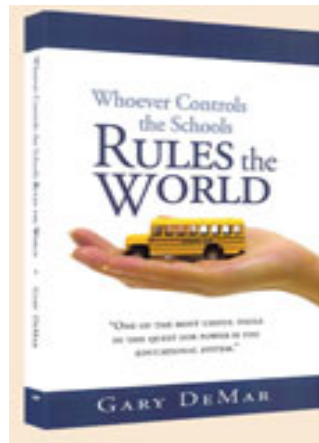


**APOLOGETICS - DEFENDING OUR FAITH AGAINST ALL OPPOSITION**

**LESSON 4: WORLDVIEWS II - KEY ISSUES OF A WORLDVIEW**

**REVIEW**

- +We have to “always be prepared” to defend our faith (1 Pet 3:14b-16 Acts 22:1 etc.)
- +We must not abandon our faith in argument in order to be “neutral”.
- +The unbeliever is not neutral and (Rom 1:18) we must not be (Prov.26:4).
- +Everybody has a worldview = elementary presuppositions
- +Ours must be Christian in all we do - words, thoughts and deeds. (Mk 12:30 etc.)
- +Everybody has a worldview (set of basic assumptions with which he views facts), either Christian or non-Christian (ANTI-Christian).
- +First key issue of a worldview: *Metaphysics*-what accounts for the physical world?



“Whoever Controls the Schools Rules the World”  
Available at: [www.americanvision.org](http://www.americanvision.org) (Store)

The second key issue of a worldview:

**I. EPISTEMOLOGY** (*episteme*: “knowledge”, *logos*: “word/discourse”)

1. **The study of the nature and limits of human knowledge.** (Bahnsen)
  - a. It addresses questions about truth, belief, justification, etc.
  - b. Discovers **what** we know and **how** we come to know it.
  
2. **4 classes of questions** (Bahnsen):
  - What is the nature of **truth** and of **objectivity**?
  - What is the nature of **belief** and of **knowledge**? (Their relationships?)
  - What are the **standards** that justify **beliefs**? How do we know what we know? What is the **proof or evidence** that is acceptable?
  - What are the **proper procedures for science and discovery**? How are they evaluated? What standards do they offer?

3. In **Christian theology** epistemology corresponds with **DIVINE REVELATION**

- **Definition:** A personal, supernatural act of God's self-communication by which **He** actively makes Himself and His will known to man.
- **3 basic means:**
  1. **General Revelation:** God reveals Himself in the created order (nature) to ALL men (*general*). Ps. 19:1-2;
    - a. Addresses man as man - image of God (Gen. 1:26 etc.)
    - b. Reveals God's **existence** (Rom. 1:20)
    - c. Reveals God's **glory** (Ps. 19:1)
    - d. Reveals God's **power** (Rom. 1:20)
    - e. Reveals God's **holiness** (Rom. 2:14-16)
    - f. Reveals God's **wrath** (Rom. 1:18).
    - g. Is undeniably known by man-**accountable! Rom 1:18-20**
    - h. Does NOT show the way of salvation, trinity etc.

**Because of general revelation we have a “point of contact” with the unbeliever: he is the image of God and sees the glory of God in nature so that he knows deep down in his heart-of-hearts that God exists.**

**3 implications** of general revelation in apologetics (Bahnsen):

- All the universe *necessarily* reveals God. Not one fact can be known without Him.
- All facts and laws of the universe are only properly comprehended in terms of their relation to God as divinely created facts and laws (meaning only in God's purpose).
- The universe is an intensely personal environment - permeated with the presence of God (Jer. 23:23-24; Acts 17:27-28) - God's *omnipresence*

2. **Special Revelation:** Scripture - given to God's people (*special*)  
We presuppose Scripture's truth and basis for knowledge and science.

3. **Incarnational Revelation:** - a unique form of special revelation  
Highest Revelation: God walking on earth (Phil. 2:6-8).  
Today: Summarized for us in Scripture.

God has revealed to man in the Bible the comprehensive principles necessary for a sure foundation for reality, knowledge and experience (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

**Revelation summary:** 1.indirect through nature  
2.directly through Scripture  
3.personally in Christ

The non-Christian must establish his theory of knowledge on the same foundation upon which he established reality: nebulous, chaotic, irrational chance. Following it *consistently* the non-Christian theory of knowledge would destroy the very possibility of knowledge - he would drown in his irrationalism. *There is no way to account for the non-Christian system. NO foundation to build on - ...sinking sand.*