

Pastor Phil & Rhonda Willingham



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Heartland Christian Center

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“Knowing What I know And Why I know it”

Greetings Friends;

A question that I hear often is, “Does it really matter what I believe as long as I believe in something?” Or, “As long as your belief helps you, isn’t that all that matters?”

The idea behind statements such as these is that there is no absolute truth to believe in and thus the act of believing is all there is. We all believe in something, and people can be sincere in their beliefs, but be sincerely wrong. I can sincerely believe that my Yamaha is a Harley; unfortunately, this is not the case. Belief will not create fact. Truth is independent of belief. No matter how hard I may try, believing something will not make it true. The Bible emphasizes that what one believes is vital.

“Be careful how you think: your life is shaped by your thoughts.” Pr. 4:23 (TEV) “When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is happy.” Proverbs 29:18

My belief will effect how I view everything in life. How I view God. How I view myself. How I view other people. Everyday we’re influenced by our own worldview. It determines our happiness, determines our success and what we feel about life. For many of us there are so many things that are in our thinking database and some of them need to be deleted. A faulty set of beliefs can be disastrous. Although a worldview can make our lives miserable or make our lives happy, the good news is that worldview is a choice. Nobody forces you to believe anything. You can believe anything you want. Even God doesn’t force you to believe anything. He has created you in His image and He’s given you the free will to choose what you believe and what you don’t believe.

There are various beliefs or views of how we see the world, here are some of them:

1st - This can be summarized in the word More, more, more, more. That worldview is called Materialism. Materialists believe in the purchase of happiness and ‘If I can’t afford it that’s ok, I’ve got a credit card.’ The materialists confuses their value with their valuables. But Jesus said in *Luke 12:15* “A man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

2nd - The second worldview is ‘I’ve got to think of Me First’. We live in a ‘Me First’ mentality world. It’s called individualism. Individualism says I don’t really care about you. I can’t get involved, you see, I’ve got to think of me. But, Jesus taught a totally different worldview. He said this “If you try to keep life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for Me you will find true life.” Jesus says you only begin to live when you begin to give your life away. Significance in life does not come from serving yourself, not from status, salary, or success. It comes from serving. By serving God and serving others. *Proverbs 21:17* “Are you addicted to thrills? What an empty life. The pursuit of pleasure is never satisfied.”

3rd - ‘Whatever works for you’ or ‘If it feels good, do it’ In other words it may not be my thing, but if it works for you, fine. It doesn’t matter if it’s right or wrong. It doesn’t matter if it hurts anybody or not, if it works for you, fine. This idea is called Pragmatism. There’s a problem with that. There are things that work - that are evil. But the Bible says this in *Proverbs 21:16*. “There is a way that seems right for a man but in the end it leads to death.”

4th - Here's another one. God doesn't exist. Or if He does exist, He doesn't matter.

This worldview is called atheism. It says I just believe that everything in life is a result of chance. We're all accidents of nature. There is no God. God does not exist & God doesn't matter. Now, if God doesn't exist and God doesn't matter it follows you don't matter; that's the logical conclusion of that worldview. We are just an accident of nature. If there is no plan, no purpose, no design in life, then life doesn't matter; we're of no value. The Bible says this in *Romans 1:20* "From the beginning of creation God has shown what He is like by all He has made." and in *Psalms 14:1* "The fool has said in His heart 'There is no God.'"

5th - Here's another one we find a lot, it says that "You are your own god."

Now if we don't worship God we worship something. Sometimes we just make it ourselves and this idea of you're your own God is very popular. This worldview says I am the master of my fate; I am the determiner of my destiny; I am in charge; and these feed our selfish desire. Now this was the original temptation when Satan told Adam and Eve, "Eat this and you'll be like god." That worldview is called Humanism. But the Bible says this, *Romans 1:23* "They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and they worshipped created things rather than the creator."

6th - Now there's one other worldview and it's the one that the Bible talks about.

God made me for His purposes. The Bible calls that Theism. Theism comes from Theo, which is the Greek word for God. The Bible says that God created us for a purpose. *Colossians 1:16* says this "For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, everything got started in Him and finds its purpose in Him."

Listen: Everything, absolutely everything, was created by God, for a purpose. Until we understand that, life never makes sense!

Christian Theism says that while human reason and perception are legitimate ways to gain knowledge, we cannot depend on these methods alone because they're not enough. Some information needs to be given to us from outside the system. An outside Revealer provides information we can't get any other way. Revelation, revealed truth from the One who knows everything is not only legitimate but necessary way to know some important things. Revelation is how we know what happened when the earth, the universe and man were created. Revelation is how we know what God wants us to do and be. Revelation is how we can know how the world will end and what heaven is like. Revelation in the form of the Lord Jesus Christ is the only way we can experience "God with skin on." The Christian worldview is full of hope, consistent with reality, and it resonates in our souls that it's very, very right.

Today as never before, Christians are being called upon to give reasons for the hope that is within them. Often seekers raise questions about the validity of the gospel message. Removing intellectual objections will not make one a Christian; but a change of heart wrought by the Spirit. Part of our responsibility involves having the skills to eliminate obstacles, real or imagined, which keep an individual from taking the Christian message seriously. Join us at HCC over the next few weeks as we tackle some of life's most difficult questions and examine the myths which have developed that causes many not to be able to discern between fact or fiction!

Blessed,

Pastor Phil & Rhonda

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Show is free to the public and opens at 11:30 a.m.

Registration is \$20 per entry. Register 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Information and downloadable registration form at:

heartlandchristiancenter.com/wheels_for_charity.html

or contact WillisDickens@gmail.com or 219-464-4266

HEARTLAND WHEELS FOR CHARITY

ANNUAL
CAR
&
BIKE
SHOW



Sunday, June 28th Valparaiso, In.

Join us for a fun filled afternoon of
Custom & Classic, Street & Stock Bikes and Cars

Join us for our 10:00 A.M. worship service before the Car & Bike Show!