

# Genesis & A Biblical Worldview

Bethany Bible Church, Adult Sunday School Class, April 22, 2012

Introduction

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God

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Creation

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Man

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Sin

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Grace

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Culture

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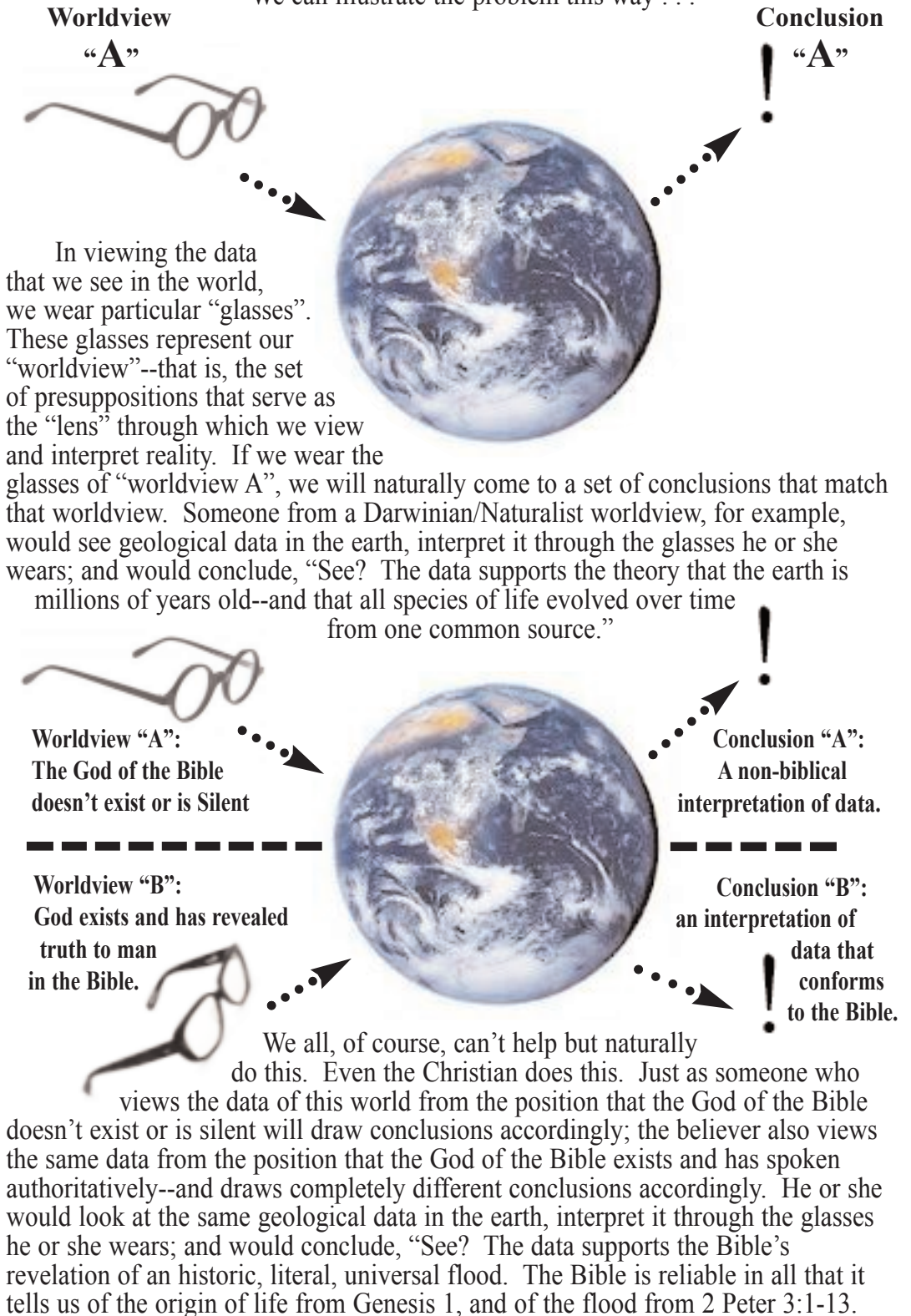
Purpose

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## Dealing With 'The Worldview Circle'

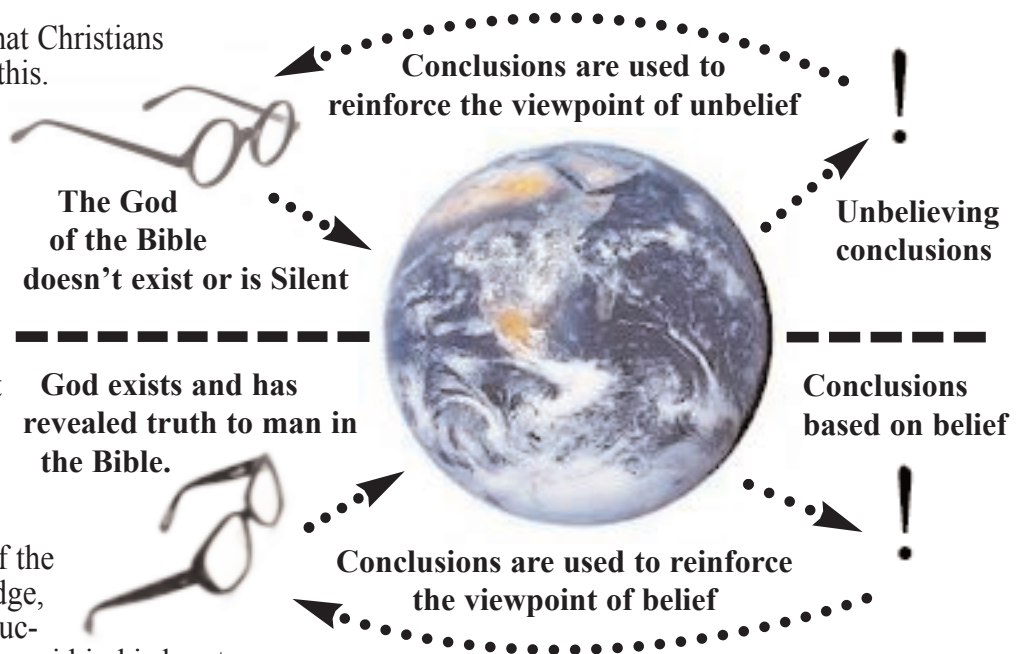
One of the arguments that are often made against us as believers in our defense of a Biblical/Theistic worldview is that our position is "circular". That is that, in viewing the realities of the world, we assume in advance what we seek to prove.

We can illustrate the problem this way . . .

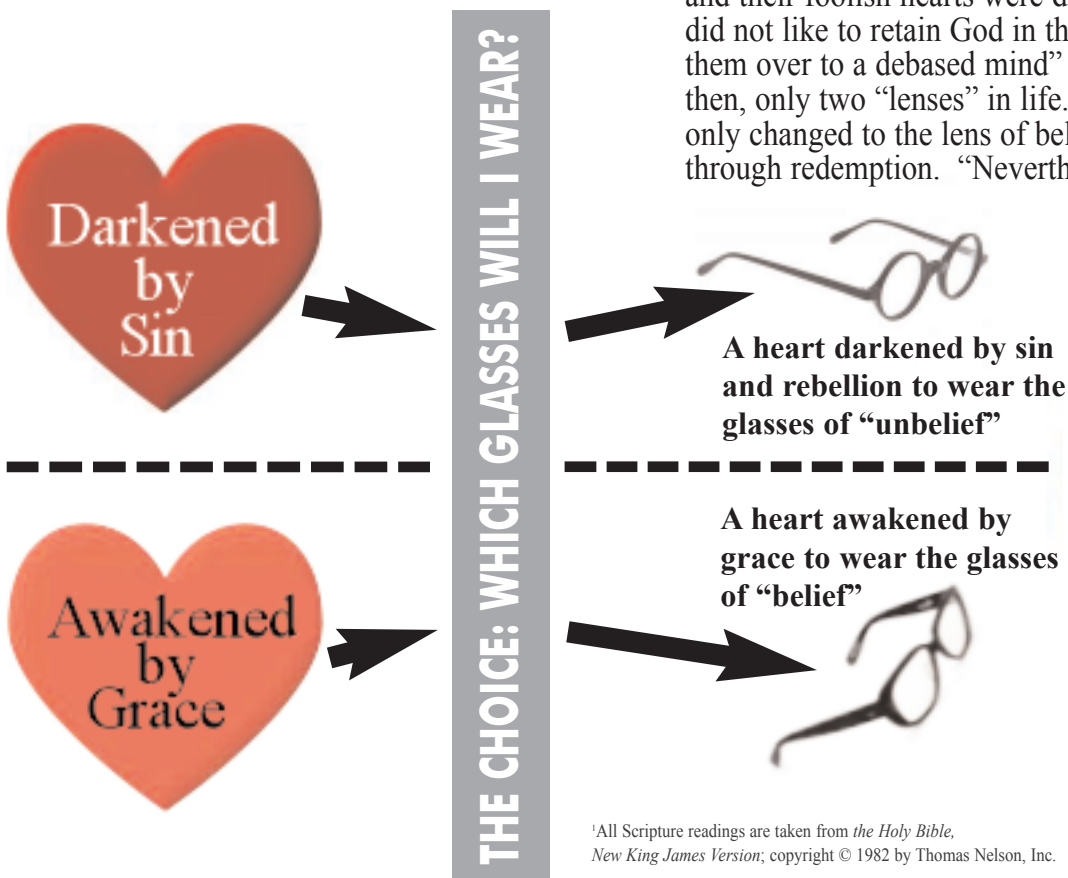


The argument is often made that Christians are being “circular” when they do this. They are said to view things from the standpoint of the Bible, “find” what they’re looking for, and then use what they find to further reinforce the presuppositions that they started from.

Christians, however don’t deny this. In fact, they defend that the Bible itself teaches that we all--believers and non-believers--begin by choosing the type of lens through which we will view the world and interpret it. “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Proverbs 1:7).<sup>1</sup> “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God’” (Psalm 53:1). As those passages suggest, we all choose the lenses we will wear when we interpret the data of this world, draw conclusions that result from the worldview we have chosen, and use those conclusions to justify our worldview. (When we seek to defend a biblical perspective in the marketplace of ideas, the reason so many arguments and debates we enter into seem to go in ‘circles’ is because they truly do!)



As Christians, a vital part of our worldview is the reality of the fall in Adam; and how this fall has placed all members of humankind in a state of rebellion against God. The fall affects the way the individual man or woman thinks, and influences them to choose a set of lenses that reinforce their autonomy from God. Paul spoke of this in Romans 1:20-21; “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.” “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind” (v. 28). There are really, then, only two “lenses” in life. And the lens of unbelief is only changed to the lens of belief by a gracious act of God through redemption. “Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away” (2 Corinthians 3:16).



It’s our duty of love as Christians--and in true consistency with the worldview we defend--to help our non-believing friends see that they too are “circular”; and that their worldview is a product of a choice that comes from a fallen state of being. And it’s our privilege to call them to do what our Redeemer called others to do--to “Repent, and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:15).

<sup>1</sup>All Scripture readings are taken from *the Holy Bible, New King James Version*; copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.