

Christ Lutheran Church

127 N. Spring St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601
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January 2022

"A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps." (Proverbs 16:9)

How many times has this been shown true in our lives? We have it all planned out for things to go one way, but then they go another. A career path that seemed so certain may change as one door slams in our face; but then another door opens, and we are shown new and exciting ways to use God-given gifts. Plans for travel and visiting loved ones are frustrated by unforeseen developments; but then at last, it works out in a better and more meaningful way than we had planned. A relationship that seemed so promising may end with heartbreaking realizations; but then the right person comes along, and we are so thankful that it worked out for the best after all.

At the turn of a new year, we often think of the future and what we would like to see happen in our life. As we plan our way God's Word encourages us to do so with humility, but also with confident trust in His graciously directing our steps.

First with humility, because we just do not know what the future holds, beyond what God has revealed in His Word. Nor do we always know what is best for ourselves.

To one who would boast in his plans, James 4:13-15 provides this humbling exhortation: *"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit'; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.'"*

At times little children may think they know best, and may even insist that their parents should do just as they wish. But they cannot see or understand all the implications and dangers of a certain course as their parents can.

Likewise we may use our intellect, abilities, and resources to plan for the future as we think best; and maybe we think God should answer our prayers just as we wish. But there is so much out of our view that only God can see. He knows what the results would be if He just let things go as we wished all the time. Have we experienced frustration, heartache, and loss? Who but God alone knows what dangers He may have diverted, as Satan works behind the scenes to draw us away, but God directed our path safely? Who but God alone knows how He is opening better doors,

developing us in greater ways of serving to His glory and for the good of others? Who but God alone knows how He is answering our prayers in ways far better than we could ask or imagine to bring about His eternal purpose for us?

God sees our whole life from His perspective of infinite wisdom and understanding, as well as infinite love and care for us. So as we make plans for the future, His Word encourages us to pray with humility: *"Thy will be done."* At the same time, He encourages us to do so with confident trust that He is directing our steps.

He is, after all, our Father in heaven who has loved us from all eternity, and has graciously chosen us to be His children through faith in Christ (Ephesians 1:1-5). We can trust Him who so loved us that He did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us, to secure our eternal future. Jesus has finished all the work His Father sent Him to do to win our salvation. He has gone to the cross to bear all our sins away, including all pride and lack of trust, and all wrong paths we have taken in life. Through the finished work of His Son, God forgives all our sins and looks on us with favor. Now, as God continues to fulfill His eternal plan of grace in our life, He has baptized us and poured out His Holy Spirit on us; and by uniting us in faith and life with His Son, God has claimed us as His children for all eternity.

Therefore, He gives us true confidence to face the future. He invites us to commit all our plans to Him: *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope"* (Jeremiah 29:11). As the song goes:

I know who holds the future,
And I know He holds my hand;
With God things don't just happen
Ev'rything by Him is planned.
So as I face tomorrow
With its problems large and small,
I'll trust the God of miracles,
Give to Him my all!

***"Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge Him, and
He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)***

In His infinite wisdom and love in Christ,
Pastor Smith

What Is a Worldview? (And Why Do Worldviews Matter?)

January 2022

A worldview is a set of related beliefs (assumptions or teachings) that one wears, like a pair of glasses, through which life is viewed. A worldview gives a specific understanding of life and answers important questions, often at odds with answers from other worldviews.

You can look at life one way by wearing one pair of glasses and then see the world differently when you wear a pair glasses of a different prescription or darker shade. They lead to different views.

A worldview helps determine what you believe about nature, what you value, how you view social issues, what you think about sin, where the universe came from, if God exists, whether truth can be known, who Jesus is, what man is like, and so on. In short, a worldview shapes how you see every aspect of life.

Consider two answers given to the question, “What is man?” The Darwinian or evolutionary worldview answers that man is just one of many genetically complex life forms, due to millions of years of purposeless forces, subject only to the laws of chemistry and physics, not accountable to any timeless moral law or God (for there are none), and, in the big picture, has no more value than an insect, a blade of grass, or a piece of dung.

The biblical worldview answers that man is a unique creation of a real Creator, set apart from all other creatures since he alone is made in the Creator’s image, accountable to a timeless moral law, and who, though fallen, still recognizes there is a meaning to life and a destiny that go beyond mere chemistry and matter. Most significantly, this worldview recognizes that even though man failed miserably in his accountability to God’s law—having completely lost his holiness—righteousness is restored and man is forgiven through faith alone in Jesus, God’s Son, and his sacrificial work. Being created by a Creator and being redeemed by this same Creator give man actual and infinite value.

Worldviews make a world of difference in our lives, but the typical person probably does not even know he holds to a certain worldview. And if he does know, he will likely not think critically about it. He

will not ask himself whether his worldview might be false, where it comes from, why it was rejected a generation ago, and, very importantly, how it may conflict with certain religious teachings—another worldview—to which he also holds.

Whether a person can define “Darwinism,” “existentialism,” “postmodernism,” or other names of worldviews, everyone risks being influenced and even swept away by such deceptive ideologies without even realizing it. That is why Paul warned, “See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ” (Colossians 2:8).

False worldviews are deceptive; they can look good but are inwardly misleading. Christian discernment is needed. This is why Christian apologetics is important where Christian truths are defended and the assumptions of other worldviews can be shown to be false.

People can and do change their worldview. It can happen when they go off to college, encounter a crisis, or are immersed in another culture. But remarkably, in all places in every generation, millions and millions embrace the Christian worldview.

St. Paul, who had violently opposed the little sect known as Christianity, did a complete turnabout. Jesus Christ grabbed Paul, converted him, and appointed him to tell everyone that the Christian worldview is unquestionably and demonstrably true, in spite of knowing he would have to die for it. Though he was martyred, he now lives, as will everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the Redeemer of sinful man.

Rev. David Thompson is pastor of St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Lombard, Illinois, and author of *What in the World Is Going On? Identifying Hollow and Deceptive Worldviews*.

Learn More:
www.els.org/apologetics

January 2022				Christ Lutheran Church			
Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 <i>Christmas 2</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (AM 1150/FM 92.9) Worship with Communion 9:30 AM After Church Sunday school and Christmas cleanup		3	4	5	6 <i>The Epiphany of Our Lord</i>	7	1 <i>Circumcision and Name of Jesus</i> <i>New Year's Day</i>
							8
9 <i>Epiphany 1</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (AM 1150/FM 92.9) Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM		10 <i>Happy Birthday Diane Bliss</i>	11	12	13	14	15
16 <i>Epiphany 2</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (AM 1150 / FM 92.9) Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM		17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	18	19	20	21	22 <i>Sanctity of Human Life Day</i>
23 <i>Epiphany 3</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (AM 1150 / FM 92.9) Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM		24	25	26	27	28	29
30 <i>Epiphany 4</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (AM 1150 / FM 92.9) Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM		31	<i>"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)</i>				

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