**Why I am not an atheist**

**Part Four ~ Worldview**

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Family Worship Center 8-18-13

**Intro:** Debate Atheistic Evolution vs. Creation needs to be understood for what it really is… not evidence but worldview.

Text: Colossians 2:8-10 8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

**Part One: Your World View**

I. Worldview defined… “Everyone has a worldview. Whether or not we realize it, we all have certain presuppositions and biases that affect the way we view all of life and reality. A worldview is like a set of lenses which taint our vision or alter the way we perceive the world around us. Our worldview is formed by our education, our upbringing, the culture we live in, the books we read, the media and movies we absorb, etc. For many people their worldview is simply something they have absorbed by osmosis from their surrounding cultural influences.” ~ <http://christianworldview.net/> index page on 8/14/13

II. 3 Prevalent Worldviews.

A. Atheistic Worldview of Materialism or Naturalism… “Naturalism is a worldview, a philosophy -- a general understanding of reality and humanity's place within reality. Naturalism is usually defined most briefly as the philosophical conclusion that the only reality is nature, as gradually discovered by our intelligence using the tools of experience, reason, and science.” <http://www.naturalisms.org/> index page on 8/14/13

B. Humanistic/Hedonism…Humans are the center of life, the meaning of life is personal pleasure; God and the rest are irrelevant.

C. Christianity… “There is a creator God revealed in the Holy Bible who loves us & through Jesus restores us in relationship to Himself.” Definition by Dr. Mark Schwarzbauer

D. Their views and consequences (see chart).

III. The Effects of Various Worldviews.

1. “People always interpret evidence in a way that is compatible with their worldview. Thus, evidence by itself will never settle the debate.” Jason Lisle pg28
2. DNA, rock formations, fossils et al are used by both sides of argument of creation vs. evolution.
3. The bottom line is not evidence, but interpretation controlled by worldviews.

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| **3 Common Worldviews**  **Mark Schwarzbauer PhD ©2013** | **Presuppositions** | **View of God** | **View of Man** | **Ultimate Consequences**  **To Humanity** | **Consequence to Science** |
| **Atheistic Materialism** | Postures itself as neutral observers who hold rational views based solely on evidence. However, it starts with and is controlled by the presuppositions that there is no God and only material is real  Admittedly, these are not scientific but “philosophical conclusions.” www.naturalisms.org | God does not exist  There is no life after death. | Man is only a small part of the natural realm as an evolved animal. Significance is self-infused. Free will is an illusion. | As Nietzsche predicted~ Atheistic Regimes of Hitler, Stalin & Mao kill 140 million – more in 1 century than all religions in all of history combined. | Evolution is only remaining choice; requires **Time & Matter & Chance.**  *Requires* billions of years so it creates further presuppositions that the universe is very old and chance can create positive mutations leading to new and complex designs. Everything is looked at from these presuppositions. |
| **Humanistic**  **Hedonism** | Humans are the center of life.  Pleasure is good.  Pain is bad.  Living for the moment – Existential. | God is irrelevant.  Thinking about eternity only brings frustration (pain) so one should only focus on the present moment. | Each person is the center of his/her universe. | Everyone does what feels good for him/herself ~ Self-centered leads to Selfishness. Although purporting to value man it ultimately undermines him. | Rejects what is dehumanizing. Science is valuable when adding pleasure and value to humanity. |
| **Christianity** | There is a creator God.  God reveals Himself in the Holy Bible. | The Triune God loves the world so much He gives His son to redeem man. | Man is a special creation in the image of God. Though man is fallen in nature, God seeks to redeem man. | As a special creation man is of utmost worth. Christians build churches to share redemption, hospitals to heal, orphanages to care. Called to love fellow man as second greatest commandment. | Science and faith are **not** antithetical. God created the universe so doing scientific study is to admire the work of God. Majority of the greatest scientists have been Christians and modern science grew from Christian influence.  Since God created the universe, there is no presupposition that the universe is old. |

**Part Two: Your Philosophy of Life**

1. C.S. Lewis- *“We all have a philosophy of life. The only question is whether it is a good one or a bad one.”*
2. Colossians 2:8-10

A. Beware- be on the lookout! (NIV “see to it”).

1. T.V. shows spouting pop-philosophy.

2. America is becoming doused with new atheism and old hedonism.

B. Cheated through philosophy and empty deceit.

1. Cheated comes from the Greek word  (sulagogon).

2. Meaning- To carry off as spoil.

3. The spoil of Dawkins, Hitchens and Harris.

4. Spoil of hedonism wanting you to lower your morals so theirs look better.

C. According to the tradition of men… new atheists.

D. According to basic principles of the world… hedonistic pleasure seekers.

1. Philosophy.

A. General philosophy.

1. From the Greek word  

 Denotes supposed love and pursuit of wisdom, hence, philosophy is the investigation of nature and truth.

3. Essentially Greek as a name and as an idea.

a. However, it had found its way into Jewish circles.

b. Josephus speaks of the three Jewish sects as three “philosophies”.

4. To the Greeks denoted the highest effort of the intellect.

5. However, the word ONLY OCCURS HERE in Paul’s writings.

a. The Gospel had deposed the term.

b. What philosophy had become was seen as inadequate and flawed.

c. Man’s pursuit of God or no-god and understanding life.

d. Rather than God’s pursuit of man and revelation of truth.

e. Knowing Philosophy for the sake of witness- Paul in Athens used his knowledge of philosophy to win powerful and influential people to Christ.

B. The Revelation of God.

1. How can you know anything? Epistemology.

2. The Bible is God’s revelation and must be the Authority

3. The main reason atheists and some unbelieving scholars reject the Bible is not

on the basis of the evidence, but on the basis of anti-supernaturalism. A 2nd reason, and perhaps the underlying motive is resistance to accountability.

4. We will be sharing more about the Bible in the days ahead.

IV. Reason Number 7 that I am not an atheist ~Atheists admit that their materialistic worldview control presuppositions are purely philosophical; but duplicitously couch their belief system as being purely scientific. They further cast a false war between Christianity and Science. Because I reject these mendacious misrepresentations I cannot be an atheist. I instead choose the Christian worldview cognizant of it presuppositions and appreciative of its logical and natural consequences.

**Closing**…You are complete in Him…

Message on Power Behind Pentecost… you don’t need more God in your life… you need more surrender to God in your life.

**Discussion Items and Questions for Home and Small Group**

1. In your own words explain what a worldview is.
2. Explain why evidence by itself will never settle a debate.
3. Read Colossians 2:8-10 and share how you can prevent being cheated.
4. What are your presuppositions?
5. Pray for each other.

**Suggested Bibliography and Sites**

The Ultimate Proof of Creation. Lisle, Jason PhD. Master Books. 2009

The End of Reason. Ravi Zacharias, Zondervan 2008

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/>

<http://www.specialtyinterests.net/logic.html#aip>

<http://www.trueorigin.org/isakrbtl.asp>

**Seven Reasons I Am Not an Atheist- Mark Schwarzbauer PhD (Summary from Parts 1-4).**

1. Former atheist Professor Paul Vitz unmasked atheism showing it is actually based in psychological needs and deficiency and not in rational intellectualism. As a social scientist myself, this is one reason I am not atheist.
2. People like Martin Bashir who grossly distort the arguments make me skeptical of their skepticism. If it is rational truth the atheist purports why do they depend upon faulty forms of logic to defend it? This is the second reason I am not an atheist.
3. Atheists point to the atrocities of religion. Yet, in one century atheist regimes have killed more than all religions in all of history combined. Such crimes are antithetical to Christianity and the teachings of Jesus. However, as the leader in classical atheism Nietzsche has pointed out these atrocities are inherent to atheism. Contrasting these and other inherent natural consequences leads me to not be an atheist.
4. The logical inconsistencies prevalent in atheism are glaring; such as Hume’s statement which fails its own tests, and to declare you have all knowledge that there is no being of all knowledge. Because I insist on logical consistency I cannot be an atheist.
5. Classic atheists denied objective Moral Law because they knew it logically leads to a Moral Law Giver. The new atheists after losing this point in debates now claim there is objective moral law but can’t answer where it comes from. Because I believe in objective moral law and honest logical consistency I cannot be an atheist.
6. Leading Atheist Sam Harris teaches that free will is an illusion and therefore “no one, however evil, can be held responsible.” Although he sees in a “practical sense, they must be” held responsible he refuses to fully acknowledge the natural consequences of his teaching and is therefore not rationally consistent. His arguments are logically reductio ad absurdum. Although Free Will cannot exist for the material atheist the denial of its existence is absurd. I cannot deny logic, reality or responsibility; therefore, I cannot be an atheist.
7. Atheists admit that their materialistic worldview control presuppositions are purely philosophical; but duplicitously couch their belief system as being purely scientific. They further cast a false war between Christianity and Science. Because I reject these mendacious misrepresentations I cannot be an atheist. I instead choose the Christian worldview cognizant of it presuppositions and appreciative of its logical and natural consequences.