***Divine Viewpoint Thinking

RV66-02***

We are studying the letter to Laodicea, segment number 17, in Revelation 3:14-22. We have been concentrating recently on the fact that the gold that Jesus Christ has counseled the church at Laodicea is to buy from Him (to buy with the coin of faith) is the gold of Bible doctrine truth, which has been provided by God the Holy Spirit in the recorded Scriptures, which enable a believer to cope with Satan in the world system in which we must live. And this is the great value of that golden doctrine. It enables you and me to cope with Satan within Satan's world system in which we must live and move every day – to move in that system without constantly suffering defeat.

We have pointed out that personal regeneration provides the believer with a living human spirit in which to store the divine viewpoint of doctrine. The amount of doctrine which is stored in the human spirit determines a believer's spiritual IQ level. It takes time to learn the Word of Truth, and to store it in the human spirit.

**The Work of the Human Spirit**

Therefore, we have observed that the believer's human spirit plays a very vital role in the daily life of the Christian. We've looked at several things that are true about that human spirit. One additional point that we want to add to that is the work of the human spirit – what it performs, in kind of a summary overview.

**Occupation with Christ**

The human spirit filled with God's divine viewpoint sends doctrine to the Christian's mind to produce occupation with Christ. This is one of the great provisions of the Word of doctrine. It sends God's thinking to the believer's mind to produce occupation with Christ, and also to produce divine viewpoint thinking. The soul, through the mind, inhales doctrine. That's what you're doing when you're learning doctrine. You're inhaling that into your soul. The human spirit then enables the soul to exhale awareness of Christ – awareness in terms of who He is, and in terms of what He is. It is this precious quality of knowing with whom we deal. We're not dealing with a Muhammad. We're not dealing with some famous church founder. We're not dealing with a Buddha. We are dealing with Jesus Christ, the unique God-man.

To understand who He is; to understand what He is capable of performing; and, to understand what He does, can only come about through the Word of God. It is the Word of God within our human spirits, cycled up to the mind, that gives us awareness of Christ. If we don't have that, which no unbeliever has, there's only one other thing you can be aware of, and that is yourself – awareness of man himself. This is the problem in our society today. Just exactly, who is in charge? Who is sovereign? Who ultimately calls the plays upon the field of life? Is man sovereign, or is God sovereign? Are we encased in the sovereignty of man, or the sovereignty of God? It is the Word of God that enables us to know that it is God's sovereignty that predominates.

**Divine Viewpoint Thinking**

Furthermore, doctrine that is cycled into the mind of the soul develops divine viewpoint thinking. We won't say too much about that at this point. We'll come back to that a little later in this session. But this is divine viewpoint thinking. As a Christian inhales the Word of Truth into the mind, he exhales it from his directive mind in a godly thought life. This is the great thing about having divine viewpoint thinking – a godly thought life. This is where the battle is fought for all of us. The battle always begins with the mind. The battle of what we do with our lives always begins with the mind. That's why Christian education is so important – because it's a constant training of the mind in divine viewpoint concepts.

This thinking of doctrine being cycled up to the mentality of the soul also provides the very happy service of removing those callouses upon the facets of the soul that we studied earlier. It removes those calluses bit by bit.

**It Controls the Will**

There's another thing that the human spirit does. It sends doctrine to the will of the soul in order to enable it to obey God in thought and deed. Your will acts as a response to what you think. The Christian inhales doctrine into his human spirit. That is then exhaled as direction in the life of the believer in terms of his will; in terms of his thoughts; and, in terms of his deeds. What are you going to think? Don't give me that excuse that you have something that you think about that you're just helpless to think about. Don't give me that excuse that you do things, and you're helpless to do things.

This is where the sexual perversion realm is going now. The whole realm of homosexuality is trying to be defended on the basis that this is how people are born in their thinking. Recent clinical studies have again established the fact that no one is born a sexual pervert. People choose to be that, and they choose to be that as the result of thought patterns which they have tolerated and which they have indulged themselves in.

So, you can see what kind of a mentality results when the Word of God is pouring into it. You're going to be a certain kind of person. You can see what kind of a mentality you're going to be, and what kind of a person you're going to be, when into your mentality pours a pornographic line of literature, for example, or a movie. You're going to be a totally different kind of person.

It isn't easy to change. Many an alcoholic has been born again, and then distressed with the fact that he still had a taste for booze, and he had to fight it. Just because you become a born-again Christian, that does not remove these evil practices from the life. It gives you the capacity to do so. But these things are ingrained, and you tend to move along with them.

The same thing is true for what has been poured into the mind that's been in the form of moral filth. You become a born-again believer. I've had men who have been become very wealthy in pornographic materials that they used to dispense. I remember one man telling me how he still has to struggle with all these thought patterns that were once so commonplace with him, and that he so regularly indulged. This guy is a really fine, upstanding Christian.

So, getting doctrine into the mind, beginning in your earliest years (to your children) is one of the most precious and valuable things a human being can have – to put the refreshing illumination of God's thinking over against the filth of Satan's outlook.

**It Controls the Emotions**

Another thing that the human spirit does is that it sends doctrine to the emotions of the soul to enable it to love and appreciate God and man. With doctrine in the mentality and in the will and in the emotions, the soul is brought under control. When doctrine controls our emotions, we do not permit it to take off on its own. This is the great problem that people have – the emotional stability, and particularly in the religious realm. When the emotions just cut loose on their own, you have havoc. I don't care in what realm it is: whether it's what we call secular; or, whether it's religious. If the emotions are running amuck on their own, there's havoc in that life.

In the religious world today, the charismatic movement is a prime example of emotions running wild and loose – completely out of control. The whole charismatic movement is a production of the satanic mentality that believes that how you feel about the thing is where it's at. The minute you say that, there's always some character that comes up and says, "Oh, you're against feelings. Feelings are important. People have feelings." That's not the point. The point is: how are those feelings fed? Do you think that your feelings have any intelligence? Do you think that your feelings have any viewpoint? Your feelings have nothing. Your feelings do not think. Your feelings simply move as the result of what your mind directs to it.

It is the mind that accepts the Word of God; that stores it in the human spirit; and, that pours it back to the directive mind. This controlling function of your mentality tells your emotions what to do, and tells your will what to do. The result is that you become a person that is able to cope with the devil; with the world; and, with your own sin nature. If this setup is not functioning in your life, you're a sad sack personality, and you're a helpless pigeon in the presence of Satan and his world system. Your emotions will destroy you.

**Values and Standards in the Conscience**

Another thing that the human spirit does is that it sends guidance to the conscience for divine viewpoint values and standards. It frees the mind from the natural standards of Satan's world. It overrides our own background, and our own prejudices, and our own opinions. It is the Word of God that enables you to establish a conscience that is right.

Conscience, again, is an empty thing. The conscience is just a factor within man that establishes certain things as right and certain things as wrong. If the culture in which you are reared says that things that the Bible condemns are right, then that's how you grow up. This is what happens in communist countries. In Communist countries, many evils are declared to be good. All of the evils of communism that destroy personal freedom are declared to be good things, while the Bible condemns those things. Why do people say they're good? It's because that's the way their conscience has been trained. Therefore, no amount of brutality; no amount of evil; and, no amount of human suffering is restrained under communism, because its conscience says that that's a good thing, as long as it advances the cause of communism.

Without the feeding of the Word of God into your conscience, all of those things your parents permitted you to grow up with that were wrong, you will never correct. All of those things that you picked up from your society that says certain things are tolerable, such as in moral areas – you will never correct those. Your conscience will never scream out in indignation and condemnation of those things unless the Word of God is cycling up to that conscience in order to instruct it. The conscience has to be filled with a set of standards.

**It Frustrates the Old Sin Nature**

Finally, one of the great things that the human spirit (filled with doctrine) does is that it frustrates the old sin nature. Without the flow of doctrine through the soul, the sin nature will take control, and that's what we all face. Who is running the show in your life? Your sin nature, or God the Holy Spirit? Any failure to confess sins will cut off the flow of doctrine and give the old sin nature a chance to distort your soul. When the sin nature is in control, you will fluctuate out of divine good production into human good, and you will fluctuate between human good and sins. When the sin nature runs your life, you're either doing human good (which is evil), or you're performing sins (which is also evil). That's the only thing you can produce. We're talking about Christians.

So, how are you going to control that sin nature? How is that disease going to be held in a remission state? That's all you can do with the disease of the sin nature. You can't ever rub it out. You can only hold in remission. It is doctrine that enables you to do it.

**The Grace System of Perception**

So, putting it all together: Here is the working of the grace system of perception. You're sitting in church, and you hear doctrine explained by a pastor-teacher communicator. He uses the HICEE method. That's one of the things that marks him as a man that you should listen to, because that means that he is explaining the Word of God to you on the basis of an examination of the text of Scripture.

One of the things that I heard Oral Roberts do one time on television was to go through the whole Bible from one end to the other, telling what Jesus Christ was in every book of the Bible. He would start with Genesis: "In Genesis, Christ is the beginning. In Exodus, He's the one who leads us out. In Leviticus, He is the great priest giver. In Numbers, etc." He just went through the whole Bible, and people sat there, and they were just hypnotized. They were just so captivated by this exposition of the Word of God.

**The HICEE Technique**

But if you're listening to real exposition of the Word of God, you're going to discover that that preacher is working by hermeneutical (the "H" in HICEE) principles. He is using principles of interpretation that have been established as guidelines that lead one to the truth. You are aware of the fact that he is dealing in terms of isagogics (the "I"). He has researched the background of a certain incident in Scripture. He knows the geography. He knows the history. He knows secular history that existed at the time. He knows the surrounding circumstances of the events of the situation that that particular Scripture is dealing with. Therefore, he can put it in perspective for you. You know that he is talking in terms of categories (the "C") of doctrinal truth. He is bringing together what the Bible says upon a certain subject, so that you get a frame of reference perspective. So, when somebody talks about some factor about the truth of Christ, you will have a category.

I talked to a man recently who has been going to church for something like 50 or 60 years. I said something about Jesus Christ and His death upon the cross, and that He died spiritually. And I could see immediately that he was completely confused. He said, "How could Jesus Christ die. He was God." And I could tell that, with a few more questions, that he was totally ignorant of the hypostatic union. Certainly, the word would have meant nothing. If I'd have said, "Hypostatic union" to him, he would have just looked bug-eyed at me. He had no idea what that category of doctrine meant – the unique relationship of the humanity of Christ and the duty of Christ within one person, without each nature overriding; mixing; or, in any way, diffusing the other. They were working in a marvelous coordination.

Now, knowing such a simple fact would have removed a lot of confusion for him. He would have known immediately that Jesus Christ, in His deity, did not die on the cross, but Christ, in his humanity, died on the cross. He would be able to read Scriptures, and know that sometimes it's talking about Christ in His humanity; and, sometimes just talking about Christ in His duty. It's important to keep those separated. Just somebody bringing together the doctrine of the hypothetic union would have meant so much to that man. Someone could have just said, "Here are ten points. I want to summarize what the Bible says about it." That would have given him a perspective on his own reading of the Word of God.

You're going to have this teacher dealing with etymology (the first "E"). That deals with the meaning of words. That's what the Bible is all about. He's also going to deal with exegesis (the last "E"). That deals with grammatical relationships. That's how we understand what the Bible is saying according to how words are related. That's the only way you and I understand how words are related: We know what is the subject; we know what is the object; we know what is the verb action; and, we know how all of these things all modify one another and fit together. So, we know what the language has said. Instead, most preachers treat the Bible as some kind of a Tarzan-like book: "Me Tarzan; you Jane." And we have these little clips – a restricted communication type of language. That isn't the way the Bible is written. For you to understand what is going on, this is what it takes. So, the working of the grace system of perception is that you have heard the Bible explained under this system.

The filling of the Holy Spirit (meaning all known sins are confessed) gives you a grasp of the doctrine which is taught. You have knowledge. It takes concentration. One reason some people never get very far in the learning of the Word of God is they can't come in the church and sit and concentrate. They are not spiritually mature enough to be able to concentrate. That takes time. When people come into a church service where they're actually teaching the Word of God, and they have been used to getting these nonsense stories and illustrations, and making you laugh, and joking around, and making you feel good, suddenly you sit there and you think you're in a classroom. Those people can only take about ten minutes of that, and then they're gone. It takes the filling of the Holy Spirit that enables you to understand what you've heard. It takes concentration to gain that knowledge. At that point, you may be negative or you may be positive to what you have heard from the pastor-teacher. You do not get God's truth unless you are positive to it.

There is one point of warning at this point: God the Holy Spirit is giving you a chance to understand the doctrine. He is not giving you a chance to understand the communicator. You may not like the pastor-teacher elder who is teaching. You may find him offensive in a variety of ways. But that is not the point. The point is the truth. Is it the truth, or is just not the truth? I'll tell you something else. God the Holy Spirit will not transfer into your human spirit what is false. No matter who preaches it, and no matter who teaches it, if it's false, it's bad medicine, and it doesn't go down, even with a spoonful of sugary emotion. It won't go down. So, the communicator is irrelevant to your instruction. Listen to what he says.

Sometimes people come and ask me, "Should I read this man's book? I hear a lot of bad things about him." I say, "A lot of those things you've heard are true. But what he has written is basically the truth of God. Read it and learn it. Forget who wrote it."

The demons work very hard to distract Christians in a church service, because here is where the battle training takes place. When we started the series on Satan in the Basic Doctrine series, several years ago, I said, "Now we're going to be introducing you through an exposé of his majesty the devil, and I expect that there will be all kinds of distractions in the service as we proceed." I had hardly said that before one of the screens fell off the window. From then on, everybody sat up straight and listened very carefully, because they knew that we were really dealing with straight, big-time stuff. That is the problem: the Spirit of God is giving you the feeling to understand, and Satan is seeking to distract you.

Sometimes you're going to hear things that God the Holy Spirit has permitted you to understand, but you doubt it. You question it. You say, "Oh, that's not so. I can't believe that." Sooner or later, you will have that experience. When you are a mature Christian, you'll just set it aside. You won't be an arrogant type of character that says, "That can't be true." All you will say is, "I find it hard to believe that, and at the moment, I will set it aside."

I am amazed at how often I have seen people who come into the Berean ministry, and they come in from nothing. Then, all of a sudden they hear the Word of God, and they're all excited. Finally, there they realize that here's where it's at, and they're just amazed at how much of the Word of God is known here, and how much the people know, and how much is explained. Suddenly, they're here, and they're just listening. Then, all of a sudden, they hear something taught that really rakes them over the coals. Suddenly, it interferes with something in their lifestyle. It touches upon some sore spot of evil, and they just rise up in indignation. I've seen it scores and scores of times, and they'll never come back. I have often wondered in my mind: what kind of a mentality comes along, says, "Boy, here is the Word of God? Here's the truth. These people know what they're talking about." Then when something crosses your own experience or thinking, such that at that point, those people who knew so much don't know anything. That's immaturity.

The Christian who is mature says, "I'll put it aside. I think they're wrong. I can't really believe that, but I'm going to wait and see." God the Holy Spirit, your teacher, will clarify it to you. He will encourage, or He will condemn. Sometimes, you just need a larger frame of reference to see the truth. Just mull it over for a while.

You may be negative to what the Holy Spirit has enabled you to understand because of various reasons. That doctrine then becomes useless. But what you do believe by faith is stored in your human spirit. That becomes full knowledge. It becomes part of your belt of truth. The Christians mind is filled then from the human spirit with spiritual phenomena in order to guide the various facets of the soul. This means that there is a renewing of the mind. Romans 12:2 says, "Renew your mind. This is how you do it." It develops a frame of reference to enable us to grasp advanced doctrines. For some doctrine, you have to have some basics before you can go to the advanced. It gives you the qualities for a new conscience (values and standards), so that you know how to do right. It enables you to view life from God's divine viewpoint. When you can do that, you're in touch with reality.

**The Subconscious**

Doctrine in the mind also does one very wonderful thing. It cleans up the subconscious. There are things that are down in our subconscious. Sometimes there are guilt patterns that we've squelched down there that we have not dealt with. Doctrine in the conscious mentality cleans up what is in the unconscious mind. It's part of the promise to restore us to all righteousness, and to forgive all iniquity.

**Discernment**

It gives us discernment. This kind of doctrine in our human spirit gives us discernment to tell the difference between false doctrine, and things that are just human viewpoint schemes. It guides us in our prayer life, and, wonders of wonders, it guides us in our witnessing. It enables us to know how to pray. It enables us to know how to witness.

There are several expressions of Bible doctrine truth. There are expressions toward God that come out as occupation with Christ: removing spiritual callouses from the soul; enabling us to love God; enabling us to practice faith rest; and, enabling us to pray and to have a life of prayer.

There is also the expression of doctrine toward man. It enables us to treat people without mental attitude ill will. It enables us to have love for our friends, and for our husbands or our wives. It produces divine good in service to people. These are the expressions of doctrine within us: toward God, occupation with Christ; and, toward man, mental attitude love.

Then it produces the building of a spiritual maturity structure in the soul. This belt of truth is the gold of doctrine, taking the Christians on to super grace living.

One of the reasons that the Laodicean church was told to develop this kind of a grace system of perception was so that, within them, there could be developed divine viewpoint thinking. That is the bottom line – to come up with thinking which is God's way of looking at things.

**Divine Viewpoint Thinking**

So, we will now look at the points on divine viewpoint thinking.

1. **Human Viewpoint vs. Divine Viewpoint**

First of all, every member of the human race has as his mental frame of reference either human viewpoint or divine viewpoint. You have to begin with that to understand. You sit here tonight, and your mind is either steeped in human viewpoint values, or your mind is steeped in divine viewpoint values. You have resisted divine viewpoint values for a variety of reasons. You have accepted human viewpoint values for a variety of reasons. But you have your mind in primary gear to one or the other.

1. **God's Value System**

Divine viewpoint presents God's value system, while human viewpoint presents Satan's values. Most of our society functions on human viewpoint. Most of the institutions of our society function as human viewpoint. Divine viewpoint is not the norm for most of the people that you and I deal with, because divine viewpoint is God's value system. Human viewpoint is Satan's system of values. Those values include everything. They include you're dealing with material things. How do you deal with what belongs to you, and what belongs to other people? How do you deal with matters of personal responsibility? Human viewpoint acts in a certain way. Divine viewpoint acts in another way. Divine viewpoint says you are responsible, and you pay the price for what you do. Human Viewpoint says you should try to evade facing the responsibility for what you did.

There are moral values. Divine viewpoint says that certain things are immoral, and you should just not do them. Divine viewpoint puts a barrier up against those things, while human viewpoint, of Satan's world, says, "Those things are alright. Go ahead and do those things that are immoral. Divine viewpoint says that there is a certain way that's right for you to talk. The Bible is very clear that you should not talk in terms of foul language. But human viewpoint says, "There nothing wrong with that." Human viewpoint says, "I can talk with foul language." Human viewpoint actually thinks that it's more impressive because it uses foul language. So, there is a totally different set of values, and each of you have a viewpoint: divine; or, human. To the extent that you are on divine viewpoint, you're tied into God; and, to the extent that you're on human viewpoint, you're tied into Satan.

1. **We Are What We Think**

A person is what he thinks – not what he does, because all action flows, first of all, from our thinking. In Proverbs 23:7, we have this principle stated for us: "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he." This is the way a person is. A person is what he thinks. In 2 Corinthians 10:5, this same principle is dealt with: "Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." This is divine viewpoint: "And having in a readiness to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled." A person is what he thinks – not what he does. What he does is the result of what he has first had as a pattern of thought. The book of James makes it very clear that the evil that we do is the result of the evil that we have indulged in in our thinking. So, human viewpoint produces evil actions. Divine viewpoint produces godly actions.

1. **Every Thought is Either Human or Divine Viewpoint**

Every thought is either human viewpoint from the mind of Satan, or divine viewpoint from the mind of Christ. The Bible is very specific on that. Every thought is from the devil or from the Lord. In Isaiah 55:8-9, the prophet says, quoting God, "'For My thoughts are not your thoughts. Neither are your ways My ways,' says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." So, while you may have a great deal of confidence in your thinking abilities and your thinking capacities, the Bible says that your thoughts are not God's thoughts. You have to receive God's thoughts. That's the gold of doctrine that gives you this divine viewpoint.

1. **Bible Doctrine**

Divine viewpoint is developed in the mentality through the regular intake of Bible doctrine into your human spirit. This we refer to as living in the Word. When you live in the Word on a regular daily basis, then your thinking is constantly brought into alignment with the thinking of God.

**Our Memories in Eternity**

One of the things that's going to happen when we get out into eternity is that we are going to be able to review our lives. For many people, this causes a lot of distress. But the Bible makes it clear, from the historical event which was recorded of Lazarus and the rich man, that when you get over to the other side, one thing the Bible makes very clear that you take with you is your remembrance. Your memory goes out there. In fact, we would have every reason to believe that your memory is considerably sharpened. When you get over to the other side, you will remember, and you will be able to think back of all the times that you spent outside of the Word of God, and all the days that went by without feeding upon the Word of God.

What kind of a human being cannot spend a little time reading the Word of God? What kind of a human being cannot spend a little time, whether riding in your car, or while you're shaving, or while you're doing something else, put a tape on, and listen to the Word of God? It is only the human being who doesn't think that divine viewpoint is that important. Only a person who does not think that the gold of doctrine that produces this divine viewpoint thinking is really the thing that one should pursue as the top priority of life. I guarantee you that when you get out there, you will regret it. You'll wish that you had done otherwise, because out there, everything is settled, and there's no return.

1. **Mental Occupation with Jesus Christ**

Divine viewpoint is actually mental occupation with Jesus Christ so that His thinking is in us (1 Corinthians 2:16 and Philippians 2:5). Philippians 2:5 says, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." The mind which is in Christ Jesus is recorded in Scripture.

1. **Replace Human Viewpoint with Divine Viewpoint**

It is God's will for the believer that his natural human viewpoint be gradually replaced by God's divine viewpoint. When you come into the Christian life, you have a mind that's just filled with human viewpoint. Gradually, that human viewpoint is pushed out, as divine viewpoint takes its place, and only doctrine enables you to do that.

1. **Human Viewpoint Cannot Please God**

Human viewpoint can never please God, even though it be cultured, intelligent, and sincere. This is a very important point. A lot of Christians are deceived that human viewpoint is not the loathsome thing that it is, because it happens to come from someone who is cultured; because it happens to come from someone who's gifted in some way; or, because it happens to come from someone who has a good IQ, or a good education, or who has a sincere, personable style. But human viewpoint, no matter what the source is, is just that. It's Satan's thinking. It can never please God.

1. **Human Viewpoint Thinks that it is Right**

Human Viewpoint is strongly convinced that it is correct, and that its conclusions justify itself. This is one of the troubles of dealing with human viewpoint. There is a built-in arrogance. At the basis of every sin, there is arrogance. Human viewpoint is tied to human arrogance in such a way that it is very difficult to come to a person and say, "Your human viewpoint is out of line with God's thinking. You're wrong." The older you are, the tougher it is. The younger you are, the more hope there is for changing. But the older you are, the harder it is for you to say, "Gee, I've been a fool for 30 years." It's easier to say that you've only been a dummy for five years.

So, this is why the wisdom literature keeps hammering away: "In the days of your youth, turn to your Creator." It says, "In the days of youth" because it's easier to do it then. You will find it easier for you to say, "Yes, I was wrong," and to line up your thinking with the Word of God. Human viewpoint is so sure that it's right.

In Matthew 7:3, we have this statement relative to that attitude: "Why do you behold the mote that is in your brother's eye, but you don't consider the beam that is in your own eye?"

We can add to this another Scripture. Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." What do you think the Ayatollah Khomeini thinks is the right way? Ayatollah Khomeini sits shot-through with human viewpoint. You could tell that man, "Sir, when you die, you are going to end up in that hell with that Satan that you think represents the United States. You are a doomed man because you reject the deity of Christ. You reject Jesus Christ as the final messenger from God. You reject Him as the only name under heaven whereby we must be saved." If you told him that, he would rise in arrogant indignation, because he thinks that he's on a way that is right. "But the end thereof is the way of death."

What do you think comes from the human viewpoint of someone who is a Roman Catholic, and who is convinced that his ritual and his work system is what is going to gain the merit that he needs with God to get him into heaven? And if you tell him that that's a way that seems right, but the end thereof is death, he will rise in indignation against you, and call you a bigoted, ignorant idiot. This is what we're dealing with. Is human viewpoint a nothing" Is it not an important thing? It's a terrible thing. Only the gold of doctrine in your human spirit will preserve you from it. It is a terrible thing to be entrapped in human viewpoint. One of the worst things is the arrogance that comes from it that makes you think you're right.

1. **Social Outlook is Human Viewpoint**

The social outlook of this world is human viewpoint, and it is no pattern for Christians to imitate. Whatever social practices this world has, came from the devil, and they are not things for us to imitate as believers. So, be careful. Whatever is in style; whatever is hip; and, whatever is preppy right now, be sure that you analyze it to make sure that it's not just some human viewpoint guff that God Himself condemns. Just because the world says, "This is where it's at," that is not acceptable to the Lord.

1. **Worldliness**

Worldliness is human viewpoint expressed in experience, and can only be corrected by the renewing of the mind with divine viewpoint as Romans 12:2 directs us. Worldliness is human viewpoint in experience.

1. **Human Viewpoint can Appear to be Right**

Human viewpoint decisions will appear to be the most logical; the safest; the most pleasurable; and, the most profitable course of action. That's why it's tough to deal with it. These things just seem so right. These human viewpoint decisions seem to be where it's at. Governments are particularly guilty of this. They function on human viewpoint concepts that, on every account, seem to be right, and profitable, and the correct thing to do.

1. **Human Viewpoint can Appear to be Divine Viewpoint**

Human viewpoint to Christians with a limited frame of reference will appear to be divine viewpoint. That is a real kicker. Christians who have a limited frame of reference to judge by will actually look at human viewpoint, and they'll think that that's God's point of view. 2 Corinthians 10:12 says, "For we dare not make ourselves of the number or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves, but they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise." You know what kind of a person is not wise. It is the fool. The fool compares himself with others like himself, and therefore, he thinks that he is something special.

Verse 18 says, "For not he that commends himself is approved, but who the Lord commends." Are you tricked by the fact that the world makes over you, and that the world commends you? When you teach a Bible class, and your students commend you, are you so foolish to think that the Lord has also commended you? The two are totally separated. You may have made a big impression on the class, and have been a zero in terms of being profitable to them spiritually. The Word of God warns us that when we have a limited basis of judging, we're going to come around with things backwards.

1. **Outward Appearance vs. the Mind**

Human viewpoint looks on the outward appearance while divine viewpoint looks on the mind, or on the heart. In 1 Samuel 16:7, we read, "But the Lord said unto Samuel, 'Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature, because I have refused him. The Lord doesn't see as man sees. For man look at on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

Here is that passage describing how Samuel is seeking whom the Lord has chosen to replace Saul as King, and he sees Eliab, one of the sons of Jessie, and he says, "Now, I'm impressed with him. This is the guy who ought to be king." God comes to Samuel, and says, Samuel, don't make that dumbbell mistake. I've talked to you about this before. You are looking on the outward appearance." This fellow is military. He had his uniform on, and he walked around in his greens, and sometimes he probably was parading with his dress blues on. He cut a very cute figure. But the Lord said, "Samuel, that's outward stuff. I'm looking at this man's mind." What was God saying? He was saying, "This man is impressive outwardly, but he is shot-through with human viewpoint. He is not the man to be king. This little kid that was caring for the sheep, named David, doesn't cut much of an outward figure, but that kid's mind is filled with divine viewpoint. He's my man." God doesn't look on outward appearances. When are you and I going to learn it?

1. **Evaluation of Leadership**

Human viewpoint evaluates leadership on the basis of human dynamics, personality, and appearance. If you want to see this in action, just go home tonight and turn on channel 39, and watch some of the humbug programs, and a variety of other things that are on there. I am fascinated by those. Every now and then, I go home and I relax on Sunday nights by watching these charismatic preachers in operation, and seeing how that crowd is hypnotized, giving out the most utter nonsense. And they have style – walking around with the microphones, and always having a handkerchief in their hand, wiping the forehead, and swaying back, and then getting cozy, and getting close, and getting confidential. I'm fascinated. I walk around. I stand up in front of the mirror, and I practice doing the same thing to see how that sort of works, because someday, I may to move on ahead, and I may want to develop the pulpit personality styles. It's amazing how people will take that guff and think that they are looking at, and they're listening to divine viewpoint.

If you sit there and you listen, in terms of Scripture and in terms of the implication of what is said, you'll see how these operators are pouring out their human viewpoint. People are impressed by their personality; their dynamics; and, their appearance. I mean, what could impress you more than a guy who stands up in a pulpit with a white suit on? You don't have to say anything once you step up there in a white suit. I've got one at home that I've been saving for a long time. Someday, I'm going to wear that white suit, microphone in hand. You know that this is real class. You know that this has to be just about the Lord himself speaking.

1. **Human Viewpoint is Loyal to an Ideology**

Human viewpoint is loyal to an ideology. It will not respond to the doctrines of truths in an area of life. Human viewpoint is deliberately ignorant. It will be loyal to an ideology no matter how wrong that concept is, as it is demonstrated by Scripture.

1. **Human Viewpoint is out of Touch with Reality**

Human viewpoint is out of touch with reality in all areas of life, so the problem remains. Nothing can be solved by human viewpoint. It is pseudo genuine. It is not the real thing.

1. **Human Viewpoint Belittles Bible Doctrine**

Human Viewpoint belittles the need for learning Bible doctrine on a daily basis, and resists the one who communicates the Word of God. This is one of the key signals that you're dealing with a human viewpoint creature, to some degree. This may often be a very solid kind of Christian, but he reveals some human viewpoint thinking because he belittles the need for learning doctrine as the supreme factor, and the supreme priority of a Christian's life.

1. **Products of Divine Viewpoint**

There are five products of divine viewpoint listed for us in 2 Corinthians 10:13-17. These are five wonderful results of divine viewpoint. Verse 13 says that it gives true values in life. It gives us a true set of values. Verse 14 says that it produces witnessing of the gospel. Verse 15 says that it brings Christians to spiritual maturity. Verse 16 says that it increases missionary activity and zeal. Verse 17 says that it enables Christians to glory in the Lord.

1. **Human Viewpoint is a Sin**

Human viewpoint is a sin. It must be immediately confessed to God the Father when it is discovered in our thinking. Human viewpoint is a sin to be confessed.

1. **Divine Viewpoint enables us to Focus on God**

Divine viewpoint thinking enables a believer to hold his focus constantly on God, and not to get sidetracked. Divine viewpoint thinking enables us to stay on track in terms of God's will and purpose for us.

1. **Human Viewpoint Produces Defeat**

Human viewpoint produces defeat for the Christian in the angelic conflict. Divine viewpoint leads him to spiritual victory.

1. Human Viewpoint says that success in Christian service is dependent on methods, personality, and drive, rather than the grace of God. There are a lot of rinky-tink methods that are put forward, and say, "This is how you will be successful in Christian service," or that it is a certain type of personality who is successful in Christian service. That has nothing to do with it. It is divine viewpoint that gives the results.
2. **Emotional Domination vs. Mental Domination**

Finally, human viewpoint operates in a climate of emotional domination of the soul, while divine viewpoint operates in a climate of mental domination of the soul. When the mind controls what's going on, the emotions are held in restraint, and the will is directed accordingly. When human viewpoint rules, the mind is at a loss; it is disoriented; the emotions take off on their own; and, the will just goes askew.

So, we have divine viewpoint against human viewpoint. The product of doctrine (the gold of pure doctrine) that the Laodicean church needed was important because it gave them God's point of view. That point of view directly affects every breath we take every day of our lives.

Dr. John E. Danish, 1977

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