

# CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW: A STUDENT'S GUIDE

By Philip Graham Ryken

Book of the Month

R. Carlton Wynne

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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# — OUTLINE



I. Who is Philip Ryken?

II. What is a “Worldview”?

III. Basics of a Christian Worldview

IV. Practical Benefits of a Christian Worldview

# I. Who is Philip Ryken?

- **Eighth President of Wheaton College, in Wheaton, IL.**
- **Former senior pastor at historic Tenth Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Philadelphia.**
- **M. Div. from Westminster Theological Seminary, Ph.D. from Oxford University**





## II. What is a “Worldview”?

- “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)



RECLAIMING THE  
CHRISTIAN INTELLECTUAL TRADITION

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WORLDVIEW**  
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## II. What is a “Worldview”?

- “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)
- “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)



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## — II. What is a “Worldview”?

- Where did everything come from? Who am I? (origins/identity)
- What is the fundamental problem in the world? (good/evil)
- How can I find deliverance, the meaning of life? (purpose)
- What happens when we die? Is there an afterlife? (death)
- How do we know anything? What is truth? (epistemology)
- What is the nature of reality? (metaphysics)
- How should we live? (ethics)



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# CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

“The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof ...”

– Psalm 24:1

## — II. What is a “Worldview”?

*Is a **Fetus** a Person?  
An Anti-Abortion  
Strategy Says Yes.*

Fetal personhood, which confers legal rights from conception, is an effort to push beyond abortion bans and classify the procedure as murder. In Georgia, it also means a \$3,000 tax credit.



*Undocumented  
Women Ask: Will  
My **Unborn Child** Be  
a Citizen?*

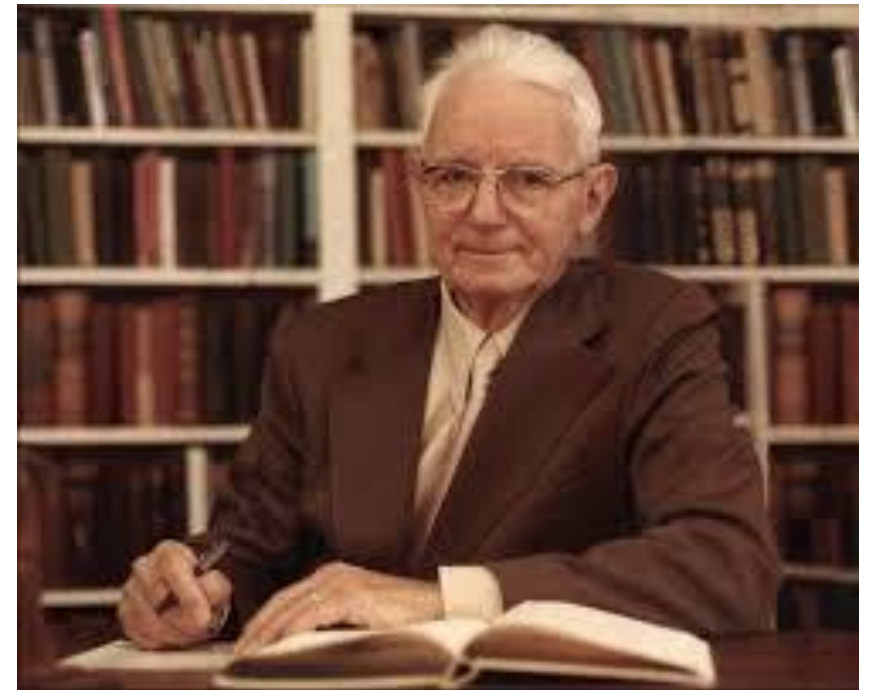
President Trump's executive order seeking to end birthright citizenship is already facing lawsuits, but that has been little comfort to women who expect to give birth after the order goes into effect.



## II. What is a “Worldview”?

**“[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.”**

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*“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.**”*<sup>19</sup> *For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.*<sup>20</sup> *... So they are without excuse.*<sup>21</sup> ***For although they knew God,*** *they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him ...”*

– Romans 1:18–21

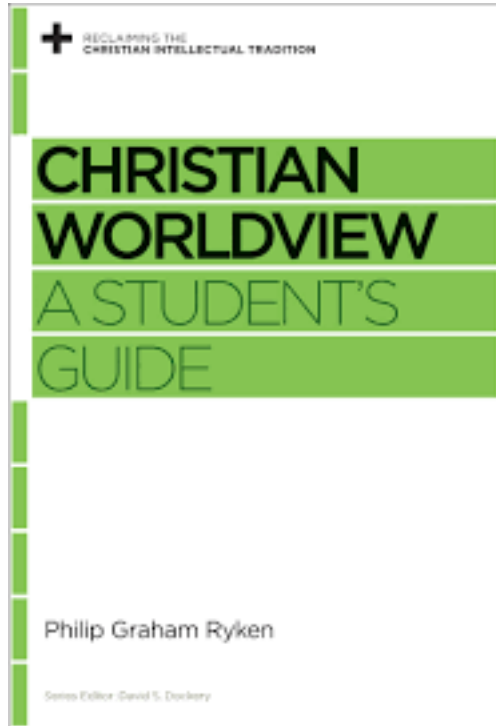


## II. What is a “Worldview”?

*“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**” – 1 Corinthians 10:31*

***“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,** that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” – Romans 12:2*

# III. Basics of a Christian Worldview

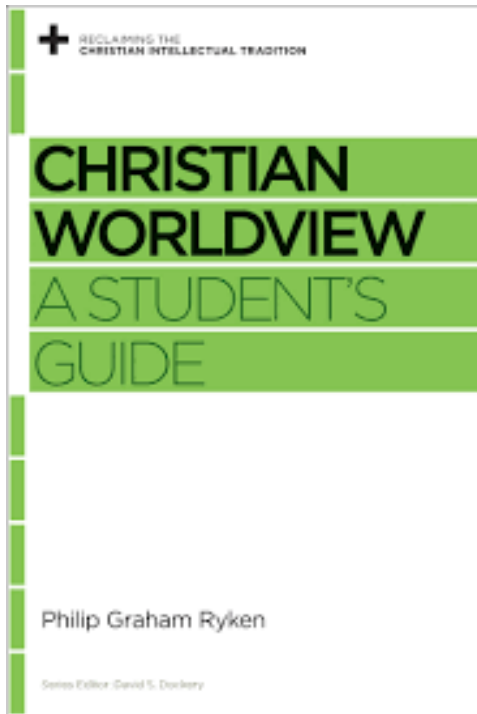


- Ch. 3 – “The Way We Were” (CREATION)
- Ch. 4 – “Paradise Lost” (FALL)
- Ch. 5 – “A Work in Progress” (REDEMPTION)
- Ch. 6 – “Paradise Consummated” (CONSUMMATION)



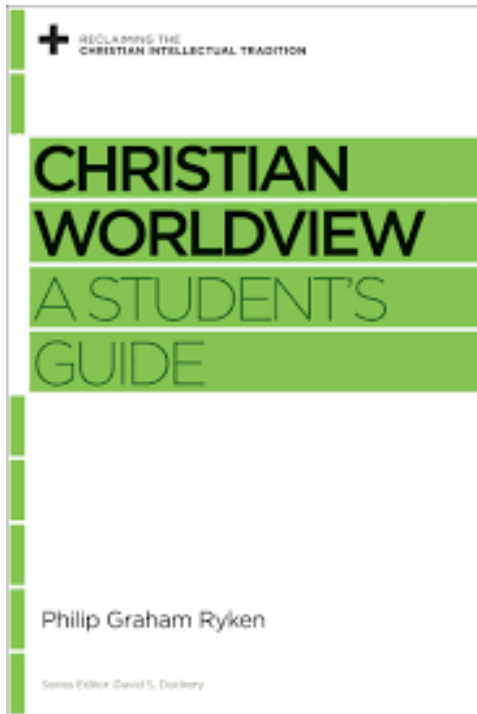


# III. Basics of a Christian Worldview: CREATION



- GOD CREATED
  - **Gen 1:1** – “In the beginning, **God created the heavens and the earth.**”
- GOD HAS SPOKEN
  - **Ps 19:1–2** – “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. <sup>2</sup> Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.” (General Revelation)
  - **Heb 1:1–2** – “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, **God spoke to our fathers** by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but **in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son ...**” (Special Revelation)

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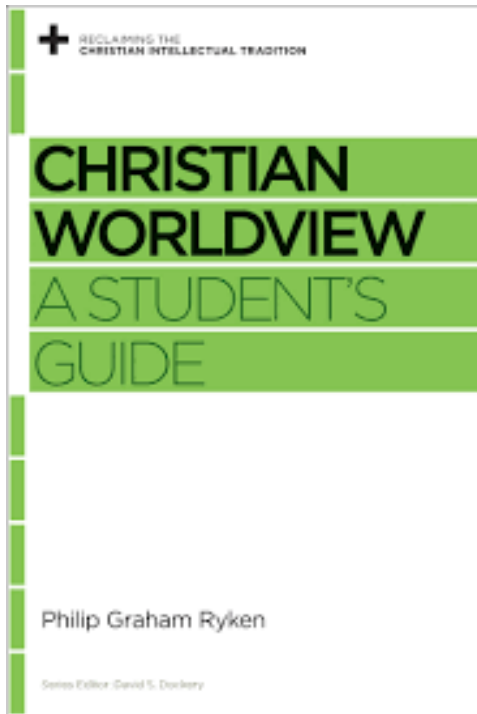
## - GOD HAS SPOKEN

- **Ps 19:1-2** – “The heavens declare **the glory of God**...”

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| • <b>Human sexuality</b>      | (Made by God, designed for our good!)               |
| • <b>Marriage/singleness</b>  | (Reflective of our covenant relationship with God!) |
| • <b>Community/friendship</b> | (God is triune, we are relational, too!)            |
| • <b>Culture-making</b>       | (God formed/filled the world – we do the same!)     |
| • <b>Art/Music/Science</b>    | (We can discover things about the world!)           |
| • <b>Work/Rest/Leisure</b>    | (Work not a curse, but reflective of God’s work!)   |
| • <b>Church/Worship</b>       | (We remember where all of this is heading!)         |

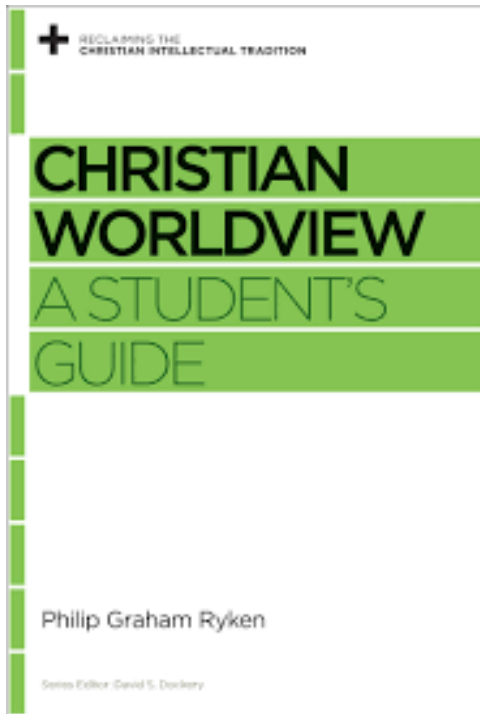


# III. Basics of a Christian Worldview: FALL



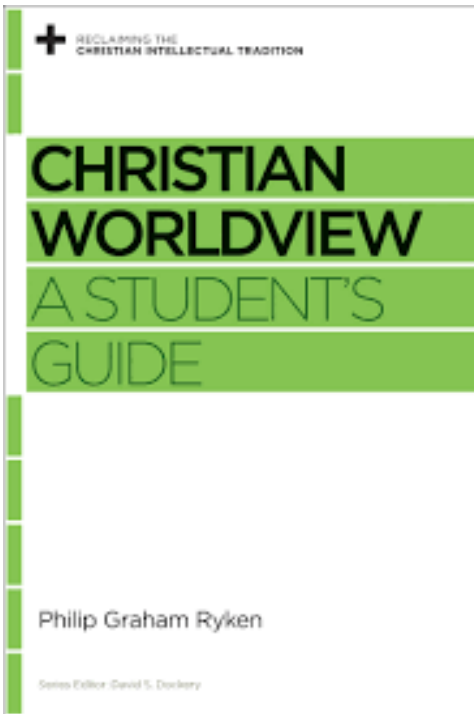
- Mankind fell in and with Adam
  - **Rom 5:12** – “... **sin came into the world through one man**, and death through sin ...”
- Sin and death bring cosmic consequences
  - **Rom 8:22** – “... **the whole creation has been groaning** together in the pains of childbirth until now.”

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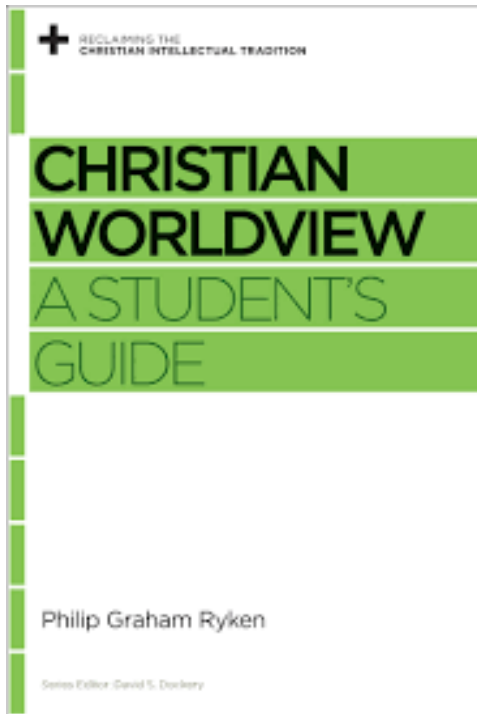
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- **Human sexuality** (Exploited and broken, lust, deceit, manipulation)
- **Marriage/singleness** (Estrangement in the home, with children)
- **Community/friendship** (Armed conflict, genocides, natural disasters)
- **Culture-making** (Selfishness, famine, poverty, purposelessness)
- **Art/Music/Science** (Sin and depravity indulged, pain, genocide)
- **Work/Rest/Leisure** (Workaholism, stealing, slavery, aimlessness)
- **Church/Worship** (Creature-worship, hatred of God, idolatry)

# III. Basics of a Christian Worldview: REDEMPTION



- God redemptively intruded through Jesus Christ
  - **1 Cor 8:6** – “... there is ... **one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.**”
  - **Gal 4:4–5** – “But when the fullness of time had come, **God sent forth his Son**, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> **to redeem those who were under the law**, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”

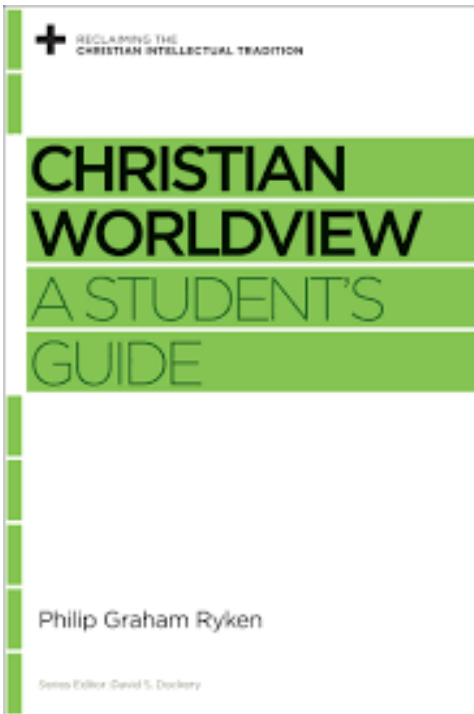
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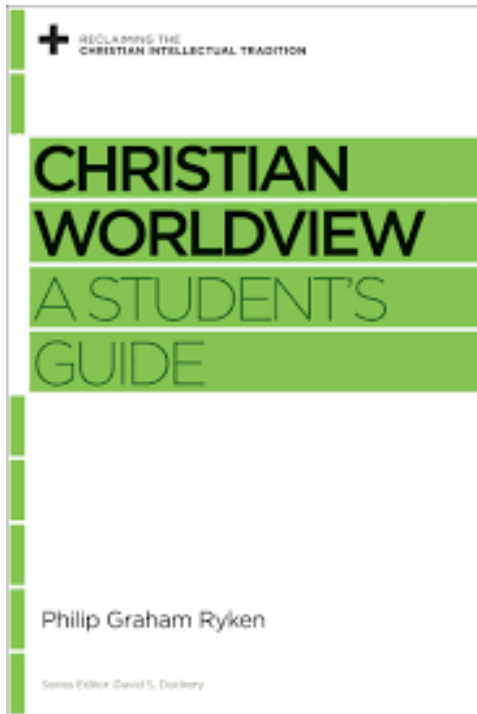


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- Phil 3:20–21 – “But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> **who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body**, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”

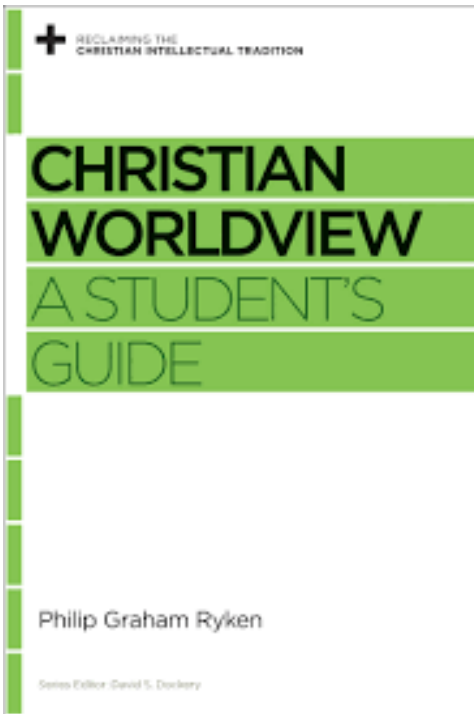
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*“Now we are able to pursue science within the constraints of holy wisdom and business within the bonds of charity, producing goods, creating value, and earning profit for the benefit of other people. **We are able to sing, sculpt, play music, and 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)*

# III. Basics of a Christian Worldview: REDEMPTION

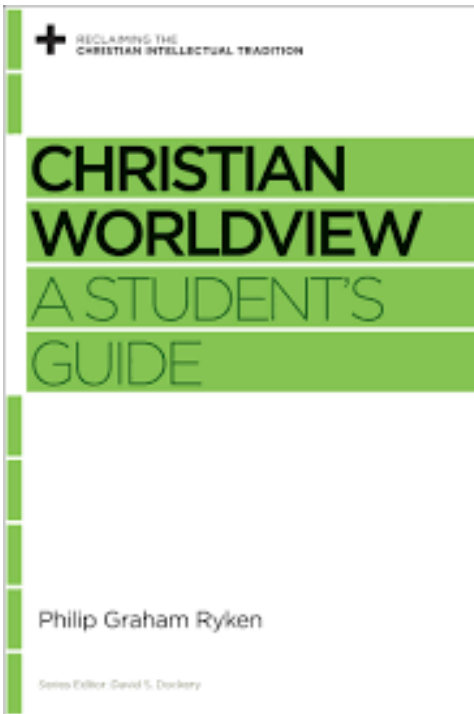


*“Though fallen, every dimension of human experience is redeemable, and **our calling as Christians is part of God’s redemptive work in the world.**”* (86)

*“**This is all part of God’s gracious, redeeming work in the world**—the building of the kingdom of God.”* (89)

*“As the church of Christ **we participate in his redeeming work** by fulfilling the Great Commission and the cultural mandate, thereby working out the implications of God’s grace in all of life.”* (89)

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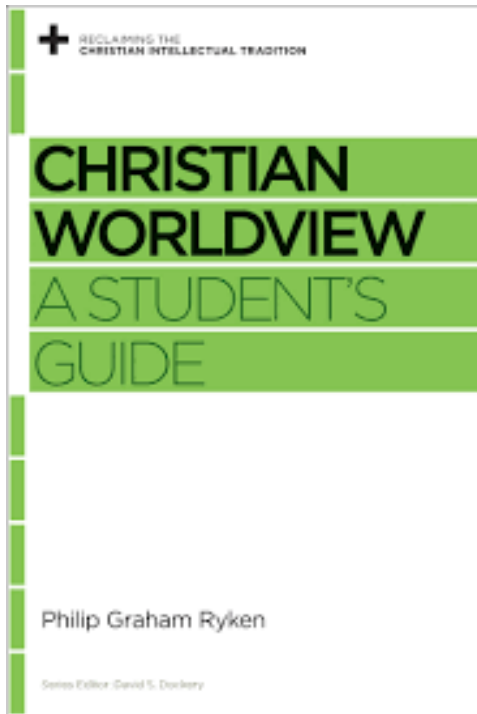
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**BETTER: We work out the implications of our redemption in Christ in every area of life!**



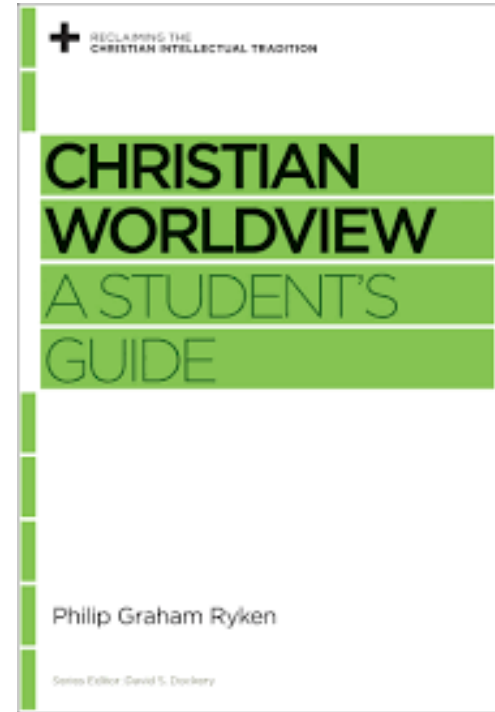
# III. Basics of a Christian Worldview: CONSUMMATION



- We live now between the “already” of belonging to Christ’s kingdom and the “not yet” of His final renewal of all things.
  - **Rom 8:23** – *“And not only the creation, but we ourselves, **who have the firstfruits of the Spirit**, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”*
  - **Rev 21:2** – *“**And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God**, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”*

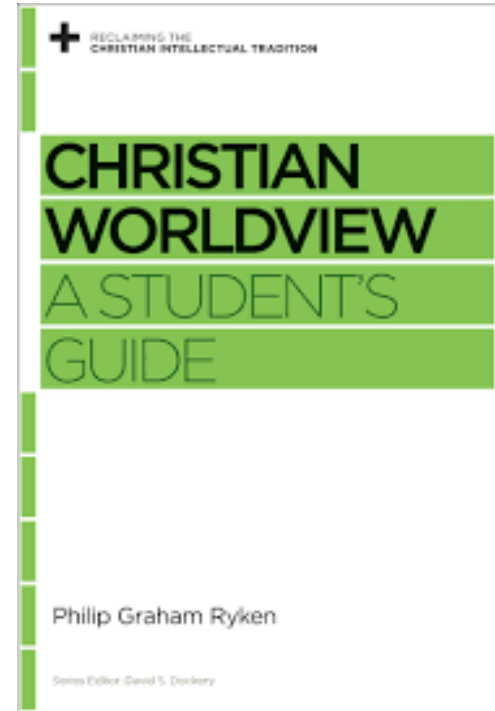
*“Sin does not have the last word, because **we live in the hope of coming glory—the happiest of all endings.**” (91).*

# — IV. Benefits of a Christian Worldview



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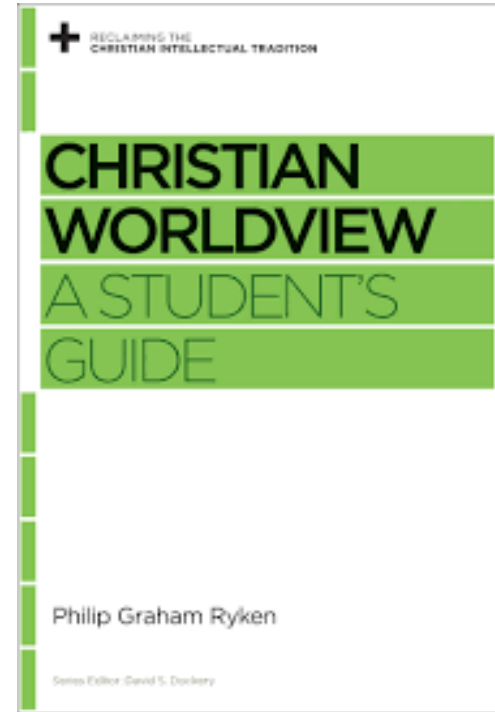
(1) It gives us UNDERSTANDING



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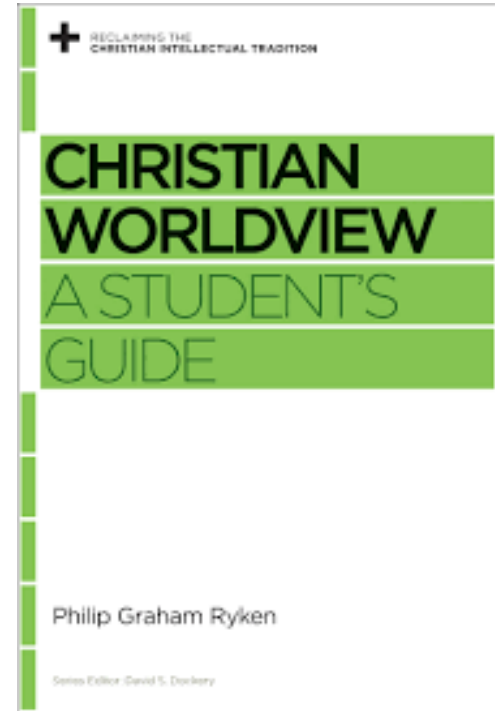


# IV. Benefits of a Christian Worldview

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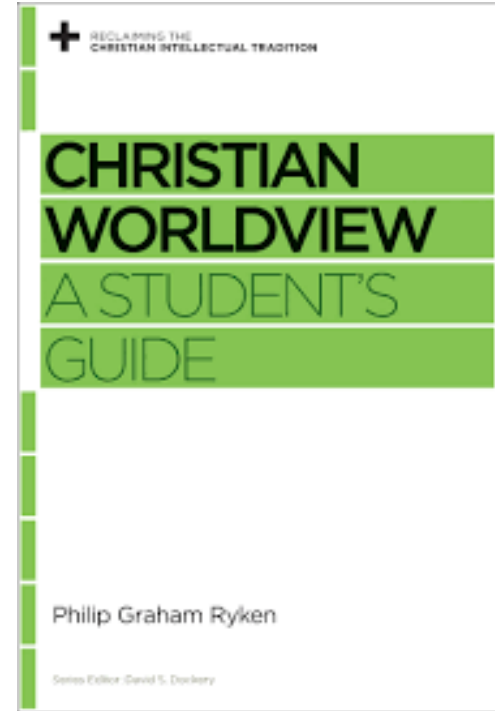
(2) It equips us to make a DEFENSE

- **1 Pet 3:15** – “... in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense** to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect ...”



# IV. Benefits of a Christian Worldview

- (1) It gives us UNDERSTANDING
- (2) It equips us to make a DEFENSE
- (3) It reminds us of our PURPOSE



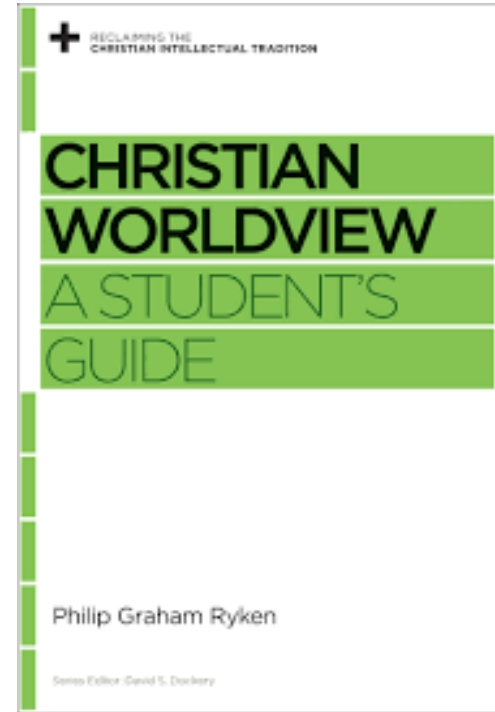
***“There is not a square inch*** in the whole domain of our human existence ***over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!”***

– Abraham Kuyper



# IV. Benefits of a Christian Worldview

- (1) It gives us UNDERSTANDING
- (2) It equips us to make a DEFENSE
- (3) It reminds us of our PURPOSE
- (4) It affords us HOPE



- **Rev 22:20–21** – *“He who testifies to these things says, ‘**Surely I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**”*

*<sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.”*

