government & Political Progressivism

1. Review & Introduction

Romans 12:1–2; Col. 2:8–10

BIBLEFRAMEWORK

The Conflict Over Creation Revelation

Authoritative Doctrine of God, Man, Nature

God's Essence

The Natural Environment

Man's rightful relation to the environment under God

The elitist "mold" of this era

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BIBLEFRAMEWORK

The Conflict Over Fall & Flood Revelation

Authoritative Doctrine of Sin & Judgment upon Man & Nature

Sin → consequences for man & nature under him

Both man & nature now abnormal

The elitist "mold" of this era

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BIBLEFRAMEWORK

The "Mold's" Suppression of Worship of God

Personal Creator	Nature is all there is
Eternality	Deep Time
Omnipresence	Impersonal Universe
Omnipotence	All powerful Nature
Sovereignty	Fatalism & Hyper-regulatory state
Love	Loveless Nature so total dependency upon other people's love

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BIBLEFRAMEWORK

The "Mold's" Additional Suppression of Worship of God

Personal Creator	Nature is all there is
Righteousness	Humans are not "fallen" & can have ethical opinions
Justice	The notion of "justice" springs from human feelings of anger over what is sensed as real wrongs (!)
Omniscience	Sexual and other feelings tell us our identity
Immutability	Chaotic transformations

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2. Noahic (Ecological) Covenant

Genesis 8:21–22 Geophysical stability of the earth requires stability throughout the rest of the universe (opposing fears of a geophysical apocalypse)

9:1–6 Genetic research shows human DNA tracks back to 3 nodes and back of those nodes to one node; command to "multiply" implies that under man's technological capabilities there exist enough resources to sustain a growing human population until Jesus Christ returns (opposing Mathusian notions of very limited sustainability); switch to an omnivore with due attention to value of animal life to provide ubiquitous testimony to vicarious sacrifice ultimately of Jesus Christ (John 6:55–56) (opposing extremist views of animal "rights"); authority to execute capital punishment given to man as the core of

civil government authority to punish certain evil overt behaviors to protect the value of human life (opposing notion that capital punishment demeans human life)

11:1–2 Language is a vital tool to create social identity

11:3–4 Defiant declaration that man, not God, will define human identity and defiance of God’s sovereign design for history on the Noahic civilization in a distributed continental system of varying natural resources

11:5–7 another divine judgment—this one on adding linguistic reinforcement of tribal differences

3. Theories of Civil Government

a. Rejection of God’s design revealed as to function and purpose of civil government by considering civil authority as a mere “social construct,” not a divine institution (repeating the error of Babel). Various false theories: “divine right of kings” to do whatever they want, the divine state of Pharaonic Egypt, Marxist dictatorship of the proletariat, fascism’s 3rd Reich, etc.

b. Common element of perversion: Civil Government is perverted from a preservative limited institution to a redemptive unlimited institution. To bring in the Kingdom of Man as a substitute for the Kingdom of God that requires incorruptible resurrected leadership. Example: 1 Samuel 8:1–8 (neglects the spiritual cause & chooses pagan model); 8:11–17 (power of sword in hands of concentrated power = disaster)

4. Political Progressivism

Babel re-visited by globalists today



Idea of “progress” came only from the Bible because paganism was cyclic, not progressive.

5. Conclusion

The “mold” of this age tries to conform us according to the basic principles of this world, not according to the basic principles of God’s Word culminating in Jesus Christ—the source of ALL wisdom.

Session #5 Call of Abraham, Exodus & Mt. Sinai vs. Secular Theories of Religion, Ethics & Law

1. Review & Introduction

2. The Call of Abraham, the Exodus, and Mt. Sinai

God's historic words & works ("show-and-tell") so we need to mentally skim through these great events with their ideological information.

a. Call of Abraham ca 2000 BC

Genesis 12:1–3 God defines Abraham's identity; God begins revelational exclusivism & a counter-culture

15:4b–6 God initiates—elects—the plan for all humanity through the end of history. And since it is God's work, all Abraham can do is believe.

15:7–18 Faith must have truth as its object so here we see the dawn of a "contract" that is verifiable in history for providing us adequate foundation for our faith

b. Exodus ~1400 BC

Exodus 3:2–15 The un-burning bush pictures the holy God's total independence of needing any support outside of Himself, so thus He is the I AM (Yahweh); The Exodus is a testimony to God's 600 years of faithful documented performance to Abrahamic covenant; Egypt was a "divine" state with Pharaoh as the mediator between heaven and earth.

11:9 Each plague was an attack on a god/goddess of the Egyptian pantheon

12:40–41 The super-power of Egypt was unable to cope with I AM

14:1–31

c. Mt. Sinai

Deuteronomy 5:1–3 This contract is "conditional" compared to the Abrahamic "unconditional" contract

5:4–5 Note this amazing public revelation is NEVER mentioned in secular education in spite of the fact that it is the cornerstone of Western Law! A major clash between paganized Noahic civilization with man-defined ethics and law and Israel's God-revealed ethics and law.

5:6–21 The ethical pattern of the 10 commandments shows a distinct design of social structure. Underlying a society's ethical life lies the prevalent heart attitude toward God which cannot be changed by force of civil government. The next expression of the heart attitude is the essential characteristic that separates man from animal—the use of language—with integrity to say honestly what one thinks or feels, or to misrepresent & fabricate, whether in speech, in writing, in accounting, or in judicial testimony.

Depending upon the use of language, business involving labor, contracts, private property comes next. Families come next for their proper functioning depends upon integrity of language and acquisition of enough wealth to survive and prosper. Then, with all these elements in place, there is the generation, training, and protection of life for the coming generations. Each layer depends upon those under it.

BIBLEFRAMEWORK

Chiastic Structure (X)

5:6-10 God alone is worthy of worship and service
 5:11 Accuracy in language about God
 5:12-15 Management of labor and property
 5:16 Society depends upon functional marriage & family
 5:17 Life is to be respected & preserved
 5:18 Marriage is to be protected
 5:19 Property is to be protected
 5:20 Accuracy in language of judicial proceedings
 5:21 Self is not worthy of worship and service

BIBLEFRAMEWORK

God's Design of Society

LIFE (<i>protected</i>)	LIFE (<i>jeopardized</i>)
MARRIAGE & FAMILY (strong & functioning)	MARRIAGE & FAMILY (weak & dysfunctional)
LABOR & PROPERTY (respected & productive)	LABOR & PROPERTY (demeaned & wasted)
INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION (consistently states truth)	INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION (deceitfully professes truth for agendas)
HEART ALLEGIANCE (to God)	HEART ALLEGIANCE (to self)

3. Secular Theories of Religion

a. Either a religion is revealed or it is created by man. Only the Bible presents a religion

BIBLEFRAMEWORK

The Exclusivity "Argument"

1. All knowledge is derived from empirically-sensed reality
2. Religious ideas concern extra-sensory reality (God's existence).
3. Therefore all religious ideas are mere private speculations
4. Therefore no religious idea can claim to be true knowledge.
5. Therefore no religious idea can claim superiority over all other religious ideas

revealed in history and those religions claiming to derive from the Bible (e.g., Mormonism and Islam). Judeo-Christianity goes beyond the subjective because it has written contracts with follow-up records of adherence or non-adherence to them. It has 2000 years of historical record keeping by 66 authors in 3 languages, in different locations, under varied situational conditions. Its large set of surviving manuscript evidence is very close to its major

events. And surviving manuscripts show a very conservative transmission of manuscripts without redactions and rewrites (unlike the Book of Mormon and the Koran).

b. All secular theories of religion deny that God and man can exchange information between minds via language.

4. Secular Theories of Ethics

Same problem as the secular theories of religion—there is no source external to finite, fallen man for ethical standards. God's righteousness and His capability to communicate the implications of that attribute has been suppressed. Question for skeptics: why should I comply with your ethical judgments?

5. Secular Theories of Law

Problem: What is the ethical justification for law?

a. The Nuremberg Dilemma 1946—what law did the Nazi leaders break? Was such a law just?

- b. Without revelation there are three trends to try to ethically critique laws:
 - (1) Natural Right Theory: [Augustine] somehow man having evolved from animals, has a unique value which standard must be protected by law (why?)
 - (2) Social Good Theory: [J S Mill] somehow social good as the goal of just laws can be calculated clearly enough to be the standard for law (“do no harm” but how to calculate?)
 - (3) Positive Law Theory: (recent) the law is the standard—nothing “above” it (problem with 3rd Reich-type situation)
 - c. The general ethical principles of the Mosaic Law address all three of these problems
6. Conclusion
- a. The new “counter-culture” called into existence by God provides the foundation for religion, ethics, and law. And has done so in Western civilization!
 - b. But it is challenged by the pagan culture that suppresses God’s attributes. So how do we worship our Lord if our minds are filled with these products of rebellious suppression of Him? How can our lives glorify Him if we live within this mold of our present age?

Session #6 Conquest, Social Failure, and Longing for the Ideal Leader vs. Libertarianism & Tyranny

1. Review & Introduction

Romans 12:1–2; Colossians 2:8–9

2. The Conquest and Kingdom Failure

Joshua 1:1–6 Note continuity with Abrahamic Covenant and Mosaic Covenant

- a. Potential of the conquest and establishment of a localized version of the Kingdom of God: Only nation in history with a written contract with God; freed from pagan tyranny with opportunity to establish a nation with true liberty; would totally replace a competing, un-savable culture; had true private property with absolute title; economically could have dominated the world; and had God ruling all three branches of government (Isaiah 33:22)
- b. Historical lesson for all time for all mankind: this was the ultimate opportunity to bring in a true global Kingdom of God on earth IF the descendants of Abraham would have met the heart requirements for it.
- c. Kingdom failure
Judges 2:7–13; 21:2: Lost their liberty; absorbed pagan culture instead of conquering it; lost ownership of private property; economically enslaved to other nations—never met the heart conditions for the rest of history all the way to the coming of Jesus Christ.

3. Need for Leadership

Fallen mankind even with supernatural help in designing a righteous and just society can not attain to it even when provided with gracious salvation to overcome its guilt and with post-salvation enablement

- a. Concentration of power in a leader does not fix the problem.
1 Samuel 8:1–5 Borrowing from pagan notions of leadership compounds the problem
8:6–8 It doesn't solve the primary heart problem of the people BUT Samuel reacts correctly by prayerful refocusing upon the Lord. He stops what he is doing and looks to the Lord—true leadership!! (ASAP = Always Stop And Pray)
- b. For the rest of the Old Testament there will gradually develop a sense of what kind of leader can lead a people into Kingdom-of-God-conditions: see the trend in 2 Samuel 23:3–4.
- c. “Answered prayer” to experience a bad request: 1 Samuel 8:9–17
- d. Bad leadership compounds bad decision-making because it doesn't break out from the “mold” of this age: it doesn't break out, because it doesn't humble itself before the Lord.

4. False Hopes of the World

Ephesians 2:2–3 the power of evil in the world should provoke us to use the spiritual tools God has given us (Word, prayer, fellow believers, forgiveness, enablement)

- a. The hopes are all built on a fictionalized view of the cosmos—impersonal, meaningless, random
- b. God-consciousness systematically suppressed and replaced throughout the educational system and the media

- c. Ignores the 2,000 years of lessons in trying to bring in “utopia” even with divine help that FAILED
- d. Modern hopes bring nothing to the table that hasn’t been tried before

Conclusion

1. Only a Perfect Leader can redeem mankind who submits to God—He must be absolutely incorruptible and in perfect harmony with God’s righteousness and justice and so must be resurrected AND HE EXISTS ALREADY!
2. Only a perfected people can participate in the coming Kingdom—must be incorruptible (and therefore resurrected unto life)
3. Where are you and I in regard to keeping the faith in an increasingly hostile culture?
4. In the meantime follow Romans 12:1–2 with the interlocking truths of Scripture.
5. Stand confidently on the Word of God as a total framework for every area of life to have your mind transformed.