

Worldview for the Marketplace: AUDIO #1

LESSON AT A GLANCE

“Glorifying God in the War between Two Seeds”

Threefold Cord: Revelation

MASTER PRINCIPLE #1

Salvation opens the door to living and building in God's eternal Kingdom.

<p>Key scriptures:</p>	<p>Gen. 3:15; Deut. 28:1-14; Ps. 24:1, 86:11, 89:14, 97:7, 110:all; Prov. 11:14; Eccl. 4:12; Matt. 13:22-30, 16:18-19, 28:18-20; Luke 9:62, 19:13; John 3:3, 5,12,19, 7:17, 8:32, 14:6, 16:7-15, 17:15, 18:36; Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 3:9-15; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Col. 1:12, 13; Heb. 5:12-14; Rev. 19:7</p>
<p>Key concepts found in this lesson: <i>The recognition of seduction, and the establishment of a godly personal mission with ongoing alignment.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We are saved to serve God and glorify Him in His Kingdom both now and in eternity. 2. When we “exodus” from Egypt, we begin the process of getting Egypt out of us, especially in the way we think and reason. 3. As we discover the power of paradigms and presuppositions, we come to understand the saying that “the mind justifies what the heart has chosen.” 4. In our struggle for renewal, we experience the reality of the “war between two seeds.”
<p>How each of these four major teaching concepts generally applies to the marketplace ministries:</p>	
<p>Key business applications: <i>The definition of our mission, and the need for constant alignment with godly principles and strategy.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our business ministry must align itself with glorifying God now, not glorifying ourselves or withdrawing from the world. Staying in the “now” deals with our work habits. 2. The world system's thinking will sabotage us by trapping us in its ways, or by telling us that the marketplace means nothing to God. 3. We must keep our hearts in God's hands so as to keep our lives free from self-deception. 4. Either the pressures from our life struggles or the deceptions of false “success” can lead us to lose our focus on expanding God's Kingdom on earth.

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You are called to co-manage God's creation in Christ.

—Romans 8:17

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“Glorifying God in the War between Two Seeds”

I. MASTER PRINCIPLE #1:

Salvation opens the door to living and building in God’s eternal Kingdom.

- A. This lesson deals with two colossally important issues:
 - 1. It addresses the question of what believers are to do on the earth once they are saved.
 - 2. It deals with critical issues surrounding the building of a truly Christian worldview and lifestyle, the opposition we face in doing so, and how to measure “success.”
- B. Therefore this lesson lays the foundation for the remainder of all that we will teach in this seminar and introduces many critical concepts.
 - 1. It will answer the question of “What is the game about?”
 - 2. It will help us connect salvation to God’s Kingdom, and how our ministry in the world and in the workplace relates to glorifying God.

II. We are saved to serve God and glorify Him in His Kingdom, both now and in eternity

(Gen. 3:15; Matt. 16:18-19; John 3:3-5,12, 17:15; Col. 1:12,13).

- A. When we are “born again” and empowered by “water and the Spirit” (John 3:3,5), Christ does so to transfer us into the Kingdom of God (Col. 1:12). Salvation is not about heaven; it is about living in the presence of God from now on (John 3:12).
 - 1. The reality of our new birth is found in living in the presence of God’s Spirit now. This is called the eminence of God (He is also transcendent, above and over His creation). Faith is always exercised in the “now” of God’s Kingdom. The “now” is entered by seeing through our renewed mind’s-eye (Rom. 12:1-2).
 - 2. When we are in the “now,” we experience the joy of being in the “one.” The game is living there!
- B. When we are born into His Kingdom, we enter the possibility of doing eternal work now.
 - 1. Paul notes in 1 Cor. 3:9-15 that our work will be judged by the testing fires of trials and death. Eternal work will pass through trials and death.
 - 2. “The game” is about building life skills in ourselves and others that God will use in eternity as He continues building His strategic Kingdom.
- C. These life skills can be broken down into a threefold cord (Eccl. 4:12) of epistemological (how we learn) simplicity.
 - 1. Revelational identity: Who am I in Christ? What am I to do? How will I do it? (My revelation is my identity: It will stand up to the tests of life.)
 - 2. Relational identity: To whom am I joined (Eph. 4:16)? How will we build together? How do I live in community and think relationally (tree of life)?
 - 3. Stewardship skills: Learning to bring God’s care, life, and increase to all He has given me to care for (people and things).

Worldly Deceptions	<i>We are told falsely</i> that, when we are saved, we are to stop investing ourselves and our creative energies in this current world, and instead to prepare for Christ's return and to go to heaven.
Key Business Applications	<i>The truth is</i> , our business ministry must align itself with glorifying God now, not glorifying ourselves or withdrawing from the world. Staying in the "now" deals with our work habits.

III. When we exodus from Egypt, we begin the process of getting Egypt out of us, especially in the way we think and reason (Luke 19:13; Rom. 12:1-2).

- A. Most "secular" schools in Europe and America are the result of a self-conscious effort by anti-Christian leaders to wrestle education away from Christian control or influence.
 - 1. Whoever controls the schools controls the future.
 - 2. Virtually all of us were taught history, literature, science, economics, social studies, and all our "real world" worldview from a secular school under Pharaoh's control.
- B. The challenge we all face as believers is how to successfully "de-program" ourselves from the world's way of thinking and still communicate effectively in the world.
 - 1. We must read the scripture as our point of reality in general, our need for re-education in particular.
 - 2. Beyond this we must learn how to read the scriptures with the "magic glasses" related to our calling—in this case, business, economics, and leadership skills.
- C. A holy, sanctified life requires not just sexual morality and self-discipline in all areas of life; it requires a redeemed, renewed mind (Rom. 12:1-2).
 - 1. A "Christian worldview" is not simply for the elite; it is for every believer. World-view can be defined as "the seeing of all life either through the scriptures or some other competing system of viewing humans, nature, and the created universe."
 - 2. A biblical worldview rejects both "dualism" ("good" spirit and "evil" matter) and Marcionism (which says the Old Testament is an obsolete document and is led by a different "God" than the Jesus of the New Testament). However, the Old Testament scriptures were what helped build the New Testament church!

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that Christianity has little or nothing to say about how we view the real world other than in the area of personal morality. The world wants us to believe that the marketplace means nothing to God.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, the world system's thinking will sabotage us by trapping us in its ways, or by telling us that the marketplace means nothing to God. Christianity has something to say about every aspect of the real world.

IV. As we discover the power of paradigms, we come to understand the saying "The mind justifies what the heart has chosen" (Deut. 28:1-14; Ps. 86:11; Prov. 11:14; John 3:19; 7:17, 8:32, 16:7-15; Rom. 1: 18-32; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Heb. 4:12).

- A. "Paradigms" are sets or systems of seeing what we call reality. They make up the categories of our mental "bookshelves."
 - 1. Examples of paradigms of thought are: evolution vs. creation; Christianity vs. Islam; the scientific method vs. fatalism; communism vs. capitalism; etc.
 - 2. They are built upon "presuppositions," that is, basic assumptions about the nature of reality. Using the aforementioned examples of paradigms, their underlying presuppositions would be: adaptation through probability vs. completed design; Christ as God vs. Christ as subordinate prophet; testing vs. superstition; dialectical materialism vs. free-market self-regulation.
- B. Paul clearly teaches us in Romans 1:18-33, that presuppositions which build our paradigms are built on *heart issues* (John 3:19) more than clearly rational decisions.
 - 1. When our heart (self-interest) makes up its mind, it phones up our brain and demands all the evidence it can give it to support what it has chosen! Hence, the mind justifies what the heart has chosen!
 - 2. Our job is to submit our hearts and decision-making processes to the Lord (Ps. 86:11).
- C. The "way of the Lord" (used over 1,000 times in scripture) must precede how we come to our "truth," i.e., "I am the way, the truth, and the life..." (John 14:6).
 - 1. God's "ways" include:
 - a. Obedience leads to understanding (John 7:17).
 - b. The scripture is our infallible guide (Heb. 4:12).
 - c. The Holy Spirit is our teacher (John 16:7-15).
 - d. Decisions should be made or confirmed by reliable counsel (Prov. 11:14).
 - e. We grow in knowledge and discernment by practicing the truth (Heb. 5:12-14) as we become disciplined learners/disciples.
 - 2. If we do these things, we will prosper (Deut. 28:1-14).

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that scientific facts and reason undergird the real world, whereas religious issues are personal and subjective.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, we must keep our hearts in God's hands, so as to keep our lives free from self-deception. It is biblical principles that undergird any successful society, and principles articulated in the scriptures have precedence over reason and conventional wisdom in the marketplace.

V. In our struggle for renewal, we experience the reality of the "war between two seeds" (Gen. 3:15; Ps. 24:1, 89:14, 97:7, 110:1-2; Matt. 4:4, 13:22, 24:30, 28:18; Luke 9:62, 19:13; John 18:36; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Rev. 19:7).

- A. In Genesis 3:15 the "war between two seeds" begins; it continues through the Book of Revelation.
 - 1. The war between Christ and Satan, and their followers, is over the control and management of the people and resources of the earth.

2. In this war, the Church is to be on offense, not defense (Matt. 16:18) because the earth belongs to Christ (Matt. 28:18; Ps. 24:1). The world-system is the "squatter."
- B. From the perspective of the cross, resurrection, and ascension (Ps. 110), Christians must resolve these three questions:
1. Who owns the earth, God or Satan?
 2. Does the Word of God apply to all men (Matt. 4:4)?
 3. What is the Church supposed to do on the planet now (Matt. 13:24-30; Luke 19:13)?
- C. Christ's Kingdom values and lifestyle are "not of this world" (John 18:36) but their source is from God's throne. Our job is to occupy the planet and evangelize/disciple it through the "Righteousness-Justice" model.

1. The "Righteousness-Justice" Diagram, by Carl Ellis (Ps.89:14, 97:7).

	Righteousness	Justice	Justice Issues
Our Personal Commitment to—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character • Purity • Obedience • Personal Destiny 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relational & community selflessness • Biblical conflict resolution • Modesty • Gluttony, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gossip • Law breaking • Slander • Unforgiveness
Our Social Commitment to—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom from racism, materialism, denominationalism, etc. • Empowerment of others • Charity toward others • Active citizenship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being informed and active relative to biblical rights of others • Working to extend God's Kingdom into all spheres of human life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abortion • Welfare • Slavery • Drugs, etc.

2. Christ is not coming back to rescue us but to promote us as a ready bride and prepared harvest (Matt. 13:30; Rev. 19:7)!
- D. A significant part of that "war" is over the question of how we as Christians measure "success."
1. "Success": From man's point of view or God's, that is the question.
 2. Welcome to the foundational issues leading to true success as we begin the journey to build and live out a truly Christian worldview, in general, and the marketplace, in particular!

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that Satan owns this world, and the Church cannot change anything until Christ returns and gives it the power to do so.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, either the pressures from our life struggles or the deceptions of false "success" can lead us to lose our focus on expanding God's Kingdom on earth. God owns the world and holds sovereign control over the affairs of men.