

One day at a time

I. Introduction-

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. Jam 1:1

You ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that. Jam 4:15

God; theos, infinite, eternal being with all power and knowledge

Lord; kyrios, he to whom all things belongs, has power of deciding; master, lord

Jesus; Jehovah is salvation

Christ; *christos*, the Messiah, the Son of God, anointed.

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. Jam 4:13

A. We are created to seek and follow God's will for our lives-

I know the plans I have for you says the Lord- I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jer 29:11

The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty. Prov 21:5

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Eph 2:10

B. God's plan for our life is good, acceptable and perfect-

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Rom 12:2

What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." Jam 4:14

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Mat 6:10

Worldview; a comprehensive conception or apprehension of the world especially from a specific standpoint

Is that the standpoint that we have in our minds

II. The Christian vs. the secular world view of our future-

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The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. Ps 103:19

Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. Mat 6:33

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. I Thes 5:16

Lord; kyrios, he to whom all things belongs, has power of deciding; master

Secular worldview; a presupposition that denies all evidence for the existence of God or for any supernatural influences on reality

II. Our worldview will determine who controls our future?

A. The secular worldview-

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Jam 4:4

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. Jud 21:25

B. The secular worldview in 2023-

"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Mat 7:12

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Jam 4:4

The Dominant Worldview Embraced by American Adults:

- Biblical Worldview 6%
- Secular Humanism 2%
- Postmodernism 1%
- Syncretism 88%
- Biblical Christianity in the general population 2% 1% under 30, 0% under 20

Syncretism; the combination of different forms of beliefs, practices, religions and philosophies to form a spiritual worldview and theology

C. The Christian worldview-

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Jn 14:6

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Rom 12:2

Biblical worldview; a presupposition that recognizes the existence of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit and of their supernatural influences that define all of reality.

Absolute moral truth exist.

- The bible is totally accurate in all the principles it teaches.
- Satan is a real being or force, not merely symbolic.
- A person cannot earn his way into heaven by trying to be good or doing good works.
- Jesus lived a sinless life on earth.
- God is the all-knowing, all-powerful creator of the world who still rules the universe today.

George Barna research has used the following criteria to define what beliefs are foundational for a person to have a biblical worldview since 1995.

https://www.arizonachristian.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/CRC_AWVI-2020_Release12_Restoring-America-by-Reframing-Its-Worldview.pdf

III. Finding and following the will of God for our lives

A. Be a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, -

He said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? Lk 9:23

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Gal 2:20

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. I Cor 1:18 & 23

B. Seek diligently for Jesus and for truth-

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. Jn 8:31&36

I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me. Prov 8:17

I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the LORD. Jer 29:11

Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Mat 6:33

C. Staying in the will of God-

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. Prov 3:5

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. Jn 15:7

Assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Eph 4:21

D. When our freewill choices become the will of God-

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Eph 2:10

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Phil 2:12

Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light. Ps 37:3

The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way; Ps 37:23

Is Jesus Christ more and more dominating every interest in my life? If the one central point, the great exerting influence in my life is the Atonement of the Lord, then every phase of my life will bear fruit for Him. "The disciple who abides in Jesus is the will of God, and his apparently free choices are God's fore-ordained decrees. Mysterious? Logically contradictory and absurd? Yes, but a glorious truth to a saint.

My utmost for His highest, Oswald Chambers, June 6, <https://utmost.org/classic/today/>