

# A Biblical Worldview In the Age of Apostasy

Part 4 Sermon  
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*Rightly Dividing God's Unchanging Word (Truth) for a Biblical Worldview in the midst of the godless worldview causing the great apostasy (falling away from the truth) in the church. Jesus said "many" pastors, preachers and teachers would deceive "many" because they no longer believe God's Word is true. Matt 24:5*

## Galatians 1 AMPC

*1 Paul, an apostle—[special messenger appointed and commissioned and sent out] not from [any body of] men nor by or through [a]any man, but by and through Jesus Christ (the Messiah) and God the Father, Who raised Him from among the dead—*

*2 And all the brethren who are with me, to the churches of Galatia:*

*3 Grace and spiritual blessing be to you and [soul] peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah),*

*4 Who gave (yielded) Himself up [[b]to atone] for our sins [and [c]to save and sanctify us], in order to rescue and deliver us from this present wicked age and world order, in accordance with the will and purpose and plan of our God and Father—*

*5 To Him [be ascribed all] the glory through all the ages of the ages and the eternities of the eternities! Amen (so be it).*

*6 I am surprised and astonished that you are so quickly [d]turning renegade and deserting Him Who invited and called you [e]by the grace (unmerited favor) of Christ (the Messiah) [and that you are transferring your allegiance] to a different [even an opposition] gospel.*

7 Not that there is [or could be] any other [genuine Gospel], but there are [obviously] some who are troubling and disturbing and bewildering you [[f]]with a different kind of teaching which they offer as a gospel] and want to pervert and distort the Gospel of Christ (the Messiah) [into something which it absolutely is not].

8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to and different from that which we preached to you, let him be accursed (anathema, devoted to destruction, doomed to eternal punishment)!

9 As we said before, so I now say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel different from or contrary to that which you received [from us], let him be accursed (anathema, devoted to destruction, doomed to eternal punishment)!

10 Now am I trying to win the favor of men, or of God? Do I seek to please men? If I were still seeking popularity with men, I should not be a bond servant of Christ (the Messiah).

11 For I want you to know, brethren, that the Gospel which was proclaimed and made known by me is not man's gospel [a human invention, according to or patterned after any human standard].

12 For indeed I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but [it came to me] through a [direct] revelation [given] by Jesus Christ (the Messiah).

13 You have heard of my earlier career and former manner of life in the Jewish religion (Judaism), how I persecuted and abused the church of God furiously and extensively, and [with fanatical zeal did my best] to make havoc of it and destroy it.

14 And [you have heard how] I outstripped many of the men of my own generation among the people of my race in [my advancement in study and observance of the laws of] Judaism, so extremely enthusiastic and zealous I was for the traditions of my ancestors.

15 But when He, Who had chosen and set me apart [even] before I was born and had called me by His grace (His undeserved favor and blessing), saw fit and was pleased

16 To reveal (unveil, disclose) His Son within me so that I might proclaim Him among the Gentiles (the non-Jewish world) as the glad tidings (Gospel), immediately I did not confer with flesh and blood [did not consult or counsel with any frail human being or communicate with anyone].

17 Nor did I [even] go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles (special messengers of Christ) before I was, but I went away and retired into Arabia, and afterward I came back again to Damascus.

18 Then three years later, I did go up to Jerusalem to become [personally] acquainted with Cephas (Peter), and remained with him for fifteen days.

19 But I did not see any of the other apostles (the special messengers of Christ) except James the brother of our Lord.

20 Now [note carefully what I am telling you, for it is the truth], I write this as if I were standing before the bar of God; I do not lie.

21 Then I went into the districts (countries, regions) of Syria and Cilicia.

22 And so far I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Christ in Judea (the country surrounding Jerusalem).

23 They were only hearing it said, He who used to persecute us is now proclaiming the very faith he once reviled and which he set out to ruin and tried with all his might to destroy.

24 And they glorified God [as the Author and Source of what had taken place] in me.

## Survey Finds Only 9% of Self-Identified Christians Hold to a Biblical Worldview

(09/2021) Today, 176 million Americans claim to be Christians—69% of the population. Yet, only 6% of U.S. adults—which is 9% of those identifying as Christians—possess a Biblical worldview, believing the Bible to be accurate and reliable, among other convictions. That's according to a new study by researcher George Barna and the Cultural Research Center (CRC) at Arizona Christian University in Glendale, Arizona.

The study asserts that every person has a worldview—defined as an intellectual, emotional, and spiritual decision-making filter. And though many Americans believe they have a “biblical worldview,” very few do. (A Barna-conducted study published in May found that 51% of U.S. adults claim to have “Biblical worldview”—a far cry from the percentage who actually do, according to the latest findings.)

“Two out of three Americans think of themselves as a Christian, and a majority still think that Christianity is kind of about the Bible,” Barna said in an interview at the time. “But there’s a big gap between what (self-identified) Christians believe the Bible may teach, and what the Bible actually teaches.”

While the latest figures may be shocking to some observers, they’re similar to Barna’s findings in 2003. That survey found that 4% of U.S. adults possess a Biblical worldview, including 9% of “born-again Christians.”

### **Analyzing specific beliefs of the faithful**

The CRC study, which included 2,000 adults, classifies American believers on a spectrum of five sub-groups, from those who only self-identify as Christians to those who are termed “integrated disciples” and possess a Biblical worldview. On the surface, they may all appear Christian, but the survey reveals stark differences in their core beliefs.

For instance, 61% of those who self-identify as Christians affirm that: I believe that God is the all-knowing, all-powerful, perfect and just Creator of the universe who still rules the universe today. However, large majorities of self-identified Christians also report many beliefs “not in harmony with Biblical teaching,” according to the survey.

#### **These include:**

- 72% argue that people are basically good
- 66% say that ‘having faith’ matters more than which faith you pursue
- 64% say that all religious faiths are of equal value
- 58% believe that if a person is good enough, or does enough good things, they can earn their way into Heaven
- 57% believe in karma

By contrast, the survey termed as Integrated Disciples—a small subset of those claiming to be Christians—are noted as being consistent in their beliefs and integrating those convictions into their behaviors.

99+%believe that God is the all-knowing, all-powerful and just  
Creator of the universe who still rules the universe today  
99+%believe that the Bible is the accurate and reliable words of God  
96% claim that every moral choice either honors or dishonors God

However, Barna’s survey finds that even some believers classified as part of this highly disciplined cohort hold to some views that “challenge Biblical principles.” Those “shocking” beliefs of Integrated Disciples include:

52% argue that people are basically good  
39% contend that the Holy Spirit is not a real, living being but is merely  
a symbol of God’s power, presence, or purity  
33% believe in karma

“There is a remarkable level of self-deception (even among) born-again Christians,” said Barna, commenting on his recent worldview research. “It represents a huge educational challenge for those responsible for Biblical worldview development.”

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**Matthew 24:5 AMPC**

5 For **many will come** in (on the strength of) My name **[appropriating the name which belongs to Me]**, saying, I am the Christ (the Messiah), and **they will lead many astray.**

When asked by His disciples what would be the sign(s) of His return at the Time of the End, Jesus replied that one of them would be: **many** pastors, preachers and teachers would deceive many by adding, deleting and twisting the Truth (God's unchanging Word) about sin, judgment, righteousness and the "**things**" to come that have already been written.

This is why Jesus told HIS followers we would need the Holy Spirit...

**John 16:1-13 AMPC**

1 **I have told you all these things,** so that you should not be offended **(taken unawares and falter, or be caused to stumble and fall away).** [I told you to keep you from being scandalized and repelled.]

2 They will put you out of (expel you from) the synagogues; but an hour is coming when whoever kills you will think and claim that he has offered service to God.

3 And **they will do this because** they have not known the Father or Me.

4 But **I have told you these things now, so that when they occur you will remember that I told you of them.** I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.

5 But now I am going to Him Who sent Me, yet none of you asks Me, Where are You going?

6 But **because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts [taken complete possession of them].**

7 However, I am telling you nothing but the truth when I say **it is profitable (good, expedient, advantageous) for you that I go away.** Because if I do not go away, the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners, Standby) will not come to you [into close fellowship with you]; but if I go away, I will send Him to you [to be in close fellowship with you].

8 *And when He comes, He will convict and convince the world and bring demonstration to it about **sin** and about **righteousness** (uprightness of heart and right standing with God) and about **judgment**:*

9 *About sin, because they do not believe in Me [trust in, rely on, and adhere to Me];*

10 *About righteousness (uprightness of heart and right standing with God), because I go to My Father, and you will see Me no longer;*

11 *About judgment, because the ruler (evil genius, prince) of this world [Satan] is judged and condemned and sentence already is passed upon him.*

**12 I have still many things to say to you, but you are not able to bear them or to take them upon you or to grasp them now.**

13 *But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all the Truth (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him], and **He will announce and declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future].***

The things that are to come and that are already here affects and will continue to change the worldview of many in the Church including the pastors, preachers and teachers. Remember, the great apostasy that must occur as a sign that the Rapture is getting close is not people no longer going to church but the truth, the whole truth will stop from being preached, taught and many will be deceived. A follower of Jesus Christ or Christians, are to hold a Biblical worldview, which means that every decision and action should be shaped by the Truth that was from the beginning—Jesus Christ or the Word. A Biblical worldview (or a Christian worldview) is based on God's unchanging Word. Since God is the Creator of everything in heaven and earth, He is the standard for truth. God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and unchanging.

A secular or non-biblical worldview is one based on and shaped by the ever changing godless culture. It is seen through and affected by the emotions and feelings from our old sin nature.

This worldview is what is causing the great apostasy (falling away from the truth) in the Church. Jesus said “many” pastors, preachers and teachers would deceive “many” because they no longer believe God’s Word is true. (Matt 24:5)

## **Apostasy Defined:**

(Greek: a defection, to depart)...

1. An abandonment of what one has professed; a total desertion, or departure from one's faith or religion.
2. The desertion from a party to which one has adhered.
3. An abscess.

**Abscess defined:** a swollen area within body tissue, containing an accumulation of pus.

**Pride defined:** Inordinate self-esteem; an unreasonable conceit of one's own superiority in talents, beauty, wealth, accomplishments, rank or elevation in office, which manifests itself in lofty airs, distance, reserve, and often in contempt of others.

Note: another word for swollen with pride: puffed-up, arrogant, egotistic, puffy...

### **Proverbs 14:12 AMPC**

*12 There is a way which seems right to a man and appears straight before him, but at the end of it is the way of death.*

In part 3 of this series we read in Acts chapter 8 & 9 what happen dot Paul just before and after He saw the “LIGHT”. The same Bible where he was taught religion by the Sanhedrin, who twisted the truth and deceived people who Jesus was. He came in the flesh, He was the fulfillment of Prophecy and the religions leaders didn’t want anyone to preach or teach the fact that God’s Word was taking place as was foretold or prophesied by the Never Wrong Old Testament Prophets.

We finished part 3 with the command by God given to Ananias...

### Acts 9:3-18 AMPC

3 Now as he traveled on, he came near to Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him,

4 And he fell to the ground. Then he heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me [harassing, troubling, and molesting Me]?

5 And Saul said, Who are You, Lord? And He said, I am Jesus, Whom you are persecuting. [a]It is dangerous and it will turn out badly for you to keep kicking against the goad [to offer vain and perilous resistance].

6 Trembling and astonished he asked, Lord, what do You desire me to do? The Lord said to him, But arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.

7 The men who were accompanying him were unable to speak [for terror], hearing the voice but seeing no one.

8 Then Saul got up from the ground, but though his eyes were opened, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

9 And he was unable to see for three days, and he neither ate nor drank [anything].

10 Now there was in Damascus a disciple named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, Ananias. And he answered, Here am I, Lord.

11 And the Lord said to him, Get up and go to the street called Straight and ask at the house of Judas for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying [there].

12 And he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias enter and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.

13 But Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard many people tell about this man, especially how much evil and what great suffering he has brought on Your saints at Jerusalem;

14 Now he is here and has authority from the high priests to put in chains all who call upon Your name.

15 But the Lord said to him, Go, for this man is a chosen instrument of Mine to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the descendants of Israel;

16 For I will make clear to him how much he will be afflicted and must endure and suffer for My name's sake.

*17 So Ananias left and went into the house. And he laid his hands on Saul and said, Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, Who appeared to you along the way by which you came here, has sent me that you may recover your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.*

*18 And instantly something like scales fell from [Saul's] eyes, and he recovered his sight. Then he arose and was baptized*

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We started tonight's study in Galatians 1 and let's go back to verse 15 where Paul is reminding the Church about his testimony. He was once "going to church" following religious leaders and being obedient to their ever changing worldview while inserting some scripture... but he had the revelation to the TRUTH or a Biblical Worldview, seeing every "thing" through the lens of God's Unchanging Words.

**Galatians 1:15-16**

*15 But when He, Who had chosen and set me apart [even] before I was born and had called me by His grace (His undeserved favor and blessing), saw fit and was pleased*

*16 To reveal (unveil, disclose) His Son within me so that I might proclaim Him among the Gentiles (the non-Jewish world) as the glad tidings (Gospel), immediately I did not confer with flesh and blood [did not consult or counsel with any frail human being or communicate with anyone].*

God chose Paul and set him apart, knowing from before the foundations of the earth were formed that Paul would choose to do what God would ask him to do. He did not make him, but as a result of knowing the end from the beginning knew what Paul would choose to do so God chose the sequence of events, the people involved to be partakers of not only Paul or Saul's transformation but all those who were to follow Christ as a result of Paul's ministry. Many people have a part in many different ways to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ who is the Unchanging Word.

God never changes in selecting His mouthpieces to proclaim His unchanging Word in the midst of religions trying to stop it. Peter tells us in 2 Peter 3:9 it is not His desire that any should perish but that all would turn to repentance. He told the Never Wrong Prophet to sound the trumpet that judgment was coming to God's People so their blood would not be on his hands.

God chose Isaiah because He knew the Never Wrong Prophet would heed the call and not care about not being popular with the religious leaders, or the Sanhedrin of Jesus time, or the denominations of today's Christian religions...no matter the culture, God could trust him.

God chose Isaiah because He knew Isaiah would not care about being liked, would not stay silent about judgment coming and would tell God's people and anyone else who would listen what they must do to be saved.

**Isaiah 49:1-10 AMPC**

**1 Listen to me, O isles and coastlands, and hearken, you peoples from afar. The Lord has called me from the womb; from the body of my mother He has named my name.**

**2 And He has made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand has He hid me and made me a polished arrow; in His quiver has He kept me close and concealed me.**

**3 And [the Lord] said to me, You are My [a]servant, Israel [you who strive with God and with men and prevail], in whom I will be glorified.**

*4 Then I said, I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and in empty futility; yet surely my right is with the Lord, and my recompense is with my God.*

*5 And now, says the Lord—Who formed me from the womb to be His servant to bring Jacob back to Him and that Israel might be gathered to Him and not be swept away, for I am honorable in the eyes of the Lord and my God has become my strength—*

*6 He says, It is too light a thing that you should be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors [of the judgments] of Israel; I will also give you for a light to the nations, that My salvation may extend to the end of the earth.*

*7 Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, Israel's Holy One, to him whom man rejects and despises, to him whom the nations abhor, to the servant of rulers:*

*Kings shall see you and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, Who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, Who has chosen you.*

*8 Thus says the Lord, In an acceptable and favorable time I have heard and answered you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you; and I will preserve you and give you for a covenant to the people, to raise up and establish the land [from its present state of ruin] and to apportion and cause them to inherit the desolate [moral wastes of heathenism, their] heritages,*

*9 Saying to those who are bound, Come forth, and to those who are in [spiritual] darkness, Show yourselves [come into the light of the Sun of righteousness]. They shall feed in [b]all the ways [in which they go], and their pastures shall be [not in deserts, but] on all the bare [grass-covered] hills.*

*10 They will not hunger or thirst, neither will mirage [mislead] or scorching wind or sun smite them; for He Who has mercy on them will lead them, and by springs of water will He guide them.*

God chose Jeremiah because He knew Jeremiah would not care about being liked, would not stay silent about judgment coming and would tell God's people and anyone else who would listen what they must do to be saved.

### **Jeremiah 1:1-12 AMPC**

1 The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin [two or three miles north of Jerusalem],

2 To whom the word of the Lord came in the days of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah in the thirteenth year of his reign.

3 It came also in the days of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, until the carrying away of Jerusalem into captivity in the fifth month.

**4 Then the word of the Lord came to me [Jeremiah], saying,**

**5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew [and] approved of you [as My chosen instrument], and before you were born I separated and set you apart, consecrating you; [and] I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.**

6 Then said I, Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am only a youth.

7 But the Lord said to me, Say not, I am only a youth; for you shall go to all to whom I shall send you, and **whatever I command you, you shall speak.**

**8 Be not afraid of them [their faces], for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.**

9 Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me, **Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.**

10 See, I have this day appointed you to the oversight of the nations and of the kingdoms to root out and pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.

11 Moreover, the word of the Lord came to me, saying, Jeremiah, what do you see? And I said, I see a branch or shoot of an almond tree [the emblem of alertness and activity, blossoming in late winter].

12 Then said the Lord to me, You have seen well, **for I am alert and active, watching over My word to perform it.**

The never wrong Prophet Jonah was judged by God for not being obedient, for not speaking the truth, for not sounding the alarm that judgment was coming... when given a second chance Jonah did and spoke only what God told him to say.

**Jonah 3 AMPC**

**1 And the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying,**

**2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach and cry out to it the preaching that I tell you.**

**3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the word of the Lord.** Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city of three days' journey [sixty miles in circumference].

4 And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown!

5 So the people of Nineveh believed in God and proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth [in penitent mourning], from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

6 For word came to the king of Nineveh [of all that had happened to Jonah, and his terrifying message from God], and he arose from his throne and he laid his robe aside, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 7 And he made proclamation and published through Nineveh, By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; let them not feed nor drink water.

8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth and let them cry mightily to God. Yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.

9 Who can tell, God may turn and revoke His sentence against us [when we have met His terms], and turn away from His fierce anger so that we perish not.

10 And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God revoked His [sentence of] evil that He had said that He would do to them and He did not do it [for He was comforted and eased

God chose Jonah because He knew Jonah, just like Saul who was stubborn at first would not care about being liked, would not stay silent about judgment coming and would tell God's people and anyone else who would listen what they must do to be saved.

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**Acts 1:8 AMPC**

*8 But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.*

**Esther 4:14 AMPC**

*14 For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance shall arise for the Jews from elsewhere, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows but that you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this and for this very occasion?*

**Matthew 5:14-16 AMPC**

*14 You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.*

*15 Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a peck measure, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.*

*16 Let your light so shine before men that they may see your [a]moral excellence and your praiseworthy, noble, and good deeds and [b]recognize and honor and praise and glorify your Father Who is in heaven.*

**Revelation 1:1-3 AMPC**

*1 [This is] the revelation of Jesus Christ [His unveiling of the divine mysteries]. God gave it to Him to disclose and make known to His bond servants certain things which must shortly and speedily come to pass [a]in their entirety. And He sent and communicated it through His angel (messenger) to His bond servant John,*

*2 Who has testified to and vouched for all that he saw [[b]in his visions], the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

*3 Blessed (happy, [c]to be envied) is the man who reads aloud [in the assemblies] the word of this prophecy; and blessed (happy, [d]to be envied) are those who hear [it read] and who keep themselves true to the things which are written in it [heeding them and laying them to heart], for the time [for them to be fulfilled] is near.*

