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

**Ep.11: Throwing God’s Weight Around**

“What’s my purpose in life?” should be immediately preceded by the question “Who put me here?” The answer to the second question gives direction for the first.

*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.*

Glory Wordsworth, Rembrandt, Gerard Manley Hopkins

SCALES “Weight gain” is often has a negative connation. But in the Bible, “weight” is actually something good. In fact, to be “heavy” in Scripture means one has “glory.” We do not often use the word “glory” in our culture, but it is essential to understanding a biblical mindset. What does it mean “to give God glory”? Literally, Christians are to “throw God’s weight around.”

Glory Means The more one "tipped the scales" with gold, for instance, meant the person's wealth showed their "glory.“ Chariots (Isa 22.18) Temple (Haggai 2.3, 9). Everything (1 Chron 29:11-12). Presence “The Glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle” (Ex 40.34) “And the glory of the LORD appeared to all the congregation” (Num 16.19). Don’t forget 1 Samuel 5! The whole earth, Isaiah 6.3 The heavens declare Psalm 19.1. Nothing has changed! In the ancient Near East, only kings were made in the god’s image. **The human king decided what was glorious, what was true or false, right or wrong, real or not real.** Identity. Ethics. Information. Romans 1.21-22.

Jesus Luke 2, John 1, Haggai 2:1-9 “Glory” (John 1:14; 2:13-22; 2 Cor 3:9-10). We are His Temple (1 Cor 3:16, 6:19). “And in this place I will grant peace” (John 14:27; Eph 2:14). “Peace on earth” Luke 2:14 The standard: holy; The presence: shekinah; The exchange: creation; The superhero: jesus; The reflection: image

Psalm 8 Crown suggests a wreath, woven with flowers, worn at banquets as a sign of royal authority—honored and elevated. The exaltation of humans by Yahweh begins as an inward essence; humans bear the weight (“glory”) of God, a show of uniqueness. Human significance begins with the character of Yahweh; a person’s worth, value, and dignity has intrinsic beginnings. “Majesty” is more of an extrinsic display of God—what is put on public display. Having a good reputation “in the sight of God and man” (Luke 2:52; 2 Cor 8:21) demonstrates the inside-out, character-conduct key to Psalm 8:5.

Throw God’s Weight Around: How we live our lives (1 Co 10.31) How we suffer (Rom 8.17) How we endure with patience (Col 1.11) How we expect what is to come (2 Co 4.17) How we honor Jesus’ name (2 Thess 1.12) How we do not discriminate (Jas 2.1) How we live before unbelievers (1 Pet 2.12)

Life is no dress rehearsal. (Ecclesiastes 12.1) Death (Episode #10) comes to us all. The only questions to ask are “Am I ready for eternity?” and “What should I do until then?”

Questions Do I give as much respect, honor, glory to God as I would if I met a famous celebrity or athlete? How do I give God glory by how I treat others who are also image-bearers, whether believers or unbelievers? How do we glorify God by our conversations, decisions, art, creativity, eating, drinking or “whatever you do”? How does idolatry (imaging the wrong focus of glory) detract from your ability to give God glory? How does your vocation (your work) throw God’s weight around to the watching world?