

## CA 37 TFP4 THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

### **Music Theme**

**FOSTER:** It's an ordinary day. You finish at your job, come home, and your wife and children greet you. Your eight-year-old says, "Look Daddy, I got 100 percent on my paper!" You smile, until you see question number four which reads, "*What color is the sky?*" Your child wrote "green" and the teacher counted it as correct.

You say gently, "Sami, this answer says the sky is green and you got it correct."

"That's because the sky *is* green."

"Sami, the sky is blue."

"That's what some of the kids in class said Dad. But Miss Smith said, the important thing isn't what color the sky is, the important thing is that we are comfortable with our own views of the sky."

You're stunned. If your child wasn't so serious, you'd think it was a joke. How could anyone believe that? How could anyone teach that?

Welcome to Champions Arise. I'm Foster Braun and I'm with Kent Darcie. Everyone has a worldview—a particular way we approach our lives. But are all worldviews the same? Are all correct? Does it matter whether the sky is blue or green? More important, does it matter what we believe in spiritual matters? We'll discuss the importance of a solid, biblical worldview when we return to Champions Arise. **Music Theme in – 5 SECS**

**FOSTER:** Kent, my example of a teacher saying it's ok to say the sky is green was a fictional account, but we're living in a world where people have very different perspectives aren't we?

**KENT:** Yes, particularly when it comes to what truth is and who proclaims it accurately. But today we aren't going to discuss the various views people have regarding God. Here at Champions Arise, we accept what Jesus proclaimed in John 14 verse six where He said, "*I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through Me.*"

**FOSTER:** Kent, that is the cornerstone of our biblical worldview, but I hear the term "worldview" a lot. What exactly does that mean?

**KENT:** According to the Dr. John Tolson and Larry Krieder, the authors of the book "The Four Priorities," a worldview is the combination of our values, beliefs, preferences, and prejudices. **These** form our worldview, and our worldview determines how we view life, how we make judgments, how we make decisions. Basically, our actions, proclaim our worldview.

**FOSTER:** So if our worldview guides our actions, it's very important that we have the correct worldview.

**KENT:** That's true, but **having** the biblical worldview and **acting** on the worldview can be two different things.

**FOSTER:** What do you mean?

**KENT:** Jesus gave an example of this. He saw this kind of double standard in the Pharisees—the religious leaders—and Jesus said,

*“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence!”* (Matthew 23:25)

**FOSTER:** Basically, Jesus was saying their actions didn’t match their worldview.

**KENT:** Yes. And we have to be very careful of doing the same thing. Our worldview should define who we are and how we behave. Those who believe Jehovah God is God and believe the Bible to be God’s truth should approach life differently.

**FOSTER:** Kent, I’ve noticed, a couple times now, you’ve said that our worldview should affect our actions. Doesn’t our worldview automatically affect our actions?

**KENT:** Well, “No.” Because God created us with the ability to choose. So we have to decide to act on what we believe.

**FOSTER:** Ok. I think I understand Kent, but can you give us an example?

**KENT:** I’ll give you a good one. There was a man, I’ll call him Sherm. Sherm was raised in a religious home. His family went to church every week. As a family, they’d sing hymns by the piano every Sunday. The pastor ate dinner with them regularly. They had the Lord’s Prayer (the Our Father prayer) framed and hanging on the wall, just inside the front door of their house. They believed Jesus was Lord, and Sherm did too.

**FOSTER:** That sounds like a great way to be raised. But my guess is there’s another side to this family we aren’t seeing.

**KENT:** You’ve guessed right. Sherm’s parents’ actions didn’t match up with their worldview. For example, even though the Bible teaches about being honest and having integrity, when it came time to pay the government the taxes that were due, Sherm overheard his dad saying that he didn’t report any income he received as cash.

**FOSTER:** You know Kent, I’ve heard of people doing that. Christians!

**KENT:** Me too, but it doesn’t stop there. And when you aren’t living the biblical worldview you proclaim, it affects many areas of your life. For example, Sherm’s dad would faithfully go to church on Sunday, but Friday night, he’d go the family liquor cabinet—which included whisky, vodka, brandy, and wine and drink until he got drunk. So every Saturday morning Sherm’s dad had a hangover.

**FOSTER:** It’s sad when men use alcohol as an escape from their problems, instead of doing what 1 Peter 5:7 says and *casting their cares on the Lord*.

**KENT:** It is. And we're not saying it's easy to live by a biblical worldview. It wasn't for the apostles. It wasn't for Paul. It's not easy for you Foster, or myself, or any of the men listening right now. But when we don't, we tend to drift further and further from living by biblical standards.

**FOSTER:** Like Sherm's parents. But once you let go of the biblical standard, where does it end?

**KENT:** Usually not well. And it certainly didn't in this case. When Sherm's sister got pregnant in junior high school, his *dad*—took her to a clinic and paid for her to have an abortion. To kill her unborn child.

**FOSTER:** Wow! But Kent, we're not judging anyone who has made tough decisions.

**KENT:** Absolutely not. We have all done things that we either regretted at the time, or regretted later. We're all sinners and we do sinful things. That is why, as Christians, we claim the forgiveness that is offered by Jesus Christ, who died for our sins so we wouldn't have to pay the penalty for them—which is spiritual death.

But my point here is when Sherm's parents chose to *proclaim* a biblical worldview, but not live by the biblical worldview, it affected their actions and had negative consequences.

**FOSTER:** And I want to explore the consequences in a moment. But I'd like to let our listeners know that you are listening to Champions Arise. I'm Foster Braun and I'm talking with Kent Darcie. We're discussing the importance of living by a biblical world view.

Kent, James 1 verse 22 says, "*But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.*"[NLT] We can't fool God, can we?

**KENT:** No, but we also can't fool our family. And this is where there are often serious consequences when we say we believe in God, but act differently.

Sherm also had two brothers. And both decided not to marry their girlfriends and just live with them instead.

**FOSTER:** So we know that Sherm's brothers and sister struggled, how did he do?

**KENT:** He struggled too for a while, but he joined a weekly Bible study when he was in graduate school in college and that changed the direction of his life. Sherm accepted the Bible as absolute truth that was inspired by God.

But the big change was, he not only believed in the biblical worldview, he lived it. All his life he proclaimed that Jesus was Lord and God loved us so much that He sent His only

Son Jesus Christ here to die on the cross for our sins, so that we could have our sins forgiven. That was Sherm's belief, and that was how he lived his life.

**FOSTER:** That's so encouraging Kent, but I want to clarify what a biblical worldview is. What is it that Sherm believed?

**KENT:** Well, let's take a test. A true or false test.

**FOSTER:** I like these, because I have a 50% chance of getting it right.

**KENT:** Hopefully you'll do well, and our listeners too. Question: The Bible is totally accurate in all that it teaches. True or false?

**FOSTER:** True

**KENT:** God is the all-knowing, all-powerful Creator of the universe who still rules the world today.

**FOSTER:** True

**KENT:** The human race is separated from God by sin. But God sent Jesus Christ, who lived a sinless life to pay the penalty for the sin of the world by dying on the cross. And anyone who believes in what Jesus did and accepts it personally can be reconciled to God.

**FOSTER:** True

**KENT:** You're doing very well.

**FOSTER:** Thanks. I told you I like true/false tests.

**KENT:** I can see why. Next question. Salvation is a free gift to anybody who trusts in Jesus Christ as their Savior.

**FOSTER:** True

**KENT:** The Bible teaches us God's laws and commands and we can communicate with God through prayer.

**FOSTER:** True

**KENT:** Satan is not just a symbol of evil, but a real, living entity.

**FOSTER:** Very true

**KENT:** Very, very true. Last statement; because of Jesus' victory over Satan on the cross, we can resist his temptations, live moral and honest lives, and serve our families and society well.

**FOSTER:** True. So how did I do?

**KENT:** You did very well. 100%. But the real question is not “how did you do?” the real question is “how will you live?”

**FOSTER:** Kent, we said it before, but it’s worth repeating, living by a biblical worldview is not easy. Why is that?

**KENT:** A couple of reasons come to my mind. First life happens. We ended the story about Sherm at a good point, but when he was 62 years old, he was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. When things are going well, it’s not always easy to live by a biblical worldview, but when you’re told you have 9 months to live, it really puts your beliefs to the test.

And we all have life challenges. Usually not that severe, but they can challenge our ability or willingness to live the biblical world view we claim.

**FOSTER:** And what is the second reason why it’s tough to live to our biblical worldview?

**KENT:** The world puts pressure on us not to. Whether we realize it or not, we are all influenced by the worldviews expressed in our culture. And those pressures are almost always contrary to what the Bible teaches.

Probably one of the most famous examples of this is the Bible story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the book of Daniel chapter 3.

The rule (the worldview if you will) was everybody bowed down to King Nebuchadnezzar’s gods. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego wouldn’t do it. And the King said, you bow to my gods or you die in the furnace. And I love their response. This is Daniel 3:17 and 18.

*“If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power Your Majesty. But even if He doesn’t, we want to make it clear to you Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.” [NLT]*

**FOSTER:** I like that story too. But most of us won’t be threatened with being thrown into a fiery furnace, although we have Christian brothers and sisters around the world today who are facing similar threats because of their stand for Jesus.

**KENT:** That’s very true, and we must regularly hold them up in prayer. But for most of us, rejection is the big threat. If we stand up for Jesus, we may be rejected by family, friends, or coworkers. And that’s not just for proclaiming Jesus. Living a biblical life will also cause people to shun us or hate us. But Psalm 18 verse 12 says,

*“The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my Savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety.”*

**FOSTER:** So Kent, our challenge today is not just to say that we believe in God and the Bible, but to believe *and live* according to what it teaches.

**KENT:** That's right. Having a biblical worldview, but not living to it, is a bad witness to our family and the world.

**FOSTER:** Thanks Kent. May we all commit to being hearers *and doers* of God's Word.

***Music Theme in***

**Program Close**

**FOSTER:** Thank you for listening to Champions Arise where men are equipped and strengthened to meet their God-given potential. Today we discussed the importance of living our lives according to a biblical worldview. This material was based on chapter 22 in the book "The Four Priorities," by Dr. John Tolson and Larry Kreider which is published by "The Gathering USA" in 2007 and used by permission. You can learn more about this book and listen to any of these programs at our website [championsarise.org](http://championsarise.org). I'm Foster Braun with Kent Darcie. Thank you for listening to Champions Arise. May God mold you into the man He knows you can be.

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