

God Has Spoken, Part 4

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Introduction

The Bible has always been in opposition to the prevailing worldview in every generation. The thinking of the world changes from time to time, but it is always opposed to what the Bible teaches. Here are some examples of the world's thinking compared to Biblical thinking.

Bible Times

I Corinthians 1:22-24

²²For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; ²³but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

There were two prevailing worldviews at the time. The Jews wanted miraculous signs to prove that the message was from God. The Greeks were interested in wisdom. The message of Christ was in opposition to both of these views. Paul and the apostles preached Christ and Him crucified and even though it was against the trends of the time, it still worked. To the Jews, for the Son of God to die on a cross as a common criminal was a complete "turn off". To the Greeks (Gentiles), someone dying on a cross as a substitute for someone else's sins did not make any sense. In spite of these prevailing worldviews, the early church did not change its message in an effort to try and reach them. They preached the gospel of Jesus and it was the power that converted both Jews and Greeks. Today's church growth experts would have taken a survey, found out what the "seekers" wanted and changed the message to meet their "needs".

Pre-modern: roughly from the medieval time until 1800. They believed in spiritual beings and gods. Needed to be convinced that there was only one God, that Jesus was His Son. In spite of the fact that the experts say the pre-modern era ended about 1800, most of the people I knew back home in Virginia in the 1960s and 1970s would be in this group. They believed in God, the Bible, heaven, hell, etc., but they did not necessarily apply it to their lives in practical ways. Most of them were not saved, but they had a worldview that was close to a Biblical one.

Modern: 1800— 1980. They believed science and reason revealed truth. Needed to be convinced that Jesus and the Bible are the truth and that science/reason may be wrong. This is the era of evolution and giant leaps in scientific discoveries. Everyone thought that science and reason would solve all of man's problems in a few years. There are a lot of people still living with this worldview.

Postmodern: 1980— today. This is an era of disappointment because science and reason did not solve man's problem, instead they got worse. So they came to believe that each person could decide truth for themselves. If it feels right to me and it works for me, then it is OK. They believe absolute truth is impossible to know and that we should be tolerant of all views. They really believe that "what's true for you may not be true for me" and vice versa. Most of the people today under 35 years old have a postmodern worldview or one that is heavily influenced by the postmodern worldview. People over 50 with pre-modern, modern or Biblical worldviews have a difficult time understanding the younger people. To understand them is like trying to nail Jell-O to the wall. By the way, even though this view is called "postmodern", it is not the first time people have held such views. In

Judges 17:6 and in Judges 21:25 the Bible says: “In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.” The people with postmodern worldviews need to be convinced that there is absolute truth found in the Bible— feelings and pragmatism are not the right criteria.

Don't Add To or Subtract From God's Word

Moses Commanded It

Deuteronomy 4:2

You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Moses Commanded It

Deuteronomy 12:32

Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it.

John Commanded It

Revelation 22:18-19

¹⁸I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; ¹⁹and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

Don't Stray From It to the Right or To the Left

Moses Commanded It

Deuteronomy 5:32

So you shall observe to do just as the LORD your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right or to the left.

God Said It to Joshua

Joshua 1:7

Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go.

Joshua Said It

Joshua 23:6

Be very firm, then, to keep and do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, so that you may not turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left,

Conclusion

The Bible has always been in opposition to the prevailing worldview in every generation. The thinking of the world changes from time to time, but it is always opposed to what the Bible teaches. Our job as Christians is to convince as many as possible of the truth found in the Bible. We must not accept the view of our age and say that any view and every view is OK. There is right and there is wrong. There is a heaven and there is a hell. Every person is either saved or lost. The Bible does contain absolute truth. Don't add to it. Don't subtract from it. Don't stray from it to the right and become a legalist. Don't stray from it to the left and become a liberal.