

How To Develop A Biblical Worldview

(appropriate for High-Schoolers and older)

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Other youth bible studies by Michael Daily available at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

Worldview: *a comprehensive conception or perception of the human experience especially from a specific standpoint; the way someone thinks about the world system that people live in.*

If I was a devious person and wanted to intentionally change your worldview, what would be the single most effective thing that I could do?

The single most effective way of changing people's worldview is to constantly communicate a message all day everyday and never stop. The message may be true, or a lie, or a combination of both. Communicate the message in lots of different ways, preferably using methods people like (movies, music, games, etc.). If you do that, eventually, people's behavior will change. What they say they believe may not change, but that is actually not important. If I can get you to change the things you do or don't do, I have changed your worldview – and you may not even be aware that I have done it!

This is the method used by Madison Avenue.

Madison Avenue: *a symbolic name for the American advertising industry (also, a street in New York City).*

“Many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising” – Mark Twain

“Advertising is the art of convincing people to spend money they don't have for something they don't need” – Will Rogers

This method is even powerful enough to destroy human lives.

“If you tell a big enough lie and tell it frequently enough, it will be believed.” – Adolf Hitler

Why does it work? Because our brains will naturally spend time and effort thinking about whatever we expose them to. If we continually expose ourselves to worthless things, it will affect what we do.

Psalm 101:3

I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not fasten its grip on me.

We like to think that this isn't true. We like to think we can watch anything and listen to anything and it doesn't affect us – but it does.

Proverbs 4:23

Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.

What we allow our minds and hearts to dwell on affects our destiny. Contrary to popular belief, your successes and failures in life will be determined by a series of small decisions, each of which, at the time, does not seem significant (but they are). The outcome of these small decisions will be determined by what you allow your heart and mind to dwell on, which directly relates to what you watch and listen to. This is why God says we need to be diligent in controlling what we allow into our hearts and minds – it will determine the course of our lives!

I remember as a freshman in college, at 18 years of age, having become a Christian only a few months earlier, full of anxiety as to whether I had what it took to successfully complete college and be successful in life. It was the evening of a weekly bible study I was attending, but I had a Math test the next morning. So, I decided to do what most people would do in that situation, skip the bible study and prepare for the Math test.

But the Holy Spirit would not leave me alone about it. A thought finally came into my head, “one hundred years from now, which one will be the most important - understanding the Bible and obeying God, or the Math test”? So, I changed my mind and went to the bible study. After the study was over, I prepared for the test when it was later in the evening and I was a little more tired. God got the best hour and the Math work got the second best hour. Notice the decision was not God or Math. It was God first, then Math. I have often used that question throughout my life when tempted to short God, in order to help me keep my priorities straight. That is an example of a small decision that has made a big difference in the direction of my life.

Matthew 6:32-33

For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

satan has set things up so that we are exposed to a relentless stream of the World System’s values all day long through other people, the news, TV shows, movies, games, our phones, and other things. As a result, we end up thinking about and meditating on the values of the satanic World System, even if we don’t want to.

Meditate: *to give serious and careful thought to. To ruminate, chew over, think about, question, or wrestle with in our thoughts.*

Whether we want to or not, our minds think about whatever is put in front of them. This is why corporations spend so much money on advertising. The more the idea of buying a product is put in front of someone, the higher the likelihood they will take action and buy the product – it works!

What we meditate on is important to God because it affects what we believe and what actions we take

I used to work as a volunteer for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association telephone ministry. People would watch Billy Graham on TV then call in on the phone to talk to someone. I shared the gospel and led people to Christ that way. But I also received calls from Christians. Many of them were suffering from worry, anxiety, or sadness. As I asked questions as to why, I discovered a recurring theme. Many of them were not reading their Bibles, but they had the TV on all the time (particularly the news) or some form of electronics was dominating their lives. In short, they had the World System on and their Bibles off! Without realizing it, they had developed a lifestyle of constantly meditating on the messages of the satanic World System. No wonder they were anxious and sad! I suggested that they turn off the electronics and the news and read a chapter from the Bible everyday instead. There is no rule that says you have to keep up with the news every day. People lived for thousands of years without instantly knowing what was happening in other cities or countries. What horrible price will you pay if you are not instantaneously aware of the latest news? Nothing. I do not try to keep up with the news and it has not affected me negatively in any way.

So, spend more time taking in and meditating on God’s Word and less time taking in the World System’s messages through electronics. According to Psalm 104:34 you will actually feel happier!

Psalm 104:34

Let my meditation be pleasing to Him; As for me, I shall be glad in the LORD.

(Psalm 19:14)

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

Although you may not believe this, there was a time when you could walk into a restaurant, or an office building, or a church, and there would not be a television mounted to the wall! The truth is, even if you turn off all of your electronics and try to isolate yourself from the world’s messages, you will still pick up plenty of news and information just from walking around, living your life.

Friends

What about your friends. They might even be Christians. How might they negatively affect your worldview? What if you don't respond immediately to their texts or instant messages? What will happen to you? If a quick response from you is a requirement for inclusion in their activities, they are not your friend!

When my daughter graduated from high school she went to college in another state. Some of her "friends" would email and text her, and post comments on social media criticizing her for going to college or leaving the state, as if she thought she was better than they were. Anyone who tries to pull you down or hold you back or who calls you an "overachiever" is not your friend. Anyone who punishes you emotionally for trying to excel or for not behaving the way they want you to, is not your friend. These are people who are trying to change your worldview in order to manipulate you into doing what they want you to do.

Psalm 119:78

May the arrogant be ashamed, for they subvert me with a lie; *But* I shall meditate on Your precepts.

Psalm 119:23-24

Even though princes sit *and* talk against me, Your servant meditates on Your statutes. ²⁴ Your testimonies also are my delight; *They are* my counselors.

In contrast, a real friend is always looking for ways to help you become more than you currently are!

Friend: *one attached to another by affection or high regard; one that supports, confirms, or promotes another; one that is not hostile.*

Time

Some people don't think they have time to spend in God's Word. Time is not the issue. The average person spends 3.5 hours per day, every day, engaged with their electronics for leisure (social media, phone, TV, video games, etc.). Why not reduce this 3.5 hours of intake from the world system and increase our time for taking in and meditating on God's Word? We can do that if we want to. We have the time!

Turn Off the World System, Turn On The Bible

Give God the best hour of your day. After work I have dinner and talk with my wife. Then, I shut off and power down all of the electronics and spend 30 to 60 minutes doing my "spiritual stuff". Spend that time on your Bible Study, Bible Reading, Scripture Memory, whatever it is, with the electronics off. Then, late in the day, when you have the satisfaction of completing your work for God, when you are tired and can't concentrate very well, then you can watch a little TV or a movie, or look at your phone or play a video game. Even then we need to be selective about what we watch.

(Philippians 4:8)

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

You may not think that this time in God's Word (even just reading one chapter a day) could make that much difference, but it does.

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Meditating on scripture keeps us from being conformed to this world's way of thinking, renews our mind to think more the way that God thinks about things, and helps us understand what the will of God is.

The Deception of Multi-Tasking

“Oh but Mr. Daily, you don’t understand. You see, I am a world class multi-tasker. I can do my Bible study and watch Netflix at the same time. I can memorize my verse and text on my phone at the same time. I really am that good!”

Let’s do some observational science. We Christians love observational science. We don’t like philosophical science, at all, but we love observational science. So let’s run an observable, repeatable experiment. I need four volunteers. The first volunteer must be an exceptionally good multi-tasker. The second volunteer needs to be good at counting numbers. The third volunteer needs to be good at reciting the alphabet. And the fourth volunteer needs to be able to operate a stopwatch. (note: keep track on the board of the number of errors and the time to complete each task for the tasks that follow).

Have the second volunteer count from 1 to 26 while being timed with the stopwatch. Have the audience count the number of errors the volunteer makes. Typically, an average person can count from 1 to 26 in about 6 seconds with zero errors. Then have the third volunteer recite the alphabet from A to Z while being timed. An average person can recite the alphabet in about 8 seconds with zero errors. Record the results.

Have the first volunteer (the multi-tasker) do both at the same time. For example, they would say, “A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4 all the way to Z-26, while being timed. Use the info below to check them for errors as they recite:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

A person who is good at multi-tasking can complete this task in about 60 seconds making one or more errors along the way. Add the times for the first two volunteers – the total should come out to 15 seconds or so. Add the error for the first two volunteers – the total should come out to zero or one or so. Then compare the time and errors of the multi-tasker and the combined numbers of the other two volunteers. On average, the multi-tasker will have the same error rate or worse than the other two volunteers. More importantly, it will have taken the multi-tasker four times longer to complete the same amount of work as the other two volunteers!

Numerous experiments on multi-tasking have been done over the years and they all have demonstrated the same result: Multi-tasking does not work. It never has, and it never will. Because the human brain is not designed to multitask! https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_multitasking

Results

People who don’t spend time in God’s Word and meditate on how to apply it, tend to see God as more of an abstract concept instead of a real person with whom you can have an interactive relationship with. But if you spend time in His Word, meditate on it, and obey it, God will seem more real to you, you will have a relationship with Him, and your worldview will stay biblical.

Psalm 119:15-16

I will meditate on Your precepts And regard Your ways. ¹⁶I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word.

Psalm 63:6

When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches, ⁷For You have been my help, And in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy. ⁸My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me.

Note: Use a Dictionary

Make sure to use a dictionary to look up important words in the verses you are meditating on. Words often have meanings that are different, or more specific, than you think they have. By understanding more clearly what these words mean (and what they don’t mean), you will be able to meditate on the verse more effectively. For example, in Romans 13:13 the Bible uses the term “carousing” in the NASB. I used to think that word meant “going around town causing trouble”. But its actual definition is, “attending loud drinking parties”. Now that I know what that word really means, I can meditate on that verse more effectively.

Appendix: Meditation Combined with Obedience Leads to Success In Life

Joshua 1:8

This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

Psalms 119:148

My eyes anticipate the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word.

Psalms 16:7

I will bless the LORD who has counseled me; Indeed, my mind instructs me in the night.

Meditate means to think about what you have read and look at it from all different angles to figure out what it means, how it applies to real life, and how it ties in with other things the Bible teaches. The word "meditate" comes from a word that describes how cows chew their food. They chew on it then swallow it. After some time they spit it up into their mouths and chew on it some more. They do this multiple times. This is how God wants us to chew on his Word.

Psalms 1:1-3

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

The person who meditates on God's Word day and night becomes a person who remains spiritually healthy and able to bear fruit regardless of the circumstances around him. God's Word is like a stream of water that keeps us bearing fruit during times of drought and heat. In addition, meditating on and obeying God's Word brings success in many areas of life.

Jeremiah 17:5-8

Thus says the LORD, "Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind And makes flesh his strength, And whose heart turns away from the LORD. ⁶ "For he will be like a bush in the desert And will not see when prosperity comes, But will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, A land of salt without inhabitant. ⁷ "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose trust is the LORD. ⁸ "For he will be like a tree planted by the water, That extends its roots by a stream And will not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green, And it will not be anxious in a year of drought Nor cease to yield fruit.

What you meditate on and act on will determine whether you become, spiritually speaking, a scrubby bush living in a desert planted in stony, salty soil, or if you will become a green leafed, fruit bearing tree, planted by a stream of water that continuously bears fruit for God regardless of the circumstances of life.

Psalms 119:97-100

O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. ⁹⁸ Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, For they are ever mine. ⁹⁹ I have more insight than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. ¹⁰⁰ I understand more than the aged, Because I have observed Your precepts.

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *How To Develop A Biblical Worldview*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Psalm 101:3, Proverbs 4:23*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 6:32-33*

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Psalm 104:34, Psalm 19:14*

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Philippians 4:8*

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 12:2*

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Joshua 1:8*

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Psalm 119:148, Psalm 16:7*

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