

Worldview for the Marketplace: AUDIO #3

LESSON AT A GLANCE

“Getting Free from Pharaoh’s Propaganda Machines”

Threefold Cord: Revelation

MASTER PRINCIPLE #3

Ideas and actions produce economic consequences

<p>Key scriptures:</p>	<p>Gen. 12:1; Ex. 2:10; Deut. 17:6; Judg. 13:7; 1 Sam.16:11; Ps. 101:6-7; Eccl. 4:10-12; Matt. 3:1-4, 4:1-11; John 3:3,5, 14:26, 18:36; Acts 13:1-3, 15:25,28; Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 1:17-2:1, 6:7; 1 Thess. 5:20; Heb. 11:23-24; James 1:5-8, 3:14-18, 4:1</p>
<p>Key concepts found in this lesson: <i>Seeing the necessity of deprogramming from the world system and building instead on God’s laws of sowing and reaping.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Pharaoh’s” world system spends vast amounts of time and energy brainwashing us with its presuppositions and propaganda. 2. How we see things shapes all our relationships and what our lives and energy produce. 3. “Westernization” and “modernization” are based on combinations of Greco-Roman culture, Christianity, and the modern “left-right” game. 4. Historic, reformed Christianity is the foundation of the so-called “free market” and its engine of prosperity.
<p>How each of these four major teaching concepts generally applies to the marketplace ministries:</p>	
<p>Key business applications: <i>Building your life and ministry on the positive laws of sowing and reaping, making wise investments.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unless we can find biblical truth in the world’s “wisdom,” we should not apply it to our lives, families, businesses, or nations. 2. What we produce in our work externally reflects what we see and how we see it internally. 3. All human “wisdom” contains the mixture of selfishness, ignorance, and demonic design, and must be measured by scripture and proven biblical counselors. 4. All sound business and stewardship practices are grounded in God’s Word, even if the world wants credit for them.

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

Romans 8:17

Study • Train • Obey

"Getting Free from Pharaoh's Propaganda Machines"

I. MASTER PRINCIPLE #3:

Ideas and actions produce economic consequences.

- A. This lesson deals with our need to be deprogrammed from the world systems' thought processes and agenda.
 - 1. Until we begin the climb up out of our fallenness, and the extent to which we have been effectively brainwashed by the world system, we don't really see the extent of our need for a "renewed mind" (Rom. 12:1-2).
 - 2. The challenge is always to get beyond "thinking new and acting old!"
- B. It also deals with Christianity's role in the formation of Western culture, the political economy, and the implications related to these issues:
 - 1. Secular thought is not the origin of what works; biblical thought is.
 - 2. Anything that works in the long run does so to the degree it aligns itself with God's law and principles.

II. "Pharaoh's" world system spends vast amounts of time and energy brainwashing us with its presuppositions and propaganda (James 1:5-8, 3:14-18; 1 Thess. 5:20).

- A. The world system spends multiple billions of dollars in forming our mind-sets or paradigms through social custom, secular education and media, and religious "spiritual" deceptions.
 - 1. We must begin to see and practice deprogramming as we listen carefully to conventional wisdom, the news, the media, and virtually all forms of "socialization."
 - 2. As we begin this journey, our fallen minds, personal insecurities, and the world's peer pressures will strongly challenge our sanity and motives.
- B. Biblically, every effective messenger of God at some point went through periods of deep isolation, deprogramming, and cultural separation.
 - 1. Abraham from his father and culture (Gen. 12:1).
 - 2. Moses and his Egyptian education (Ex. 2:10; Heb. 11:23-24).
 - 3. David as an isolated shepherd (1 Sam. 16:11).
 - 4. Samson as a Nazirite (Judg. 13:7).
 - 5. John the Baptist in the wilderness (Matt. 3:1-4).
 - 6. Jesus in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-11).
 - 7. The Apostle Paul in the Arabian Desert (Gal. 1:17-2:1).
- C. Our current Western culture is sinking in a sea of deceptive "political correctness."
 - 1. Polytheism: All religions are equally valid and true.
 - 2. Multi-culturalism: All cultures are essentially of equal value.
 - 3. Egalitarianism: All mankind is equal and no one human has valid authority over another.
 - 4. Centralism: Central government is more effective than local or national governments.
 - 5. Racism: All negative critiques of racial weaknesses, tendencies, or even unique strengths are "evil" to discuss.

6. Trans-sexualism: Heter-monogamy is only one of a multitude of valid sexual lifestyles.
7. Antinomianism: Laws are by their very nature restrictive and challenge freedom, life, and spontaneity.
8. Relativism: All “truth” and opinions are relative and subjective.
9. Syncretism: Melding different truths together creates purer “truth.”
10. Democratic imperialism: Democracy is the only valid form of government.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that the educational, cultural, and professional sectors of society provide the information essential for success, harmony, and the prosperity of our culture.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, unless we can find biblical truth in the world’s “wisdom,” we should not apply it in our lives, families, businesses, or nations.

III. How we see things shapes all our relationships and what our lives and energy produce.

(Ps. 101:6-7; John 3:3,5, 14:26, 18:36; Gal. 6:7; James 4:1)

- A. As we all know, ideas produce actions, and actions produce consequences. Also, they are all relative to God’s absolute standard of truth and reality.
 1. Even “good ideas” or “God ideas” need to be done in God’s will, sequence, and timing.
 2. The upside of this truth comes when we sow to, and plant, good ideas.
 3. Our external work is the outward manifestation and actualization of our internal reality of mind, emotions, values, will, and spirit.
- B. What we “internally see” is what we tend to externally produce.
 1. The old saying about faith is “If you can’t see it before you see it, you’ll never see it!”
 2. All the focus on “visualization” is simply a spin-off from an element of biblical faith.
 3. As we have already seen in Lessons One and Two, our presuppositions and paradigms both limit and define what we can see as possibilities.
 4. Biblical repentance (“mataneo” actually means to re-channel the way one thinks.
- C. When we see God’s Kingdom (John 3:3, 5, 18:36), God’s “possibility thinking” begins to open to us.
 1. As the experience with the “Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil” proves (Gen. 3:1-7), seeing “new possibilities,” apart from God, can be a disaster.
 2. The issue in business, as in all else, is seeing in tandem with the enabling of God’s Spirit! (John 14:26)
- D. Because genuine transformation comes “from the inside out” it is critical, both personally and organizationally, to control our internal environment.
 1. As a rule, most new thoughts are stimulated by others’ insight or actions.
 2. Knowing whom to listen to, and whom not to listen to, becomes critical as we seek to guard our thought processes (Ps. 101:6-7).
 3. The first year of BLS centers around 39 principles of personal and organizational transformation.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that while there may be many ways to see things philosophically or religiously, secular truth is based on "neutral" facts.
Key Business Applications	The truth is what we produce in our work externally reflects what we see and how we see and how we see it internally. Everyone has a worldview. Secular "wisdom" is not neutral, but based on a set of basic assumptions about the nature of reality (a worldview)

IV. "Westernization" and "modernization" are based on a combination of Greco-Roman culture, Christianity, and the modern "left-right" game. (Deut. 17:6; Eccl. 4:10-12; Acts 13:1-3, 15:25,28).

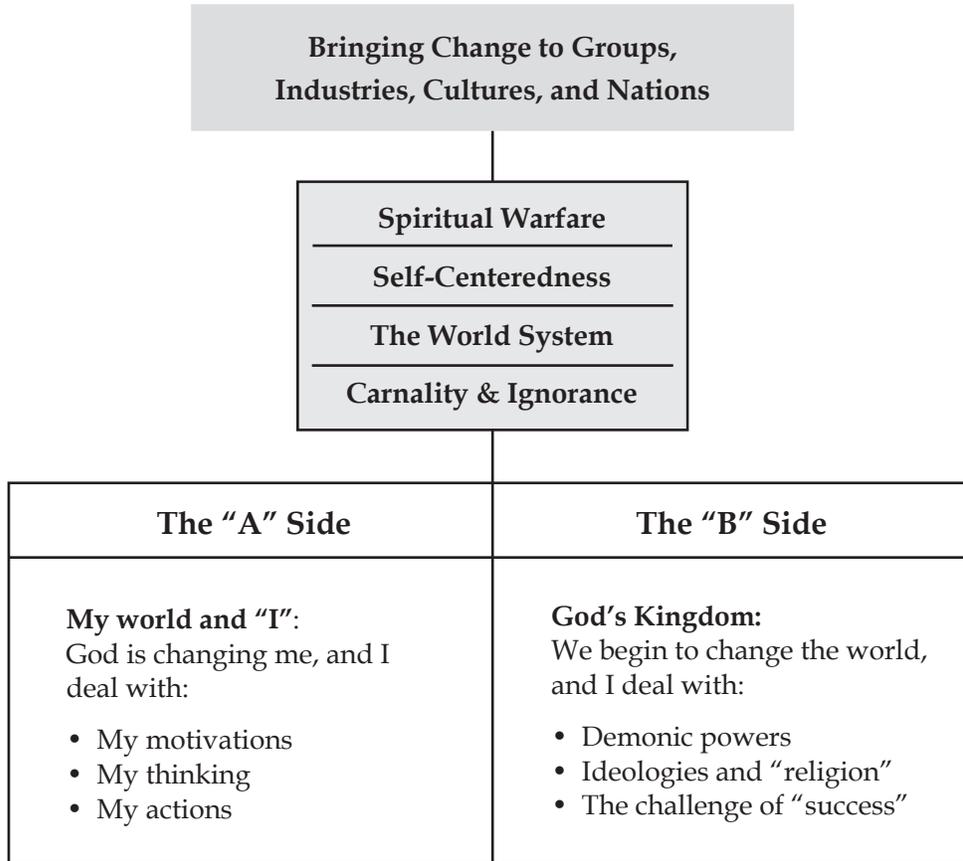
- A. All social systems operate off major cultural paradigms. These paradigms, built upon presuppositions, approach "knowledge or truth" in a prejudicial way which involves:
 - 1. How you gather information. (What am I after?)
 - 2. How the information is analyzed. (What do I hope/expect to find?)
 - 3. How the information is presented. (How do I want others to see the information?)
 - 4. How you want the information used. (What do I want others to do with the information?)
- B. Western culture is a syncretistic (blended) culture essentially consisting of the following major idea/agenda components (contrasts):
 - 1. **The Greek way of thinking:**
 - Reason
 - Knowledge
 - Dualism (good spirit, evil matter)
 - Association
 - Teaching/lecturing
 - Humanistic
 - Education
 - Youth culture
 - 2. **The Hebrew way of thinking:**
 - Revelation
 - Character
 - Wholism (a unified spirit/matter creation)
 - Covenant
 - Training/discipling
 - Theocentric
 - Mentoring in practics
 - Honor for age
 - 2. Roman cultural imperialism (Roman icons, indigenous government); pragmatism.
 - 3. Christian law base (Deuteronomy/Blackstone) and Catholic/Reformed heritage.
 - 4. Socialism (civil centralism) vs. "free market" conservatism (cause-effect "regulation").
- C. Geo-politically the "Westernization"-"modernization" distinction is critical:
 - 1. The whole world is moving towards "modernization" (technological, advanced economy).
 - 2. The non-Christian world is increasingly rejecting "westernization" (humanistic "freedom").

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that the success of democratic institutions is based upon the primary notions of religious tolerance and majority rule with minority rights.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, all human wisdom contains the mixture of selfishness, ignorance, and demonic design and must be measured by scripture and proven biblical counselors. The success of democratic institutions is based upon their Judeo-Christian foundations and the willingness of the participants to be self-governing and disciplined under God's authority.

V. Historic, reformed Christianity is the foundation of the so-called “free market” and its engine of prosperity (John 8:32; Gal. 6:7).

- A. Pharaoh demands credit for whatever “progress” the world appears to have made under the world system’s rule.
 - 1. He demands it in every sphere of culture.
 - 2. He demands it in the field of the economic-business sphere.
- B. Biblical truth, especially realized in the period of the Reformation, undergirds modern economic life.
 - 1. The “corporation model” came first out of the early monastery models of division of labor.
 - 2. Capitalism is based upon investment theory, and investment theory is based upon the biblical concept of sowing and reaping vs. superstition or fatalism (Gal. 6:7).
 - 3. “Deferred consumption” comes from the biblical concept of “seed corn,” and the list could go on and on.
- C. When we begin to see the Kingdom of God, we begin to change our physical reality, not just our internal “spiritual reality.”
 - 1. Ideas really do produce consequences.
 - 2. The Juarez-El Paso example proves it.
- D. The most important issue here, in processing the issues of how we think and therefore act, is aligning our thinking with God’s so that we can become true Christian “statesmen.”
 - “Statesmen” move from the “A” side of life to the “B” side of life and minister out from there.

**THE VISION FOR CHRISTIAN STATESMEN:
Getting in the Game**



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Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that capitalism is the evolutionary result of improved agronomy, scientific discovery, and liberalism's vision of an increasingly prosperous world.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, all sound business and stewardship practices are grounded in God's Word, even if the world wants credit for them.