

## THE EQUIP INSTITUTE

Theme: Christian Engagement

Topic: Biblical Worldview: Creation

4<sup>th</sup> Semester / Spring 2025

### Introduction

The Equip Institute exists to equip members of Taylors First Baptist Church to think rightly about God and His Word for the sake of living rightly before God in His world. The topic this week is the first component of a biblical worldview: creation.

### An Important Caveat

Biblical worldview thinking is similar to theological reflection, but they aren't exactly the same thing. **Biblical theology** either looks at theological themes in certain sections of Scripture or traces theological themes across the storyline of Scripture. **Systematic theology** takes a theological topic and examines everything Scripture says about that topic.

The purpose of biblical worldview thinking is to reflect on the implications of a theme so that you can think Christianly about life's ultimate questions, debatable ethical matters, the questions that religious skeptics might ask, the baseline assumptions of rival worldviews, etc. Biblical worldview thinking is less comprehensive than biblical or systematic theology, and it is more practically applied to matters such as how we think, how we live, and how we defend our beliefs and practices. This is why we are studying the biblical worldview as part of our larger theme this semester of Christian Engagement.

### Key Themes and Texts about Creation

God is eternal and existed before creation (Psa. 90:2; Isa. 40:28)

Deep down, all humans know that God exists (Rom. 1:20)

God is the creator of all things (Gen. 1:1; Psa. 121:1-2; 124:8; Jer. 32:17; Rom. 11:36; 1 Cor. 8:6)

God created all things for his glory (Rev. 4:11)

Jesus created all things for his glory (John 1:1-3; 1 Cor. 8:6; Col. 1:16)

God is worthy of worship because he created all things (Psa. 95:6; Rev. 5:13)

God ordered his creation according to his design (Gen. 1:2; Ecc. 3:11; Amos 9:6; Heb. 3:4)

The Holy Spirit was present at the creation and participating in the ordering of creation (Gen. 1:2)

God created by the power of his spoken words (Gen. 1:3a and eight other times in Genesis 1; Psa. 33:6; Heb. 11:3)

God saw that his creation was good every step of the way (Gen. 10b and four other times in Genesis 1)

God saw that his creation was very good after he was finished creating (Gen. 10:31b)

Seven days are mentioned in the Genesis creation account (Gen. 1:3-2:3)

God rests on the seventh day (Gen. 2:1-3)

God creates humans and they alone of all creatures are created in his divine image (Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 2:7)

Humans are embodied creatures, with both material and immaterial parts (Gen. 2:7; Psa. 139:13-16; Matt. 10:28; 1 Thess. 5:23; James 2:26)

God creates every individual human, not just the first two humans, and every human creature is unique (Psa. 139:13-14; Eph. 2:10)

God commands humans to rule on God's behalf and to extend their dominion beyond the garden to the entire earth (Gen. 1:26-30; 2:15)

Humans are accountable to God and must obey his commands (Gen. 2:16-17)

Humans relate to other creatures, but especially to their fellow humans (Gen. 2:18-20a)

God created the first man before he created the first woman (Gen. 2:21-23)

God creates humans with two complementary genders: male and female (Gen. 1:27; 2:20b-23; Matt. 19:4-6)

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God is sovereign over all things and he alone has the ultimate authority

Everything that is not God is part of God's creation and is ultimately under his divine rule

The universe is not eternal—it had a beginning

Naturalistic theories of the origins of the universe or the existence of planet earth are not consistent with reality because God created all things that are not God

Either the earth and the wider cosmos is not nearly as old as most scientists presently believe, or at the very least it has existed in its present form for no longer than a few thousand years

The earth and the wider cosmos is intended to be orderly,  
not chaotic

The earth and the wider cosmos is intended to be good, not evil

Despite the vastness of the wider cosmos, the earth is at the center of God's purposes for all creation, even if there is far more to the wider cosmos that is known only to God and might never be known by humans

Of all God's living creatures, only humans reflect his divine image

Every human is uniquely created by God and is personally known by God—including preborn humans

Every human life matters from womb to tomb, so both elective abortion and euthanasia are forms of murder

Humans are the pinnacle of God's creation, not a plague upon the environment, so naturalistic approaches to environmentalism do not align with reality

Humans did not evolve from other animals, but were created to rule over other animals

Animal life matters, but animal life does not matter as much as human life—there are many good reasons to take an animal's life, but there are also many wrong reasons to take an animal's life

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## **Christian Worldview Week at North Greenville University**

North Greenville University will host its annual Christian Worldview Week on March 4-6, 2025. The theme for the week is “Vocation and Human Flourishing.” The speakers are Christina Crenshaw and Daniel Darling. The public, including members of Taylors First Baptist Church, are invited to the evening lectures, which will be on March 4 and 5 at 7:00pm.

“Redeeming Justice: Reclaiming God’s Vision for Doing Good”

Christian Crenshaw

March 4 at 7:00pm

“Inside and Outside: Intentional Formation for Your Life in the World”

Daniel Darling

March 5 at 7:00pm

Christina Crenshaw is a speaker and author who focuses on the intersection of faith and culture. She has served in faculty or research roles at California Baptist University, Baylor University, and Dallas Theological Seminary. She is a fellow of the Land Center for Cultural Engagement at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Her first book will be published this fall and focuses on how a biblical view of justice offers a better approach than secular misunderstandings of justice.

Daniel Darling is assistant professor of faith and culture at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he also directs the Land Center for Cultural Engagement. He has pastored several churches and previously worked for the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission and the National Religious Broadcasters. Dan has written numerous books, including the bestselling “Characters” series. He is also a columnist for WORLD Opinions and hosts The Way Home podcast.