

WORLDVIEW: A SHORT ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dr. Michael Goheen, Trinity Western University

Bartholomew, Craig and Michael Goheen, 2004. *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books.

In this book we tell the story of the Bible from creation to consummation. It is written in a lively storied way and emphasises the comprehensive scope of salvation and has a chapter on our place in the Biblical story. It is meant to be a telling of the Biblical story for worldview purposes. Accompanying website with many resources and articles can be found at www.biblicaltheology.ca

Carrell, Brian. 1998. *Moving Between the Times. Modernity and Postmodernity: A Christian View*. Auckland, New Zealand: DeepSight Trust.

A fine, well-written and quite simple introduction to modernity and postmodernity as culturally formative worldview. He refers to numerous sources and includes a good bibliography.

Chaplin, Jon et. al. 1986. *An Introduction to a Christian Worldview*. Open Christian College: England. 196 pages.

*This is a simple, very clearly written introduction to a Christian worldview. It was written to guide university students through a world view course in a "distance-learning model" or correspondence model. It is meant to be used along with two textbooks (Walsh and Middleton, *Transforming Vision* and Wolters, *Creation Regained* both listed below) but it can stand by itself. It covers six areas: the nature of a worldview; the biblical worldview: creation; the biblical worldview: fall and redemption; the problem of dualism: a Christian failure; the modern secular worldview; living out the biblical worldview today. This is available at the Redeemer University College or Trinity Western University book store.*

Christian Reformed Church. 1987, 2008. *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony*. Grand Rapids, MI: CRC Publications. 22 pages.

This is a delightful little confession of faith. It is shaped by an understanding of Scripture as one unfolding story of redemption and it addresses the problem of a secular western society. It is doxological and confessional in form. We used it heavily in family worship. There is a study version as well that discusses in brief form many current issues, e.g. Feminism, Evolutionism, Money, Abortion and Euthanasia, Distortions of Sexuality, etc. A new version was approved at the CRC Synod 2008.

Also on internet: 2008 version found here:

[http://www.crcna.org/site/uploads/uploads/resources/beliefs/Our%20World%20Belongs%20to%20God%20\(2008%20version\).pdf](http://www.crcna.org/site/uploads/uploads/resources/beliefs/Our%20World%20Belongs%20to%20God%20(2008%20version).pdf)

Both versions found here: <http://www.biblicaltheology.ca>

Goheen, Michael W. and Craig G. Bartholomew. *Living at the Crossroads: An Introduction to Christian Worldview* (Grand Rapids: Baker, forthcoming November 2008).

This book is a follow up on Drama of Scripture. Like Walsh and Middleton's Transforming Vision it covers the whole spectrum of worldview studies. It begins with an articulation of the gospel and the church's mission arguing that worldview must support this mission. It examines worldview as a concept, the biblical worldview in two chapters, the Western worldview in three chapters, a chapter on contextualization, and the final chapters examines six area of public life—business, politics, art, sports, education, and scholarship. A supporting website can be found at www.christian-worldview.ca

Goheen, Michael. 2001. Charting a Faithful Course Amidst Postmodern Winds, in *Living in the LambLight: Christianity and Contemporary Challenges to the Gospel*, ed. Hans Boersma. Vancouver: Regent College Publishing. 17-31.

In this short essay, given first as a lecture in the LambLight lecture series at Trinity Western University, I interpret postmodernity as God's judgement Western idolatry.

Goheen, Michael. 2004. The Gospel and the Idolatrous Power of Secular Science, in *Pointing the Way: Directions for Christian Schooling in a New Millennium*, eds. Jill Ireland, Richard Edlin, and Ken Dickens, Sydney, Australia: National Institute for Christian Education, 33-54.

This article exposes the myth of secular scholarship by surveying its historical development from Aquinas to postmodernity in the light of Scripture. A missionary encounter between secular scholarship and the gospel, described as subversion, is offered as a faithful way forward, with some brief implications for the Christian-school teacher.

Goheen, Michael.

- Celebrating the Vision of Christian Education: Understanding Our Cultural Context, *The Christian Teachers Journal*, 12, 2, (April 2004), 21-25. 'Worldview: A Short Annotated Bibliography' also appended to article, 25-26;
- Celebrating the Vision of Christian Education: The Biblical Story and Education, *The Christian Teachers Journal*, 12, 1, (February 2004), 16-20.

These two articles give a popular overview of the Biblical and western story and how they affect education. They are available on internet at <http://www.nice.edu.au/resources/papers/webpapers.html>

Goudzwaard, Bob, Mark Vander Vennen, David Van Heemst. *Hope in Troubled Times: A New Vision for Confronting Global*

Crises. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007).

An excellent analysis of global idolatry and ideologies including national identity, material progress, guaranteed security. It examines colliding ideologies in the global realm and the whole process of globalization. Highly recommended!

Goudzwaard, Bob. 1979. *Capitalism and Progress: A Diagnosis of Western Society*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 270 pages. *This is a profound analysis of western culture. He argues that the crisis of western culture is due to the fact that the idol of progress shapes capitalist society. Western culture has relied on economic growth and scientific advance to build a better world but it is failing. Goudzwaard offers an analysis and solution. (He has other, and easier, excellent books analysing the religious foundations of western culture.)*

Greidanus, Sidney. 1982. The Use of the Bible in Christian Scholarship. *Christian Scholar's Review*, 11,2. 10 pages. *This brief paper addresses the problem of the use of the Bible in Christian scholarship. His concern is to steer a path between the twin problems of biblicism and dualism.*

Newbigin, Lesslie. 1986. *Foolishness to the Greeks: The Gospel and Western Culture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 150 pages. *In this book Newbigin asks the question of what would be involved in a genuinely missionary (understood much more broadly than cross-cultural missions) encounter between the gospel and post-enlightenment western culture. After profiling western culture and describing Biblical authority, he proceeds to a dialogue between the gospel and science, the gospel and politics. He ends by asking what the believing community must be. Newbigin's profile of western culture in chapter two is masterful.*

Newbigin, Lesslie. 1989. *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 244 pages. *This is Newbigin's most important work. In the first chapters he masterfully critiques the rationalistic epistemology that lies at the base of western culture and provides a Christian alternative. He then goes on to discuss various problems of mission in western culture. (Newbigin has a number of other books dealing with aspects of western culture.)*

Newbigin, Lesslie. 1978. Christ and Cultures, *Scottish Journal of Theology*, 31, 1-22. *An excellent paper dealing with the problem of gospel and culture from a missiological perspective. Can be found online at www.newbigin.net*

Newbigin, Lesslie. 1999. *A Walk Through the Bible*. Vancouver: Regent College Press. *This is a brief (85 short pages!) walk through the story of the Bible. They were originally eight radio addresses given on BBC.*

Sampson, Philip. 1994. The Rise of Postmodernity, in *Faith and Modernity*, eds. Philip Sampson, Vinay Samuel, and Chris Sugden. Oxford: Regnum Lynx Books. *This is an excellent introductory article to the rise and nature of postmodernity. Thankfully it is free of jargon.*

Tarnas, Richard. 1991. *The Passion of the Western Mind: Understanding the Ideas that Have Shaped Our World View*. New York: Ballantine Books. 514 pages! *Tarnas is not a Christian. However, his telling of the development of the western world view from the Greek world view to the postmodern mind is brilliant. It is both profound and yet written in the form of a story. It is not easy but repays careful and critical study.*

Walsh, Brian and Richard Middleton. 1984. *The Transforming Vision: Shaping a Christian World View*. Downers Grove: IVP. *This is an outstanding introductory book to a Christian world view. The pattern is very similar to Chaplin above. After answering the question of what is a world view they proceed to discuss a biblical worldview, the modern worldview, and the biblical world view in action. In the section on world view in action they discuss the gospel and culture, worldview and scholarship, and a Christian philosophical framework. This is one of the two standard texts for a Christian world view Wolters being the other one.*

Walsh, Brian and Richard Middleton. 1995. *Truth Is Stranger Than It Used To Be: Biblical Faith in a Postmodern Age*. Downers Grove, Illinois: Intervarsity Press. 220 pages. *This book began as an update of their former book in which they only dealt with the modern worldview. However, the radical shift from modernity to postmodernity did not allow them to update that book. This whole new book is the result. The book is made up of two sections. In the first they describe the postmodern worldview. The first section is the best introductory description of postmodernity I have seen. In the second part they offer a Biblical response to postmodernity. The level is much more difficult than their first book.*

Wolters, Albert. 1985, 2005. *Creation Regained: Biblical Basics for a Reformational Worldview*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 143 pages. (Second edition with a Postscript co-authored by Michael W. Goheen) *This is the best book I know of that articulates a biblical worldview. It is short and dense, but it is clearly written. It is more difficult than Walsh and Middleton but introduces more very important distinctions within a Biblical worldview. Wolters analyses creation, fall, and redemption as the most basic categories for a Christian worldview. He introduces the very important distinction*

between (creational) structure and (sinful or redemptive) direction. Unfortunately Wolters does not discuss western culture. The revised and expanded version adds a postscript that places the worldview discussion in a more narrative and missional context.