

*Matthew 7:24-27. “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its **foundation** on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”*

Matthew 16:18. ...and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

*1 Corinthians 3:11. For no one can lay any **foundation** other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ*

My Sure Foundation

1. What is the foundation of my life?

Is it strong or in danger?

2. What are the storms?

Are they the circumstances I am facing?

Life destroying storms are a wrong worldview!

3. What is a Worldview?

- A person's worldview is the way they see and understand the world, especially regarding issues such as politics, philosophy, and religion. (Collins dictionary).

a) Behaviour:

b) Values:

c) Beliefs:

d) What is true or real:

What we see/believe/perceive as true and real is at the heart of our worldview

4. What is the worldview of our culture?

a) Behaviour:

- Huge changes in the last 40-50 years

b) Values:

- Varied - changes

c) Beliefs:

- Fix climate, world peace, no fault divorce, abortion, euthanasia, same sex marriage, sexual confusion, etc

d) What is real or true:

- Man is at the centre and not God - humanism

Humanism is prevalent in our society

5. What is my worldview?

As a believer?

- **Do I have a Christian World View?**
- **Questions for you/me...**
 - Do absolute moral truths exist?
 - Is absolute truth defined by the Bible?
 - Did Jesus Christ live a sinless life?
 - Is God the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe, and does He still rule it today?
 - Is salvation a gift from God that cannot be earned?
 - Is Satan real?

- Does a Christian have a responsibility to share his or her faith in Christ with other people?
- Is the Bible accurate in all of its teachings?
- These questions were used in a George Barna survey:

Only 9% of born again believers said 'yes' to these questions!

Or - has my worldview changed?

- How many Christians have modified their worldview to 'fit' into contemporary views, beliefs, values & behaviour?

6. What was the prevailing worldview in New Testament times?

Romans and Greeks did have laws, order, etc.

- An ordered society, great engineering, etc.
- Some good values – bravery, loyalty, etc

It was an overtly pagan society

- Idolatry – pagan worship – polytheistic
- Deeply and publicly immoral
 - A sexually liberal culture – homosexuality, orgies, etc
 - Life was cheap – slavery, abuse, killing, etc

In this setting the church was born and thrived

7. How did Paul view the culture in his day?

- **Paul stood in pagan places and preached Christ crucified**

Acts 17:24. (In Athens) - The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands.

2 Timothy 1:12. *For this reason I also suffer these things; **nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed** and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.*

8. What is a Christian Worldview?

God is real and true

- The all-powerful creator who rules the heavens & the earth

Beliefs that are God and Christ centred

- Jesus Christ is the son of God who was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on my behalf, was raised from the dead, returned to heaven and will come again.

- In the storm of his temptation Jesus said:

Matthew 4:4. ***It is written**, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”*

- In teaching about the resurrection Paul said:

1 Corinthians 15:3-4. *For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins **according to the Scriptures**, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day **according to the Scriptures**,*

- The Bereans searched:

Acts 17:10-11. *Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹ These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that **they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily** to find out whether these things were so.*

- They did not search ‘Facebook, Google, Wikipedia, YouTube, etc...’

They searched the Scriptures

- Bible truths about creation, sin, eternal life, marriage, sexuality, etc

□ The Nicene creed... (325 AD)

- We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
- We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
- We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

□ The Apostles' Creed... (6th or 7th century)

- We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord.
- Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and was born of a virgin, Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
- He descended into Hades, and on the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven, where He sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From Heaven he shall come to earth again to judge the living and the dead.
- We believe in the Holy Spirit, one holy Christian church, the communion of all true saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the gift of everlasting life.

These are powerful truths about who and what is real

Values that reflect a Christ centred belief system

Behaviour is Godly & reflects the 'Fruit of the Spirit'

9. How I have built a Biblical Worldview?

A real and powerful encounter with Jesus & the BHS

Study & research the scriptures...

- Contextualise – who is writing, why they are writing, what are the issues, etc.

Receive from good bible teachers

- Listen, read, watch, etc
- Comments from Paul (in jail) - to Timothy

*2 Timothy 2:15. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who **correctly handles the word of truth.***

*2 Timothy 3:16. **All Scripture is God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness*

All Scripture is God breathed!

*2 Timothy 4: 2-4. **Preach the word**; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.*

Galatians 5:22-23. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

- What do the writers say about other scripture writers?
- We cannot get the foundation from someone else

Jesus Christ and Him alone is 'My Sure Foundation'