##

History of Integration of Religion and Society

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Professor

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Assignment

1. In a brief 3-5 page essay, respond to three of the four options below:

a. In light of class materials, why is a historical perspective important for a Christian scholar-practitioner? When considering the concept of divine revelation, what makes a Christian worldview's historical perspective insight-producing? [At least one page].

b. Discuss various approaches to historical study (secular and Christian) presented in the course. What did you take away from the biblical historical perspective? In addition, interact with either the course concepts of chronos, kairos, disclosure statements, OR Dr. Ward's Jesus' Philosophy of History in Matthew 13 kingdom parables? [At least one
page].

c. Summarize the various ways of how God changes the world. Incorporate the course lecture discussion on the Cultural Mandate with course readings/audio (select at least two sources - Hunter, Hegeman, Kgatla, Szterszky, Tippett, or Wenigar located in Course Resources). [At least one page].

d. Discuss how one of Schmidt's areas of Christian impact on history
appeals to your calling. Why? [At least one-half page].

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In class lecturing, we learn that the History of Integration of Religion and Society course is to provide a historical perspective on and illustrates models and methods of the integration of religion and society. We learn that many societies and countries applied the principles in the Bible for public administration, The Ten Commandments in the Bible influenced making the supreme law of the land such as the constitution of the United States. In America, we can see the words: In God, We Trust on the printed money, and the words So Help Me God in the public oath. The Christian worldview, s historically influenced by the national management of the federal government. The concepts of equality, freedom, happiness, welfare, charity, love, pardon, and forgiveness…were mentioned in the Bible. In America, students and new citizens must cite the Oath of Allegiance with the words; One nation under God. In modern society, people usually still greet: God bless you; God bless America. The Cross sign of Christianity is used all over the world and the date that Jesus was born divided the history of mankind.

As a matter of fact, modern materialistic historical revisionism is corrected by tracing the social impact of Jesus and Christianity in many ways: improving human rights, eliminating slavery, refining morality, expanding education, art, science, democracy, and other areas of social concern.

In my opinion, the young country in history compared to China or Vietnam with 6000 years of history, the United States just established in 1789; however, it becomes one of the strongest countries in the world because America applied the principles of the Bible in public administration, education, management, human services, politics, and public policy.

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page].

Secular is living in the present tense. The Hippy movement in the United States or Jean-Paul Sartre ‘s followers in France is the people who advocated for a secular society. They are materialistic, greedy, and selfish and want to enjoy the instant present life at any cost.

Many in society live in a “present-tense culture.”

• “History is bunk.” The past is the past, let’s live in the present

• Postmodern citizens are happy living “stranded in the present.” They do not care about the future. The present time is precious, let’s enjoy it.

• Alexis de Tocqueville, remarked that the growth of

Democracy in the 19th century would create a single-minded passion for the present.

Fortunately, in the world, there is a Christian point of view that hope for the future with a stable, expectable, promising, optimistic, and visionary world. We suggested in those theories of the Christian approach is the difference: Chronos and Kairos.

• Chronos – the measure of time in the quantity of duration, length of period,

age of an object, and rate of acceleration.

• Kairos – the qualitative character of time, the special position of an

event, the season of the appropriateness of something, an opportunity

that may not recur. (Smith, 1969).

The believers trust that there is a season for anything in the world and there is an Almighty Creator controlling all over the world. We learn that there is a time for war and a time for peace. For example, in Vietnam, there was a time for terrible war with millions of deaths from 1954 to 1975 between the North and the South; however, it has come to an end with a peaceful development. God has a plan, but the plan does not come immediately. Society and individuals should trust, wait, and have faith in God’s plan. Secular materialism is temporary. It will end in the future very soon. The Power of Communism and Fascism had ended., but the Biblical principles have expanded to the world and brought hope, faith, love, development, and joy to people.

As we study the Bible, God’s sovereignty over history inspires admiration and humility.

When people provided a historical understanding, they will move toward faithful discipleship.

We study history to learn lessons from the past and plan for a better future. Thank you for the course that equipped us with the knowledge, skill, and ability to understand the lessons from history and plan effectively for the future.

We also learn from the course, in the Lord’s prayer goes, “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be

done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:10). It is very important to consider the kingdom

message of Jesus in a biblical way. As Christians, we learn history and believe in Jehovah and Jesus, and as a Professor said “The biblical truth of the kingdom gospel sets people free.”

Discuss how one of Schmidt's areas of Christian impact on history
appeals to your calling. Why?.

As we are living in the 20th century, the world is becoming increasingly multicultural, secularized, and biblically illiterate. People do not have a direction in life, and they live in the present time: selfish, indifferent, and unsympathetic.

Thank you to Professor Schmidt for his book; “How Christianity changed the world”

How Christianity Changed the World is a topically arranged Christian history for Christians and non-Christians. Grounded in solid research and written in a popular style, this book is both a helpful apologetic tool for talking with unbelievers and a source of evidence and fantastic historical examples. However, many of these examples are related to America, not the world.

People usually think of the church with hostility or resentment. As the missionaries with the army conquered and dominate many undeveloped countries (Vietnam is one that was dominated by France missionaries in the 18th century).

Schmidt’s book: How Christianity Changed the World is a topically arranged Christian history for Christians and non-Christians. Grounded in compacted research and written in a common style, this book is both a helpful apologetic for talking with unbelievers and a source of evidence for why Christianity deserves credit for many of the humane, social, scientific, and cultural advances in the Western world in the last two thousand years.

My calling after reading the book is to have faith in Christianity’s principle of justice. As the Bible taught about God creating the world, so all are children of God, and they are equal in God’s eyes. We should treat others with respect and dignity and pursue justice for all.

**Works Cited**

Schmidt, A. J. (2004). *How Christianity changed the world*. Zondervan.