

“Think on these things”

Do I really believe this - if not why not? Do I need to change the way I see the God, the world and myself? How would my ambitions and actions change if I really believed this?

Big issue Genesis is teaching us about	The World’s Foundational Myths	God’s Foundational Truths	Implications for our Thinking and Lives?
God	<p>There is no Creator who needs to be acknowledged or obeyed. We can do what we want. →</p> <p>If God is there He’s impersonal, inactive, impotent and probably rather grumpy. →</p>	<p>God has made the world and us and has the right to rule us. (ch1v1, 1v27, 2v16-17) →</p> <p>God is very relational, loving, powerful, gracious, creative and extravagantly generous.(1v26-31,2v9-25,6v17-18,7v16) →</p>	<p>Turn from trying to ignore Him. Acknowledge, listen to and obey Him. Have a right fear and reverence of Him. (4v28, 5v24)</p> <p>He made us to know Him, so get to know Him! And love, awe, wonder and praise for Him will flow. What will it mean to revolve our ambitions and diaries around this aim.</p>
Humanity and our life on earth	<p>We’re random sacks of atoms, no better than animals. Some people are better than others because of their abilities, status, beauty, race, gender etc. →</p> <p>We are free agents, able to fashion our identity and purpose. Our careers and relationships, achievements, etc can fulfil us →</p> <p>If God is real, He’s probably quite pleased with us because we’re pretty decent. Therefore He should give us the perfect career, partner, family, etc. →</p>	<p>We’re designed by God, in His image. Every person, from the Queen to the lowliest hedge fund manager is created equal, in God’s image. (1v27) →</p> <p>We are creatures made to know and serve God. Work, relationships, etc are good gifts – but only eternal ‘rest’ with the Giver satisfies. (2.1-3) →</p> <p>We’re sinful and cannot please God outside of new birth in Christ. Life in this world now is cursed and all relationships, work, →</p>	<p>Turn from worldly assessments of ourselves and others. Value each human life, regardless of the worldly labels attached. Treasure the dignity of each human life and the beauty of this view compared to the shallowness of worldly values.</p> <p>Get clear on God’s purpose for us. Give thanks for His good gifts (work, etc) but don’t run after the gifts instead of the giver. Treasure relationship with Him above all else.</p> <p>Expect hardship in this life and be clear that God hasn’t promised His children and easy ride – pain is not a sign that He doesn’t love us. Have the right</p>

		etc are going to be difficult and frustrating. (3.13-19)	expectations of work, relationships, etc. Turn from trying to find lasting satisfaction in this world. Be ambitious for work for the Lord which produces fruit of eternal value.
Sin and judgment	<p>If there is such a thing as sin, then it isn't serious.</p> <p>If God is there, he won't mind, he'll turn a blind eye.</p> <p>We're generally good and evil is just an aberration, moment of weakness, etc.</p> <p>We're naturally good and therefore if we feel like doing something that must be right.</p> <p>The problems of the world are caused by other people; or lack of education; religion, poverty, etc.</p> <p>It's ok to ignore death and act as though we'll live for ever. And if heaven happens to be there, we reckon God will let us in.</p>	<p>Sin comes when we doubt God's Word, God's goodness and seek to overthrow His right to rule. (3v1-6)</p> <p>God takes it seriously, the present judgement shows us that and the flood shows us very dramatically. (3v13-24,6v11-13)</p> <p>Our hearts' intentions are always evil so that explains the evil in the world (6v5 & 8v21)</p> <p>We may not be Hitler, but all of us contribute to the problems of the world because all of us are sinful. (6v11-12)</p> <p>Every human dies, every human will face judgement. We need God's mercy if we're to enter heaven - we're not entitled to it. (3v22-24 & ch5v6-31)</p>	<p>Understand the true nature of sin - what we say and do is the tip of the iceberg. What we believe, trust, listen to, and live for is the heart of it.</p> <p>Get right with God, while we have a chance and help others do the same</p> <p>Don't trust our feelings. Our hearts aren't trustworthy in defining what is good and bad. We need God's Word</p> <p>Understand the root and scale of the global pandemic of sin. Don't kid ourselves that it's nothing to do with us. Repent of our sin.</p> <p>Don't buy the lie and chase worldly success, comfort now, ignoring God. Trust in Christ to face life, death and judgement with utter confidence and assurance.</p>

<p>Solutions to the world's problem</p>	<p>We can work our way out of the problems of this life. </p> <p>God has washed His hands of the world, or is wringing His hands, unable to do anything about the terrible state it's in. </p>	<p>Human progress and human systems – including religion – are dead ends. Even a 'clean slate' after the flood didn't solve the problem of man's sinful heart and just judgment. (ch4 & 8v21) </p> <p>God will deal with the problem of evil through just judgement, but also because of His love and mercy provides a rescue to enjoy a new world through a righteous one. </p>	<p>Love our neighbour and our fellow man. But don't pour our energies and hopes in human solutions – on the personal level or wider lever. Don't set our hope on politicians, progress, our lifestyle, our pension pot, etc to deal with the problems of the world. They will not make us right with a holy God and change the human heart, only Jesus can. Line up with God's eternal plan to deal with sin through Christ.</p> <p>Come to terms with the need for judgement to achieve a new world free of evil. Praise God! He has made a way out of the darkness of this world to a new creation through the ultimate righteous one – Jesus Christ. Grasp it with both hands and make sure others know what's on offer through Jesus is not moral improvement but a total fix that is not available anywhere else.</p>
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