

Not A Chance!

Q. What are the decrees of God?

A. The decrees of God are His eternal plan based on the purpose of His will, by which, for His own glory, He has foreordained everything that happens.

(Westminster Shorter Catechism #7)

“Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will.”

(Matthew 10:29)

Prior to accepting the call to Pastoral ministry, I served for over thirteen years in youth ministry where I primarily worked with teenagers and college students. There are many issues that Christian teenagers deal with on a weekly basis, but there is none more pressing than the immensely important subject of *“worldview”*. Of all the different subjects and themes that I’ve disciplined teenagers in over the years, none has been more primary in my ministry than helping students develop a consistently Christian and biblical worldview. What is a worldview? A worldview, simply defined, is the way in which a person sees and understands the world. It’s the lens through which they view all of life and reality. You see, everyone has a worldview! Every person on this planet holds to certain presuppositions or beliefs that determine how they understand and navigate the world around them.

In regards to worldview, one of the topics that I’ve repeatedly discussed with students over the years, has been the secular belief known as the theory of Darwinian Evolution. Since the 1960’s the theory of Darwinian Evolution has been mandated to be taught in the public school system all over the country. Today, teenagers growing up in public schools, have their worldviews shaped by what is purported to be the *“fact”* of Darwinian Evolution. And it is not only teenagers. Recent statistics suggest that approximately 58% of all men and women in the United States believe in Darwin’s Theory of Evolution. Well what is Darwinian Evolution and why is it so important in regards to a person’s worldview? In essence, the Darwinian theory of evolution can be summarized in this way: that the universe and all that is in it has come about from common descent through an unguided process of natural selection acting on random mutation. I know, that’s a mouthful, but here are the two words that Christians need to draw their attention to: the words *“unguided”* and *“random”*.

You see, at the heart of the secular worldview is the assumption that our world and everything in it is nothing more than *unguided* and *random* matter in motion. In other words, to the secularist, we live in a

world devoid of any creator, design, plan, purpose or ultimate meaning. To the secularist, everything has come about by *chance* and *random* mutation. This claim is in direct opposition to the teaching of the Bible! In the very opening words of the book of Genesis we read, *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."* (Genesis 1:1). The Bible declares unabashedly, that the universe was not created by and unguided or random process...it was designed, planned and created by God and for God's eternal purpose.

Not only does the Bible teach us that God designed and created the world, it also teaches that nothing in this universe happens outside of His sovereign control. There is nothing that occurs in this world that can be chalked up to *"chance"* or *"random"* occurrences. Ephesians tells us, *"In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will"* (Ephesians 1:11). Notice what this verse tells us: God works ALL things according to His will. Our catechism tells us that God *"has foreordained everything that happens"*. God has decreed or planned whatsoever comes to pass. Proverbs 16:9 tells us, *"A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps."* Later in the same chapter we read, *"The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord."* (Proverbs 16:33). Not even a single sparrow can fall to the ground apart from the sovereign decree of God (Matthew 10:29). Whether we encounter good times or painful times, whether we are in the midst of a season of happiness or hardship, God is working ALL things according to His decrees (*His eternal purpose and plan*) which is for our ultimate good and His ultimate glory.

Dig Even Deeper into God's Word!

Psalm 33:1

Isaiah 14:24

Acts 2:23

Romans 8:28