Biblical Christians in Culture. *Looking at the world through the lens of The Word.*Discovering, applying biblical Truth,confronting untruth with Truth.

Part 2: Making Sense of the World With, or Without God

Making sense of the world takes more than our senses. Our personal lives are designed by a Personal God whose work in the world is both prudent & practical to what is.

*REPEATED THEMES 1. Belief affects behavior and behavior affects belief. 2. Everyone everywhere has assumptions, pre-thinking. 3. Christian thinking is molded by Scripture’s commands, principles, & doctrine 4. Everyone has “doctrine” that forms their thinking. 5. Doctrine influences living.*

Introduction: Virtual clothes (NPR), NFTs (non-fungible tokens), Bitcoin, Ethereum, *Bruce Almighty* vs. *The Matrix,* *Fallen, The Purple Rose of Cairo* & what *The Velveteen Rabbit* already taught us.

Two Assumptions: Supernaturalism or Naturalism

Doctrine The God who exists outside of our senses is *transcendent* = God is outside of, apart from us. There is someone besides us to whom we must give an account. But another teaching of Scripture is as important: *immanence*. This word means God is close to and cares for His creation.

Why do these ideas both have to be true at the same time?Only the Christian view of God explains how everything works together. Transcendence answers the question “why” and “who”. Immanence explains “how.” Both are necessary. If God is only transcendent, then He is distant, uncaring. If God is only immanent, there is no outside source of help. [Islam / Buddhism]

Why does a transcendent, immanent God, matter? (1) He makes it possible to live in a constant, reliable world. (2) He has control over His creation. He cares for us. (3) He has a plan. He gives answers to life’s difficult questions. *Why does the Christian view of God better explain the world in which we live?* It best answers S.P.U.D. questions & it makes creation, the incarnation, and redemption possible.

Scripture Neh 9:6 “you made the heavens…the earth” (transcendence) “You give life to everything” (immanence) Col 1:17 “He is before all things” (transcendence) “and in Him all things hold together” (immanence) Heb 1:3 “exact representation of God’s being” (transcendence) “sustaining all things by His powerful Word” (immanence) [Job 12:10; Acts 17:25, 28; Ephesians 4:6.]

**“The S.P.U.D. Test”**

***S****ensible* asks, “Is it prudent, logical, reasonable, valid, genuine, judicious, legitimate, authentic?”

***P****ractical* asks, “Is it workable, realistic, rational, functional, concrete, or expedient in my daily life?”

***U****niversal* asks, “Is it applicable, common, or a general rule for everyone, everywhere, all the time?”

***D****ependable* asks, “Is it stable, continual, trustworthy, constant, reliable so that I can count on it?”

**Questions: Where Do We Go from Here**

1. People’s ideas about God—if there is a god and what that god is like—will dictate how they live.

2. The Bible explains that the Christian view of God makes sense of everyday life.

3. Everyone must answer two questions about their beliefs of God: (a) Can I live this way? (b) Do my beliefs about God make sense in the workings of the world around me?

4. People can live as if God does not exist. But they unconsciously adopt a life dependent upon Him, whether they like it or not (S.P.U.D.).

5. Whether we reject or accept God, He still frames the discussion.