

## **Why It Matters** **Understanding the Mission Field**

Paul's visit to Athens is instructive to us for mission living (making disciples).

Read Act 17:16-30

### 1. Understanding "Worldview"

#### Definition

"An intellectual perspective that encompasses a \_\_\_\_\_ of attitudes, values, beliefs, and expectations about the world around us that serves as a \_\_\_\_\_ through which we \_\_\_\_\_ our experiences.

#### Influence

"\_\_\_\_\_ that shape our "\_\_\_\_\_ of reality."

\_\_\_\_\_ – who we think we are and who we think others are

\_\_\_\_\_ – what demands attention and what we honor

\_\_\_\_\_ – often the revealer of the worldview particulars

### 2. Embedded Worldviews

("Hidden Worldviews" – Wilkins and Sanford)

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Utilitarian vs Expressive

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Identity is conflated with material possessions

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National identity is at the center of identity and morality.

Narratives are promoted that promote and narratives that detract are ignored or lessened.

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There is not a universal standard of right and wrong unless commonly believed and accepted.

### Scientific Naturalism

Only material phenomena are real, dismissing spiritual or supernatural

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Eclectic mix of spiritual beliefs emphasizing personal enlightenment and self-deification

Salvation by \_\_\_\_\_

Reliance on therapy as a means to achieve personal fulfillment

### 3. Uncovering Worldviews

Since the Garden, Satan has tried to answer legitimate longings with ludicrous lies - instead of debating and confronting, consider engaging to understand the *“longing”* and the *“lie”*

“Smith’s 4 Questions”

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### Questions

1. How would the people of Athens answered the 4 Questions?
  
2. Looking at Acts 17, what do you think the longing of the culture was, and what is the lie they were believing?
  
3. Which of the “hidden worldviews” do think is most prevalent in Christianity? Why?
  
4. What is a situation/area of life in which you can see evidences of a “hidden worldview” – what is the “longing” and what is the “lie?”
  
5. How could we help uncover and guard against these “hidden worldviews?”