**“Understanding the Times: An Introduction to the Major Ideas Shaping Our World, and a Biblical Response”**

*Christ Presbyterian Church*

**Fall 2020 Sunday School**

[for Adults, College, and High School Students]

In this eleven-week class (September 13-November 22), we will seek to gain an understanding of some of the major ideas and forces that are at work in our world and how we might evaluate and respond to them in a Biblically faithful way.

**Main Class Text:**

* James Sire, ***The Universe Next Door: A Basic Worldview Catalog***. Third Edition, IVP, 1997 [this will be the recommended resource for class members; new editions are now published].

**Other Basic Sources**:

* Francis Beckwith and Gregory Koukl, ***Relativism: Feet Firmly Planted in Mid-Air***. Baker Books, 1998.
* Douglas Groothius, ***Truth Decay: Defending Christianity Against the Challenges of Postmodernism***. InterVarsity, 2000.
* Ronald Nash, ***Worldviews in Conflict: Choosing Christianity in A World of Ideas***. Zondervan, 1992.
* David Nobel, ***Understanding the Times: The Religious Worldviews of Our Day and the Search for Truth***. Harvest House, 1991.
* Melvin Tinker, ***That Hideous Strength: How the West Was Lost­­–The Cancer of Cultural Marxism in the Church, the World and the Gospel of Change***. EP Books, 2018.
* Paul Vitz, ***Psychology as Religion: The Cult of Self-Worship***. Eerdmans, reprinted 2002.

***Other, more specific sources will be added from week-to-week.***

***All outlines and class notes will be posted on the Church website.***

**Tentative Class Schedule**

(Subject to change as needed)

**9/13-Week One:**

* ***Course Introduction***: ***Worldviews***
* ***Marxism:*** ***An*** ***Introduction*** [includes Liberation Theology, Utopianism, BLM, Critical Race Theory, Identity Politics]

**9/20–Week Two:**

* ***Marxism***: ***Race, Racism, and Anti-Racism***

**9/27-Week Three:**

* ***Marxism:*** ***Race, Racism, and Anti-Racism continued***

**10/4-Week Four:**

* ***Postmodernism*** [includes Relativism, Humanism]

**10/11-Week Five:**

* ***Existentialism:*** ***Part One*** [includes Narcissism, Psychologism, Victimology, Transgenderism, Gender-fluidity]

**10/18–Week Six:**

* ***Existentialism:*** ***Part Two***

**10/25–Week Seven:**

* ***Nihilism:*** ***Part One*** [includes Anarchy, ANTIFA, ‘Occupy’ Movement]

**11/1–Week Eight:**

* ***Nihilism: Part Two***

**11/8–Week Nine:**

* ***Naturalism:*** ***Part One*** [includes Atheism, Deism, Darwinism]

**11/15–Week Ten:**

* ***Naturalism:*** ***Part Two***

**11/22–Week Eleven:**

* ***Final Matters for Consideration***
* ***Q and A***