

Lesson 4: The World, But Not as We Know It!

The world is not Christian, but rather everything that fights against Christ

Background Knowledge

The dichotomy between the world and the kingdom of Christ is clearly expressed throughout the bible. We, as Christ's followers, belong to him and are citizens of heaven. We are told to be in the world but not of the world. And as we can see from last week's lesson, the prominent and most prevalent ideas in the world today is Naturalism which is not founded in the Truth. Thus this is the state of the world in which we live. It's dominated by myths and lies that are against Christ.

Key Concept

The key concept for this lesson is truth and lies. The kingdom of Christ (truth) and the world (lie), and the choice we must make between the two.

Movie: The Matrix

The Matrix is a good film to bring home the contrast between the world and the kingdom of Christ and the choice that has to be made. It shows how The Matrix, the false world generated by powerful artificial intelligent to control humans is like the world we live in, and the rebels (Morpheus, his teams, and Neo) are the people who have discovered the truth and broken free from the lies of the world. The chosen clip shows how Morpheus reveals the truth to Neo, thus the ideas Neo has about reality (his worldview) are shattered. The first clip ended just before Neo's choice is revealed which will lead into the bible study section. The second clip shows Neo rejecting the lies and embrace the Truth and become part of the rebels.

Bible study: Romans 3:10-18

This passage reveals much about what God thinks of the state of this world and its inhabitants. There's no one that's acceptable to God. No one understands and searches for him. They have all turned away from the truth. We, as God's children who knows the truth, must, like the rebels, expose the lies and share the Truth with the world

Activity: Red pill, blue pill

This activity hinges on the movie The Matrix. Because the movie clip before this activity ends with Neo making the choice (without his choice being revealed), we continue on examining both sides The Matrix and The rebels (the lies and the truth). The class must come up with examples of how the world is like the Matrix and Christians are like the rebels in the movie. This exercise helps the class to carefully examine the the world and the kingdom of Christ. Having to think through and verbalise it crystalises the vast differences between the two kingdoms for them. It should strengthen their confidence in the faith they have that they are on the right side!

Conclusion

The world is against Christ. We belong to Christ and have the truth. People in the world are blinded by worldly ideas that take them captive in myths, lies and illusions that sometimes appear to be pretty and good. Only through the Truth of Christianity that people can be set free.

Further Study

This list contains some suggestions for further studying for this unit which is on the topic of worldview introduction.

Charles Colson and Nancy Pearcey. How Now Shall We Live? Zondervan, 2000.
David K. Naugle. Worldview: The History of a Concept. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2002
David A. Noebel. The Battle for Truth. Harvest House Publishers, 2001.
James Sire. Naming the Elephant: Worldview As a Concept
James Sire. The Universe Next Door. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1976.
Nancy Pearcey. Total Truth. Crossway Books, 2004.

For more books and other resources on this topic, visit www.thinkchristianity.com.