

Meaning

We are living in a time when worry, anxiety, depression, drug and substance use appear to be at an all time high (no pun intended). Why, and what are the things driving this? The following is a very brief look at the importance of meaning at a time when a sense of meaning and hope in the world seem to be in decline.

Back to basics:

What the “World” teaches	What the Bible teaches (see verses below)
There is no God or a personal Creator. (The world is on its own!)	1) God created us and gives strength to the weary and the weak.
If there is a god, he is not in control of this mess. (The world is in control!)	2) God is in full control and has a plan for us through all of the pain and suffering.
If there is a god, he is either dead or does not love us.	3) God loves us, in fact, He IS love.
Morality (right and wrong) is relative (not absolute). My truth may be different than your truth!	4) God gave us his standards that are not dependent on what the majority thinks. They are unchanging.
Society is run by what the majority (or the most powerful) thinks and desires.	5) Government is ordained by God (even though all governments don't do what is right).
Humanity has no destiny (nothing after death). When we die, that's it!	6) An eternal home is prepared for those who love God and give their lives to Jesus Christ.
There is nothing special about human life. We are equal in value with animals and the earth.	7) Humans are made in God's image with great value to have a relationship with Him and to rule over His creation.

The following are passages in response to the table above on what the Bible teaches:

- 1) Isaiah 40:28-29
- 2) Jeremiah 29:11
- 3) John 3:16; 1 John 4:8-16
- 4) Exodus 20:1-17
- 5) Romans 13:1-2
- 6) 2 Corinthians 5:1-8
- 7) Genesis 1:26-28

Questions:

- ◆ When things get very stressful in the world (pandemic, financial and economic problems, war, famine, weather catastrophes, etc.), what would be the expected response from those who believe what the “world” teaches?
- ◆ How does that compare with the expected response from those who believe that God is in control and that He loves us?
- ◆ As followers of Jesus Christ, why do some of us still struggle at times with worry, fear, anxiety and depression when things appear to be worsening?

Consider reviewing the studies of “Hope”, “Heaven” and “Free Indeed” as additional reminders of what we have and where we are going (awordoftruth.com).