

Week 14: Paul's Worldview

1. Introduction: Definition of Worldview

- 1) A worldview is a comprehensive framework through which one interprets and understands the world.
- 2) Paul's worldview was shaped by Jewish tradition, the Hellenistic environment, and the revelation in Christ.

2. Key Elements of Paul's Worldview

1) Creation and God-Centeredness

- (1) Paul views God as the Creator and Sovereign over all things (Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:16).
- (2) All creation belongs to God and exists for His glory.

2) Fall and the Human Condition

- (1) Humanity has fallen due to sin and lost the image of God (Romans 3:23).
- (2) The world is groaning under the effects of the fall and awaits redemption (Romans 8:20–22).

3) Redemption and Christ-Centeredness

- (1) Paul's worldview is centered on the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:23–24).
- (2) Christ is the beginning of the new creation and the hope of all humanity (2 Corinthians 5:17).

4) The Kingdom of God and Eschatology

- (1) The Kingdom of God has already come (Romans 14:17), yet its full consummation awaits (1 Corinthians 15).
- (2) Paul explains the Christian life within the tension of the “already and not yet.”

5) Church and Community

- (1) The Church is the new humanity that testifies to God's redemptive work (Ephesians 2:14–16).

(2) Unity of Jews and Gentiles into one body in Christ(1Corinthians 12).

6) Life and Ethics

(1) The gospel calls for a new way of life, shaped by the Spirit
(Galatians 5:16–25).

(2) Emphasis on communal responsibility rather than individualism.

3. Background Influences on Paul's Worldview

1) Jewish Heritage:The Law,the Hebrew Scriptures,Messianic expectations.

2) Hellenistic Philosophy: Stoic ethics, contrast with Platonic dualism.

3) Roman Imperial Context: Emperor worship and colonial rule addressed theologically (Philippians 3:20).

4. Connection to Contemporary Theology

1) Paul's worldview is not merely a doctrinal system but a practical guide for living.

2) Worldview transformation:from a secular centered to a God centered life.

5. Conclusion

“Paul's worldview is radically reconstructed by the gospel a God-centered, Christ-centered, and eschatological vision that calls today's believers to the same transformation.”