

***Christian Worldview: A Student's Guide*, by Philip Graham Ryken**
Westminster Book of the Month
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"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." – 1 Cor 10:31

"... the Christian worldview is at one and the same time brutally honest about the troubles of life and unfailingly hopeful about what God will do." – Philip Ryken

I. Introduction

II. Who is Philip Ryken?

- A. The 8th president of Wheaton College, in Wheaton, IL.
- B. Senior pastor at Philadelphia's historic Tenth Presbyterian Church from 1995 until 2010.

III. What is a Worldview?

A. Phil Ryken

- 1. *"Everybody has a worldview. Whether we know it or not, we all have a fundamental perspective on the world that shapes the way we live."* (17)
- 2. *"A worldview—or 'world-and-life view,' as some people call it—is the structure of understanding that we use to make sense of our world. Our worldview is what we presuppose. It is our way of looking at life, our interpretation of the universe, our orientation to reality."* (19)

B. Cornelius Van Til

- 1. *"[E]very sinner looks through colored glasses. And these colored glasses are cemented to his face ... He assumes that consciousness of facts is intelligible without consciousness of God. He assumes that consciousness of laws is intelligible without God. And he interprets all the facts and all the laws that are presented to him in terms of these assumptions. This is not to forget that he also, according to the old man within him, knows that God exists. But as a covenant breaker he seeks to suppress this."*¹
- 2. **Rom 1:18–20** – *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."*

¹ Cornelius Van Til, [*The Defense of the Faith*](#) (The Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company: Philadelphia, 1955), 260.

IV. Basics of a Christian Worldview (E)

A. Creation – “The Way We Were” (Ch. 3)

1. **Gen 1:1** – *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”*
2. Ryken: *“We are culturally and historically situated, and thus we bear many of the limitations of our own time and place ... God himself does not have the same limitation, however ... he has the complete view. And because he has revealed himself, we can see things from his vantage point—not perfectly yet truly. All truth is God’s truth. That is whatever things are true are things that God knows to be true, wherever we find them.”* (43)

B. Fall – “Paradise Lost” (Ch. 4)

1. **Rom 5:12** – *“... sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin ...”*
2. *“God’s reflection in us has become distorted like a face in a carnival mirror. Such is our depravity that every part of every person is warped by sin. Sin corrupts our hearts so that we set our affections on unholy desires. It corrupts our feelings so that we are in emotional turmoil. It corrupts our wills so that we will not choose the good. Our whole nature is corrupted by sin.”* (66)

C. Redemption – “A Work in Progress” (Ch. 5)

1. **Gal 4:4–5** – *“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”*
 - a) Christ has inaugurated the new creation!
 - (1) WLC 39 – Q. 39. *Why was it requisite that the mediator should be man?*
A. It was requisite that the mediator should be man, *that he might advance our nature, perform obedience to the law, suffer and make intercession for us in our nature ...*
 - b) We can work out the implications of our heavenly citizenship today!
 - (1) Ryken: *“Now we are able to pursue science within the constraints of holy wisdom and business within the bonds of charity, producing goods, creating value, and earning profit for the benefit of other people. We are able to sing, sculpt, play music, and produce films to the glory of God, being realistic about the pain and ugliness of fallen humanity while at the same time remaining joyful in the hope and beauty of redemption.”* (89)

D. Consummation – “Paradise Consummated” (Ch. 6)

1. **Rev 21:5** – *“And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’”*

V. Conclusion: The Practical Benefits of a Christian Worldview