



## Pastor's Reflections- Paul Hiebert: *Transforming Worldviews: An Anthropological Understanding of How People Change*

In the past, changes in behavior and in belief have been leading indicators for missionaries that Christian conversion had occurred. But these alone--or even together--are insufficient for a gospel understanding of conversion. What is needed is a complete change of worldview.

Paul Hiebert in his book *Transforming Worldviews: An Anthropological Understanding of How People Change* presents a definitive, one could say “exhaustive,” study on worldview: its concepts, characteristics, contexts, and some methods for analyzing them.

He divides worldviews into small-scale oral societies, peasant societies, modern, and post-modern ones, and concludes with suggestions on transforming worldviews to fit the biblical pattern. The book is excruciatingly detailed, with fifty-two figures and diagrams. Many of them (such as the Indian, Islam and Chinese belief systems) are difficult to follow without considerable background. Only an expert, for example, would know what is implied by Brahma, Vishnu, Siva, Rakshasas, and Yakshas in the Indian system. And yet those are terms and concepts that must be understood and dealt with in order to truly affect change of beliefs trusting Jesus and Jesus alone for salvation.

“Transforming Worldviews” is a good read even for people who will never leave the USA. The better we understand worldview the better we can be used by God to effect culture. **Blessing Pastor Ed**

### Article- God's Essence

Let's take a moment to explore the character of the God of the Holy Bible. “God presents Himself as a transcendent God; He is also immanent, seeking fellowship with man. . . . He creates man in His own image . . . speaks with man . . . creates an environment especially for man . . . tests man's loyalty . . . He seeks man.”<sup>1</sup> Almost all major doctrines of faith are based on the doctrine of God.

So what or who is God?

Ideologically if God exists, the God of all Creation, then necessarily he must be an *infinite, perfect, simple* God. God is a *Necessary Being*. He *cannot* exist conditionally—He has no possibility not to exist. To put it another way; **God cannot NOT exist!**

It then follows that God *must be an Uncaused Being* and therefore infinite. Metaphysically *there can only be one Infinite* and an Infinite Being can have no beginning nor ending. All creation exists within Him, thus there is simply no room for a second infinite. A transcendent God is immeasurable. He is not a quantifiable Being. He also must be a *Simple Being* having no composition and no parts.

If the universe had a beginning, then the universe had to have had a Cause.<sup>i</sup> We know the universe began because it exists. If the universe has a cause, it had to have a Caus-er. But this Caus-er is himself an *Uncaused, Transcendent, Perfect Being*.<sup>ii</sup>

In Christian theology this “Causer,” is called God. He has reign over all of creation, but primarily the true God of the Bible is concerned with a *relationship with man*; with you and with me. He is concerned about our relationship with Him, now in time, and with an eternal relationship in the Eternal Kingdom.

Christianity's foundational belief is coming to God by faith alone, in Christ alone; the doctrine of Divine Atonement. Jesus came to earth and dwelt with man. Jesus' love was so great He died to reconcile us to Himself and Jesus rose to bring us home to live with Him. He is a personal God that can be known.

**D. D. Edwards**

<sup>1</sup> Paul Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1989), 39.

<sup>i</sup> This is the Law of Causality.

<sup>ii</sup> This is the cosmological argument in part -see short video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CulBuMCLg0>

**Bible-** *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse* (Romans 1:18-20).

## Newly Baptized -

There are many in the Reformed denominations (Lutheran, Presbyterian, etc.) that believe baptism alone is salvific. They baptize babies and welcome them into the Fellowship of God. But they have no understanding of the Gospel's message.

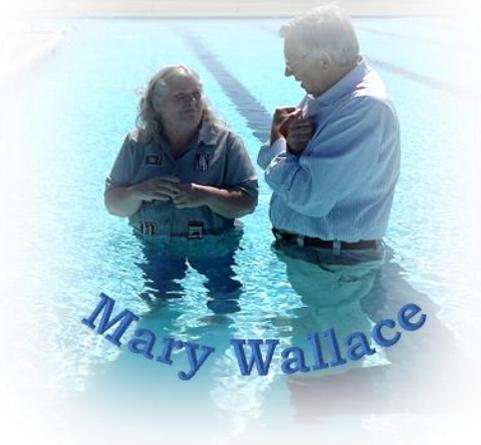
Nevertheless *baptism saves no one*. The Scriptures plainly tell us how to become one of Jesus' disciples. Paul in his letter to the Romans writes:

“ . . . that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart *a person* believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation” (10:9-10).

On the other hand *baptism is not necessary* for salvation. You can't lose your salvation because you never were baptized. Recall the rebel crucified next to Jesus (Luke 23:40-43).

Believer's baptism is done in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in declaring the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior. It signifies the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to their new life in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:3-4).

Shoreline Baptist welcomes *Ashley Shuff*, *Candace Kritz*, and *Mary Wallace*.



## Prayer Requests-

1. Debi Pruitt-quick and complete healing
2. Faye Tucker-for her knee surgery
3. Phil & Imogene Cagle-chronic health issues

## Bible Studies-



**First Friday Men's Breakfast** resumes Fri. Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> at 8am using O.S. Hawkins study *Getting Down to Brass Tacks*. It is a 13-part study on the book of James dealing with faithfulness to God in times of trial and living our lives as a witness regardless of the sufferings of life. It will be taught by Pastor Ed.

