

The background of the slide is an abstract composition. On the left side, there are several concentric circles in shades of blue and teal, creating a tunnel-like effect. In the center of these circles, there is a small, colorful vortex or nebula with orange, red, and blue hues. The right side of the image is a soft, out-of-focus background with warm, orange and yellow tones, suggesting a sunset or sunrise sky.

Worldview Thinking

Revisiting the Fundamental Orientations of Our Minds and Hearts

A warm, inviting scene featuring a bright red ceramic cup in the foreground, resting on a dark surface. Behind the cup, a thick stack of books is visible. In the background, a large, crackling fire burns brightly, casting a warm, golden glow over the entire scene. The fire's flames are tall and dynamic, creating a cozy atmosphere. The overall composition suggests a quiet evening of reading and reflection by the fireplace.

Welcome!

We begin Part 4 of our series on *Worldview Thinking* today and are glad you chose to join us. Our intention is to come alongside of you as you come to terms with your own worldview and become proficient in analyzing and understanding the worldviews of others. Assuredly, it is a vast and complex subject; yet it is also accessible to anyone who is interested in the pursuit of truth and in living an examined life *coram Deo*.

A Brief Review

- **Part 1: What Is a Worldview?**

- Fourteen clarifying and complementary definitions
- The meaning of the word *presupposition*
- Fifteen summary theses about worldviews
- The importance of pursuing truth regardless of its implications

- **Part 2: Why Worldviews Matter**

- Why understanding worldviews is important
- The problem of anti-intellectualism
- What is involved in worldview analysis?
- Worldview requirements
- Facing the consequences of our worldview

A Brief Review

- **Part 3: Self-Conscious Worldview Development**

- Examining the origins of our beliefs and commitments
- How worldviews become embedded in our subconscious
- The stranglehold of the new concept of truth
- The importance of being fully conscious of our worldview and those of others
- The perfection of the intellect (John Henry Newman)
- Using our imaginations and reason in worldview development
- How we begin to develop a consistent and unifying system of thought
- What does it mean to “think Christianly”?

- **Part 4: Tools for Worldview Analysis**



Introduction

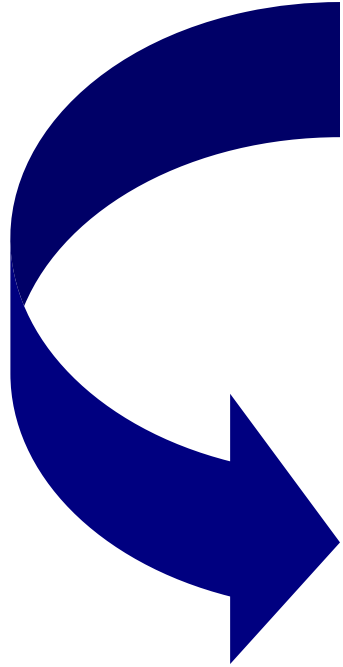
In a recent essay, *World Magazine's* senior editor Janie Cheaney captured a critical aspect of worldview thinking: **“The truth you believe shapes the story you tell.”** James Sire made a similar claim when he wrote: “A worldview can be expressed as **a story** or in a set of presuppositions.” In a third citation, Dr. Earl Radmacher referenced King Solomon, who also connected the heart to human behavior: “As he thinks in his heart, so is he” (Prov. 23:6). In other words, “only what lies deep inside the counsels of a man’s heart presents a true picture of what the man is.” And even though our worldviews generally lie deeply embedded in our subconscious, it is there nonetheless. It is a full-blown story ready to be told, whether in speech or behavior.





Introduction

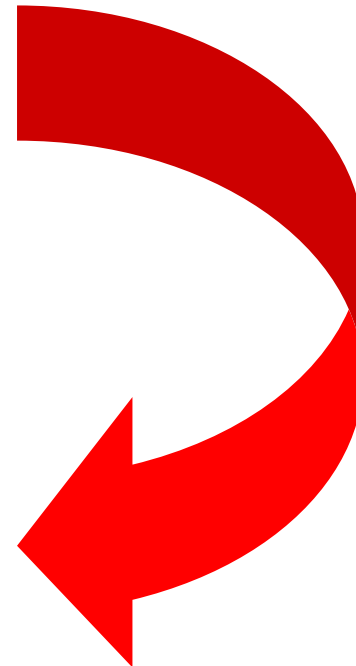
All people have some general sense of their beliefs but may have never considered that they have formed the foundation of an entire system of thought and behavior, whether consistent or inconsistent, whether true or false, whether consciously or unconsciously. Those who want to live an “examined life” with intentionality, however, engage in serious worldview thinking - “the lens through which they see the world.” They take pains to know the “really real” –what is really THERE - and to live purposefully in in the world as we were created by God to do. To live in this way, worldview “tools” are a necessity. While vastly different from those used in the physical world, these tools are exceedingly useful in helping us understand our deeply-held beliefs and the stories they tell.



Worldview

Our worldview is the story we live by.
Our story is a part of God's metanarrative - His Master Story.

Thinking



Behavior



Part 4 Objective

To Identify Four Tools for Worldview Analysis

Four Tools For Worldview Analysis

1

Is the Worldview Sound?

2

How Does the Worldview Answer 8 Essential Questions?

3

What Are the Consequences of False Beliefs?

4

What Are the Causes of Personal and Social Derailment?



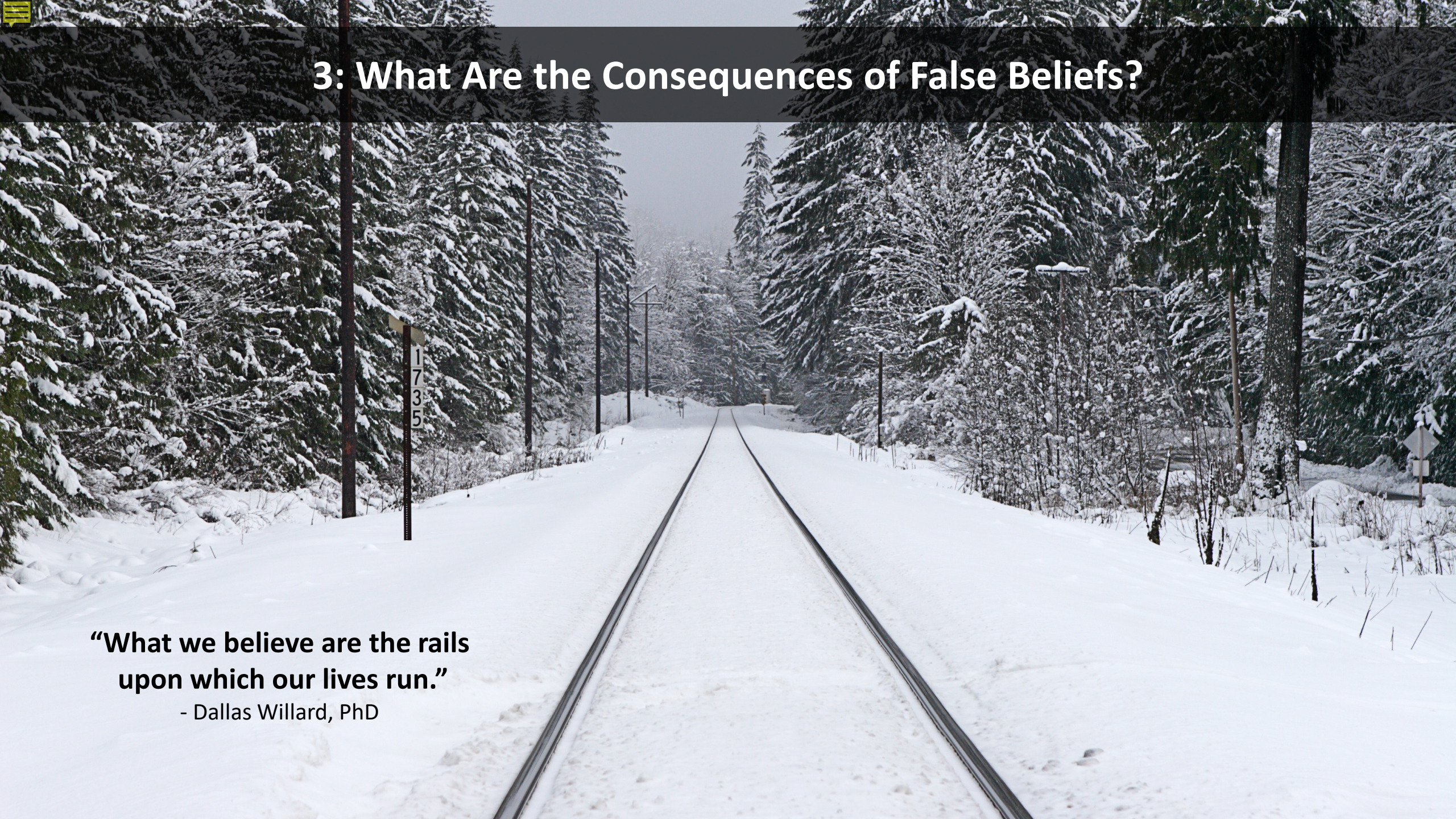
1: Is the Worldview Sound?

1. It “must be non-contradictory and must give an answer to the phenomenon in question” (Francis Schaeffer).
2. It must be consistent to the logic and practice of one’s presuppositions. Every person must live in reality, and no person can change the reality of what is (even in hell). Non-Christian presuppositions simply do not fit into what God has made, including what man is (Schaeffer).
3. It should possess inner intellectual coherence (or else it is false).
4. It should be able to comprehend the data of reality (all kinds of data).
5. It should explain what it claims to explain (morality, for instance).
6. It should be subjectively satisfactory (by being true).



2: How Does the Worldview Answer 8 Essential Questions?

1. What is prime reality – the really real?
2. What is the nature of external reality (that is, the world around us)?
3. What is a human being?
4. What happens to a person at death?
5. Why is it possible to know anything at all?
6. How do we know what is right and wrong?
7. What is the meaning of human history?
8. What personal, life-orienting, core commitments are consistent with this worldview?

A photograph of a railway track receding into the distance, flanked by snow-covered evergreen trees. The track is covered in a layer of snow, and the trees are heavily laden with snow. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking down the track. The sky is overcast and grey. On the left side of the track, there are several utility poles and a small signpost with numbers 1, 7, 3, and 5. On the right side, there are more utility poles and a small signpost with a diamond shape and a square shape.

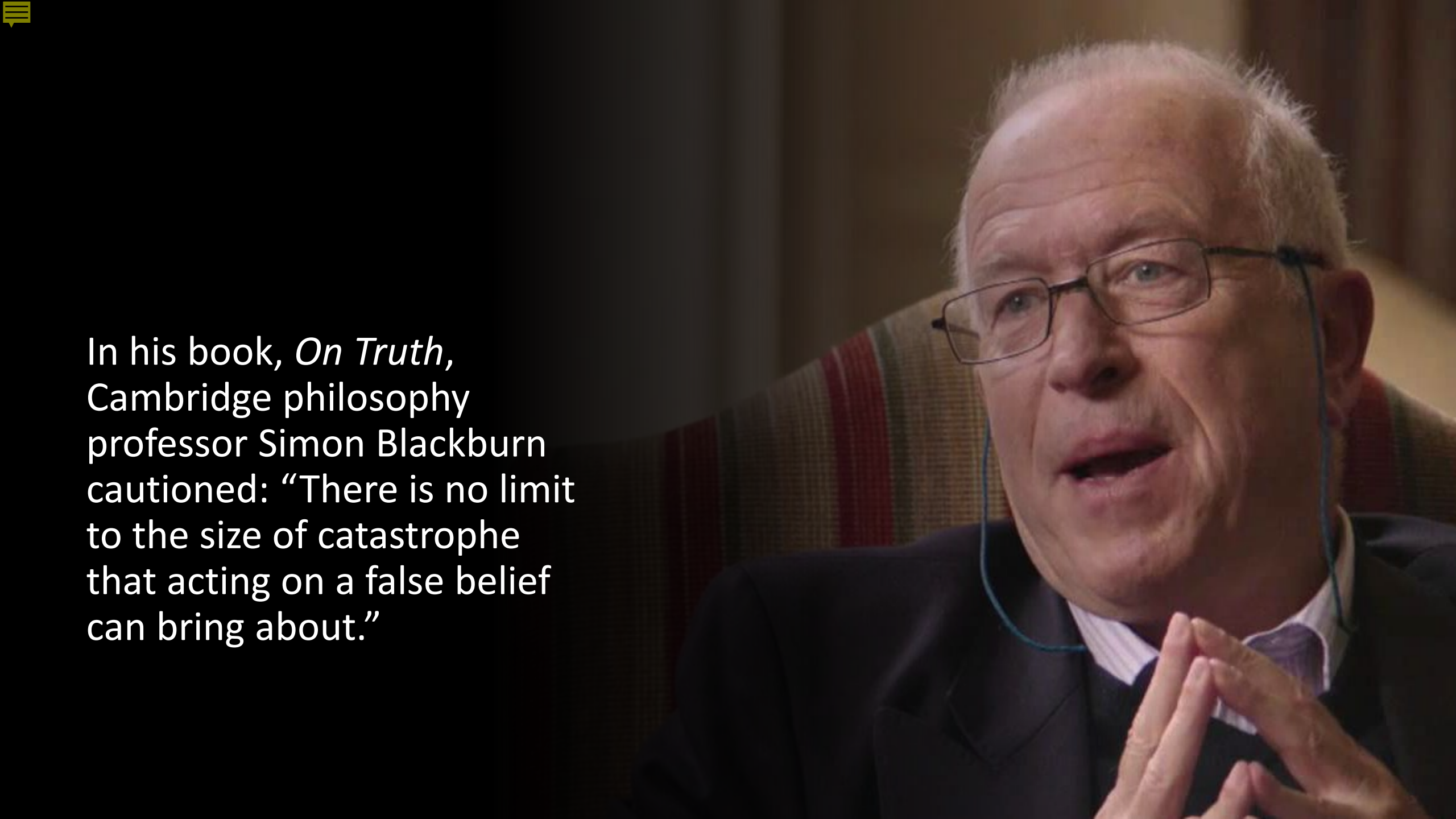
3: What Are the Consequences of False Beliefs?

**“What we believe are the rails
upon which our lives run.”**

- Dallas Willard, PhD



Amtrak Sunset Limited Wreck
September 22, 1993
Big Bayou Canot
Near Mobile, Alabama
47 people died; 103 injured
Cause: Tugboat Hit Bridge in Fog

A close-up shot of Simon Blackburn, an older man with glasses, wearing a dark suit and a light-colored shirt. He is sitting in a chair with a striped backrest and has his hands clasped in front of him. The background is dark and out of focus.

In his book, *On Truth*,
Cambridge philosophy
professor Simon Blackburn
cautioned: “There is no limit
to the size of catastrophe
that acting on a false belief
can bring about.”



"If your initial drawing is wrong, the entire portrait will be wrong."

Daniel Greene (1934-2020)

Oil Painters of America Society Hall of Fame



The Impact of Worldview on Culture

“The cultural enterprise rests invariably on a secret or explicit faith. Behind every socially entrenched morality some underlying life-and-world view presumes to identify what reality is, and what aspects of reality are considered sacred. Such collectively held beliefs and values establish the coherency of any culture. Shared convictions are what give a cultural enterprise its stability. Widespread loss of confidence in its integrating frame of commitment and action is a signal that a given society is culturally ailing, perhaps even terminally ill. Any generation lacking convictional assurance about the nature of reality is not only snared in its doubts but drifting toward nihilism and despair. The times of social breakdown are those in which the populace defects from what

The Impact of Worldview on Culture

it has long thought to be ultimately real and sacred, and is unsure what if anything to put in its place. When individuals can no longer make up their minds about important issues, or about what if anything is important, we isolate them from society. When society as a whole lacks consensus on what is true and sacred, then that society or culture is surely staggering toward intellectual chaos, spiritual deterioration and moral ruin.”

- Carl F.H. Henry, *God, Revelation and Authority*

4: What Are the Causes of Personal & Social Derailment?

1. **Man's Own Wisdom:** “For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside’...The world through its wisdom did not come to know God” (I Cor. 1:18-19,21).
2. **Personal Foolishness:** “God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong” (I Cor. 1:27; cf. 2:19). “A natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised” (I Cor. 2:14).

4: What Are the Causes of Personal & Social Derailment?

3. **Stubborn Unwillingness:** “And you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life” (Jn. 5:40).
4. **Refusing to Honor God as God:** “For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened” (Rom. 1:21).
5. **Idolatry:** “Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry” (I Cor. 10:14). Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures” (Rom. 1:22-23).

4: What Are the Causes of Personal & Social Derailment?

6. **Exchanging Truth for Lies:** “For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever” (Rom. 1:25).
7. **Stubbornness and Refusal to Repent:** “But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God” (Rom. 2:5). “The sorrow of the world produces death” (II Cor. 7:10).
8. **No Fear of God:** “There is no fear of God before their eyes” (Rom. 3:18). “Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes” (Ps. 36:1).

4: What Are the Causes of Personal & Social Derailment?

9. **Taking Counsel Against the Lord & His Anointed:** “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his anointed saying, ‘Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us’” (Ps. 2:2-3).
10. **Trusting in the Law & Their Good Works:** “By the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight” (Rom. 3:20; cf. Gal. 2:16).
11. **Pursuing the Flesh:** “For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace” (Rom. 8:6).
12. **Unbelief:** “If they do not continue in their unbelief, [they] will be grafted in; for God is able to graft them in again” (Rom. 11:23).

4: What Are the Causes of Personal & Social Derailment?

- 13. Satan's Disguises:** “And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light” (II Cor. 11:14). “You formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience” (Eph. 2:2).
- 14. Believing a False Gospel:** “If any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed” (Gal. 1:9).
- 15. Loving Darkness:** “And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil” (Jn. 3:19; cf. Jn. 1:5).



The Law of Gravity

“When a man turns away from God, he simply gives himself up to the law of gravity. Then he thinks that he can decide and choose, but he is only a thing, a stone that falls.”

- Simone Weil, *Waiting for God*