

The Universe Next Door Westminster Bookstore

In this companion volume to *The Universe Next Door*, James W. Sire offers his refined definition of a worldview and addresses key questions about the history of worldview thinking, the existential and intellectual formation of worldviews, the public and private dimensions of worldviews and how worldview thinking can help us navigate an increasingly pluralistic universe.

How to make the right decisions by thinking like Jesus.

James W. Sire's bestselling book on worldviews, now in its fourth edition, explains and evaluates eight different perspectives ranging from Christian theism through naturalism and existentialism to New Age and postmodernism.

Take a journey from doubt to belief It can be hard to share your faith with others, especially when people can't agree on whether there is even any actual truth. With that in mind, Chad Meister has developed a simple, logical way for you to help others move past relativism to a place where Christian belief makes sense: the Apologetics Pyramid. In *Building Belief*, Meister leads you up each step of the pyramid, beginning where many find themselves today--doubting if anything is really true. From there, he powerfully builds a case for absolute truth, the existence of God, universal morals and values, the reliability and divine inspiration of the Bible, the resurrection of Christ, and ultimately, the good news that Jesus is the Son of God who offers salvation to the world. "Join Chad Meister in this concise, clear, and compelling book as he builds a persuasive case for the truth of Christianity."--Lee Strobel, author, *The Case for Christ* and *The Case for Faith* "An excellent book to lead earnest enquirers from doubt to conviction about the basic truths of the Christian faith."--Norman L. Geisler, dean, Southern Evangelical Seminary and Bible College "Chad Meister is a force to be reckoned with, and this delightful little book is a timely resource to be studied by Christians and given to non-Christians."--J. P. Moreland, distinguished professor of philosophy, Talbot School of Theology; author, *Love Your God with All Your Mind* "Building Belief is thoughtful, fresh, and full of personal and practical illustrations. Meister strikes just the right balance, providing a model for how apologetics ought to be done."--Paul Copan, Pledger Family Chair of Philosophy and Ethics, Palm Beach Atlantic University "Meister offers both the tools and the method for making discussions with skeptics more fruitful."--Jay W. Richards, research fellow, Acton Institute; coauthor, *The Privileged Planet*

The Universe Next Door (Large Print 16pt) ReadHowYouWant.com

In recent years several evangelical thinkers have called for a reevaluation of our understanding of God, making a case for what has variously been called "freewill theism" or the "open view" of God. R. K. McGregor Wright sees their efforts as the latest attempt of believers to wed the vagaries of current thought to biblical truth. More specifically, he sees in their call a contemporary reaffirmation of Arminianism. Concerned that evangelicals may soon find no place for sovereignty in their thinking, Wright sets out to show what's wrong - biblically, theologically and philosophically - with freewill theory in its ancient, as well as current, form. In particular, he subjects the recent work of Clark Pinnock to scrutiny. Here is a fresh, powerful case for the Reformed emphasis on God's

sovereign grace.

Is much of Christian education in America distinctly Christian? Ron Hoch and David Smith say, "No." Instead it is guilty of having adopted an ideology and methodology that strips it of the right to call itself Christian and the ability to fulfill a truly Christian mission. The authors claim that the fundamentally humanistic ideology of the West conditions and controls much of what is labeled "Christian" education. By talking about the need to integrate faith and learning, focusing on teaching methodology, and operating schools in virtually the same way as government-run schools, many Christian academics betray captivity to the dogma that humans are the measure of all things and need to do what God has already done. As a result, much of what controls the conversation and practices in Christian academia echoes the humanistic arrogance of the West, and offers no substantive alternative to it. In *Old School, New Clothes*, Hoch and Smith issue a call for Christian academics to own up to their own confession--that all reality was created and integrated by God, damaged by sin, and has already been reintegrated in and by Jesus. Thus the emphasis in Christian education ought not to be what Christian educators are doing to redeem the culture, but on what God is bringing to the Church in order to redeem sinners. Only by recognizing that all human knowledge claims in every sphere are inherently theological and that God is truly seen in and experienced through knowledge of all things, will a distinctly Christian education be forged. Christian education must primarily emphasize the reintegration or redemption of teachers brought through right knowledge of Jesus that comes through every subject discipline and expressed in a life balanced on Sabbath, work, and family.

In the past few decades there have been an increasing number of authors and movements that reject the classic Protestant understanding of justification (e.g., the New Perspective on Paul, Auburn Avenue Theology, the Renewal Movement, etc.). While the various proposals differ in many respects, they are generally united in their rejection of justification as a legal declaration made by the Father about the believer based on the work of the Son. In particular, among renewal (Pentecostal/Charismatic) authors, there have been several attempts to redefine justification, insisting that it is an umbrella term incorporating numerous redemptive ideas rather than a declaration of the believer's righteousness.

These attempts are in part rooted in the absence of any overt pneumatology in the doctrine's typical formulation. One need only read the above sentences to see that there is no mention of the Holy Spirit. This book addresses these and other concerns, especially by renewal authors, and demonstrate that the doctrine is, in fact, pneumatologically informed, albeit latently rather than blatantly. As a result, there is no need to redefine the theology of the Reformers and their successors.

Dr. Ernan A. Norman, D.Min. has identified strategies to implement John 13:35 "All people will know that you are my followers if you love each other." An excellent source for the essential principles of discipleship in a postmodern world.

This book is written in nontechnical language based on the experiences as a student, pastor, and professor. I believe that the concepts presented are fundamental and are in harmony with the model demonstrated by Jesus during His ministry on earth. Meeting people at their level, putting their needs ahead of His own, treating people with respect, befriending the nonreligious and inviting them into a relationship with Himself are some of the concepts that are identified and supported as strategies for reaching secular people. This book is an outstanding and important piece of work, and easily readable. I would urge A Strategy for Reaching Secular People on members and leaders in every church – if they are willing to challenge basic assumptions and embrace change relative to reaching lost people. Strategies that remove the barriers that keep people from hearing about God’s love, and to create a warm, friendly, uncritical, and non-judgmental attitude of acceptance are clearly presented. Full of practical how-to’s and watch-out’s this book by Ernan Norman is for individuals serious about sharing the love of God. As we interact with and minister to secular people, matters such as marriage and family, academics, employment, addictions, and human rights must be addressed. Norman clearly gives strategies for intentional efforts to reach secular-postmodern men and women in our day. The central concept is the example of Jesus that we should follow. A must read! Weymouth Spence, Ed.D. President of Washington Adventist University

This investigation sheds new light on the confrontational stance the religious right has taken toward contemporary America by examining the nature and origins of its highly charged ideas. It traces its belief system, commonly called the "Christian Worldview," to four Christian thinkers (Abraham Kuyper, Cornelius Van Til, Rousas John Rushdoony, and Francis Schaeffer) known for their anti-modernist, authoritarian, and in some cases, openly theocratic ideas. Although virtually unknown to most Americans, these men have been treated like patron saints by the religious right. Their ideas, seriously discussed within the movement and codified in Christian Worldview documents during the 1980s, have been widely disseminated to followers through textbooks and seminars, evolving over time into standard talking points. The book then examines how the ideology buttresses the movement's controversial, right-wing agenda. It explores how the Christian Worldview advances a concept of "total truth" that is unique to biblical Christians and enables them to redefine freedom, law, government, and even history and science, in their own infallible terms. A vision for the future and plan of action are formed on the basis of these certainties. The book concludes by discussing the danger the ideology poses to pluralist society and offers intelligent ways of confronting it.

For more than thirty years, The Universe Next Door has set the standard for a clear, readable introduction to worldviews. In this new fifth edition James Sire offers additional student-friendly features to his concise, easily understood introductions to theism, deism, naturalism, Marxism, nihilism, existentialism, Eastern monism, New Age philosophy and postmodernism. Included in this

expanded format are a new chapter on Islam and informative sidebars throughout. The book continues to build on Sire's refined definition of worldviews from the fourth edition and includes other updates as well, keeping this standard text fresh and useful. In a world of ever-increasing diversity, *The Universe Next Door* offers a unique resource for understanding the variety of worldviews that compete with Christianity for the allegiance of minds and hearts. *The Universe Next Door* has been translated into over a dozen languages and has been used as a text at over one hundred colleges and universities in courses ranging from apologetics and world religions to history and English literature. Sire's *Naming the Elephant: Worldview as a Concept* provides a useful companion volume for those desiring a more in-depth discussion of the nature of a worldview.

What is the solution to human angst and nothingness, the gnawing emptiness and frustration with the limits and fragility of this present existence? After reviewing the work of Sren Kierkegaard, Friedrich Nietzsche, Martin Heidegger, and Jean Paul Sartre on this question, this work argues that the proper response must be metaphysical metanarrative, a transcendent metaphysical metanarrative that is the ground of all that is, yet a metaphysical metanarrative that makes the fullness of meaning available and apprehensible in physical experience. This metanarrative, this work asserts, is the logos, the ultimate referent principle of the ancient Greeks and, according to Christianity, the God-man Jesus Christ, the eternal become present in present experience. Because the logos constitutes transcendence in human form, it recognizes the beauty of existential experience even as it underscores the necessity of transcendence for temporal meaning. The logos as metaphysical metanarrative brings the worlds of time and eternity together, linking earth and the beyond in a seamless whole. It is the ultimate existential experience.

Ray S. Anderson lays out a new and renewing theological foundation for engaging in Christian ministry. Illuminated by discussion and case studies, he shows how a biblically informed approach addresses real issues in Christ's power.

With over a quarter million copies in print in three editions, *The Universe Next Door* has established itself as the premier textbook on worldviews. In clear, readable prose, James W. Sire explains the basics of Christian theism, deism, naturalism, nihilism, existentialism, Eastern pantheistic monism, New Age philosophy and postmodernism. In an increasingly pluralistic academic environment, the ability to understand and evaluate various worldviews is vitally important.

Shows ways to develop a Christian world-view and to apply it to ethical issues and the study of academic disciplines

A most accessible but thoroughly practical primer on apologetics.

For many congregations, change creates discomfort. Pastoral leaders are often expected to be experts who manage and control realities beyond their expertise, experience, and ability. That expectation, a product of modern approaches to

leadership, views the pastor as responsible for maintaining the status quo. Transforming Pastoral Leadership responds to this context by challenging readers to rediscover key biblical themes around the shepherding metaphor as well as key theological themes steeped in our historical faith narratives. Readers are challenged to consider the origins of our dominant leadership practices and to reconsider how Christ's preeminence as the leader of his church requires us to reconstruct leadership practices that are faithful to his preeminence. To assist congregations, Transforming Pastoral Leadership suggests two processes that might help congregations discern God's missional promptings as they move forward into God's future and experience conflict as opportunities for transformation.

The troubles that have bedeviled modern societies on the global scale are caused by leadership failure. Focused leadership is critical in promoting peace in society, enhancing organizational cohesion and meaningful organizational life, and achieving the goals of an organization. The importance of leadership and the indispensable role it plays in the overall health and well-being of organizations is well-known and cannot be underestimated. It is imperative that people understand what leadership is and apply its essentials to steer, inspire, and guide organizations for success and competitiveness in the global market. As a masterful compendium, the Essentials of Leadership is written to guide and lead people, including practicing and prospective leaders to a better understanding of what leadership is. In so doing, the book explains the concept of leadership, how it is related to management, their differences and similarities. The book takes a comprehensive look at various leadership theories, leadership skills and the key functions of leaders. This book takes a comprehensive look at various leadership theories, leadership skills, and the key functions of leaders.

Dancing in the Dark is the title of a 1930s love song that has a philosophical edge, and in its own way encapsulates the central problem, What is life about? Can we possibly come to terms with life's vicissitudes, and can these be understood within a religious framework? The problem of theodicy is the most intractable issue in the philosophy of religion. It calls into question the vexed supplementary problems of revelation, free will, and determinism. Indeed, for would-be believers, it undermines the very rationality of their existence. Consequently, it has been the subject of interminable debate without any completely satisfactory solution.

This book is a short introduction to the things every Christian should know about the Bible. It provides answers to a broad assortment of questions ranging from why there are different translations, how do experts approach Bible difficulties, what are the basics of interpretation, and more. The work seeks to be a powerful tool to equip and encourage the saints so they rightly handle the Word of God. Drawing from a rich tradition of theology and philosophy, readers will find themselves instructed and inspired from some of the greatest minds in the Christian tradition on various Biblical issues.

Chasing Paper is an important new collection of essays written by senior publishers from around the world who have spent their careers in Christian publishing. Here they discuss the dramatic changes witnessed by the Christian publishing industry over the last fifty years, how they and their companies responded to those changes, and what the future may hold for the Christian publishing industry, authors, and readers everywhere. Find herein a rare glimpse behind the scenes into how some of the gate keepers of Christian culture have navigated quickly shifting cultural and professional realities.

Does theology have to be boring? Not for Mark! Following Christ's example of storytelling, he begins each discussion of a key biblical truth with a parable. Using familiar characters and settings from tales ranging from 'Huckleberry Finn' to 'A Christmas Carol' to 'King Arthur', Shaw covers the Trinity, the attributes of God, creation, providence, sin, redemption and more. Following each story is a set of questions that brings out the key theological themes. The author then provides helpful commentary on these questions, as well as an in-depth discussion of each topic. Whether you are a beginning student or well versed in theology, you will enjoy this innovative approach to age-old truths.

Tired of googling God's Will in all the wrong places? It's a habit that consumes more valuable time and often produces tragedy and frustration. Can you really find something, in the case of the will of God, which is not lost? The whole concept of "searching" suggests that something is lost, but is it really? What should you do? Stop "googling God's Will" and spend that precious time living into it. It's doable and the aim of this book is to dispel some of the theological "sacred cows" about the will of God and help you learn a new way of thinking and reflecting that can free you up to live into his will. Asking questions is often at the root of learning, but asking the wrong questions takes us on a journey along a path to nowhere. Have you ever asked questions like: Does God have a "perfect or permissive will" for my life? Can I "put out a fleece" to discover his will? How does the Spirit interact with me in living into the will of God? The bottom line: well, you will have to read googling God's Will to see what DrWinn offers as a possible solution.

The philosopher Paul Weiss once observed, "Philosophers let theories get in the way of what they and everyone else know." For many, the very word "philosophical" has become all but synonymous with "impractical". Yet whether we like it or not, almost every corner of our lives—from dissertation writing to channel surfing—brings us face to face with competing philosophies and world views, each claiming to tell us definitively what it means to be human. How can we know which one is right? And what difference does it make? To Robert McTeigue, S.J., it makes every difference in the world. Consciously or not, we all have a world view, and it decides how we live. In this book, McTeigue gives a funny and invigorating crash course in practical logic, metaphysics, anthropology, and ethics, equipping readers with a tool kit for breaking down and evaluating the thought systems—some good, some toxic—that swirl around us, and even within

us. In McTeigue, classical philosophy finds a contemporary voice, accessible to the layman and engaging to the scholar. Real Philosophy for Real People is an answer to those philosophies that prize theory over truth, to any metaphysics that cannot account for itself, to anthropologies that are unworthy of the human person, and to ethical systems that reduce the great dignity and destiny of the human person. As the author insists, "A key test of any philosophy is: Can it be lived?" With Thomas Aquinas, this book teaches not only how to know the truth, but how to love it and to do it.

Our culture is not only sex-crazed but also deeply confused about sex and sexual ethics. Unfortunately, Christians seem equally confused, and the church has tended to respond with simplistic answers. The reason for this confusion is that the meaning of sex has been largely lost. Dennis Hollinger argues that there is indeed a God-given meaning to sex. This meaning, found in the Christian worldview, provides a framework for a biblical sexual ethic that adequately addresses the many contemporary moral issues. The Meaning of Sex provides a good balance between accessible theology and engaging discussion of the practical issues Christians are facing, including premarital sex, sex within marriage, homosexuality, reproductive technologies, and faithful living in a sex-obsessed world.

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