

XXXV. Timeless Truth for Timely Topics in Biblical Perspective

What Does the Bible Say?

“Developing the Christian Mind, Part 5—The Fall”

Ephesians 4:17–24

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We are in part 5 of this matter of developing a Christian mind. The first one dealt with the importance of this matter in which I gave you a guiding statement. The guiding statement is to live a faithful and effective Christian life style a Christian must develop a Christ-centered, Bible-framed, Spirit-filled life view, propelled by a Christ-consumed life love and all of it is saturated by persistent prayer. A Christian life style flows from the motivation of the love of Christ, a life love. It is informed and defined from a Biblical world and life view that is framed by the Bible, you're filled with the Spirit to engage in it, and it is Christ-centered to the glory of the Father.

That's why we pray. We pray for God to give us understanding of His Word. We pray for the Spirit to do His work so that it is all saturated. Your life love leads you to your life view that results in your life style. Most of us want to develop a life love and go to the life style without taking the time for the life view. I want to give you an illustration of this.

This last week I was just so burdened about what I'm hearing in this coming election year that I decided to write something about voting with Christian wisdom. I wrote a blog and it's probably the closest to viral I've ever been. It was interesting the various things I got back from writing about the fivefold paradigm in that blog. One response I received said “Oh this is wonderful, character, content, competency, conviction and core so just how do you want me to find that out pastor?” Go to work and start to think. We just want someone to tell us who to vote for.

People ask me why I don't endorse candidates and you don't know how close I am to doing this in this election or at least unendorsing some, if not endorsing but I don't do it for a number of reasons. One of the reasons is that I believe it continues this Christian laziness and apathy where Christians don't want to think or do the work. They just want someone to tell them who to vote for. That is why this is such a burden for me. I wish this was a burden for our entire congregation. Perhaps many already have this nailed down but I know for me it is important to put these issues together.

What does a Christian world and life view do? This answers four framing questions. The first framing question is why is there something rather than nothing? Second, why are some things right and other things wrong? Thirdly, what things are right and what things are wrong? Fourthly who or what determines things that are right and things that are wrong? Right now you're in a secular, humanistic, narcissistic culture and the culture is telling us that they will leave room for us to have Christianity as a private activity but don't bring it to the public square. They might even give us a tax break as a church if we do some good stuff. You can preach what you want as long as it is in that building, during that hour, during that day but don't bring out here. That is the called the sacred secular split. A Christian has to say 'no' to that thinking.

We don't have a sacred life and a secular life for that is absolutely contradictory. To quote Abraham Kuyper, “There is not one square inch of life in creation that Jesus does not say ‘this is Mine.’” Christ has you and He doesn't have your life simply on Sunday morning or in the quietness of the four walls of your home. He has your life and your life must be directed by a

Christian life view so that you know how to do this, motivated by a life love for the love of Christ constrains us.

Those four framing questions then come down to four personal questions. One is who am I? The world says to be whoever you want to be. If you're a man and you decide you want to be a woman the world says to do it or the sovereign self says that marriage ought to be this way and not that way. Someone recently said to me 'pastor just because we have redefined marriage to include same sex marriage (which is an illusion because you cannot have a conjugal marriage in such a definition and that is the definition of marriage) we are going to impose it and it is between two consenting adults.' On what basis it is between two consenting adults? Who is saying that and said that is right? Is that the majority opinion right now? What if the majority opinion says we ought to include three in a marriage? On what basis do you say that can't be? What if the majority says you don't need consent or that you even have to be an adult? On what basis do you tell them that, that is wrong?

Second question is where do I come from? Thirdly, why am I here? What is the purpose of my life and is there a purpose to my life? Is there something about me that is distinctive and purposed? The fourth question is where am I going? There are multiple iterations of it but there are two world views. There is the sovereign self. Jesus said to Peter, "you have set your mind on man's interest, not upon God's. The second is the sovereign God. There are many -isms of the sovereign self - humanism, narcissism, materialism, scientism, positivism etc. - but they all come back to the sovereign self.

So how do I put together a God-centered view of life? You start with the doctrine of creation and that is where we spent the last four studies because that is the essential for if you get one wrong then you can't understand the fall, redemption, providence or the consummation. It is impossible. You have to get the doctrine of creation right to understand the rest. Since the doctrine of creation is the essential, essential everything exists in ex nihilo, in its original form. In other words, there was nothing except God who is eternal. Then God made space, time and matter and He put it together in the space of six days. It was formless and unfilled and then in the first three days He formed it and the next three days He fills it but He brings it by His spoken Word and it was good. That included a historical Adam and Eve, a covenant of creation whereby with obedience comes life in the first Adam and we are all in the first Adam. Adam is the federal head. Then there were the creation ordinances that were built into the creation of work, rest, marriage, family, the week, the Sabbath, and sexuality within marriage.

Now we come to this study. So God has made everything and it shouts His glory. It reveals His majesty, His divine power and His beauty and He says 'it's good.' Now we're here and everything is not good. We find the catastrophes in the creation. We find the cataclysmic events in the heavens. We find the destructiveness of weather. We find the tremors of the earth. We find death everywhere - death upon death that you do not see in Genesis 1 and 2. Then we see broken hearts, broken homes, broken lives and broken bodies. It is not good. So why is it not good? Genesis 1 and 2 are followed by Genesis 3 so let's start by looking there now.

This brings us to the second essential of the life view, the fall and the fall is historically accounted for in Genesis 3. Genesis 3:1-7 says [1] *Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"* [2] *And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, [3] but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"* [4] *But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. [5] For God knows that when you eat of it*

your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” [6] So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. [7] Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

What has happened here? Here they are called to obedience to be fruitful and multiply, have dominion, subdue the earth and do not eat of the tree of the Knowledge of good and evil. Here they are engaged in the creation covenant and yet here comes Satan. People ask me often when did Satan fall into sin but I don't have any idea. It was sometime between creation and what I just read and that's all I know. I do know that when Satan falls in that sin he brings that sin to the earth in the midst of God's creation. He comes just as he comes today – disguised, deceiving and twisting the Word of God and calling God a liar. We see he has not met with God's Word but a twist of God's Word as the woman quotes back, not God's Word but God's Word with something added to it and therefore indicates her fixation upon the fruit.

Satan quotes back to her that she can become like God. Adam is right there with her and right here he should raise his hand and say 'we already are because we were made in His image' but he doesn't. When she saw that the fruit was good for food which is the lust of the flesh and it was a delight to the eyes which is the lust of the eyes and the tree was desirable to make one wise that really meant not to be like God but to be God, to take the place of God. She believed the lie that God was a liar she took the fruit and immediately three things come into existence – fear, shame and guilt. They cover themselves up and then the Lord comes to them.

Genesis 3:8–13 says [8] *And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. [9] But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” [10] And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid (fear), because I was naked (shame), and I hid myself (guilt).” [11] He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” [12] The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” [13] Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”*

There is no confession of sin. You always do one of two things when you sin. You either cover it up or confess but here they cover it up. Adam blames Eve. Eve blames the serpent. Then here comes the curse and here starts the fall. God brings death.

Genesis 3:14–21 says [14] *The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. [15] I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”* (There is the first pointing to the seed of the woman, the virgin birth. Bruising the head was a death blow of Jesus to Satan and bruising the heel is a suffering of the One who would come to defeat Satan.)

[16] *To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband (a compulsion to dominate), and he shall rule (verb form of tyrant) over you.”* (Here we have the very presence of the domestic abuse that we find today in this world from the curse of sin. It is that the woman attempts to conquer her husband and the husband returns with his superiority, his physical strength and begins to intimidate and tyrannize her.)

[17] And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you (the curse on all of creation); in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; [18] thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. [19] By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The curse of death has been brought. The wages of sin is death and has now arrived.

[20] The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. [21] And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

Now you have the promise of a Redeemer and the picture of redemption as Adam and Eve did not die that day but animals died in their place. Blood was shed and garments to clothe them pointing ultimately to Christ at the cross where His blood would be shed – the Lamb of God on our behalf – and His righteousness would clothe us. What happens next? Death, even within the family as Cain brought death upon Abel in the context of worship itself. So there is the coming into reality of death.

Where does that lead to? Let's look at Romans 1. This is extremely contemporary for our moment in time. Romans 1:18–27 says *[18] For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. [19] For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. [20] For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. [21] For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. [22] Claiming to be wise, they became fools, [23] and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.*

[24] Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, [25] because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. (They are not only suppressing the truth of God but they are engaging in idolatry and sexual promiscuity and are experiencing the rebellion against God with this life view.)

[26] For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; [27] and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

I want to give you a recent example of this. Recently in the news we have been hearing about this Zika virus. They found out that through sexual intimacy that virus can be given to someone else. So what was the solution? They said if you have had sex with someone who had the virus and are pregnant, come in and we'll kill the baby. The abortion industry has jumped on this. I have a great idea, why don't you just have sex within marriage. How about that? Why don't we start there? So all of our advancements are to affirm sexual immorality and we keep trying to find ways from bringing the results of brokenness in our bodies. When you break God's law it breaks you.

So our passage moves from sexual promiscuity with its results to sexual perversion, that unnatural sexuality. There is natural sex outside of marriage. Then there is unnatural sex in disregard of marriage. What did they do with that? Here we have full blown atheism. So what did God do?

Romans 1:28–32 says [28] *And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. [29] They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, [30] slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, [31] foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. [32] Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.*

Now the curse of death has led to the death spiral of the culture if it is untouched by God's grace. It goes from idolatry to humanism to the worship of self and all the way to atheism to the declaration that there is no God. Accompanying that is God giving them over and there are the exchanges that they make. Now sexual promiscuity is then followed by sexual perversion and when all the consequences of that are happening to them, what is the solution of this culture? We will enculturate it, codify it and now give it approval. Does this all sound familiar to you? You have just seen the profile of where we are as a nation and we're at the third step.

It's hard for me to go through this and not tell you to come back for my next study which covers redemption but this is the fall. This is the problem. This is what happens within the culture. So it goes from a debased mind to a debased life to a debased society and I'm just quoting the text. A debased mind is a wrong life view. This leads to a debased life and a debased society and the heart of the problem is the problem with the heart. So there Paul lays out the fall in terms of its cultural impact. Now I'd like to look at Romans 5. Why is this happening? It happens all the way back to Genesis 3.

Romans 5:12 says [12] *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man (Adam), and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.* I would love to take you through the next fifteen verses but because of time I can't but where did sin come from? Adam sinned. You and I are in Adam. Therefore when we're born we are born sinners. Adam freely sinned and we freely sinned in Adam. Therefore when Adam sinned we sinned. So it's from the original sin from Adam that comes the actual sin of sinners. The penalty of sin is death and according to the text 'so death spread to all men because all sinned.' Why do we sin? It is because we are born sinners. We get a sin nature and sin record from Adam then we engage in adding to that record and expressing that rebellion against God out of our own hearts and lives.

As much as you want to look at that and say 'Adam what in the world did you do!?' I will assure you that you would have done the same thing because you were in him. You ought to thank God for federal headship because that is how you are about to get saved and that's because there is another Adam. It's not your righteousness but His righteousness that you participate in that is then given to you. I Corinthians 15:21 says [21] *For as by a man came death, by a Man has come also the resurrection of the dead.* In Adam, all die. In Christ, all of Christ shall be made alive. There comes the answer with the Second Adam.

Now let's look at Romans 3. So what does this look like to be born as a sinner with a sin nature? Romans 1 says all the pagans are lost apart from God's grace. Romans 2 says religious pagans are lost. Romans 3 says the Jew is lost and then this chapter ends up with this declaration. Paul has taken the pagan Gentile, the religious Gentile and the Jew and brought them all in front of the bar of God's justice. Romans 3:23 gives the verdict which says [23] *All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.* How many have sinned? ALL. How much did they fall short of the glory of God? Paul just goes back to the Old Testament and puts together a tapestry of our lives and the verdict is we are totally depraved.

Romans 3:9–18 says [9] *What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, [10] as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; [11] no one understands; no one seeks for God. [12] All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” [13] “Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.” [14] “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” [15] “Their feet are swift to shed blood; [16] in their paths are ruin and misery, [17] and the way of peace they have not known.” [18] “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

He is speaking of humanity, all who have sinned. So if you understand that then when you read the accounts of a Hitler, you don't say 'how could that happen?' if you read this rightly. If you read this rightly then you're amazed that we're not all Hitlers. Why are we not all Hitlers? It is because of God's common grace and I will go into more detail on this in a few studies. Total depravity which means all of our life is under the curse of sin, is restrained by God's common grace so it doesn't become absolute depravity. That's why these words are so frightening in the Bible – God gave them over. That's why Thessalonians, looking to the coming of Christ says 'he who restrains is taken away.' People are unreasoning. They just don't think rightly because they think for the sovereign self. Therefore there is no understanding and no seeking of God. That is the way we are born into this world. So what is the result?

Romans 6:23 says [23] *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* There are three kinds of death that come into this world – physical, spiritual and eternal. They all are the result of sin. The word death means separation. Physical death is the separation of the soul from the body. When God breathed into Adam his corpse, his soul, the two being woven together he had life. God made you physically and spiritually to live forever. Have you ever wondered why when believers are getting ready to take their last breath are still fighting for that breath to live? Why do they do that? Paul says to leave is better but we still fight for it because we weren't made to die. We were made to live. The spirit and the body are two threads woven into one person.

We are not like a car (our body) and we're a passenger (spirit) in that car, no for that is a Greek world and life view. That is called a platonic world and life view. It is why the Eastern religions burn bodies when they die and why believers didn't but set aside the body with reverence. It wasn't because God needed help. It was a declaration. The same God who gave me a new spirit in my new birth is going to give me a new body when He raises this body gloriously and incorruptibly. That is where death comes from.

Someone asked me if I would pray that they would have a natural death and I said no. The person I'm sure thought 'what kind of pastor are you?' I'm a Bible pastor and I can't pray for you to have a natural death because there is nothing natural about death. There is no death in Genesis 1 and 2 for it doesn't come until Genesis 3. Death is the wages of sin and not the product of creation. Now I will pray that you will have a triumphant death, a peaceful death, a victorious death but I can't pray for a natural one because it is not natural. Death is not a result of creation but of the fall and the fall affects your body, soul and everything about you. It affects your mind, heart, body and chemical misfires. All of those things are taking place. The fall affects everything in your being.

So we face physical death and then we face spiritual death. We are born separated from God. We are born spiritually dead. I'm not born sin sick and I just need a pill for that. I am born sin dead and I need a resurrection. Then there is eternal death. Aside from God giving them over here are the worst, most frightening words to hear from God – depart from Me I never

knew you. This is separation into an unending, unendurable death – hell. That is where we are and that’s where we stand. Now let’s look at Ephesians 2.

In Ephesians 1, Paul has talked about this glorious blessing that we have by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and now he gets to how we’re being saved by this glorious, Triune God. Remember it’s not come to Jesus to get born again, but it is that you have to be born again to come to Jesus because you were dead. Ephesians 2:1–7 says [1] *And you were **dead** in the trespasses and sins* [2] *in which you once walked* (we were dead spiritually but walking physically), *following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—*[3] *among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind* (our life style came from the life view of spiritual depravity), *and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.* [4] *But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us* (a sovereign God saw this hideous life and He didn’t need me but wanted me), [5] *even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—*[6] *and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,* [7] *so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

Here is this fact that we are dead in our sins. We have the life view of self-absorption and falling short of the glory of God so we exalt ourselves. It’s showing up in this zombie walk of sin (walking dead) in our life but God intervenes by His grace and for His glory but before He intervenes how are we living? Let’s look at Ephesians 4:17–24 says [17] *Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds.* [18] *They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.* [19] *They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.* [20] *But that is not the way you learned Christ!—*[21] *assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,* [22] *to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,* [23] *and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,* [24] *and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*

Get a new mind, not the old mind. The old mind has a futile live view. For every honest question that a person asks me I will take all kinds of time to give an honest answer and that is not because I think I am capable of reasoning them into the Kingdom. The reason I take the time to give reasonable answers is because when God’s Word when it is shared is what God uses to give them a new heart. I will speak persuasively, passionately and I will plead but my pleading can’t bring someone from death unto life but God does use your pleadings, persuasions and passions for the Spirit of God to bring them from death unto life. So my reasoning with people when they want to talk is not the cause of their conversion because I can’t convert them but it is what God uses when God converts them. They have to have a change of heart which will lead to a change of mind in their life.

I want to look at one more passage of Scripture. Romans 8:18–19 says [18] *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.* [19] *For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.* God’s people will be revealed when all of this comes to a conclusion. People ask me if we’ll recognize each other in heaven and my answer is yes and no. I think when we get to heaven and our transformation is complete we’ll recognize each other but we will be so much

more beautiful than you could ever imagine. You'll probably come up to me and say 'Harry I didn't know you could look so good.' When God completes it and bring us to glory it will be absolutely astonishing when God reveals it in its purity and no shadows of sin will be there. When is this going to happen? Well our bodies are groaning for it. Let's look further in the passage.

Romans 8:20–23 says [20] *For the creation was subjected to futility (the curse), not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope [21] that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. [22] For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. [23] And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.* Everything is groaning under this curse to be delivered by the power of God in the coming of Christ and we groan with it as well.

Here are your takeaways. Number one, the fall into sin is like creation for it is universal. The doctrine of creation covers everything. The doctrine of the fall is universal. The creation is under the curse of sin. We are under the curse of sin. Even in the angelic realm the curse has been felt. The fall like creation is universal.

Number two, the fall like creation is comprehensive. I was born with a sin nature and it shows up in my mind, my heart and my will. It is comprehensive throughout all of creation for all of creation groans under this curse and this fall. I groan under this curse and fall. My life was fed by stinkin' thinkin' because it was all about me. There is a wonderful study that just came out by the government that cost about 28 million dollars and they found out, and I'm using their language, 'it looks like we are hard wired from birth to be self-absorbed.' They could have saved all that money and just read Romans 8. Though they are absolutely convinced that it's a genetic issue and that somehow evolution go off track and created us hard wired. It ought to be going the other direction but it doesn't. It goes toward death, sin and evil.

Thirdly, the fall has placed all of creation under the death judgment of God to be delivered by the hand of God – physically, spiritually, eternal death judgment, the inescapable judgment, the continued downward spiral of that judgment of death unless God's grace restrains it.

Number four, we were born into this world with a debased heart and a distorted life view. We have to be transformed in the renewing of our mind. I wished I could tell you that at conversion that you receive a new mind but you don't. You get a new heart, a new record, a new family, a new home, a new life but not a new mind. You did get the Word of God and the Spirit of God to renew your mind. We don't usually take the time to do that. We want the preacher to just give us a 15 minute pick me up sermon and three points of how to control my kids so they don't embarrass me. We have just given up totally. Doctrinal preaching is absolutely absent today. So the church in this country that is salt-less and light-less are five miles wide and one inch deep and now we are seeing it show up.

The fifth one is there is no hope apart from God's grace in dealing with this fall of sin and God's judgment. That is why I can't wait for our next study on this where we'll talk about the third essential of redemption. There is the answer. I love it when new members who are asked the question, 'do you believe you are rightly under God's judgment and you have no hope except for the grace and mercy of Christ' and then they say 'I do.' There is our Hope. I don't need Jesus to come be my guru or my therapist or my coach but I need Him to be my Savior. The first thing He has to do is get me out of the tomb of sin into the triumph of grace because

I'm dead and need to be brought to life. Now Lord, help me think in a different way that I might walk in a way that honors You because I have been saved by Your grace. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the moments we could be together in Your Word. Thank You for the privilege to teach these dear people who love You and want to love You deeper and grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ. Please use all of my inadequacies but all of the superlatives of the Holy Spirit to be at work in their hearts and their minds. O God help us to set our minds on God's interests, in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Power Point

To live a faithful and effective Christian LifeStyle, a Christian must develop a Christ-centered, Bible-framed, Spirit-filled LifeView propelled by a Christ-consumed LifeLove saturated by persistent prayer.

LifeLove – LifeView – LifeStyle

FOUR FRAMING QUESTIONS

- I. Why is there something rather than nothing?
- II. Why are some things right and other things wrong?
- III. What things are right and what things are wrong?
- IV. Who or What determines the things that are right and the things that are wrong?

FOUR PERSONAL QUESTIONS

- I. Who am I?
- II. Where did I come from?
- III. Why am I here?
- IV. Where am I going?

THE ESSENTIAL FRAMEWORK OF A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW CREATION – FALL-REDEMPTION –PROVIDENCE – CONSUMATION

ESSENTIALS OF THE DOCTRINE OF CREATION

- I. Ex-Nihilo
- II. Historical Adam and Eve
- III. Covenant of Creation/Works
- IV. Federal Headship of Christ
- V. Creation Ordinances

Work–Rest–Marriage/Family–Sabbath/Week–Sexuality

THE FALL
A SECOND ESSENTIAL OF A CHRISTIAN LIFEVIEW

LIFE TAKEAWAY

1. The fall into sin is like creation; it is universal.
2. The fall, like creation, is comprehensive.
3. The fall has placed all creation under the judgement of God, to be delivered by God.
4. We were born into this world with a base heart and distorted lifeview.
5. There is no hope except for God's grace.