

The Christian Worldview Transcript

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Guest: John MacArthur

Topic: What Christians Must Learn from the Bold Confrontations of Christ

DAVID: What Christians Must Learn from the Bold Confrontations of Christ. That is the topic of hour one here on The Christian Worldview where the mission is to think biblically about all matters of life and faith so that we can then live accordingly, and to share the good news that Jesus Christ is who He claimed to be, the Way, the Truth and the Life and that His word is both relevant and our basis for living in this modern world. I am David Wheaton, your host of The Christian Worldview. Our official website is thechristianworldview.com. Our national presenting sponsor, Summit Ministries, is the very best in Christian Worldview curricula, conferences and other resources. Their website is summit.org.

Looking forward to the topic today because we have a very special guest today on The Christian Worldview, one I always enjoy, John MacArthur will be joining me today. I spoke with John earlier this week about his brand new book, *The Jesus You Can't Ignore*.

We are often asked a question, "What would Jesus do?" The answer to that question on any given pressing issue is well there is a meek and mild response from Jesus, a lovey-dovey Jesus and above all, a non-confrontational Jesus. Is that who Jesus actually was and is today, since he is resurrected and living today? Is that who He really is? Or is there another side that is commonly ignored?

I spoke to John MacArthur about his brand new book, *The Jesus You Can't Ignore*. Here is what he had to say about what we must learn from the bold confrontations of Christ.

DAVID: Thanks so much John for coming back on the program. It is always a highlight to have you on The Christian Worldview. I want to start out by reading your back cover of the book where you say, "Do you have any idea who Jesus really is? What you think of Jesus will thoroughly color how you think about everything else," writes John MacArthur. "This is a critical truth in the life of every believer. Our view of Jesus affects the way we view God, the world, ourselves and every one of our decisions. These days Jesus is often portrayed as a pacifist, a philanthropist or a docile teacher. He strikes a plastic and sometimes pathetic pose in the minds of many. Some prefer the meek and mild Jesus who heals the sick, calms fears and speaks of peace and good will. These things do represent a portion of the Messiah, but tragically too many have never been exposed to the rest of Him. They have never seen a full 360 degree view of the Savior until now."

When and how, John MacArthur, did this characterization of Jesus change so what we have Him as characterized today?

JOHN: Well, I think, we are a product even in the Church and in theological thinking of the times in which we live. Unfortunately there is a low view of Scripture that exists today. It isn't that people are now attacking inerrancy like they once did. There is just a low view of scripture. Scripture is seen as a book on spiritual psychology or Scripture is seen as a kind of source of spiritual ideas, spiritual wisdom. It doesn't carry the massive weight of Divine Authority. It is not viewed the way it should be viewed.

Consequently, everybody is sort of free to read into the Scripture whatever they want to read into the Scripture. We are not only talking about lay people, but pretty much talking about preachers. If there is anything characteristic of preaching today, it is that the message doesn't come out of the Bible, but the message is imposed by the messenger on the Bible. So we treat the Scripture in a very cavalier way from the pulpit right on down to the pew.

As a consequence to that, everybody is sort of free to concoct their own Jesus. Jesus then falls to the whims of the culture. We like a meek and mild Jesus, a Jesus who loves everybody unconditionally, a

Jesus who is a peacemaker. This is the pop Jesus. The popular Jesus of sort of pop-Evangelicalism today. This has become dominant.

There is so much familiarity with that pop Jesus that people assume, because of that familiarity, that there's really nothing more to be said about Him. When you take people actually into the New Testament it is hard to pick the pieces apart and understand what's really going on, particularly in the Gospels, the account of Christ's life. You meet a Jesus who is very different than the popular Jesus of the Christian culture today.

DAVID: Now speaking of that Christian culture, John MacArthur, you mention in your book, *The Jesus You Can't Ignore*, which we have linked on thechristianworldview.com, it is just an excellent book. You talk about the current Evangelical culture, summarized in Christianity Today, and how they take this smorgasbord approach that all opinions are valid. We can look at things from all sides without taking a particular side on an issue. It is really up to the reader to decide where they want to come down on something.

You mentioned in the book, the Evangelical Manifesto; how civility is really the prime quality or value that Evangelicalism holds today above being confrontational or distinguishing doctrinal differences. Is this something that can change backwards? Is this something that has a flow to history about it or is this really bad news right now for the direction of Evangelicalism?

JOHN: Well I think it is tragic news. The idea today is, and I think this is pervasive. You deal all the time, David, with worldview issues and you understand what is going on at the University campus level. This is post-modernism. This is post-Christianity. Everybody can have their own truth. You can have your truth. I can have my truth. Let's not draw any absolutes. That is a very comfortable posture because if you are free to develop your truth and your understanding of scripture any way you want, then you can accommodate all of your personal preferences and all of your sins and so forth and so on.

This is a devastating approach to Scripture, which strips it of its true sense. Just to introduce into the Evangelical culture today that there is a true and accurate interpretation of everything in the Bible and any other interpretation is an untrue and inaccurate interpretation, just to introduce the concept that there is one accurate interpretation that is absolutely authoritative would be almost universally rejected by the typical Evangelical in the climate today.

Consequently, you never get at anything in its truthfulness. People aren't looking for that. They want a feel-good religion. They want positive self-esteem. You know you have the dominant preacher today that you see, the new wave of Joel Osteen. You can pick yourself up by your own bootstraps. You can dream your own dreams. You can create your own world. You can shape your own future.

Of course in the process, you can shape your own theology, your own view of God and Jesus. All of that is just very, very typical. There is no good outcome to this. It is simply the current form of rejecting Biblical authority, but "hanging on to Jesus" in the process.

If anything defines, for example, the Emerging Church, which comes and goes because of its diversity, it is this notion that we have to love Jesus and hang on to the Jesus that is so lovable and so winsome. But we have to get rid of doctrine. We have to get rid of theological absolutes. We have to get rid of absolute truth. Consequently you have a religion that is the invention of man that is not true. You really end up with another Jesus. You end up with another Gospel. Of course that is the loss of the truth it saves.

DAVID: You have a quote by Charles Spurgeon in your book, *The Jesus You Can't Ignore*, John MacArthur. Let me read that. I want you to comment on that. "I never could believe in the Jesus Christ of some people. For the Christ in whom they believe is simply full of affectionateness and gentleness. Whereas I believe there never was a more splendid specimen of manhood, even its sternness, than the Savior. And the very lips which declared that He would not break a bruised reed uttered the most terrible anathemas upon the Pharisees." That's by Charles Spurgeon.

How has this just preaching of the one side, this meek and mild Jesus; how has that affected – lets bring it down into very specific demographic, how has that affected men in the Evangelical Church?

JOHN: Great question David. First of all, let me just say, I quote Spurgin because I am trying to avoid the criticism, “Oh, that’s just MacArthur ranting again on some issue,” so I like to find company somewhere else in the history of the church, where the same issue is being attacked, with somebody who is loved and respected for their fidelity to the truth of God. Spurgin is so very often a great help in that.

Look, we have all lived to see the feminization of the Church. We have seen the feminization of the pastorate. What pastor do you ever hear on the radio or see on television that comes across as strong, as masculine, as manly, as full of conviction? One who preaches the hard truths? One who preaches the fear of God? One who is unafraid to proclaim the truth of Hell and eternal judgment and eternal damnation?

There is no question that the feminist movement, in the broad sense, has emasculated the male population to one degree or another. There is a lot of backlash to that, of course. In general, men have been profoundly affected by the rise of this feminism. It is true even in the church. The idea is that even the feminists not only suppressing men in general, but I think they wind up having an influence on the suppression of Jesus turning Him into almost a feminine personality.

Quite contrary to the truth, where He begins His ministry by walking into the Temple, filled with tens of thousands of people, makes a whip and starts overturning the tables, throwing out the money changers and the buyers and sellers of animals and those who were corrupting the Temple of God. This One Man in one brief period of time caused the utter evacuation of that entire place. The power, the force of His personality, the authority and of course, that is what they said in the Sermon on the Mount. They said, “We have never heard anybody speak with this kind of authority.” Well, that is how He began His ministry.

Three years later at the end of His ministry in the last week of His life, He came back to Jerusalem triumphal entry. The next day He goes to the Temple and does the same thing again. Just literally wipes the place clean by the sheer power of His person. Then He turns to the leaders and pronounces damnation on them. Then He turns to the people and in His final words to the people, before He left for the last time, He says, “stay away from these false leaders.” He pronounces damnation upon the leaders and warns the people of their deadly influence.

This was not just the beginning and the end of His ministry. The conflict with those false leaders and consequently with all doctrinal error and misrepresentation of God and His truth flowed through His entire ministry. That is the Jesus that people today comfortably ignore and consequently they get a misrepresentation of who He really was, how critically important absolute truth is and how essential it is to genuine salvation.

DAVID: That is *The Jesus You Can’t Ignore*, which is the title of John MacArthur’s brand new book with a subtitle of *What You Must Learn From the Bold Confrontations of Christ*. John MacArthur, the author of this book is our guest today on The Christian Worldview.

John, I want to read you another short statement. Early on in your book you say, “Before I began writing, I spent some months reading all the literature I could find representing post-Evangelical points of view. A common theme stood out in the books I was reading. They all suggested in one way or another that if Christians want to reach unbelieving people in a post-modern culture, we need to be less militant, less aggressive, less preachy and less sure of our own convictions. According to those authors, Christians should meet other worldviews with conversation not conflict. The writers all tended to place an inordinate stress on the importance of always being as agreeable as possible.”

Why are the hard truths of scripture, like the exclusivity of Christ, the universal sinfulness of man, God’s wrath and judgment, the doctrine of Hell, justification by faith alone apart from any other works or deeds or religious activities, the objective truth of scripture . . . this will be answered next on The Christian Worldview.

(break)

DAVID: From clarity to certainty to conviction, this is The Christian Worldview Radio Program. I am David Wheaton. John MacArthur helps us go along that path from being clear about something to then becoming certain, then to holding it as a deep conviction in our life. No one better than John MacArthur to help us think biblically and live accordingly. We are so glad to have him on The Christian Worldview today. He is talking about his brand new book, *The Jesus You Can't Ignore*. I spoke to him just a few days ago about the topic, what Christians must learn from the confrontational side of Christ, not just the compassionate side. We hear a lot about that. The default response is always meek and mild and lovey-dovey and non-confrontational. There is another side that John MacArthur has been describing in his book, *The Jesus You Can't Ignore*, that we must learn about as well.

So let's get back to the interview. You will have time to call in on the last segment of the day with your comments and response to John MacArthur. I will give that phone number in the next segment. Let's get back to the interview with John MacArthur.

DAVID: Why are these hard truths of scripture that you very thoroughly preach, John MacArthur, why are they so necessary?

JOHN: Because they are essential to salvation. They are essential to genuine conversion. It is challenging to confront people with that truth. The reason people don't do it today; one, they don't believe it. I think the church is full of non-Christians. There are massive crowds that gather under these charismatic preachers and these health, wealth, prosperity preachers and these self-promotion kinds of Christianity-light preachers who couldn't possibly be true Christians if they came to Christ on the terms that those preachers proclaim.

You have got people in the church that don't want to bring these issues up and don't want to proclaim these truths because first of all they don't think they are important. They don't know them. They don't believe them. Then of course for those who do know them and do believe them, there is a compelling in the heart to proclaim these truths because we know they are absolutely essential. It's not easy to do that. We would much rather be popular. There is a sense in which we fear being rejected.

But you go back to the model of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the classic illustration. He went to Nazareth, His hometown, went back to the Synagogue where He grew up. He had been there every Sabbath as a boy all through the years of His life until He left to begin His ministry. Everybody knew Him. His extended family was there. The neighbors and friends that He had known all His life were there. He went back to that Synagogue. He opened up the Scripture and He was invited to speak. He gave one message. Luke 4 records it. At the end of one message, in the Synagogue where He had grown up and was known and loved, at the end of that message, they tried to throw Him off a cliff and stone Him to death.

Now, what in the world did He say that would cause the people who knew Him best, to want to kill Him after one sermon? The answer, first of all is, whatever He said infuriated them. We know what it was that infuriated them. It was the fact that He told them that in spite of their religion, in spite of their self-righteousness, in spite of their tradition, in spite of their Sabbath observance they were outside the Kingdom of God. They were sinners who had not yet come to the place of genuine conversion, and they were irate. They were infuriated by that.

Our Lord didn't find common ground. He didn't try to create a conversation. He didn't look for things they could agree on. He exposed the horrible fact of their lostness even though they were the most religious people in the world. That is why we have to proclaim the truth. The truth has to be told.

People have to understand that salvation is not being delivered from bad feelings or the lack of self-esteem or an unimportant life or a purpose-less life or a less than fulfillment. Salvation is deliverance from the eternal wrath of God and everlasting Hell. You have got to get the message right. First of all as to the condition of the sinner and the remedy also in Christ.

DAVID: I am once again speaking with John MacArthur about his brand new book, *The Jesus You Can't Ignore Today*. You can find it on thechristianworldview.com. You can always go to gty.org to get a copy of his excellent book.

The Evangelical mainstream and the Evangelical left loves to quote from Matthew 25 how Christians are to be concerned with the least of these and the poor and the suffering and so forth, which Christians should be, they often forget about two chapters earlier in Matthew 23 where Christ confronts the Scribes and the Pharisees and the hypocrites and basically utters woes upon them.

Here is a hard question for you John MacArthur. Who are the Sages, the Pharisees and the Scribes specifically of our day?

JOHN: The distinction has to be made between the suffering people, the poor, the downtrodden, the oppressed, the folks who are broken and are looking for salvation and the false teachers, the purveyors of false religion. The compassion of Jesus went out to the crowds. The vengeance of Jesus went out relentlessly against the false teachers. The Pharisees, Sages, Scribes of this day, this age or any age are those who misrepresent the truth. Those who proclaim, purvey false religion, a false Christ, a false Gospel and there are a myriad.

Certainly you can start with the cults, the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Mormons who have a false God, a false Christ, a false Gospel, a false everything. You can talk about Roman Catholicism and sacramental religions that believe salvation is a matter of ceremony and ritual and works. You can talk about Judaism today which is a rejection of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, which is as pagan and damning a religion as Buddhism or the worship of a rock or a stick in some kind of Aboriginal culture. Any religion that does not proclaim the true Gospel, starting with a Trinitarian God, through the incarnation of Christ, through the substitutionary sacrificial atonement, resurrection of Christ, salvation by grace through faith alone and Christ alone; anything that deviates from that falls into the category of condemnation by the Lord Himself, just as Jesus condemned the representatives of that false religion in His own day, namely the leaders of Israel.

DAVID: You say in, *The Jesus You Can't Ignore*, John MacArthur that actually these religious hypocrites are these religious leaders who are preaching another Gospel, which is not the true Gospel, an accursed Gospel apart from faith alone in Christ alone by grace alone. You talk about these religious hypocrites as being more dangerous actually than atheists. I think Christians sometimes today feel, look at Richard Dawkins or Christopher Hitchens and some of the big assaults that atheists are making on religion in general.

Why is that the case that the religious leaders, who don't get the Gospel right, why are they more dangerous than just regular people who don't even believe in God?

JOHN: They give people the illusion that all is well. An atheist has only one message – there is no God – period. That is clear-cut. There is no deception in that. Obviously it is a lie, but there is no religious deception.

It is far more deadly to say there is a God and there is a Heaven and here's how to get there and give somebody the misinformation. Therefore, they live under the delusion; the damning delusion that all is well between them and God when in fact it is not. It is far more deadly to be subtle as a deceiver than to be just open and blatant and say, hey, there is no God. You can't believe the Bible, it is all a lie. There is no subtlety in that. Nobody is deceived by that.

The masses of people who engage and involve themselves in religion, even in America in "Evangelical" forms of Christianity I think these people have the illusion that they're going to Heaven. They fall into that tragic category of Matthew 7, many will say to me Lord, Lord didn't we do this and that in your name and I will say to them, depart from Me you workers of iniquity, I never knew you. Then He goes on to describe the horrors of judgment and how their supposed religious house collapses in that flood of judgment.

I think the most horrible situation for any person to be in is to be on the way to Hell under the illusion that they are actually headed for Heaven. That damning deception is what false religion propagates.

DAVID: John MacArthur is our guest today on The Christian Worldview. He is the author of the book we are talking about, *The Jesus You Can't Ignore; What You Must Learn From the Bold Confrontations of Christ*. You can also go to his website gty.org, as in Grace To You. He is the bible teacher for that worldwide radio and television broadcast and the Senior Pastor of Grace Community Church in Los Angeles.

Speaking of the subtitle The Confrontations of Christ, you talk about this and give very practical ways that Christians should know when to be peaceable with people and when to be confrontational. John, I have seen you many times on Larry King and you are on there with Deepak Choprah, a new age thinker, a Roman Catholic Priest and so forth, how do you handle these interactions? What can a regular Christian listening today learn from how you interact with those who have a false Gospel?

JOHN: Well I think first of all David, and everybody should really understand this; it is kind of a foundational thing. Our responsibility is to speak the truth; it is to speak the truth. Regardless of anything else, this is not about marketing strategy. This is not about style. This is not about some technique that overcomes consumer resistance as a failure to understand the depth of human depravity. The issue is to proclaim the truth.

Now in connection with proclaiming the truth or speaking the truth, the Apostle Paul says in Ephesians 4, speaking the truth in love. So we cannot equivocate on the truth. We cannot shirk the responsibility to proclaim the truth. But I think we do it with compassion. I think we do it with a kind of sympathy, a kind of tenderness, hopefully even winsomeness to those people who desperately need to know that truth and who are caught or trapped in some kind of error.

I remember when I was on there with Chad Allen who is a homosexual actor and he was kind of a brokenhearted guy and there was a sadness in his heart. So I reached out to him on that Larry King program and just quoted from 1 Corinthians 6 that the Lord forgives homosexuals. That he was not beyond hope, that he was not beyond redemption. He could be saved if he committed himself to the Lord Jesus Christ. He got tears in his eyes and Larry was even moved in that moment. I think you can speak the truth to the person that desperately needs to hear and in whom you find some kind of openness.

On the other hand, when you are face to face with a false teacher, with an emissary of Satan who is an instrument of Hell, proclaiming lies that could capture men's souls, then I think you pull out the confrontational mentality. When I go on a program like that, whoever the opposition is, whatever their view might be, I want to confront them with several things. One is that the Bible is the only authoritative revelation from God and you must acknowledge scriptural authority. Two, you must rightly interpret the word of God to get the message right. Three, Jesus is the only Savior and that would be the true Jesus of scripture.

Where people have the wrong view of scripture, the wrong interpretation of scripture, the wrong view of Jesus and are propagating that, I think you have to confront that with boldness. Hopefully, there is a note of compassion in that, but you have to be bold.

I think it comes down to whom you are dealing with. Confront the false teacher with firmness and conviction. Confront the victim of that false teaching, the person who needs so much to know the Lord, with the same conviction but with compassion as well.

DAVID: So for those listening today who have family members or friends who are involved in an errant denomination of a Christian church or are involved in a false religion, they should be confronted with compassion basically. Let's say there are Christians listening today who are attending a church and at that church it is just a gospel of "hope and encouragement gospel" there can be more of a confrontational, sort of, hey, let's preach both sides of the true Christ. Would that be an accurate assessment?

JOHN: My reaction is, if I turn on the television and I watch one of these phony preachers, my attitude towards him is, Lord silence him. Lord stop his mouth. How can you use me somehow to confront the horrors of what he is saying? And at the same time, my heart is broken for the people sitting there who are being victimized by this.

I think Jesus maintained that same thing. He wept over the city of Jerusalem. He shed tears over the city. I wanted to gather you as a hen gathers her brood and you would not. And then He pronounced desolation on them, but His heart was broken. But when He turned to the leaders, He said you snakes; you vipers and I think that is how we deal with it. That is what we see illustrated in the way He did.

DAVID: Last two questions for you John MacArthur and thanks so much for coming on the program today to talk about *The Jesus You Can't Ignore*, which is linked on thechristianworldview.com and also at gty.org.

These are a little bit unrelated to your book but some things you have mentioned in your preaching ministry recently and this is a paraphrase, but you said something to the effect that, a Christian life gets harder the longer you have been saved. How is that true in your own experience and what should people listening today be expecting as they go deeper into their Christian walk?

JOHN: Well, through the years, kids because I am involved with young people all the time with the Masters College and lots of other places, will ask me the question, does it ever get easier to live the Christian life? You know they are battling all kinds of sin and temptation in their youth and they will say, will I ever get victory over sin? And my answer is you will get victory over sin as you grow in grace. There will be decreasing sinfulness and increasing righteousness. I believe that the process of sanctification really does happen. That the Spirit of God works that through the Word so you will sin less and less. And then I say that's the good news. The bad news is though you sin less you will feel worse. The reason is because the more righteous you become, the more holy you become, the more you hate sin.

So while sin decreases in its expression, it increases in its horrors to you. The more like Christ you are, the more you hate sin. So in a sense, as you grow old in the Lord, you sin less, but you hate the sin more. So I am happy for that and yet there is a sense in which there is weariness in the process of the battle.

You know when you think about Heaven, as you grow older, it isn't pearly gates and golden streets that you long for; it's the absence of the battle with the flesh and sin. You want to enjoy the fullness of holiness in the presence of the Lord. So while there are there are increasing joys, the relentless battle of sin, and continued presence of sin in your life, is always a discouragement to the maturing believer.

DAVID: You turned 70 this year. You talked about, today on the program, what we must learn from the bold confrontations of Christ. You talked about the fact that there are many within the Church who aren't truly saved or aren't walking in a committed way. They are apathetic. Maybe they are second or third generation Christians. How would you like to conclude the program today by talking to them directly, who we often talk of as Cultural Christians, out of their apathy into a more committed walk with Christ?

JOHN: I just think the simplest thing is to say to this kind of a person, look, all the joys, all the blessings, all the thrills, all the benedictions of life come through your relationship with Christ. Whatever else you are pursuing, it is just empty; it's just shallow, superficial. Pursue Christ. Pursue knowing Him and that means pouring yourself into the Word so that the Word of Christ dwells in you richly. The deeper your knowledge of Christ, the greater your love for Christ, the greater your joy, the greater your blessing.

I can only simply say that I love Christ more now than I ever have. My life is richer now than it has ever been. My joys are greater now than they have ever been. I just think, it's not as if we are asking you to drink castor oil. Become a serious Christian. Follow Christ.

As if this is some kind of sacrifice you are going to have to make and set aside all the best things in life, the things you really want. It is the very opposite of that. Find your delight. Find your joy. Find all your

pleasure. Find all your fulfillment, all your satisfaction in the glories of knowing Christ. Just understanding the greatness and richness of your salvation. Just understanding the fullness of His promises. The astounding reality that He providentially orders every circumstance in your life for His glory and your good.

Pursue Christ and that means pursuing Him as He is revealed in the Scripture. The more you come to know the Scripture you will know Christ. The more you come to know Christ, the more you will love Him.

Your understanding of Scripture always goes from information to affection. When your heart is filled with affection, for the Word and affection for the Christ who is the theme of the Scripture, this is a powerful, transforming reality in your life that enables you to go through any situation in life and experience real joy.

DAVID: What a powerful way to end the program today, John. I want to thank you so much on behalf of the many listeners to The Christian Worldview who listen to your broadcast, Grace To You. On behalf of my own family, I would just like to thank you so much for the spiritual leadership and the biblical sound teaching that we can rely on coming from you on a very regular basis. So the Lord's blessings upon you and looking forward to the next time we can meet again. Thanks so much for coming on The Christian Worldview.

JOHN: Thank you so much David. It is a joy to call you a friend. I appreciate it.

DAVID: Thank you John.

You have been listening to one of the giants of the faith of our time, John MacArthur. We will take a break and come back. We will take all your phone calls. Against whom and how should Christians be more confrontational as Jesus Christ would be? This is The Christian Worldview presented by Summit Ministries. I am David Wheaton back after these messages from our very important sponsors.

(break)

DAVID: Let's get right to our phone callers now and the question was against whom and how should Christians be more confrontational as Christ would be? Or just your general response or comments to anything John MacArthur said in the interview you heard today here on the program.

So let's first to our home station in Minneapolis. Bob welcome to The Christian Worldview. You are on the air.

BOB: David, it is hard to know who to pick out to confront more because there are so many ways God's truth is being distorted, but I would have to say the Emergent Church because they are misrepresenting people like John MacArthur and yourself who are sure of what they believe. They are misrepresenting you as being prideful, dogmatic, overly authoritarian, when really you are not. You are convinced of the truth. You have such convictions that you are sure of what you believe and they are not sure of anything. They are always having this conversation trying to arrive at the truth, but they never do arrive at the truth. So they look at someone like you as prideful when really that is not in your heart at all. You just have convictions.

DAVID: Well I am sure there is some pride in my heart, I am a sinful human being, but I think your point and I appreciate your nice comment Bob, but let's talk about John MacArthur because he is often portrayed as you just said, as being prideful because he is so certain, so sure and I would say, not of his convictions, but of convictions that are based soundly on the Word of God.

He is someone, when you ask him his opinion, will say, well the Bible says this and this is why it is true. He has got a very, very high view of Scripture. He knows he holds a book in his hand that contains truth, absolute truth. So that is why he bases his messages and everything he does on that. It comes across to people, whoa, he is too sure. Does he think he knows it all? Well that is not the case at all. He knows he doesn't know it all, but of what he knows, that he can interpret from Scripture, he is right about it. It is not based on his own opinions, but based on the Word.

Bob I appreciate your call today. Thanks so much. Let's go next to Albany, NY and Ryan. Ryan welcome to The Christian Worldview. What is your comment about the interview with John MacArthur?

RYAN: I would like to say that I think John MacArthur's words would be reserved for people like himself. I am not trying to insult the man. As I was listening, I couldn't help but realize that the message that he preached, I found to be most applicable to Protestant preachers. I myself am not Protestant. I am a former non-denominational Christian, maybe having some background in Pentecostalism. After learning about the history of Christianity, I eventually became a convert to the Orthodox faith. I found his message to be quite true. I really appreciated what Mr. MacArthur said, wanting to be confrontational not to be insulting but rather to, as Paul would write, confrontational out of love as you discussed earlier. I would say Mr. MacArthur should take a look at the history of his religion, the newness of his beliefs and then apply his message to himself.

DAVID: What you are basically saying is John MacArthur was clear. He said Christ confronted the religious authorities, the false religious authorities of the day. So you are saying that John MacArthur would be a false religious authority. I would ask you, on what point, maybe you can give me one or two examples of how he preaches a false Gospel.

RYAN: Sure. The idea of Scripture alone. The very fact that he uses the Bible as his basis for his authority. Scripture is certainly authoritative, but it is not the encompassing fullness of the Christian religion.

DAVID: So man's tradition is. Church tradition is helpful in that regard?

RYAN: Not so much man's tradition, but rather the tradition that Christ Himself established through the Apostles. Remember the Apostles had no Bible to preach off of themselves.

DAVID: Wait, they had the Old Testament, absolutely they had the Old Testament.

RYAN: They had the Old Testament, but they weren't using the Old Testament alone. They were using the teachings of Christ that he orally gave them.

DAVID: Yes, but we have them written down now Ryan. We have them written down.

RYAN: Sure we have them written down now, but the Apostles did not have them written down nor were they considered – any New Testament writings weren't even considered canonical until the late 300s or early 400s.

DAVID: They saw the Old Testament as being canonical back then and they knew that Christ was the Messiah and they took His words as Gospel Truth from God.

RYAN: Exactly. Exactly.

DAVID: And they recorded them so that is what we have today in the Bible.

RYAN: Right. But there were actually far more things that Christ had said them that are not recorded in Scripture. That they used as the basis of their authority, that would up not even being written down. That were still authoritative simply because Christ had spoken them.

DAVID: Ryan we have some other callers to get to. I get your point and I appreciate your call. I obviously greatly disagree with you on the authority of Scripture and John MacArthur. I do appreciate your call and your perspective and we are happy to take challenges here on the program, as we often do.

Let's go next to Elrino, OK and Wes. Wes welcome to The Christian Worldview. What is your question or comment about John MacArthur's interview?

WES: Thank you David. A couple of things. First, thank you for your ministry so much. Dr. MacArthur, I am not trying to put in a plug in for his Bible, but this study Bible and the things he is talking about, making us aware, he has done such a wonderful job in that he has given us a great asset. It's a blessing. What he was talking about as far as how we speak to believers and unbelievers, teachers of the false doctrine, I testify each day. I am a truck driver. I testify to people who absolutely do not believe in God or say that they don't rather and also people who are just a little bit confused. When we speak, depending on what the situation is, from my perspective, I have 8 – 15 people who can listen at the same time I am talking to an unbeliever. That gentleness that we use for the person who is simply confused, the person who is Christian in thought, but not in knowledge, that gentleness has to be out there. It has to be presented whether it is to the unbeliever or not. His situation and many others, if they confront them in a private one on one or in other words, if I don't have the fruit of the spirit, love, joy, peace and all the rest that Paul talked about, in my teaching or in my testimony, then it hurts.

DAVID: It certainly does and Wes it is a great point. That is true. We need to have that. We are going to talk about that next for participating stations about how to speak truth in the face of lies. Angeline in Waco, TX sorry we couldn't get to your call. She had a question about John MacArthur saying Catholics believe a works Gospel. We will get into that some time Angeline. Send me an e-mail at feedback@thechristianworldview.com. It's a great question.

Coming up next Speaking Truth to Lies on The Christian Worldview. You know we live in a changing and challenging world everyone, but there is one thing you can count on. Jesus Christ and His Word are the same yesterday, today and forever.