

MESSAGE OUTLINE

SUNDAY, October 2, 2022



CHURCH

הקדילה מתקדמת

10:30am Sunday 13095 Publishers Drive, Fishers

Today's Message: **HOPE vs. Nihilism**
Worldview—Part 7
Pastor Gary Stump

Brother Andrew "God's Smuggler" @ 94 died this week. 60 countries; 67 years of ministry; 1 million miles traveled; 125 countries; smuggled millions of Bibles into communist nations. He lived in hope. He even called his team in China "The Twelve Apostles of Hope."

"We would be a small band of men—women, too—captured by the same vision of bringing hope to the Church in its need." –Bro. Andrew. *God's Smuggler* (pp. 184-185).

Aren't we sometimes tempted to give up hope? How do we remain hopeful in a world that provides so many reasons for despair?

Proverbs 13:12a (ESV) Hope deferred makes the heart sick."

American Pastors surveyed:*

37%	of all Christian pastors have a biblical worldview
57%	of Nondenominational, Independent pastors (highest percentage)
16%	of Pastors with congregations more than 600 people

Seven worldviews we will examine in this message series:

1. Biblical Theism
2. Secular Humanism
3. Moralistic Therapeutic Deism
4. Postmodernism
5. **Nihilism** ←TODAY!
6. Eastern Mysticism
7. Marxism

Nihilism: "This philosophy of life rejects the supernatural, moral absolutes, ethical norms, and political and social institutions. Nihilism says that life has no meaning, purpose, truth, or value. Instead, life is pointless and random. This view claims that knowledge and meaning are illusions. Because nothing matters and there is no God to whom we answer, life is justifiably self-indulgent, but results in extreme pessimism and skepticism." (Barna, p. 16)

God created *ex nihilo* = out of nothing

Murphy's Law: "Anything that can go wrong...will go wrong."

Nihilists' Law, "Murphy was an optimist!"

Americans surveyed:

1%	hold the worldview of nihilism exclusively
10%	have beliefs and behaviors that are regularly influenced by nihilism
70%	of Nihilists reject or question the existence of God.

Friedrich Nietzsche: seen as the father of Nihilism

"You have your way. I have my way. As for the right way, the correct way, and the only way, it does not exist."

"Is man merely a mistake of God's? Or God merely a mistake of man?"

Nietzsche: Born in Germany to a Lutheran pastor. His father died when he was 5 and his younger brother died 6 months later. Spurned by a lover he fell into depression. He became an opium addict. Had very few friends. Died of insanity.

"'Man incarnate' must also go mad!" –George Bataille, French philosopher, regarding Nietzsche

Job 17:13–15 (NIV84) If the only home I hope for is the grave, if I spread out my bed in darkness,¹⁴ if I say to corruption, 'You are my father,' and to the worm, 'My mother' or 'My sister,'¹⁵ where then is my hope? Who can see any hope for me?

"But he also mentioned what may have been the real reason for their deaths: giving up hope." Viktor Frankl (Jewish psychiatrist in Auschwitz) *Man's Search for Meaning* (p. 81).

Your worldview is not just a philosophical construct but has dramatic impact on your life and health!

Anatomy of Hope

*Ephesians 2:11a–12 (TLV) Therefore, keep in mind that once you—Gentiles in the flesh—were called "uncircumcision" by those called "circumcision"...¹² At that time you were separate from Messiah, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having **no hope** and **without God** in the world.*

*Ephesians 2:13 (TLV) **But now** in Messiah Yeshua, you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of the Messiah.*

"Just as man cannot live without dreams, he cannot live without hope...hope summons the future."
–Elie Wiesel, *NIGHT*

The Biblical Worldview is a worldview of HOPE!

Hope is not seen

Romans 8:24 (ESV) For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

Hope points beyond this life

1 Corinthians 15:19 (NLT) And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.

"Those who lived for the pleasure of the moment would be right and the sacrifices of Christians would only be cruel, self-inflicted jokes." (TBKC)

Hope rests on eternal life

Titus 1:2 (NIV84) [Our] faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time,

Hope comforts in times of loss

1 Thessalonians 4:13 (NLT) And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope.

Hope is because God is faithful

Hebrews 10:23 (NIV84) Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Hope defeats discouragement

Psalms 42:11 (NLT) Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again— my Savior and my God!

Hope comes from God's word

Psalms 119:114 (NLT) You are my refuge and my shield; your word is my source of hope.

Hope because of God's unfailing love

Psalms 130:7 (NLT) O Israel, hope in the LORD; for with the LORD there is unfailing love. His redemption overflows.

Hope produces strength

Isaiah 40:31 (NIV84) but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Faith, Love, Hope

1 Corinthians 13:13 (NIV84) And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

We should be people of **Memory** (FAITH) & **Expectation** (HOPE) so we can live for God and others now (LOVE). –Dr. Jon Huntzinger

We must live in relationship to the past (FAITH), and live in anticipation to the future (HOPE) so we can live today in LOVE!

SO WHAT? Are you living in LOVE because of FAITH and HOPE?

Hope has a name: "Our Great God and Savior Jesus Christ!"

Titus 2:13 (NKJV) looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

We have reason for hope. Let's live in love as people of HOPE!

* Credit for surveys and statistic in this message: George Barna. *American Worldview Inventory 2021-2022*. Arizona Christian University Press, 2022.



13095 PUBLISHERS DRIVE • FISHERS, IN 46038 • www.onwardchurch.org
PASTOR GARY L. STUMP • gary@garystump.org • 317.513.0227

ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, October 2, 2022

1. PAL ("PARENTS OF ADDICTED LOVED ONES") MEETING—This is for families of adult children dealing with substance addiction. Every Tuesday night, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Free weekly meetings. Dr. Nancy Smith, facilitator. For more information, contact nancy1108smith@gmail.com or 317-508-8149.

3. NO YOUTH GROUP TONIGHT

4. LADIES BIBLE STUDY—Wednesdays @ 9:30AM at Kathy Stump's house (12928 Whitehaven Lane, Fishers). Studying the book of 1 Peter using Jen Wilkin's guide.

5. SERVERS NEEDED—Our new facility comes with needs for more workers to serve the Lord by serving one another. Areas of particular need:

- **Host Team**—greet our members and guests with a smile and hospitality (see Kathleen Hodnett (khodnett1207@gmail.com))
- **Nursery**—serve our youngest with loving care (see Kathy Stump 317-292-7632).
- **Worship Team**—use your gifts and talents to serve the Lord (see Marc Aldarondo 317-629-5326).

6. ONWARD PRAYER RESPONSE CARD ONLINE—To make it easier for some, you can scan this QR code in order to complete your Prayer Response Card.



7. DONATE BIBLES in memory of or in honor of loved ones through the Gideons. See the display on the table in the worship area.