



## Lesson 3 – What Is Truth?

If you were to talk to a Canaanite, Greek philosopher, Pharisee, and the average American about the gospel, you would have quite a challenge. Every person needs the same basic message – they are a sinner and need a Savior. But everyone will have a different worldview, a different way of looking at life. In this lesson, we are going to examine what a worldview is and why it matters and then outline the typical American worldview.

### Defining Worldview

#### **A worldview is a story that makes sense of life.**

A worldview is the story by which you live your life. If you were to have a serious conversation with someone and ask them, “How did we get here and where are we going?” the answer they give will be their worldview.

#### **A worldview answers life’s big questions.**

Once you know where we came from and where we are headed, you start answering other questions, such as “What is our purpose?” “How do I decide what is right and what is wrong?” and “Why is there so much evil?”

#### **Everyone has a worldview, whether they know it or not.**

While “worldview” is trendy in some circles, many have never heard the term or don’t know what it means. But everyone has an understanding of the world that informs what they think about origin, destiny, purpose, morality, and suffering.



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## The American Worldview

Understanding the America worldview involves looking at several “isms.” For each term we will study the wrong thinking of the world around us and then what God’s Word has to say about each.

### Naturalism

Naturalism is the belief that the material world is all that exists. Naturalism explains why people today live as if God and the spiritual world does not exist.

- **The Bible teaches that the spiritual realm is real (Eph 6:10-12).**
- **The Bible teaches that God is sovereign and active (Dan 4:35; Rom 8:28).**
- **The Bible teaches that eternity is real (Ecc 12:13-14; Rom 14:12).**

### Existentialism

Existentialism believes that ultimate purpose and meaning is decided by the individual. If God doesn’t determine meaning, then everyone can find their own meaning and happiness.

- **The Bible warns against the temptation to be “god” (Gen 3:5).**
- **The Bible teaches that our ultimate purpose is to praise God (Col 1:16; Rev 4:11).**

### Postmodernism

Once meaning was determined by individuals instead of by God’s Word, the next step was to begin questioning if it was possible to know anything. Postmodernism questions whether truth can ever be discovered. The Bible’s response is that truth is knowable, and His name is Jesus Christ (John 8:32; 14:6). Going back to our first lesson, we must remember that the Holy Spirit is the only one who can open blinded eyes, and He does so through the Word. Sharing the truth with people who don’t believe in truth might seem pointless, but God can break through even the hardest hearts of unbelief.

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