

The background features a large, abstract circular pattern on the left side, composed of many concentric, slightly irregular blue and teal rings that create a tunnel-like effect. At the center of this pattern is a bright, multi-colored glow with hints of orange, red, and yellow. The right side of the image is a soft, out-of-focus background with warm, ethereal colors like orange, pink, and light blue, suggesting a sunset or a nebula.

Worldview Thinking

Revisiting the Fundamental Orientations of Our Minds and Hearts



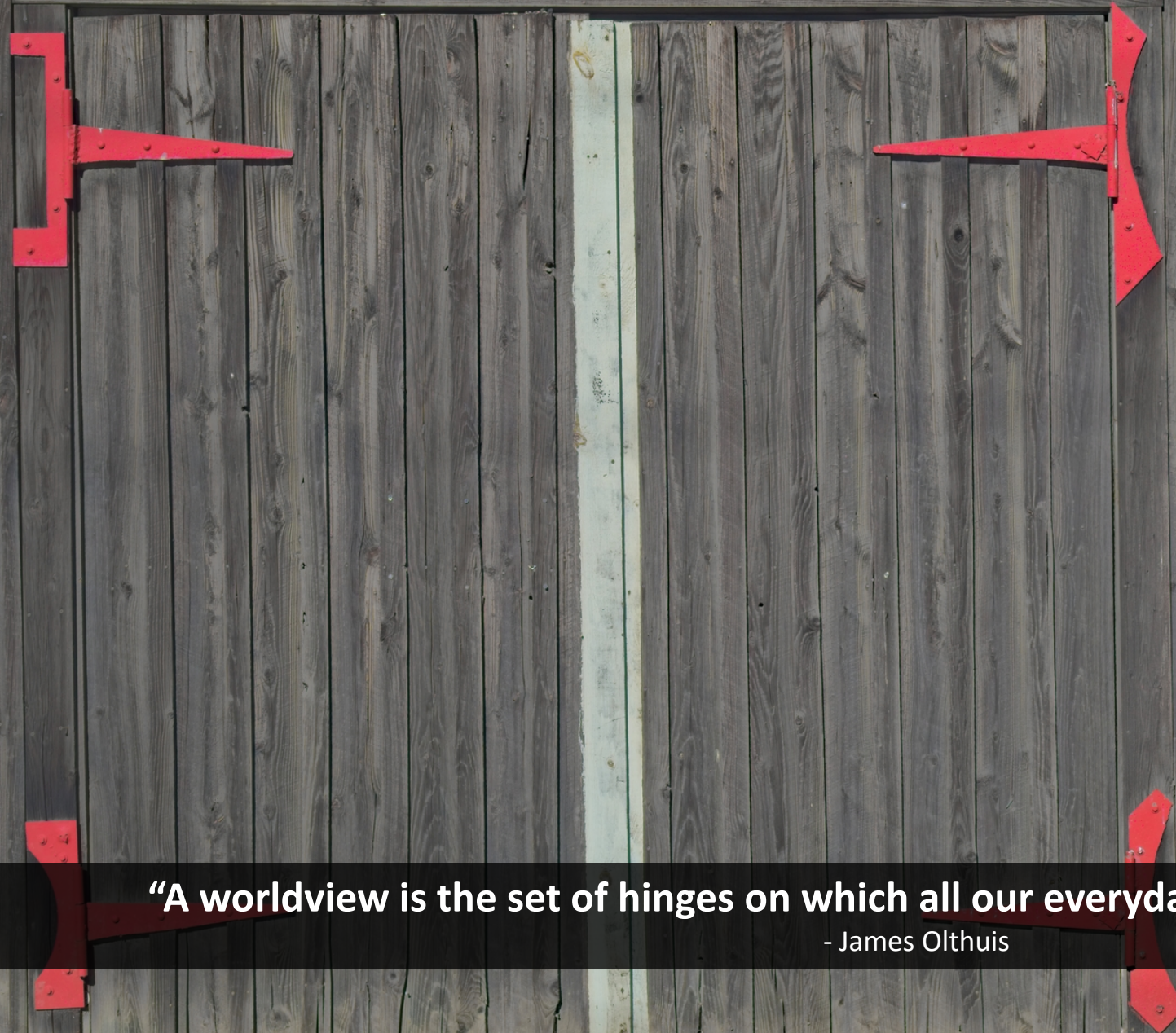
Welcome!

We are glad you chose to join us this morning for Part 9 of our series on *Worldview Thinking*. During these past weeks together, we have been affirming that every aspect of reality shapes the way we think and live before God and man. Whether we are reading, traveling, working, building relationships, playing, or worshiping, we will always be coming face-to-face with God, with something that Creator God has made, or with something that sub-creator man has made, like Rome's *Colosseum*.



“Our mental model of the world is like a giant filing cabinet.
It contains a slot for every item of information coming to us.”

- Alvin Toffler



“A worldview is the set of hinges on which all our everyday thinking and doing turns.”

- James Olthuis



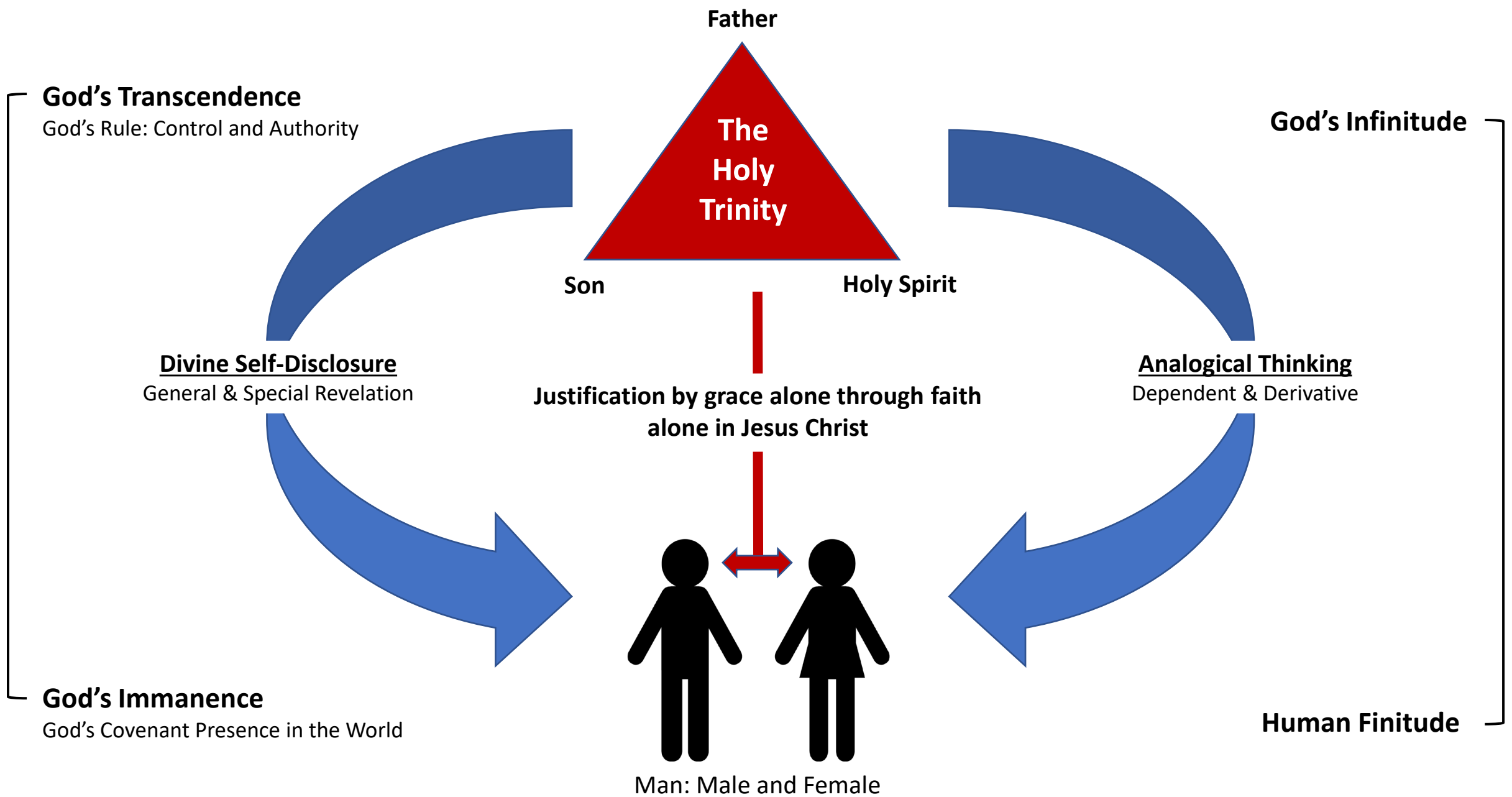
“A worldview is like an intellectual lens through which we see the world.”

- Pete Bocchino and Norman Geisler



“A worldview is like a mental map that tells us how to navigate the world effectively.”

- Nancy Pearcey



God's Transcendence

God's Rule: Control and Authority

God's Infinitude

Divine Self-Disclosure
General & Special Revelation

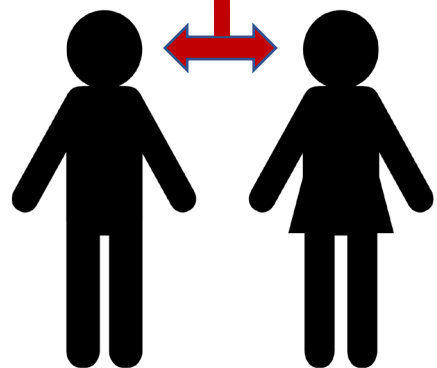
Analogical Thinking
Dependent & Derivative

**Justification by grace alone through faith
alone in Jesus Christ**

God's Immanence

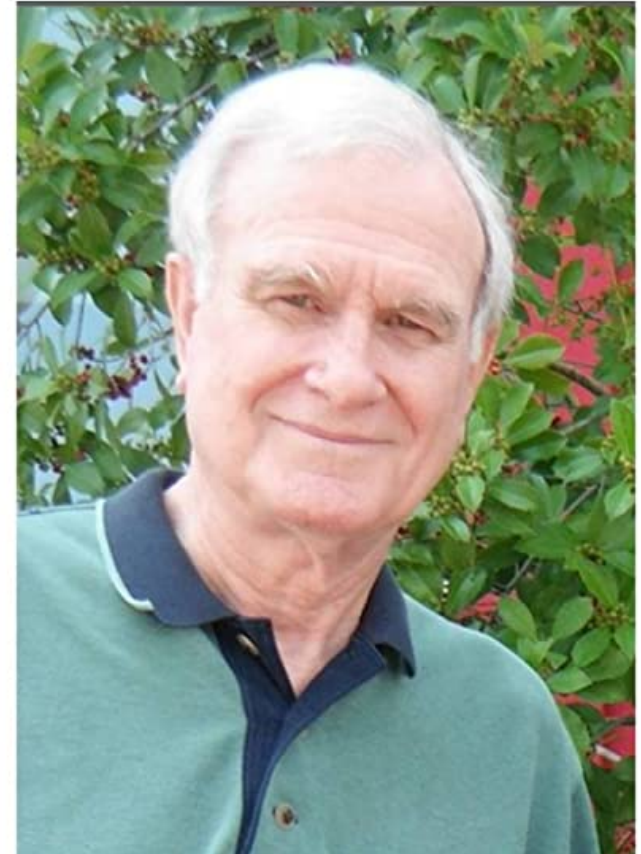
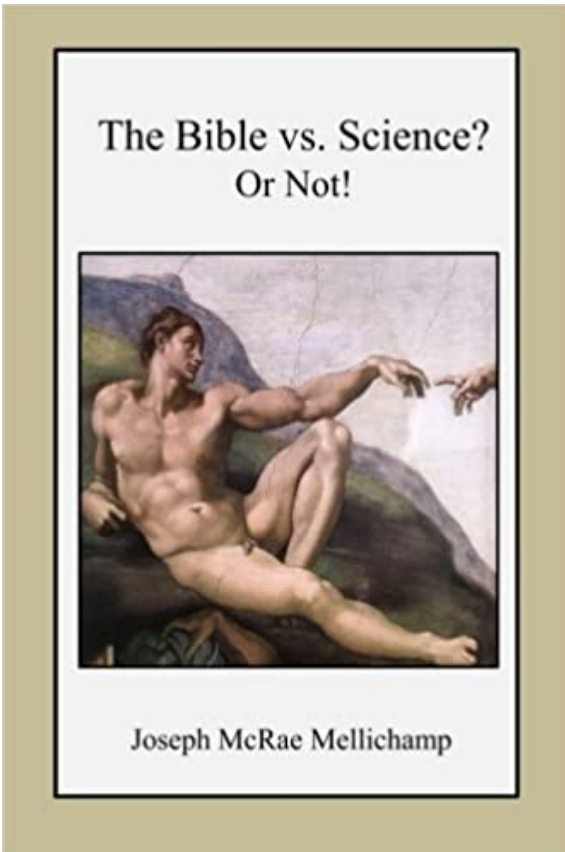
God's Covenant Presence in the World

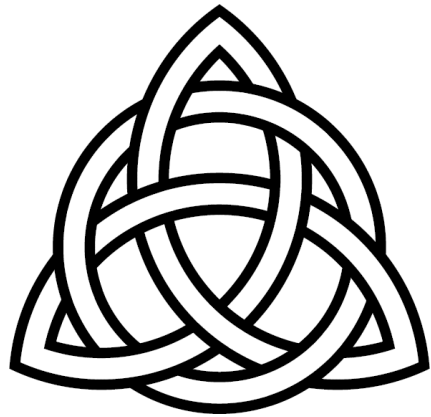
Human Finitude



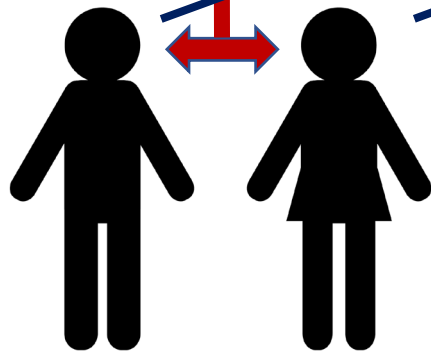
Man: Male and Female

Joseph McRae Mellichamp, PhD





Personal Covenantal Relationship

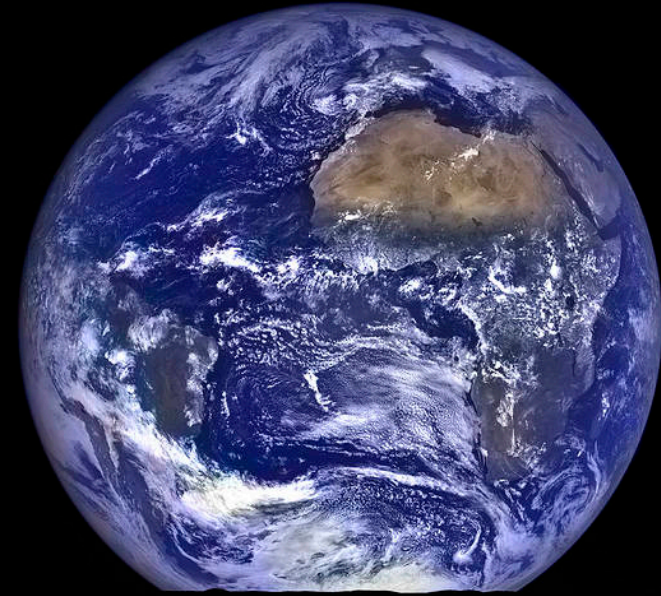


Man: Male and Female

Worldview

"A worldview is the
fundamental perspective
from which one addresses
every issue of life."

- James Sire



Absolute, Objective Truth

Ultimate Beliefs

Fundamental Orientation of the Heart

Presuppositions

Values

Convictions & Commitments

Interpretation of Reality

Creation

Fall

Redemption

Consummation



Characteristics of a Sound Worldview

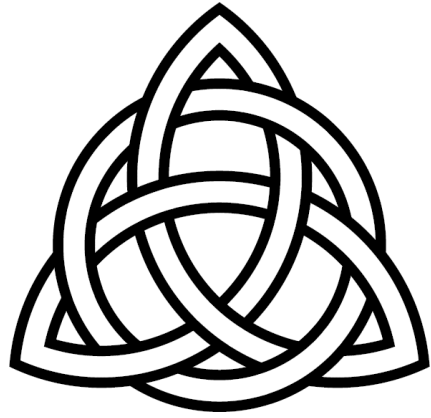
- It must not be self-contradictory and must give an answer to the phenomenon in question.
- We must be able to live consistently within our worldview.
- One's worldview should possess intellectual coherence.
- One's worldview should be able to comprehend the data of reality.
- One's worldview should explain what it claims to explain.
- One's worldview should be subjectively satisfactory.



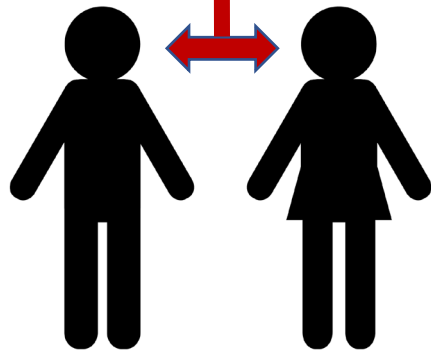
God's Interpretation of Everything Is Prior

- “God as Lord interprets everything definitively, so that when we want to know something, we must seek to think his thoughts after him.”
- “God has revealed his truth clearly, and all of us have some knowledge in each area on which we can build.”
- “We do not come to know God, or anything else, in a vacuum. In knowing God, we come to know His relations to the world and to many things in the world, especially to ourselves.”
- “We cannot know other things rightly without knowing God rightly.” Ungodly men suppress the truth (Rom. 1:18).

- John M. Frame



Personal Covenantal Relationship



Man: Male and Female

Key Questions

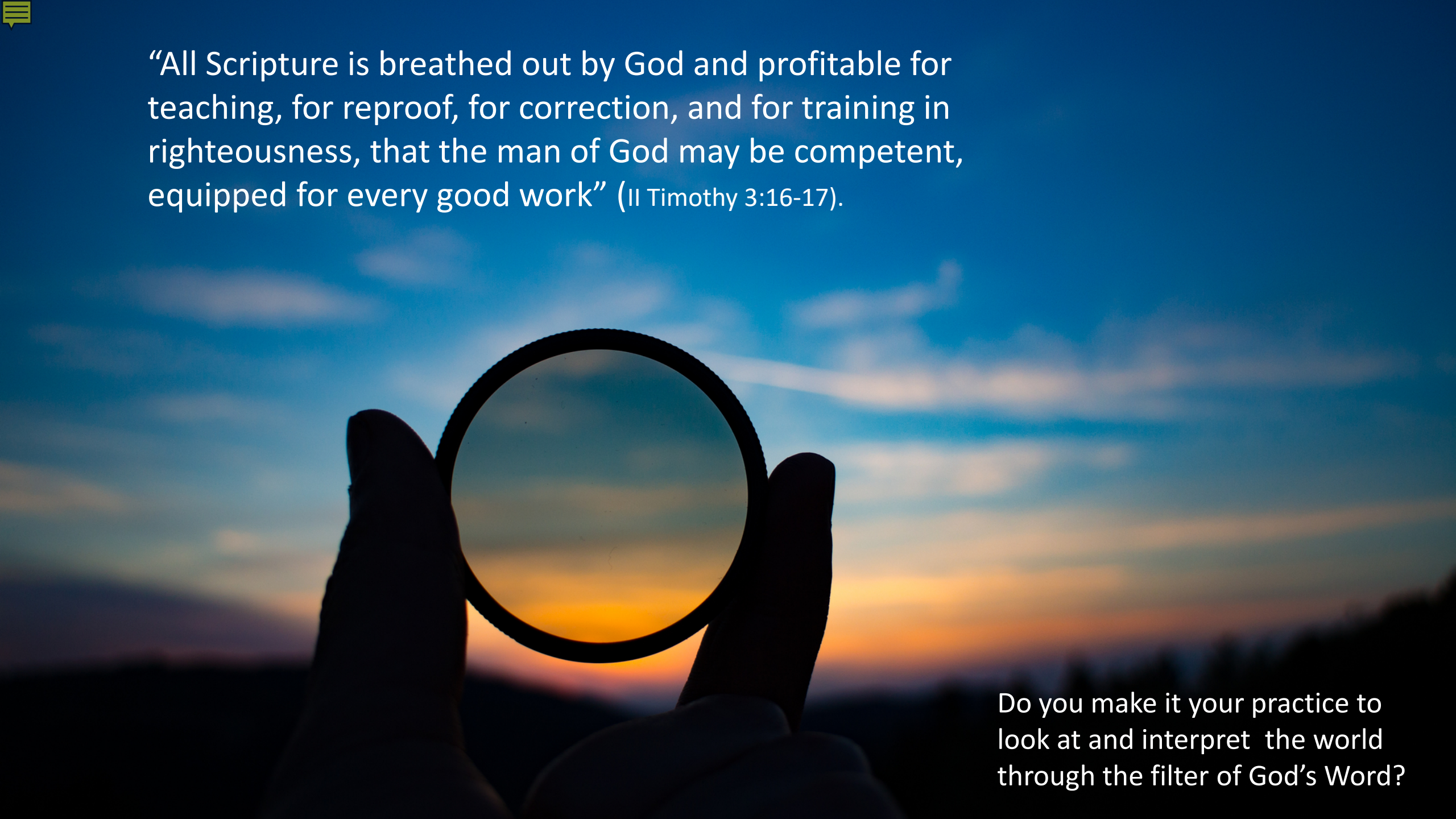
- What do I truly believe?
- What does my life tell me about my worldview?
- What spiritual changes do I need to make?
- What intellectual changes do I need to make?
- What emotional changes do I need to make?
- What experiences in my life have significantly shaped my mind and heart? Have I interpreted these events according to the Word of God?
- Am I willing to ask the question: "What is true?"
- Am I willing to go to God in repentance for wrong beliefs and disobedience to His Word?

Creation

Fall

Redemption

Consummation

A hand is shown in silhouette, holding a circular lens or magnifying glass. The lens is held up to a sunset sky, which is a mix of blue, orange, and yellow. The lens acts as a filter, showing a clearer, more vibrant view of the sunset within its circular frame. The background sky is slightly blurred, emphasizing the view through the lens.

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work” (II Timothy 3:16-17).

Do you make it your practice to look at and interpret the world through the filter of God’s Word?

Avoid Syncretistic Thinking



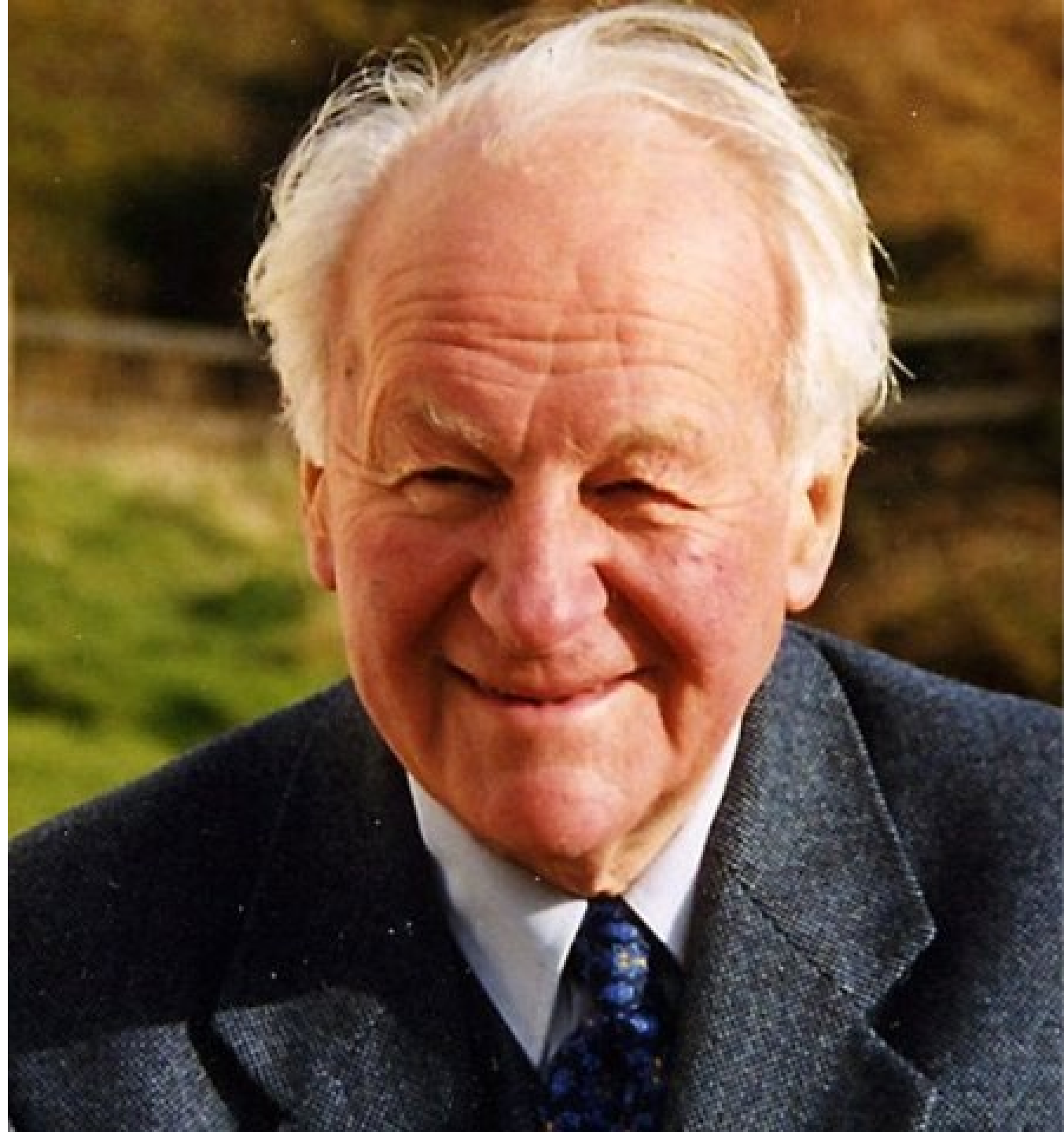
“Most of us are inconsistent about our worldviews. Our viewpoint comes from the melting pot. We get mixed up. Our pot has a dash of faith and a dash of skepticism. We are at once religious and secular. We believe in God, sometimes. Our religion has elements of superstition at some times and is tempered by sober science at other times. We are at the same time Christians and card-carrying pragmatists. On Sunday we say the creed. On Monday we are fatalists. We try to separate our religious life from the rest of our life. We live by holding contradictory beliefs. Living in contradictions can be exciting. Life is surely more than logic. But the contradictory life is a confusing life, a life of inconsistency and incoherence. Its bottom line is chaos” (R.C. Sproul).



The Importance of the Mind

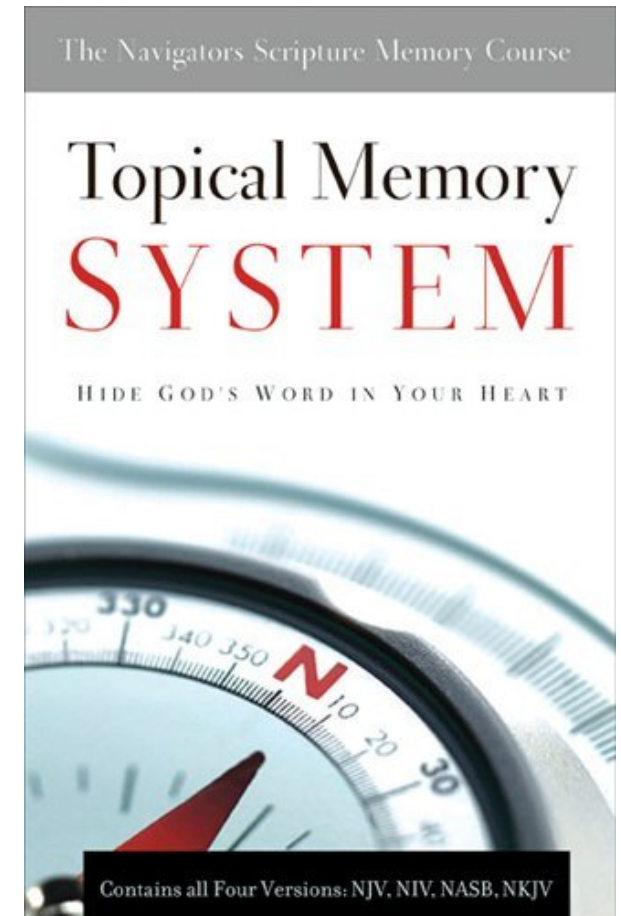
“It is not enough to *know* what we should be, however. We must go further and set our minds upon it. The battle is nearly always won in the mind. It is by the renewal of our mind that our character and behavior become transformed. So Scripture calls us again and again to mental discipline in this respect.”

- John R.W. Stott



Thinking Analogically

- “Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things” (Phil. 4:8).
- “This is the right pasture for the Christian mind to graze in” (William Hendriksen).



Think On The Things Above

- “If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth” (Col. 3:1-2, NASV).
- “So if you’re serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, *act* like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don’t shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ – that’s where the action is. See things from *his* perspective” (Col. 3:1-2, *The Message*).



The Mind Set On The Spirit

- “For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace” (Rom. 8:5-6).
- “The kind of food our minds devour will determine the kind of person we become” (John Stott).



Concluding Thoughts: Francis A. Schaeffer

- “God thinks, and then God brings forth into the external world that he had originally created out of nothing; we think, and we bring into the external world.”
- “My body is the bridge into the external world.”
- “So this is where true spirituality in the Christian life rests: in the realm of my thought-life.”
- The real battle for men and women is in the area of ideas.
- “The spiritual battle, the loss of victory, is always in the thought-world.”