

Apologetics & Worldview Workshop

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FOCUS POINTS : DAY 1: Apologetics & Christian Worldview

Apologetics & the Role of Educator
Lutheran Worldview

DAY 2: Worldviews

Interpretive Stances & the Bible
Modern Worldview

Day 3: Worldviews & Education

Worldview & the World of Education (society, church, atheism among students)
Worldview Analysis: College Student Responses to Biblical Texts

Preparation for DAY 2: Read Bart Ehrman, “Who Wrote The Bible and Why It Matters”

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bart-d-ehrman/the-bible-telling-lies-to_b_840301.html

- a. What issues does Ehrman’s article intend to raise?
- b. What worldview issues do you discern in the article?
- c. What’s at stake?

Preparation for DAY 3:

1. Listen to the podcast interview with **Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali**

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/telegram/100219189/british-christianity-dies-while-islam-thrives-why/>

- a. Identify Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali’s major observations and critiques concerning:
 - i. modern British society and education
 - ii. the modern church
- a. How relevant are Nazir-Ali’s views to the American context?
- b. What challenges or implications do Nazir-Ali’s views raise for you in your teaching context?

2. Read and respond to the Taunton article:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2013/06/listening-to-young-atheists-lessons-for-a-stronger-christianity/276584/>

- a. What, if anything, surprised you in the reading?
- b. What implications does Taunton’s research have for your teaching context?

ASSESSMENT (email to me by Wed 24th July):

1. What insights have you gained about the place of apologetics in your particular teaching role? (1 page maximum)
2. Identify a topic/subject/literary work etc. that you have taught that confronts your student(s)/child(ren) with a different worldview or worldviews. What are the major worldview issues and how might you approach them in your teaching context? (2 pages maximum)

A Couple of Additional Resources You Might Find Helpful:

Worldview Academy "Top 10": <http://www.worldview.org/index.php/resources/recommended-reading>

Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus*, Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1998

Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, 3d. ed., Chicago, Ill.: University of Chicago Press, 1996

Vishal Mangalwadi, *The Book that Made Your World: How the Bible Created the Soul of Western Civilization*, Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson, 2011

On recommendation from a Lutheran pastor, who writes: "If you have otherwise intelligent children, grand children or friends who have swallowed the rampant anti-Christian propaganda that says that Christianity has always been a drag on human progress and nothing more than an oppressive ideology through which a small group of people try to control others, then this is a book to put into their hands. In it Mangalwadi writes engagingly and persuasively (and with great erudition) to defend Christianity from its modern attackers, explaining how the view of life and the world imbibed from the Bible has been instrumental in creating Western education, science, human rights, democracy and culture - in short "our world", at least until recently. Mangalwadi's apologetic is particularly effective because he writes from a third world perspective and yet is not afraid to unapologetically extol Christianity and the cultural advancement it has given birth to wherever it has taken root. This is very refreshing when so many Western Christian leaders wring their hands over Christianity's missionary past and offer mealy-mouthed platitudes about the value of world religions. However, this should not be seen as a "theology of glory" or a political manifesto - the author's theology is too nuanced for that - although one of Mangalwadi's fundamental theses is that beliefs have effects, either for good or ill, in the real world and therefore the faith that a society believes in (including secularism) will profoundly shape the ethos of that society. Mangalwadi is not Lutheran, so there are inevitably aspects of his arguments and writing that I would like to see said differently, but that does not detract from the value of this book. Think of him as in the line of C.S. Lewis." (Rev. Mark Henderson, Toowoomba QLD)