

Wretched Worldview

**Atheism:
The Christian Response**

Study Guide

Introduction

Welcome to the study guide for Wretched Worldview's *Atheism: The Christian Response* DVD. This guide has been created to help you maximize the content of the *Atheism: The Christian Response* DVD.

The chapter questions are intended to be used in a homeschool setting, but can also be used for small groups or Sunday school classes. For the homeschool student, the answers should include biblical references when possible.

The Going Deeper questions are designed to encourage deeper thinking and understanding of the subject. The goal is to strengthen the viewers' biblical worldview and instill skills to think biblically.

An answer guide and test are also available in this download.

A Word from Wretched

Atheism is growing and becoming more vocal and aggressive. The good news is: atheist arguments are weak and entirely refutable.

Atheism: The Christian Response will not only help you defend the faith against atheists but it will also prepare you to respond to the skepticism of professing Christians.

With thanks to Jon Dean, I was invited to speak to a classroom of atheists, skeptics and liberals...with a few Christians sprinkled in. You will see that there is nothing new under the sun and atheists just keep using the same arguments that were refuted centuries ago.

However, there is more to an encounter with an atheist than apologetics. It is imperative that we keep our eye on the prize and power of the gospel. *Atheism: The Christian Response* will equip you to do that.

May God bless your efforts as you equip yourself to seek out the lost with the gospel.

Todd Friel
Host of Wretched Radio & TV

CHAPTER ONE: Laying the Foundation

1. What are God's two types of attributes? What were the examples given? Do you know other examples?
2. Explain the difference between the two types of attributes.
3. How did the world fall into sin?
4. What was God's plan to rescue sinners?
5. How are we to respond to the gospel?
6. What are the three stumbling blocks to the gospel mentioned in this segment?

7. What is the main difference between biblical Christianity and all other religions?

8. How do we make judgments about what is true and false?

GOING DEEPER:

1. Why do you think Todd began his presentation by explaining God's attributes? How might understanding God's attributes help people understand the gospel more clearly?
2. The Bible was described as being inspired, infallible, inerrant, and all-sufficient. Define each of these terms as they relate to the Bible. What are the implications for believing the Bible to be these things? What are the implications for not believing the Bible to be these things? (Use a separate sheet of paper if needed.)
3. How does biblical Christianity describe the nature of man? Support your answer with Scripture. In what ways does this conflict with how most people view themselves and mankind in general?
4. Explain how Adam and Christ are our federal heads or representatives. Refer to Romans 5:12-20 for scriptural support.

CHAPTER TWO: Creation Reveals a Creator

1. According to the presentation, how can we know God exists?
2. According to Romans 1, what is the main reason people reject the existence of God?
3. Analyze this statement: "If there is order, there must be an orderer." Do you believe this is a logical statement? Why or why not?
4. How does the study of science prove that God exists?
5. In an attempt to refute the idea of a Creator, one of the students tried to explain how the Big Bang came about. As best as you can, summarize his explanation; then evaluate it and give your opinion as to why he would choose to believe it over the idea of a Creator.

GOING DEEPER:

1. What's the difference between atheism and agnosticism?
2. Explain what the phrase "God of the gaps" means. How would you refute this argument when defending the biblical account of creation?
3. Is the "God of the gaps" argument valid? Explain your answer.

CHAPTER THREE: Christianity vs. World Religions

1. From the presentation, what assumptions about the Creator can we draw from His creation?
Can you think of more?
2. In what ways is the Bible axiomatic (self-proving)?
3. What is the main difference between the central message of Islam and the central message of Christianity?

GOING DEEPER:

1. What are the five pillars of Islam?
2. Muslims believe they must practice the five pillars of Islam in order to please Allah, yet they are not guaranteed paradise when they die. How can understanding this help you more effectively present the gospel to a Muslim?

CHAPTER FOUR: The Linchpin of Christianity

1. Explain why eyewitness accounts of the resurrection are the linchpin of Christianity.
2. What is the scarlet thread that runs throughout Scripture? What were the examples given? Can you give other examples from Scripture?
3. What is the limitation of science in regard to the origin of the universe?

1. Read Matthew 28; Luke 24; John 20 & 21; Acts 1:1-11; and I Corinthians 15:1-8 to observe the testimonies of the eyewitnesses to the resurrection. Record what you learn about the eyewitnesses and the resurrected Christ.

- 10

CHAPTER FIVE: Explaining the Existence of Evil

1. How does the Bible explain evil?
2. What is needed in order to determine right and wrong?
3. Why can't the atheist or agnostic worldview make legitimate claims of right or wrong?
4. What are God's three types of will? Define each one.
5. What are the two ends of man?

GOING DEEPER:

1. Todd called himself a *presuppositionalist*. Define the word and explain what it means in regard to biblical apologetics. Would you consider yourself a presuppositionalist? Why or why not?
2. In the presentation, this statement was made: "The Bible is not a rule book for living, but a story about Jesus Christ." Do you think most people understand or agree with this statement? How about most Christians? Explain your answer in detail. (Chapter 9 goes into this in more detail.)

CHAPTER SIX: An Atheist Challenge

1. Ryan, the atheist, referred to the “line of bloodshed, torture, and oppression” in Christianity. Several times, he mentioned the Nazi SS belt buckle which referenced God. What do these statements reveal about Ryan’s understanding of Christianity? How did Todd attempt to refute this?
2. Ryan also said, “Nowhere in history will you find someone persecuting or killing others for their atheistic beliefs.” Do you agree with this statement? If so, why? If not, how would you argue against it?
3. At the end of the segment, Todd briefly mentioned the fact that the 20th Century was one of the bloodiest centuries in world history. What did he say might be the cause of this? What do you think?

GOING DEEPER:

Define each of these political ideologies: Nazism, Communism, Totalitarianism, and Fascism. What is/were their views on religion in general and Christianity in particular? Briefly describe what happens to Christians and the Church under each regime.

CHAPTER SEVEN: A Theistic Evolutionist Challenge

1. The Christian student stated, “You don’t have to pick between evolution and the Genesis account.” From the discussion, what did the student seem to believe about Genesis that led him to this conclusion?
2. What are the different *genres* of the Bible and why is it important to recognize them when studying the Bible
3. What is *authorial intent* and how does it apply to the study of the Bible?

GOING DEEPER:

1. Read Genesis 1 & 2 and Psalm 104. Note the differences between the two accounts of creation. Under what genres do each fall and how are they representative of their respective genres?

2. Research the meanings of *waw-consecutive* and *yom* and explain how they are crucial to a proper reading of Genesis 1 and 2. Here are two good starting places for understanding:
 - <http://creation.com/robert-mccabe-old-testament-scholar-genesis>
 - <http://blogs.answersingenesis.org/blogs/ken-ham/2006/02/15/the-word-yom-what-can-it-mean/>

CHAPTER EIGHT: Who Determines Right and Wrong?

1. Ryan and Todd had an exchange about how we determine whose worldview wins out in a society. Todd asked, "What do we do when worldviews come into conflict? How do they get resolved?" Summarize each of their answers to this important question.
2. It was stated that an atheistic worldview leads to totalitarianism and fascism. On what basis was that claim made? Do you agree? Are there examples in history that would support this?
3. Todd claimed that Ryan was using the Christian worldview to argue against him. What did he mean by this and do you agree? Why or why not?

GOING DEEPER:

1. In this segment, Ryan stated, "If you don't like gay marriage, don't get one." How is this a flawed argument? How would you respond to a statement like this?
2. Ryan also stated, "I don't want my life to be impinged upon by other people who think they have the one way of truth." How is this statement illogical in terms of how we determine societal values and the laws that govern us?

CHAPTER NINE: What it Means to be a Christian

1. Explain what is meant by having an “alien righteousness.” Use Scripture to support this statement.
2. The young man in this segment stated, “To be a Christian you need to follow what’s in the Bible.” Explain why Todd denied this statement.
3. The young man also quoted Matthew 5:17-19. According to verse 17, Jesus came to fulfill the Law. Explain what Jesus meant by this statement. How does it affect our understanding of the Old Testament?
4. How do we know which biblical commands are still in effect for us today?
5. Define what *hermeneutics* means and briefly list some elements of proper hermeneutics. (Use another sheet of paper to write your answer.)
 - Helpful resources on principles of interpretation:
 - <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2011/02/22/interpret-the-bible-1-principles> (Be sure to read parts 1 and 2.)
 - Hermeneutics is explained in depth on the DVD *Herman Who?* available at www.wretchedradio.com.
 - For further reading on the subject, *Grasping God’s Word* by Duvall and Hayes is considered by many to be the best book on hermeneutics available.

GOING DEEPER:

1. Two of the principles of proper hermeneutics include a careful reading of the text and noting the context. Apply these two principles to Revelation 3:20 and record your observations.
2. Regarding the young man in this segment, what do you think was his intention in asking the questions he asked? What do you think was Todd's intention in answering him the way he did? Would you have answered him differently? If so, how?
3. Todd compared human beings to rabid dogs, and said that even though we shake our fists at God, He continues to pursue us. Can you find scriptural support for this view of humanity? How do you think this was received by the unsaved students in the room? Explain your answer.

CHAPTER TEN: Why Christians Hate Sin

1. At the beginning of this segment, the young man asked an interesting question, “If it’s inevitable we’re going to sin anyway, should we try to obey these laws at all?” How did Todd answer this?
2. Explain what happens when a person is saved. In what two ways does their standing with God change?
3. Explain what *imputed righteousness* means.
4. What was the point of telling the story of the boy in the river?
5. In the discussion of stoning in the Old Testament, Todd asked, “What does a sinner deserve from God?” Answer that question using Scripture to support your answer.

GOING DEEPER:

1. Martin Luther described 2 Corinthians 5:21 as “The Great Exchange.” Explain what is being exchanged according to this verse. Find additional verses that teach this important truth.
2. Todd said, “The individual who esteems the sacrifice of the Father does not desire to go out and sin. We still sin, but we don’t desire it anymore.” Do you think it’s always that black and white? Can someone be a genuine Christian and still desire to sin? Give Scripture to support your answer.
3. Based upon your experience, what do most unsaved people think they deserve from God? Why do they think this? Do you think most Christians and/or churches accurately address this question? Why or why not?

CHAPTER ELEVEN: Is Hell Reasonable or Is God a “Cosmic Dictator”?

1. From your experience, what do most people think about hell? What are the most common responses to the belief that God will punish people in hell?
2. Explain the murder analogy. Do you think it was a fair analogy? Why or why not?
3. How would you respond to the charge that God is a “cosmic dictator”? Give Scripture to support your response.

GOING DEEPER:

Do a word study on what the New Testament teaches about hell. Using a concordance, look up every reference to hell. (Additional words could include gehenna, sheol, the pit.) Be sure to study the context of the verses you look up. Write down what you learn; then, write an overall view of hell as taught in the New Testament.

CHAPTER TWELVE: Todd's Final Appeal – The Gospel

1. Why do you think the presentation ended with the story of the father taking the punishment for his son?
2. What do you think was Todd's main purpose in speaking to this particular group of students? Do you think he accomplished it?
3. Overall, how would you rate the presentation and discussion with the students, and why?
4. List some of the things you learned from watching these interactions. Were you challenged in any way? If so, explain.

GOING DEEPER:

1. The Bible clearly says that on Judgment Day God will punish all lawbreakers. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; and Revelation 21:8. Make a list of who God considers to be lawbreakers. In light of this, why is 1 Corinthians 6:11 such good news?
2. Have you repented and put your trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation? If so, write out your testimony as you would present it to your unsaved friends. If not, think about why you haven't repented. What is it that is keeping you from humbling yourself before God? Be as honest as you can and write out your thoughts.

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CHAPTER THIRTEEN: A Surprise Encounter

1. What reasons did the student give for not believing in God?
2. What claims of Jesus did the student say were too great to be supported by the evidence he had been given?
3. Todd mentioned three possible reasons why people might reject God and/or His Word. What were they?

