

The Modern Secular (Anti-theistic) Worldview

A worldview is a set of presuppositions, assumptions or beliefs about the world we live in, encompassing most of the areas of life. Everyone holds some kind of worldview to understand life, although very few are ever conscious of it. Even fewer deliberately change it. Remarkably, most modern unbelievers, especially those who've been university-educated, seem to possess the very same worldview. It's not the old liberal/secular worldview that derived from the Enlightenment. Let me try to describe what's currently seizing the Western world.

I shall begin with Lenin. Lenin's vision, that is, the communist vision, is Marxism plus aggressive anti-morality. In his worldview, "class struggle" had priority over all other values and considerations. What that means is, the old society with all that it included had to be destroyed, utterly annihilated, in order to build a new, ideal society. So lies and deceptions, murder, stealing, whatever it required, were necessary to realize that goal. Terror even was an absolutely necessary strategy. The end justified the means, after all. Lenin had contempt for the ethical norms of the old society. He also lusted for power. Total power. And that meant controlling not just the lives but even the thoughts of everyone. Leaders would have to be trained to enforce his worldview, and they would have to do that ruthlessly so that the State could have total, absolute priority over the lives of all persons. Everyone was to identify with the whole, with the State; there was to be no possibility of individualism (which was regarded as nothing but selfishness). If people suffered under this rule for the sake of the State, that's OK; and the suffering might have to be forever; suffering bonds people together. The powerful, all-encompassing, all authoritative State alone had the ability to transform society into the new Utopia. Free enterprise and free markets are anathema because they are based on and foster greed. Compassion, kindness, tolerance of others, obsession with truth and law and order, and other such "Christian" values, are also despised because they are based on "superstitious religious impulses." And they violated the laws of Darwinian evolution: struggle, eat or be eaten. The rationale for Lenin's vision was Hegel's dialectic, which is that history inexorably moves toward this Utopian new society, and it was therefore proper for mankind to align with history and help bring it to fruition.

In today's Western universities, Leninism (not just Marxism) is taught as the ideal worldview. Graduates are expected not merely to agree with it but to expend their lives promoting it. And they seem to have embraced the vision, a society unencumbered by Christian values and beliefs, ordered according to humanistic ideals and human wisdom. And they have an overweening sense of virtue for holding to such a vision. It's a project that's for the good of all people. If violence is needed to establish such a grand vision, that's acceptable. If the world's population needs to be deliberately diminished to make the vision work, so be it.

Not all unbelievers hold to such a radical worldview but, to the extent they don't, they expose themselves to pain inflicted by those who are radical. Orthodox beliefs are mandatory. Few unbelievers have the courage to resist the movement. And, Why should they? It's clearly the future of the world, as Hegel argued. Hardly anyone dares to analyze the new worldview because of the painful consequences and because the new worldview is immune to rational analysis or debate; to question it is to employ the methods of the hated old society. Marxism is a failed philosophy of economics. Almost everyone realizes that. So to keep Marxism viable, it has to be *morally* necessary. It's the moral basis of Marxism that makes it so appealing to young people and especially to intellectuals: it eschews greed and selfishness for the good of society. Fabian Marxists seek to bring in the new society gradually by taking control of the government and all the institutions of a nation, and by sabotaging Christian morality (thus the "culture wars"). In other words, socialism by transformation. Leninists scoff at such an approach, saying only by force can the old society be obliterated and replaced with the new. By either route, socialism is the future. (Donald Trump won't, and can't, change it.) But, yes, there are unbelievers who persist in holding to the old liberal worldview in the tradition of Ralph Waldo Emerson, but they have no interest in Christ and when the radicals seek to extirpate Christianity from our nation, they won't complain.

Can we identify the central issue in this new worldview? It appears to be a false religion, the worship of the State, where the State substitutes for God's sovereign rule. Although that's a valid assessment, it's peripheral. What's central is this: The Western world has too much Christianity. The Christian influence, that is, the Bible's values, have served for too long as the basis for civilization. Therefore, Christianity and its deeply embedded set of ideals, values and beliefs must be extirpated, all of it. Why? So that the spirit of pagan Rome, indeed, that of Babylon, alone can be fully expressed.

It seems that God is allowing this pagan, God-despising worldview to grip our nation. We are, after all, still on the statue of Daniel Chapter 2. The worldview the statue represents needs to be made a palpable reality. And unbelievers need to be made fully culpable for the coming judgment, which has never been more imminent. What should we believers do?

Let's first understand the darkness descending on America. The elites of our professional class and the young generation about to take over our nation are not like the people we knew growing up. They really believe that we have too much freedom, too much food, and too much prosperity. We use too much electricity and too much gasoline. We fly around on airplanes too much. We need to ration all these things, and more. We have too much money to spend. We should live in city apartments and walk or bike to work. And we should submit to government regulations because the people in those agencies know what's best for us. They have no tolerance for Republicans or for whatever policies conservatives embrace. If we have to have elections, they see no problem with deliberately rigging it to prevent reactionaries from getting into office. These are people whose minds have been totally washed of all respect for others; they are narcissists. They have no concept of anything supernatural. There's no such thing as sin, for example. There's no existence after death. There's no God. There's no accountability for how we live. There's no way an election, even if it weren't rigged, can reverse any of this. They are often nice people but they are unable to think clearly because of sin. Yes, there are those who repudiate the above, who believe in God and hold biblical values. But they're powerless to change our nation. Prayer for revival is a false hope because it seems so clearly to be God who is doing all this to America.

We don't want to dispute unbelievers' values or ideals. That's not productive and anyway they won't even listen. Indeed, the beliefs and presuppositions they base their worldview on can be shown to be false, but the issue ultimately is, What will they do with Jesus. So that should be our focus, our *only* focus. If they attack us, however, we have compelling responses. Here are a few examples: (a) They prize equality and despise inequality; yet to honor someone or to have compassion on someone inherently acknowledges inequality; and it is certainly moral to honor those who are worthy, and to have compassion on those in such need. Morality demands the acknowledgment of intrinsic inequality in our world, and to deny morality is to deny our humanity. (b) If they allege white people are all bigots, they need to be challenged to prove that assertion, because there isn't any. It's empty assertion. (c) Likewise, when they allege there is no God, they need to be challenged to prove that claim, because it's really just a vain (and foolish) desire. No one can prove a negative. (d) And when they allege (and sooner or later they will) that America is inherently evil because it's prosperous and prosperity only comes by exploiting the weak and vulnerable, we must turn the tables on them and point out that exploitation and oppression are due to human sin, and only God is able to deal with that, and has already done so in the Person of Jesus. (e) Finally this: When they state that there's no such thing as truth, simply ask, "How do you know? And hey, isn't what you've just stated something you believe to be a truth?"

So believers can only do one thing: be faithful to Jesus in carrying out His commission in the time that remains. But no longer can we simply hand out an inexpensive tract containing the "Four Spiritual Laws," or others like it, 100 hundred words or so in small print. That kind of outreach assumed that people already knew some basic spiritual truths. That was then. People today know nothing of the sort. The need is for outreach like Paul did at Athens in Acts 17. We have to start with basics. God exists. (Yes, evolution can be shown to be a flim-flam, but something plain and brief such as the metamorphosis of caterpillars into butterflies is sufficient to contradict Darwinism.) God has revealed in Scripture what He is like, what He has done, and what He has willed for us. We assert the deity of Jesus. And the resurrection of Jesus is the historical proof that it all has to be true. We then can easily stand prayerfully on the sidewalks and, in love, hand out carefully reasoned and well written literature explaining all this. As at Athens, most will sneer, but some, those whom God has elected, will respond either with faith or by pursuing the Gospel further. Doing nothing but voting on election day is not an option.

Dear reader, we cannot be passive about Jesus. If we're born again and in love with Him, we'll pursue with commitment and zeal the outreach He's commanded us to do. The world we've known is collapsing before our eyes, and in the immediate future we may see even worse. The era of comfortable, safe, easy Christianity is gone, as soon will be painfully evident. There's never been a time quite like this, and what it demands of us is action that puts to shame that of the anti-theistic activists already out on the sidewalks. Jesus is worth it!