



Paul Chappell
and Larry Chappell

Avoiding Confusion

Interpret Cultural Issues through a
Biblical Worldview

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Special emphasis in verses is added.

First published in 2021 by Striving Together Publications, a ministry of Lancaster Baptist Church, Lancaster, CA 93535. Striving Together Publications is committed to providing tried, trusted, and proven books that will further equip local churches to carry out the Great Commission. Your comments and suggestions are valued.

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Striving Together Publications
4020 E. Lancaster Blvd.
Lancaster, CA 93535
800.201.7748

Cover design by Andrew Jones
Research and writing assistance by Katharine Bass, Robert Byers, and Zachary Glenning

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ISBN 978-1-59894-455-6

ISBN 978-1-59894-456-3 (ebook)

Printed in the United States of America



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How to Use This Bible Curriculum

Avoiding Confusion is designed to provide sound biblical truth in a socially-relevant context for high school Bible classes. It is meant to be flexible, allowing you to adapt the content to your specific setting and schedule. And, it is meant to be engaging, allowing students to discuss, question, and dig deeply into understanding and applying biblical truth.

Each lesson is written to combine lecture, discussion, student application, and review. Memory verses are provided to help students hide God's Word in their heart. Quiz questions and extension assignments at the end of each unit provide additional material for you to assess students' comprehension and retention and give you material to help students in the practical application of truth.

SUGGESTED SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

Although this curriculum is adaptable to a variety of needs, it is suggested to be taught throughout one semester, broken into eighteen weeks.

The scope and sequence below is a recommendation for how to use the content on a four-class-per-week basis with the assumption of one chapel per week. If your Bible class meets more or less often, you may choose to alter this plan to your setting.

Below is a suggested semester overview, followed by a suggested weekly overview.

Semester Overview

Week	Main Content	Memory Verses	Assessment
1	Unit 1—The Cornerstone of Life	Ephesians 2:19–22	Extension Exercise 1
2	Unit 2—The Existence of God	Romans 1:20–23	Extension Exercise 2
3	Unit 3—The Reliability of the Bible	2 Timothy 3:15–17	Extension Exercise 3
4	Review: Units 1–3	Review memory verses 1–3	Content Quiz 1* Memory Verse Quiz 1
5	Unit 4—The Deity of Jesus	John 1:1–4	Extension Exercise 4
6	Unit 5—The Biblical Account of Creation	Genesis 1:1–3	Extension Exercise 5
7	Unit 6—The Sanctity of Life	Psalm 139:13–15	Extension Exercise 6

8	Review: Units 1–6	Review memory verses 1–6	Content Quiz 2 Memory Verse Quiz 2 Exam 1*
9	Unit 7—The Presence of Evil in the World	Romans 8:18, 22–23	Extension Exercise 7
10	Unit 8—The Distinctiveness of Gender and Marriage	Genesis 1:27–28	Extension Exercise 8
11	Unit 9—The Biblical Position against Racism	James 2:8–9	Extension Exercise 9
12	Review: Units 7–9	Review memory verses 7–9	Content Quiz 3 Memory Verse Quiz 3
13	Unit 10—The Biblical Understanding of Justice	Isaiah 59:14–15	Extension Exercise 10
14	Unit 11—The Biblical Practice of Justice	Micah 6:7–8	Extension Exercise 11
15	Unit 12—The Essential Nature of the Local Church	1 Timothy 3:15–16	Extension Exercise 12
16	Unit 13—The Blessing of Christian Education	Psalms 1:1–3	Extension Exercise 13
17	Review: Units 7–13	Review memory verses 1–6	Content Quiz 4 Memory Verse Quiz 4
18	Review, Assessment, Project	Review memory verses 7–13	Exam 2

*Each content quiz should be given over the previous three or four units. Prepared quizzes are available on the companion download mentioned below, or teachers may compile their own from the assessment questions printed at the end of each unit in this book.

Weekly Overview

Although this curriculum is easily-adaptable to your school's schedule, the suggested teaching schedules below are assuming a four-day-per-week Bible class schedule.

Instruction Weeks

The following is a sample of week 1. Some units have additional discussion questions. Feel free to divide each unit's content however works best for your setting.

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Unit 1—Introduction and Point 1 Discussion Question 1	Unit 1—Point 2 Discussion Question 2	Unit 1—Point 3 Discussion Question 3	Extension Exercise 1

Review Weeks

The following is a sample of week 4.

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Review Unit 1, Points 1–3	Review Unit 2, Points 1–3	Review Unit 3, Points 1–3	Assessments Question and Answer*

*Because of the life significance of this curriculum, there is value to allowing the students a few times throughout the semester to anonymously submit questions. You can do this with a stack of index cards and a designated location to submit, or by setting up a form on Google Drive to submit questions.

Encouraging questions throughout each three-week period allows the teacher time to review the questions and prepare a thorough answer to each. You may want to give a cut off date (perhaps day 2 of review weeks) for questions to be submitted. The teacher would then read the questions and provide answers on the final day of each review week.

GRADING

It is recommended to weigh your grades in three sections:

- Assignments: 40%
- Memory Verse and Content Quizzes: 35%
- Exams and Projects: 25%

COMPANION DOWNLOAD

There is a companion download for this curriculum available for purchase. This download includes the following:

- **Presentation Slides:** These presentations provide visual support for each lesson and include slides for main points and subpoints of each lesson as well as graphics for added interest throughout each lesson. The available slides are noted in the teaching text.
- **Quizzes:** The quizzes found at the end of each unit are available on the download in an editable document for you to adjust and print for your class. Additionally, there are four content quizzes that cover the previous three or four units. There are also memory verse quizzes available for print.
- **Exams:** If using the scope and sequence above, you will have two exams. The download includes two prepared exams created from the questions of the previous quizzes.



01 UNIT 1

The Cornerstone of Life

OVERVIEW

Everyone has a worldview—a paradigm through which one sees the world. But not everyone’s worldview is accurate. Worldviews that are based on unbiblical philosophies skew the truth and create confusion. God offers us the only worldview that is completely faultless. His truth brings clarity to confusing topics. In today’s study, we learn that when we build our lives on the cornerstone of Christ and allow His Word to shape our worldview, we can stand strong through the storms of doubt and confusion.

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students should be able to

1. Explain the necessity of being centered around the true Cornerstone.
2. Defend the importance of Christ and the Bible as our foundation for settling a Christian’s beliefs.
3. Critique the rejection of Christ prevalent in today’s culture.

OUTLINE

1. The Reliability of the Cornerstone

- A. For Identity
- B. For Unity
- C. For Direction

2. The Revelation of the Cornerstone

- A. The Identity of the Foundation
- B. The Identity of the Cornerstone

3. The Rejection of the Cornerstone

- A. Rejected in History
- B. Rejected in Our Day

UNIT 1

THE CORNERSTONE OF LIFE

Ephesians 2:19–22

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Introduction

Slide Lesson Title

There is much conversation in our world today regarding significant issues such as the origin of life, the existence of God, the reliability of the Bible, and many similar topics. The conflicting ideas surrounding these topics can easily cause confusion in the hearts and minds of those who are seeking truth.

One thing that immediately becomes clear in discussions over significant topics is that the worldview or paradigm with which one approaches any issue shapes how he or she sees the available information related to that issue.

Everyone who needs glasses or contacts understands the difference between their vision when wearing corrective lenses or not wearing them. If your

vision is blurry or distorted, when you put glasses on, everything looks different—clearer and truer to reality. In this series, we are going to use God’s Word as a lens through which to look at the important issues of our day. We want to see the world as Jesus does.

Teaching Suggestion

If you wear glasses, you can take them on and off as you describe the difference corrective lenses make. Or, before your group meets, you could ask a group member who needs them if he or she is comfortable describing the clarity glasses bring.

This is why it is so important that we, as Christians, develop a biblical worldview as we approach the various topics of life.

Slide Ancient Cornerstone

One way we can understand the importance of a biblical worldview is to think in terms of a foundation, and specifically, the cornerstone of the foundation. In New Testament times, a cornerstone was the foundation stone that was laid first and against which the rest of the foundation was laid. The cornerstone was the biggest stone in the foundation. It was unmovable once it was set in place.

Slide Life Fits Together

When Jesus is your cornerstone, life fits together the way God intended.

In fact, when you consider the various topics that we will look at throughout this study series—topics such as the presence of evil, social justice, the role of marriage, the significance of gender, and more—you see them differently than the world does when you begin with the foundational truths of God’s Word.

For instance, the Bible tells us the following is true:

- You are made in the image of God.
- God has stamped His awareness on your conscience.
- You have a purpose because you were made by a divine designer.

These statements are antithetical to how the world views life. But God’s Word gives a clearer worldview. Notice the contrast:

Slide God's View Vs. Secular View

Teaching Suggestion

Take time before class to partially fill out the chart contrasting God's view with a secular view on a chalkboard or whiteboard. For some rows, only fill out God’s view, and for other rows, only fill out the secular view. Ask students what they think fits in the corresponding blank spaces. This exercise will allow them to think critically about the differences between the world and God on a number of levels. You may also wish to define and explain the terms, as noted in the bullets on the next page, while conducting this exercise.

God's View	Secular View
Glorify God	Glorify Self
Holiness	Happiness
Absolute Truth	Relativism
Emotion Is a By-product	Emotion Is Foundational
Personal Sin	Other People's Fault
Man Needs Forgiveness	Man Is Best
Repentance	Tolerance

Let’s look at each of these terms:

- While God’s view defines the purpose of man as bringing glory

to God, secularism says we exist to glorify ourselves.

- God, who is holy, desires His people to live holy lives. But the world says that happiness must be our one goal in life.
- God tells us that He has given us absolute truth in the pages of His Word. But secularism says instead that everything is relative and claims that truth is based on each individual's preferences, upbringing, or opinion.
- God tells us that our emotions are a by-product of our beliefs and actions. Thus, we are to obey God first and let our emotions eventually catch up. The world tells us, however, to seek pleasurable emotions above all, even if that means disobeying God to satisfy our desires.
- The Bible teaches that all of us are sinners and responsible before God for our sin. The world tells us that everything bad in our lives is someone else's fault.
- God tells us that we need forgiveness and thus need Jesus as our Savior. The world tells us that man is good enough and needs no forgiveness.
- The Bible teaches us to acknowledge our sin and turn back to God (repentance). The world teaches us to tolerate any practice

of ours or others, whether or not God calls it sinful.

Discussion

Jesus Christ is the "chief cornerstone" and the Word of God is the foundational truth upon which Christians build their lives. What are the other prominent worldviews in society today? What is their cornerstone or foundation?

The worldview that is set forth by secular people takes God out of history, denies His absolutes, and overall insists that man knows better than God (if God even exists).

Sadly, it's not just the secular world that embraces a secular worldview. Some churches, perhaps trying to be more relatable to our culture, fail to declare the absolute truths of Scripture. Interestingly enough, the more that churches emphasize relativism, the more people flee Christianity.

Slide Decline of Religion

A study by Johnson, Hoge, and Luidens tracked the decline of mainline denominations. Their specific research on the Presbyterian Church USA led to the conclusion that "the primary reason for the decline was the laity's lack of conviction that Jesus alone was the means of salvation." Any theological departure from the centrality of Jesus Christ will always be catastrophic.

So how can we avoid the slide of relativism? Build on the Rock of Jesus Christ, and you will stand.

In these turbulent days, as our world turns its back on Christianity, it is more important than ever that we understand and embrace a biblical worldview.

Slide Quote by Mohler

“The decline of Christian identity is particularly pronounced among younger Americans, and fully one-third of those age thirty-five and younger report no religious affiliation.”

—Albert Mohler

For many people, even professing Christians, Jesus is simply a convenience of life—not their cornerstone.

If Jesus is not your cornerstone, your life will eventually crumble. But the Bible tells us in our text for today’s study that when Jesus is our cornerstone, our life will be steadfast.

Ephesians 2:19–22

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Let’s look at three aspects of Christ as our cornerstone.

1. The Reliability of the Cornerstone

Slide 1

A cornerstone is the first piece of any structure, and it must be carefully set so that everything else can be laid against it. If the cornerstone isn’t located properly, everything measured from its location will also be in the wrong place. Conversely, if the cornerstone is located correctly, then everything will fit together and remain solid.

For this reason, the cornerstone is costly and important. We see an example of this in the building of the Old Testament Temple.

1 Kings 5:17

And the king commanded, and they brought great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the house.

Why must the cornerstone be reliable?

A. For Identity

Slide 1A

The size and quality of the stone establishes the identity of the structure that is about to be built. The cornerstone represents the starting place. For this reason, it is sometimes called the foundation stone. It is a piece of the building that is essential to the integrity of the entire building.

Slide Foundation Stone

Cornerstones are carefully selected, accurately cut, and precisely placed in order to build a structure. All measurements are taken from the cornerstone. The more elaborate the structure, the costlier the cornerstone.

The cornerstone of the Christian faith is Jesus Christ. And the foundational truth of Christianity is that Jesus is God in the flesh who died on the cross for our sins, was buried, and rose from the dead. Christ's atonement for us is the only hope for sinners and is the rock on which our hope is built.

Discussion

The day of our salvation is the day we receive identity with Christ. When did that take place in your life? What is one way you have seen God at work in your life since?

The church is a building fitly joined together with Jesus Christ, the chief cornerstone, holding all of us together.

1 Corinthians 3:9

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

Jesus Christ must be the cornerstone of every church, the one person that the church cannot exist without, the standard by which everything is measured, for we find our identity in Him.

B. For Unity

Slide 1B

With Jesus as the cornerstone of the church, Christians are the other stones that build the spiritual house of the church.

Ephesians 2:21

In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

The Bible tells us that we are “fitly framed together.” This phrase means “to join closely together; to frame together; parts of a building—so as exactly to fit together.” It speaks of the unity we are to have in Christ.

To be unified as a single spiritual house, we must be fit together in correct relation to each other and to Christ. Part of this connection is the shared doctrinal unity we have through God's Word.

First Peter 2 tells us that it is our belief in Christ that connects us to Him as our cornerstone.

1 Peter 2:4–6

To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

Just as bricks and mortar are precisely placed around the cornerstone of a building, so our lives must be permanently bonded to Jesus Christ through salvation and kept in a precise relationship with Him.

Additionally, when we are rightly connected to Christ as our cornerstone, we will also be rightly connected to other Christians in our church family.

Ephesians 4:15–16

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

In our giving, singing, and paying attention to the Word of God, we, as a spiritual house, are offering up sacrifices to Jesus Christ, the owner of the house. That is what brings us together with a common identity and unity.

C. For Direction

Slide 1C

As we mentioned a moment ago, the cornerstone was the one against which the other stones were set. If the cornerstone was crooked, the angles of construction for the rest of the building would be crooked.

With Christ as the church's cornerstone, we can be sure that the direction is set

properly. What is important then is for the church to follow the pattern that has been laid in Scripture and that its direction comes from Christ alone.

“The church of God apart from the person of Jesus Christ is a useless structure.”

—G. Campbell Morgan

Our cornerstone is reliable. We can be sure that when we trust Christ as our Savior, we have a sure foundation. And we can be sure that when we align our views to settled truth, as revealed in the Word of God, we have a sure foundation.

2. The Revelation of the Cornerstone

Slide 2

Our text passage reveals specifics about Jesus as our cornerstone and about the foundation surrounding the cornerstone.

A. The Identity of the Foundation

Slide 2A

Every construction worker knows that a building without a strong foundation is useless and will eventually fall. As Christians, if we build our lives on anything but the foundation given to us by God, our lives will crumble.

When Christ built the New Testament church, He chose to use the “apostles and prophets” as the foundation.

Ephesians 2:20

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone;

The *prophets* refer to the Old Testament prophets, and the *apostles* refer to the disciples of Christ (minus Judas, plus Paul, Galatians 1:1). God used both of these groups of men to give us the foundational truths of the Word of God. In fact, this is what the phrase *apostles and prophets* in our text is referring to—the truths and doctrines God used them to preach and write.

The church is built upon the apostles and prophets because they are the ones who were used by God to reveal the doctrines to us through the Word of God.

Acts 2:42

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

"The doctrines which they taught are the basis on which the church rests."

—**Albert Barnes**

God knew that His church would be adrift and in ruins without clearly revealed truth, so He set the foundation for our lives through His word. Without it, the church has no reason to exist, no purpose to live for, and no vision to discern truth from error.

The mighty works of God in the early church came about as a result of being built on the right foundation, the one foundation given by God.

B. The Identity of the Cornerstone**Slide 2B**

We already saw that Jesus is the only cornerstone for the church.

What was amazing for first-century believers, however, was that Jesus' role as the cornerstone had been foretold by Old Testament prophets.

Isaiah 28:16

Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

Psalms 118:21–22

I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. 22 The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

Jesus—the virgin-born, yet eternal, Son of God—was ordained by God to be the cornerstone, and Jesus Himself validated this in a conversation with the Pharisees.

Matthew 21:42

Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

These words of Jesus angered the Pharisees and incited them to seek for a way to kill Jesus because they understood that He was identifying Himself as the Messiah.

But although the Pharisees rejected Christ, those of us who have received Him as our Savior believe He is precious and have our lives built on a sure foundation.

3. The Rejection of the Cornerstone

Slide 3

The world hates Christianity—and especially Jesus Christ—because the Christian faith allows for no other way to God apart from Jesus Christ alone. Though it pains us to see Jesus rejected and mocked in today’s culture, it is nothing new.

A. Rejected in History

Slide 3A

Jesus has been rejected all throughout history. Think of the days of Noah when the whole earth, except Noah’s wife, sons, and daughters-in-law, scoffed at the preaching of Noah. Think of the Israelites throughout the centuries who rejected the messages of the prophets. And consider the Jewish nation in the first century who saw Jesus in the flesh and still looked for some other savior.

Peter addressed this rejection before the high priest and his fellow religious leaders after they had arrested Peter and John on the sole grounds of their preaching the truth of Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:10–12

Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. 11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

In the time period that would seem the most likely of all for people to embrace Jesus and His truth, the whole religious system of the Jews blatantly rejected Him. Though they had been physically in His presence, they refused Him and His truth.

All throughout history, Jesus has been rejected. Because of this, people have tried desperately—and failed consistently—to build their lives without a cornerstone.

B. Rejected in Our Day

Slide 3B

The rejection of the cornerstone is one area in which we would like to see

history stop repeating itself, but it doesn't.

Daily, people in our world reject Jesus and turn from any vestiges of the revealed truth of God.

“Many people consider it arrogant, narrow-minded, and bigoted for Christians to contend that the only path to God must go through Jesus of Nazareth. In a day of religious pluralism and tolerance, this exclusivity claim is politically incorrect, a verbal slap in the face of other belief systems.”

—Lee Strobel

This is the heart of our culture. But as people reject Christ, they must erect gods of their own. So they worship falsehoods and join together to celebrate false unity that rejects the cornerstone.

Deuteronomy 32:31–32

For their rock is not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges. 32 For their vine is of the vine of Sodom, and of the fields of Gomorrah: their grapes are grapes of gall, their clusters are bitter:

Every god of this world is false because it rejects the only true cornerstone, and the end result of false worship is bitter and destructive.

Discussion

Social media, television, and various types of entertainment are significant influences in our culture. In what ways do these media form people's worldviews? How can a Christian guard against their harmful effects? How can a Christian use his own social media to influence others for Christ?

Take a look at two of the major anti-Christian ideologies that people subscribe to—humanism and liberalism.

Humanism is appropriately named. It is man's own self as a god. Take a casual glance at the motto of the American Humanist Association and you will have no question about the identity of their cornerstone: “Good without a God.”

The American Humanist has produced the *Humanist Manifesto II* which reads, “As non-theists, we begin with humans, not God; nature, not deity.” Signed by many in the highest levels of academia, it is a bold statement of independence from God.

Humanists have chosen to be their own cornerstone. Sadly, many people in our world, even if they are not familiar with the title of humanism are functioning humanists. They believe in themselves and ignore or scorn God.

Over the years, this trajectory in our culture has created a hatred toward Christian truth and a rejection of God or the Bible as any kind of authority for life.

But although the world despises Jesus, to those of us who know Him, He is precious.

1 Peter 2:7

Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

Liberalism is another worldview that rejects Christ as the cornerstone. Despite its openness to new ideologies and insistence on tolerance, its adherents are willing to accept every worldview but God's.

Sadly, liberalism even reaches into churches and church denominations that have not held to Scripture as their final authority.

The United Church of Canada has recently dealt with an apparently confounding and controversial question: Can an atheist serve as a pastor? The pastor in question was Gretta Vosper, who made her atheism public. Belief in God, according to Vosper, belongs to an outdated worldview. The United Church of Canada conducted a cost-benefit analysis and decided that Vosper's heresy was the lesser of two

evils. The denomination weighed faith in God against "inclusivity" and valued inclusivism higher than theological fidelity. They allowed her to remain in her role as a pastor.

Who would have ever imagined this sort of story being anywhere outside of the pages of *Alice in Wonderland*? Yet it is exactly this kind of insanity that arises from people that reject the cornerstone and will accept any worldview but God's.


If Jesus is your cornerstone, you will unashamedly align your beliefs and life to Him.

Romans 9:33

As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

This cornerstone is the great need of our lives and of every church. Only a church firmly affixed to the cornerstone will stand fitly joined together through sickness, war, difficulty, riots, cancel culture, and everything else that comes.

Conclusion

 Slide House on the Rock Vs. House on the Sand

Jesus told a story about two men who built homes. Both built something that looked safe and sufficient to shelter them. But only one built a house that


would last. Why? Because one built his house on the sand, while the other built his house on a rock.

Jesus called the man who built on the rock “a wise man.” He had something solid upon which he built, thus, his house remained through the beating of rain, floods, and wind. But the man who foolishly built on the sand had his home destroyed.

Matthew 7:24–27

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Foolish men in our day build their lives on the sands of relativism, humanism, and liberalism. But lives built on these ideologies disintegrate in the storm.

 **Slide Is Your World View Founded on Christ?**

Wise men know that Jesus is the only true cornerstone, and they build their lives squarely on Him. While these lives also encounter storms, they don't

fall apart because they are built on a sure foundation. Although cultures, ideologies, and relationships sometimes fail and disintegrate, Jesus never fails.

How do you know what you are building your life on? It will consume you above all else.

- If money is your cornerstone, you'll talk of it and read about it.
- If your career is your cornerstone, you'll stress over it.
- If race is your cornerstone, you'll make it your primary identity and passion.
- If gender is your cornerstone, you'll march for it.

Although there is nothing wrong with giving time, attention, and diligence to your career or caring about and involving yourself in the various social needs of our day, there is something that matters much more than any of those things.

Although many Christians today are linking with humanists, atheists, and liberals to fight for secular (and sometimes ungodly) causes, Christ calls us to join with Him in preaching the gospel to a world in need of salvation.

Jesus matters most. And if there is one thing I want my life to be identified by, it is my relationship with Jesus. He is my cornerstone, thus I have chosen to build my life on His truth.

In coming weeks, we will study some of the specific issues current to today's discussions, including the ones we mentioned at the beginning of this study—topics such as the presence of evil, social justice, the role of marriage, the significance of gender, and more. We will lay out the biblical position on each of these topics. But the important thing to remember before we begin these topics is that if we blindly accept the world's philosophies on these, it will lead to confusion and to our drifting further and further from the revealed truth of God's Word.

Discussion

Have you heard people ridicule or reject the topics we will be covering

in this series? Which ones are you most looking forward to hearing the Bible position on?

This is why it is so important that Jesus is our cornerstone and that we begin from that foundation. As we go through life, we will have many questions and needs. There will be many areas of potential confusion. But we can rest with certainty on Christ and the truths He has revealed to us.

Don't reject the Cornerstone. Don't turn from Christ because of the pressures of society to conform to their way of thinking and to their belief systems. Though the world rejects Him, God's Word reveals Him. And He is reliable—the only sure foundation.

Unit 1

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

REMINDER OF OBJECTIVES

Keep these objectives in mind as you lead class discussions and assignments. At the end of this lesson, each student should be able to do the following:

1. Explain the necessity of being centered around the true Cornerstone.
2. Defend the importance of Christ and the Bible as our foundation for settling a Christian's beliefs.
3. Critique the rejection of Christ prevalent in today's culture.

MEMORY VERSES

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;"
(Ephesians 2:19–20)

HELP FOR DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The questions provided throughout the lesson can be used for class discussion—either as you come to them in the lesson content or at the end of a lesson. Or they may be assigned as essay-based homework. The questions below are restated from the lesson and include suggested answers for you as the teacher to spur discussion.

Question 1:

Jesus Christ is the "chief corner stone" and the Word of God is the foundational truth upon which Christians build their lives. What are the other prominent worldviews in society today? *Many other religions are prominent, especially Islam. Worldviews like atheism or agnosticism reject religion entirely.*

What is their cornerstone or foundation? *Various worldviews have different cornerstones. A few examples are as follows: Islam—Koran, atheism—evolution and human reasoning, agnosticism—relativism.*

Question 2:

The day of our salvation is the day we receive identity with Christ. When did that take place in your life? What is one way you have seen God at work in your life since?
Answers will vary.

Question 3:

Social media, television, and various types of entertainment are significant influences in our culture. In what ways do these mediums form people's worldviews? *Media portrays caricatures of positions they don't agree with (such as Christianity) in ways that make them appear foolish or bigoted.*

How can a Christian guard against their harmful effects? *Christians have to be grounded in the truths of the Word of God, not the opinions of the culture.*

How can a Christian use his own social media to influence others for Christ? *Christians can share their salvation testimonies, Scripture verses, invitations to their church, or other posts with true and Christ-focused content. They can guard against complaining or sharing media that would undermine their testimony. They can also post in ways that portray the Christian life as a joyful, fulfilled experience.*

Question 4:

Have you heard people ridicule or reject the topics we will be covering in this series?
Most likely yes.

Which ones are you most looking forward to hearing the Bible position on and why?
Answers will depend on personal experience and interests of the students. Lessons that will likely be of interest are the existence of God or reliability of the Bible, and social justice and racism.

EXTENSION ASSIGNMENT

Within its introduction, the American Humanist Manifesto II reads, "As non-theists, we begin with humans, not God; nature, not deity." Signed by many in the highest levels of academia, it is a bold statement of independence from God.

- Divide the class into small groups. Three to four students is ideal.
- Assign each group one point from the Humanist Manifesto II (or allow them to choose a point).
- Each group should research their point and present three ways that statement is wrong.

- Their response should include at least two Scripture references.
- Allow each group to present their findings to the class.

ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you assess how well students are retaining the lesson material. They can be used as a traditional quiz, a homework assignment, or an in-class review.

1. True or False: The worldview or paradigm an individual uses to approach social issues affects how he sees the facts related to those issues. **(True)**
2. True or False: The origin of life, the existence of God, and the reliability of the Bible are significant issues that are unanimously accepted in our society. **(False)**
3. True or False: The statement, "You have a purpose because you were made by a divine designer," would be accepted by a humanist. **(False)**
4. True or False: The statement, "God has stamped His awareness on your conscience," is antithetical to a secular worldview. **(True)**
5. How can a person avoid the slide of relativism? **(Base their worldview on the Rock of Jesus Christ)**
6. According to Ephesians 2:19–22, what is the foundation of the New Testament church? **(Jesus Christ and His Word [apostles and prophets])**
7. Why does the world hate Christianity, especially Jesus? **(Christianity is exclusive—only one way to Heaven)**
8. What is the primary anti-Christian ideology we discussed this week? **(Humanism)**
9. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of God's worldview?
 - A. Holiness
 - B. Absolute Truth
 - C. Tolerance**
 - D. Individual Responsibility
10. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of a secular worldview?
 - A. Glorify Self
 - B. Relativism
 - C. Emotion is Foundational
 - D. Repentance**

We hope you enjoyed this sample.

Avoiding Confusion Teacher Edition and a companion
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