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

Part 3. If we come from just the ground, then we’re nothing but dirt.God must both create and care for His creation. These two truths provide the basis for treating each other and the earth well.

*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.*

Two Assumptions: Supernaturalism (design, care) or Naturalism (evolutionism, environmentalism) “U.S. & The Holocaust” (Burns), *Call of the Wild*, “To Start a Fire” (London), “The Open Boat” (Crane), *Alien, Prometheus, Humanist Manifesto, The Origins of Totalitarianism* (Arendt), *To End All Wars* (Gordon)

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| **Designed Universe** | **Chance Universe** |
| God is eternal. | Matter is eternal. |
| Reality includes the supernatural. | Reality includes only the natural. |
| Truth from an outside authority. | Truth comes from inside oneself. |
| Humans have personhood with worth, value, dignity | Humans are producers, worth based on what is done |
| Work has purpose. | Work is for survival. |
| Sex roles allow procreation. | Sex is for self-gratification. |
| Ethics have a transcendent source. | Ethics based on who is in control. |
| The material world is good and is a gift to benefit people. | Matter is all that matters = materialism and consumerism. |
| Justice is incomplete in this world, after this life God is the Just Judge | There is no justice now, so power and revenge are our only recourse. |

Consequences of naturalism (1) Skepticism—Truth is questioned, doubt is believed; (2) Materialism—Matter is all that matters; (3) Determinism—Behavior a result of mechanical stimulus and response by will or biology; (4) Progress—Everything is getting better; (5) Utopia—Progress leads to heaven on earth.

Connection to transcendence/ immanence Naturalism = *no basis* for salvation, judgment. Incompatibility of evolutionism with environmentalism. Evolution gives us no reason to *care*.

Humans imaged to be vice regents, creation for human benefitGen 1:26-28; Gen 2:5, 7, 15, 18; Psalm 24:1; Isaiah 43:7; 45:12, 18; Ecc 12:1; Rom 1:20, 25; 1 Tim 4:4

Human responsibilities in a designed world *Gen 2:15, Ex 20-25; Deut 20-25; Deut 15:7-11, Gal 6:10.*

**Having**: we are custodians of what God allows us to have, accountable to produce from & protect the dirt. We should manage and conserve the earth. **Giving**: we are the care-givers of humanity, responsible \*not\* to treat people like dirt! We should be generous to and protective of all, image-bearers of God.

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

*Where do you see the assumptions of evolution, materialism, & naturalism in your daily life?*

*Why is the Hebraic-Christian view of the world & life (presented in the chart) important to you?*

*How are you expressing biblical views in your home, vocation, church, conversations?*

*What is the outcome of any viewpoint you hold? Can you identify the results of your thinking?*

*Whose thinking can you influence with any of the ideas presented?*