

Living Above the Fray

Needed: Perspective

2 Timothy 4:1-5

2 Timothy 2:1-5

¹In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ²Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and

careful instruction. ³ For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

Just the facts

- A solemn injunction
- 9 imperatives

V1

Vv2-5

Context is critical

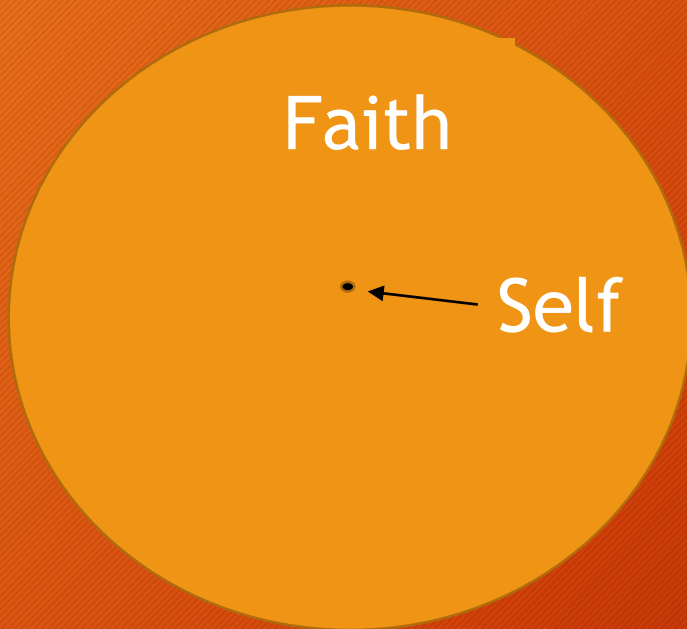
¹In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

Why is God such a big deal?

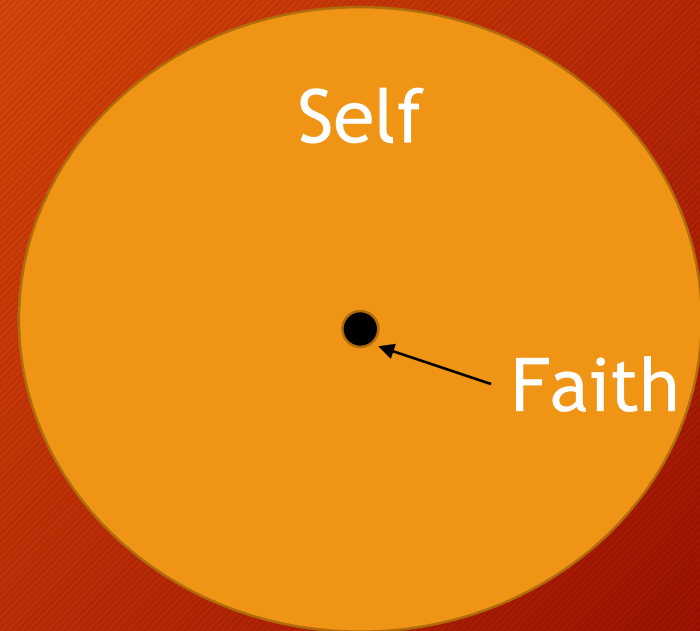
“Because more consequences for life and action follow from the affirmation or denial of God than from any other basic question.”

Worldview Differences

Eastern Worldview



Western Worldview



“In other words, a Muslim believed that life was expendable, his faith paramount. The Westerner, he charged, regards his life more important than what he believes. “That is why,” he added, “the West will ultimately be overrun. Faith, in the West, is sort of an extracurricular interest and a mere aspect of life for the sake of inner peace. But faith seldom enters the conscience as a conviction.”

Three Necessary Perspectives

- Christ Jesus,
 1. who will judge the living and the dead,
 2. and in view of his appearing
 3. and his kingdom

Jesus

1. who will judge the living and the dead,

The White Throne (Revelation 20:11-15)

The Bema Seat (2 Corinthians 5:9-10)

⁹ So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Accountability

Jesus

2. and in view of his appearing

Eminence

3. and his kingdom

Living in this life with the
future life of the kingdom to
give perspective.

Citizenship

Remember . . .

³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Matthew 6:31–34

The bottom line

Sincere faith may long for passivity, but a genuinely Christian worldview must recognize that even the redeemed are accountable, and that they live with an understanding of eminence because their true identity is derived from their citizenship within the kingdom of God.

To Go . . .

How is Paul's worldview different from the secular one that is prevalent in our day?

Is Jesus your buddy or your judge?

How does your view of the kingdom of God impact the way that you live in this world?