

The Biblical Worldview – Foundational Presuppositions

Psalm 111

I. Expressing the Biblical Worldview

A. Position of the Psalmist

B. Purpose of the Psalmist

C. Pleasure of the Psalmist

Almighty God, who created man in Thine own image, and made him a living soul that he might seek after Thee and have dominion over Thy creatures, teach us to study the works of Thy hands, that we may subdue the earth to our use and strengthen the reason for Thy service; and so to receive Thy blessed Word, that we may believe on Him Whom Thou hast sent to give us the knowledge of salvation and the remission of sins. All of which we ask in the name of the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

James Clerk Maxwell

“Those who love their Maker delight in his handiwork, they perceive that there is more in them than appears upon the surface, and therefore they bend their minds to study and understand them.”

Charles Spurgeon

Ezra 7:10 “For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach [God’s] statutes and rules in Israel.”

Eccl. 1:13 “And I [the Preacher] applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven.” [The search to find meaning in life “under the sun.”]

Amos 5:6 “Seek the LORD and live...” in the greater context of God “hating your feasts...”

Ps 10:3-4 “For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul, and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the LORD. In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, ‘There is no God.’”

Ps 14:1-3 “The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one. Have they no knowledge all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread and do not call upon the LORD?”

Ps 22:26 “The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD!”

“Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.”

D. Perspective of the Psalmist

- In the context of praise
- In the fellowship

Ps 145:4 “One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.”

- In the framework of confession
- In the bond of covenant
- In the spirit of service
- In the light of eternity

“Holy and awesome is His name! The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.”

II. Appropriating the Biblical World view

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.” It is preceded with “...holy and awesome is His name...”

Eccl. 12:13 “The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”

Isa. 11:2, 3 “And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.”

Prov 16:6 “...by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil.”

2 Cor 7:1 “Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.”

Acts 9:31 “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.”

1 Cor 8:6 “...for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.”

Ps 145:18 “The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.”

Is 65:1 [God speaking] “I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me; I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me.”

Ps 145:8 “The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made.”

Phil 2:12-13 “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, 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.”

1 Pet 1:17 “...if you call on Him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot..”

Ps 147:11 “...the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.”

Ps 130:3-4 “If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.”

“The flower of true science possesses its root in the fear of the Lord, grows forth from the fear of the Lord, and finds in that fear of the Lord its principle, its motive, its starting point.”

Abraham Kuyper (1837-1920)

DOES MY WORLDVIEW BEGIN WITH A “FEAR OF THE LORD?”

DO I COMPREHEND THE LORD WHOM I AM TO FEAR?