

Worldview for the Marketplace: AUDIO #2	
LESSON AT A GLANCE	
“Building on Divine Law” Threefold Cord: Revelation	
MASTER PRINCIPLE #2 We must discover and build upon God’s master principles of life and structure.	
Key scriptures:	1 Chr.12:32; Ps. 8:3-8; Prov. 8:22-31, 14: 6,12,16; Eccl. 3:11; Matt. 4:4, 5:45; John 2:6-10, 3:3, 16:7-15, 18:36; Rom. 1:18-20, 7:7-13, 10:4; 1 Cor. 2:6-16; Gal. 6:7; Col. 1:16-18; 1 Tim. 1:6-11; 2 Tim.3:16; Heb. 1:3; 4:1-13
Key concepts found in this lesson: <i>Applying God’s Word to all things is essential.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Both the spiritual and natural universe are built upon God’s laws of divine order. 2. God’s laws are explicitly revealed in His Word and implicitly revealed in His creation. 3. The whole Word of God, Old and New Testaments, deals with God’s will for every aspect of man’s personal and social life. 4. There are five basic building blocks making up mankind’s worldview.
How each of these four major teaching concepts generally applies to the marketplace ministries:	
Key business applications: <i>Partnering with the Holy Spirit to apply scripture to your marketplace ministry</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conventional business “wisdom” must align itself with God’s Word or it is not wisdom and will lead to deception and failure. 2. We must look at the marketplace through spiritual eyes, not through natural eyes. 3. The whole of scripture deals with the three foundations of business: a) strategic building, b) resource management, and c) problem-solving. 4. Our marketplace ministry is part of a larger social “ecosystem,” and decisions require wholistic thinking that is God-given.

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

Romans 8:17

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“Building on Divine Law”

I. MASTER PRINCIPLE #2:

We must discover and build upon God’s master principles of life and structure.

- A. This lesson deals with the question of how God’s Word applies to all human activity.
 - 1. It deals with the universality of God’s objective Word (Matt. 4:4).
 - 2. It deals with how God’s Word applies to “saved” and “unsaved” mankind.
- B. It also deals with the relationship between Old and New Testaments.
 - 1. We will be discussing the question of the Old Testament public policy and economic law.
 - 2. We will be discussing the application of biblical social law in a pluralistic society.
 - 3. We will be seeing how obeying and disobeying God’s laws and principles cause us to “reap what we sow” (Gal. 6:7).

II. Both the spiritual and the natural universe are built upon God’s laws of divine order.

(Ps. 8:3-8; Prov. 8:22-31, 14:6,12,16; Matt. 5:45; John 2:6-10; Col.1:16-18; Heb. 1:3).

- A. While some secular “wisdom” is certain that Christianity is non-scientific superstition (Prov. 14:6,12,16), the facts are that Christ created the world and holds its molecules together (Ps. 8:3-8; Prov. 8:22-31; Col. 1:16-18; Heb. 1:3)!
 - 1. God is a systematic, intricate builder with amazing laws of engineering, physics, chemistry, and art filling all He has created.
 - 2. Like the best aged wine Christ created out of water at the wedding (John 2:6-10), He has the power to create a new earth that has “old” characteristics.
- B. Since humans are created as well, and their mental DNA is modeled after God (Gen. 1:26-28), they innately pattern personal and social tendencies after God’s laws, though grossly distorted by sin.
 - 1. Man’s “need to know and discover” was programmed into him by his Maker. Whatever he does that “works,” does so because it aligns itself with the Creator’s laws and ordinances.
 - 2. In terms of universal laws and principles, there is no separation of spirit and matter (Dualism) in God’s creation; it is a united fabric of reality.
- C. Let us now briefly discuss this law-based reality relative to the marketplace and economics beginning with the issue of why God loves the marketplace and work.
 - 1. God loves work because He is an eternal worker Himself as we will see in Lesson Four.
 - 2. He loves the marketplace because He loves people, and the marketplace is where their physical provision for food, clothing, and the possibility of “profit” makes possible their ability to provide shelter, medical care, education, and all other human amenities (Matt. 5:45).
- D. The laws of the marketplace provide a perfect example of the totally melded interplay between the natural and spiritual law.
 - 1. Mathematics helps us identify some of the marketplace’s “physical” laws, such as demand and supply, etc.,

2. All of us likewise know that "economics" is about people's perceived needs and inner spiritual dynamics, such as fear, greed, honesty-dishonesty, motivation, etc.
3. For example, the stability of a nation's economic work force is totally related to the stability and motivation of its "spiritual" view of marriage, male-female relationships, and view of children and generational transfer.
4. We expect revival through the workplace for two reasons:
 - a. It is the place of exchange.
 - b. Christians interact more and longer with the unsaved there than anywhere else.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that if spiritual laws exist, they cannot be proven scientifically, especially in a universe of relativity.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, conventional business "wisdom" must align itself with God's Word, or it is not "wisdom" and will lead to deception and failure. Spiritual laws do exist and are proven daily in every part of the universe.

III. God's laws are explicitly revealed in His Word and implicitly revealed in His creation.

(John 3:3, 16:7-15; 1 Cor. 2:6-16; Heb. 4:1-13)

- A. God's laws, as we have already discussed, are interwoven in spiritual and physical reality, but as Paul says (1 Cor. 2:6-16) and Jesus says (John 3:3), we must be spiritually re-born to see and understand them with the Holy Spirit's help (John 16:7).
 1. "Laws" simply mean set principles, where compliance brings peace and blessing, and noncompliance brings strife, confusion, and failure.
 2. These God-ordained laws are revealed in nature (General Revelation) and in the scriptures (Special Revelation). We hold to a presuppositionalist view of reality, reasoning first out of the scriptures, rather than reasoning first out of nature ("evidentialism").
- B. Both natural and spiritual laws produce consequences, as we have just noted ("sanctions" of blessing or cursing).
 1. "The way things work" is determined by the Master Builder; the issue, therefore, becomes obedience or rebellion.
 2. Therefore, there are no "neutral zones" in any part of God's creation, which is what Pharaoh's world-system demands we believe!
 3. It is also therefore true that all law is "religious" because it seeks to reward and punish (that is, to sanction) specific behavior. For this reason it is possible to separate "church from state," but never state from religion. All social law is "religious" the question is, which religion? In the U.S. the battle is between Christianity and secular humanism, which is sympathetic to all religions except Christianity.
 4. Our goal should be to flow with God's laws and to enter His rest and blessing, as individuals and nations (Heb. 4:1-13).

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that the Bible is a cultural, anthropological, and religious book filled with bits of wisdom, cultural prejudices, and idiosyncrasies.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, we must look at the marketplace through spiritual eyes, not our faith through natural eyes. The Bible is the Manufacturer’s Handbook and is full of wisdom and understanding from the Creator on how His universe operates and how it should be managed.

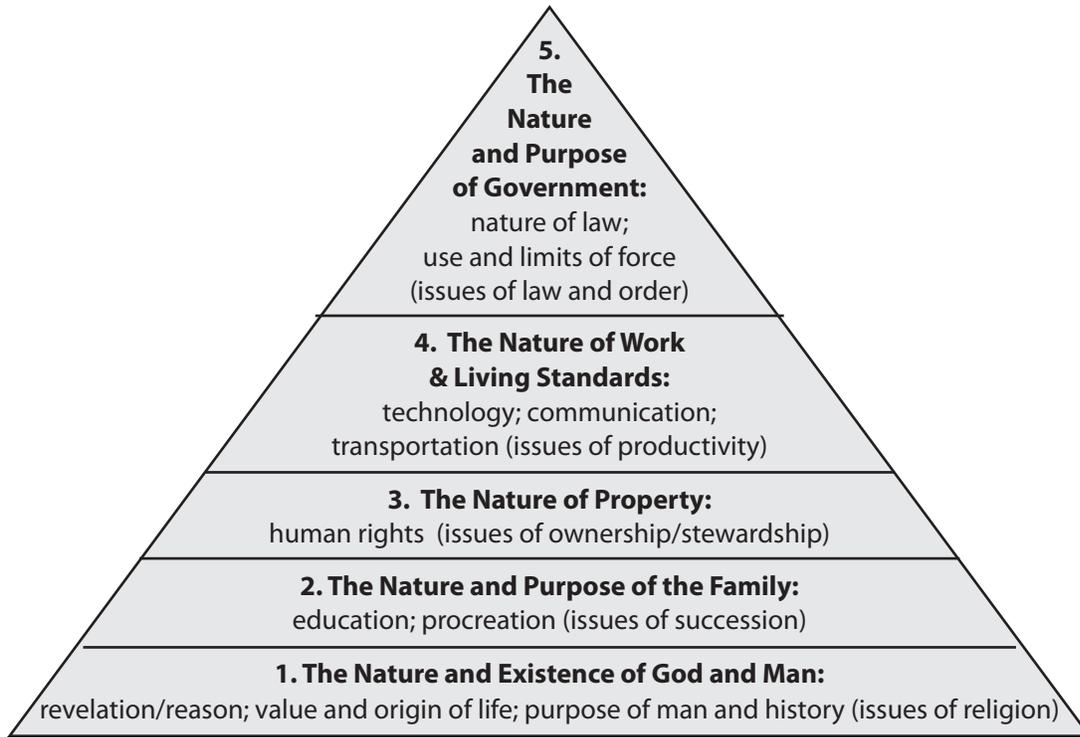
IV. The whole Word of God, Old and New Testament, deals with God’s will for every aspect of man’s personal and social life. (Eccl. 3:11; Matt. 4:4; Rom. 1:18-20, 7:7-13, 10:4; 1 Tim. 1:6-11; 2 Tim. 3:16)

- A. God’s law applies in two major ways.
 - 1. It does not apply to Christians in terms of needing to obey it relative to our ultimate salvation (Rom. 10:4), but its principles still apply relative to strife or blessing. For example, breaking the law that forbids adultery may not cost your salvation, but it will cause huge negative life consequences.
 - 2. The law, except food laws and ceremonial laws for the Jewish religious, is still very much in effect for the unsaved and is, in fact, what the Holy Spirit uses to bring conviction to the unsaved (Rom. 7:7-13; Gal. 3:24; 1 Tim. 1:6-11).
- B. This raises the question of how the Old and New Testament scriptures relate to us all.
 - 1. Firstly, the New Testament church of the first several centuries was built upon the Old Testament since there was no agreed-upon New Testament until the fourth century! When Paul told Timothy to study the scriptures, he was talking about the Old Testament (2 Tim. 3:16).
 - 2. Secondly, the Old Testament not only prophetically establishes Christ’s coming and ministry, it lays down God’s social laws for all mankind in great detail (Matt. 4:4). All societies are blessed or cursed in relation to how they obey those laws consciously or unconsciously (Eccl. 3:11; Rom. 1:18-20).
- C. The Old and New Testament form the whole of scripture and are a continuous message from God of His love, purposes, acts, and the unfolding revelation of Himself.
 - 1. The notion of a “dead and useless” Old Testament is the heresy of Marcion, and Marcionism was universally rejected by the Church Fathers.
 - 2. Huge amounts of business, economic, and social law are found in the Old Testament. Jesus didn’t need to say many things in the New Testament about these issues since He already said so much about them in the Old Testament!

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that the Old Testament is no longer in force in any way.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, the whole of scripture deals with the three foundations of business: a) strategic building, b) resource management, and c) problem solving. Both the Old and New Testament are needed to gain an accurate picture of God, His ways, and His purposes.

- V. **There are five basic building blocks making up mankind's worldview** (1 Chr. 12:32).
 A. The following diagram is taken from Strategic Life Training and best illustrates these five building blocks:

THE FIVE BASIC BUILDING BLOCKS OF MAN'S REALITY



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Examples of false presuppositional agendas:

Issue	False Presupposition
1. Origin of Life	No God – all information is gathered and forced through the filter of randomness and natural selection, or through another filter.
2. Sexual Freedom	No God – all moral decisions are based on hope of science “freeing” us from the natural consequences of disease and pregnancy.
3. Human History	No God – human history has no meaning beyond the gradual enlightened development of man as he discovers himself through humanistic education and scientific technology.

B. The Two Trees in the Garden:

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

The Tree of Life

INDEPENDENCE

DEPENDENCE

“I will experience reality independent of God.” (Humanism)

“I will submit my life and learning experiences to the One who made me.”

“I will evaluate for myself what to do with my life.”

“I will not evaluate God, but rather trust Him.”

“I will order my ‘knowledge’ so as to justify my choices.”

“I will order my knowledge by His revealed will and trust Him relationally to bring me into His fullest fellowship.”

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that religion is often an important part of culture but very destructive outside of its proper place.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, our marketplace ministry is part of a larger social ecosystem, and decisions require wholistic thinking that is God-given. An active personal faith based on Judeo-Christian principles can begin in the home or religious establishment, but must be integrated into all of life if we are to experience success in our personal, corporate, or national life.