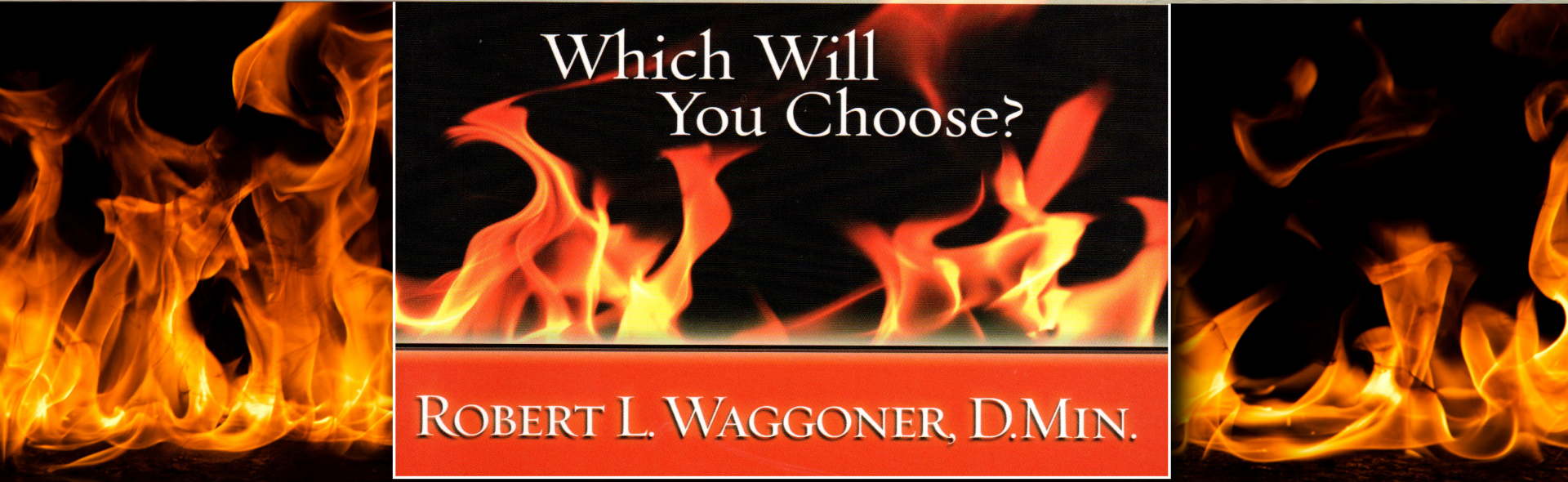




CHRISTIANITY

or

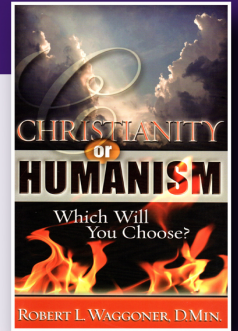
HUMANISM



Which Will
You Choose?

ROBERT L. WAGGONER, D.MIN.

CHRISTIANITY vs HUMANISM



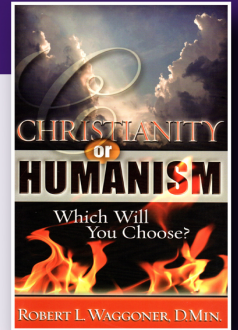
Everyone has a personal *worldview*.

- A *biblical* worldview is where God's word is allowed to be the foundation of everything we think, say, and do.

A *Secular Humanist* worldview is described by its adherents as:

- A method of critical inquiry which opposes theism, religion, and other "nonsensical and false claims".
- A philosophy of life, an ethical, political, and social framework for a better and more just world in which individuals can flourish and be happy.

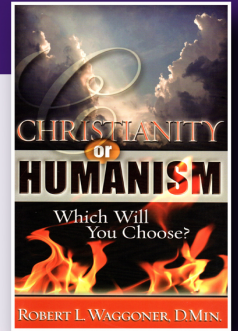
IN A HUMANIST WORLDVIEW



Every thought, action, and word spoken is framed from the viewpoint that:

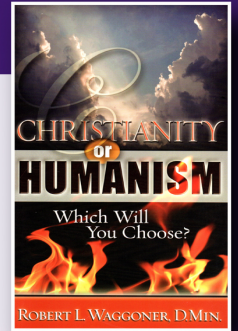
- There is only the physical. Nature/matter is self-existing, i.e. is eternal.
- Only that which can be proven by experimentation (scientific method) is true.
- There is no revelation from God. Humans develop and define their own ethics or morality based on what *they* consider is in their best interests.
- There is no spirit; no God; no human soul; no life after death.
- The life we have now is “all and enough” and should be lived to experience its full potential.

Lesson Learning Objectives



- To recognize that Humanism meets the accepted definition of religion, and in fact is a form of religion
- To recognize the key differences between Christianity and Humanism
- To recognize that the value in life and morality, as taught in the N.T., is far superior to that which is taught by Humanism

Definitions of Major Terms



- Religion –

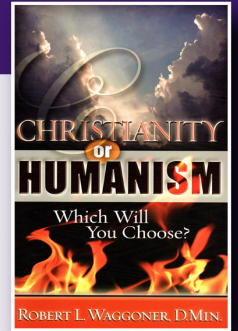
Webster: a cause, principle, or system of beliefs held to with ardor and faith

-ardor: passion/enthusiasm

Oxford: a pursuit or interest followed with great devotion

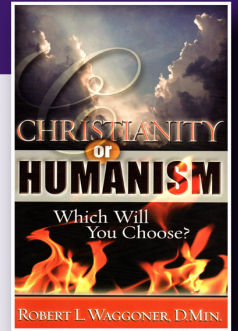
Collins: Any specific system of belief and worship, involves code of ethics and a philosophy. Any object of conscientious regard or pursuit.

The Religion of Humanism



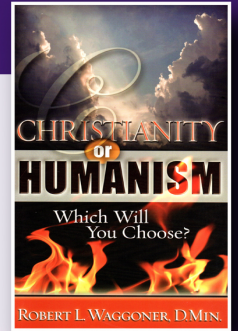
- **Mark 7:6-9**: And he said to them, “**Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.**” And he said to them, “**You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!**”
- Man has established their own tradition through the invention of the Humanist religion

The Religion of Humanism



- Many people today are religious humanists instead of Christians, or should we say they are Humanists who are religious
- A religious Humanist is someone who attempts to provide spiritual answers without the Word of God.
- **Col. 2:8**: “See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”

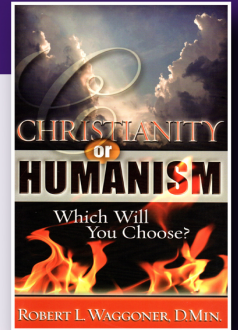
The Religion of Humanism



“The pagan gets a piece of wood and builds him a god; the intellectual in the university gets his mind and builds himself a god.” ---Dr. Jack Hyles

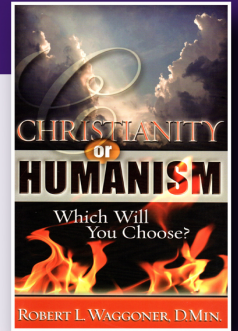
- Humanism is mental idolatry
- As Christians we are commanded to “rebuke sharply” those who teach error and are not “sound in the faith”
---Titus 1:10-11,13

The Religion of Humanism



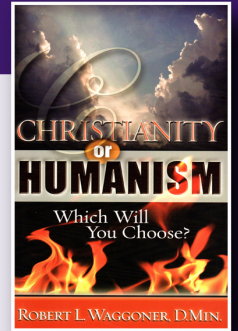
- **Learning Objective 1: Humanism is a religion**
- Secular Humanism **claims to be a religion, is legally declared to be a religion, and acts like a religion,** therefore it must be a religion

The Religion of Humanism



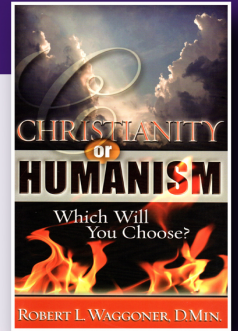
- **Secular Humanism claims to be a religion:**
 - 1) The language of the Humanist Manifesto 1 proves that the signors believed humanism to be a religion. It affirms 15 principles, 8 of which use language that requires recognition that humanism is a religion. **“So stands the theses of religious Humanism.”**---beginning of last paragraph of HM1
 - 2) The AHA website discusses the goal of establishing Humanist Chaplains and Chaplaincies at various universities in order to provide counseling and advice from a humanist viewpoint.

The Religion of Humanism



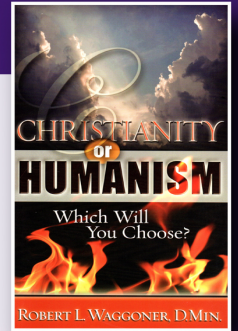
- **Humanism has legally been declared a religion:**
 - 1) The “American Humanist Association” was incorporated under the ‘not for profit act’ of the state of Illinois and was set up under the legal status as a “religious organization”
 - 2) The Supreme Court has written arguments which classify Secular Humanism as a religion **Torcaso vs Watkins

The Religion of Humanism



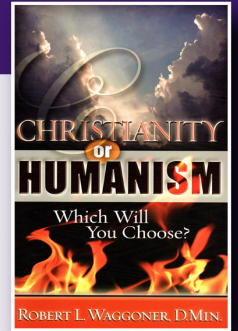
- **Humanism acts like a religion:**
 - 1) Humanism promotes values that seek to change lives, to worship mankind, and to have religious assumptions
 - AHA has stated goals to place Humanist Counselors in every public school in America

The Religion of Humanism



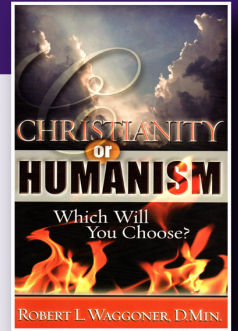
- Humanism is legally recognized as a religion, and is currently being taught in public schools. However, the primary concern of the Christian should be that Humanism is a form of self-worship.
- Humanism has existed as long as mankind has existed:
 - Eve was the first humanist **GEN. 3: 5-6**
 - The tower of Babel **GEN 11:4-7**
 - Destruction of Tyre **EZK 28:22**

The Religion of Humanism



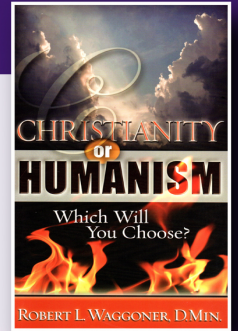
- Humanism is self-worship
- Secular Humanism differs from that of Renaissance Humanism. RH were students of the humanities. Began by reading ancient, non christian, documents of humanity and began to absorb pagan assumptions regarding the nature of man. Subsequently, they began rejecting Christian perspectives and gradually changed from studying the humanities to worshipping humanity

The Religion of Humanism



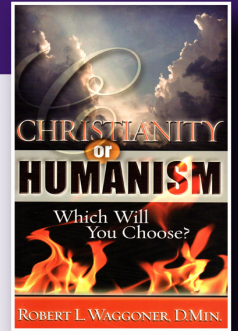
- **Learning Objective 2: Differences between Christianity and Humanism**
- **Self vs Others:** Humanism promotes self-worship / Christianity promotes other's first
 - While Christianity recognizes self...it calls for self- denial and selflessness: **PHIL 2:3-4**
 - Humanism promotes self-esteem, self-integration, self-determination, ideals that basically produces a very **SELFish** society

The Religion of Humanism



- **Foundational differences:**
 - Humanism must reject any law or moral code that is not derived from human wisdom.....this includes the Bible
 - Humanism is a religion founded on naturalism, rationalism, and scientism
 - Christianity is founded on God, and the belief that God alone authorizes what mankind should believe and do

The Religion of Humanism



- **Understanding of Nature:**

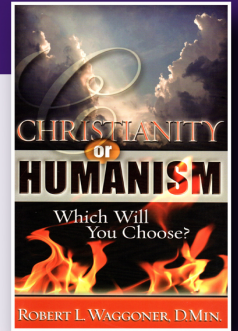
- Humanists believe the universe is self-existing and therefore eternal

- Christians believe the universe was created by God and is temporal

- Humanists think all living things have evolved by chance and continue in an upward progression

- Christians think all creatures were designed, remain constant, and reproduce after their own kind

The Religion of Humanism

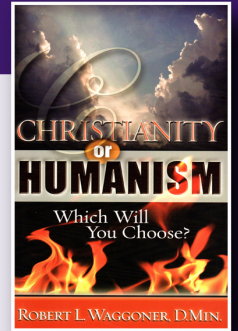


- **Understanding of Humanity**

-Humanists believe mankind has only a physical nature, is only temporal and is basically good, being the highest form of evolutionary development. Believe humans are self-sufficient, able to govern themselves, and apart from God are able to save themselves from their problems.

-Christians believe mankind has both physical and spiritual natures, is a free moral agent, and was created by God in His own image

The Religion of Humanism



- **Source and Nature of Religion**

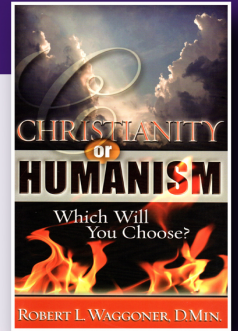
- Humanists perceive reality to be only physical and temporal consisting of only the natural realm

- Christians perceive reality to be physical, spiritual, and eternal, comprising both natural and supernatural realms. Christians believe religion must be established and presented by God

- Humanism produces maximum individual autonomy

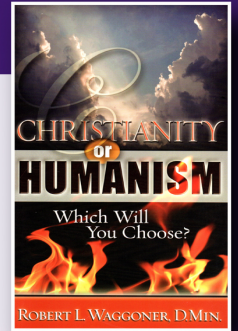
- Christianity produces human submission to divine revelation and reverence towards God

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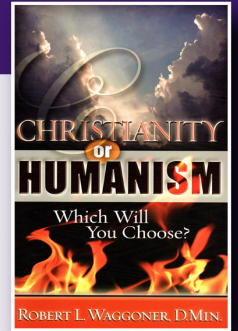
- **View of Immortality**
 - Humanists deny that people have souls
 - Christians believe that every person has a soul with an eternal destination
 - Humanism seeks complete realization of the human personality and the good life in the here and now
 - Christians believe in an eternal home

The Religion of Humanism



- Learning Objective 3: Why Christianity is superior to Humanism
- **Reason #1: Consistency**
 - The Christian religion is consistent with Christian declarations, but Humanist theology is not consistent with Humanist theology
 - Humanists cannot prove their beliefs either by natural science or by reason ...for example, Humanists cannot prove these contentions:
 - **There is no God**
 - **Matter is eternal**
 - **All things originated through evolution**
 - **Man is only physical**
 - **Man has no demonstrative purpose in life**

The Religion of Humanism

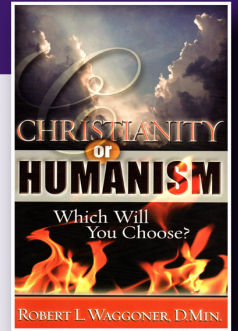


- **Reason #2: Identity**

- Christianity gives better answers to the questions of identity
- Humanism seeks to answer basic and ultimate questions regarding reality. **To the question “who am I?”** Humanists answer that Man is a part of nature and has emerged as a result of continuous process

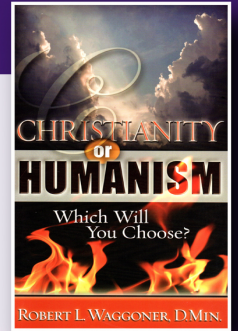
- Christians answer through the following scriptures:
 - GEN 9:2-3,6:** We are more than mere animals
 - GEN 3:20, ACTS 17:26;** We are children of God by creation

The Religion of Humanism



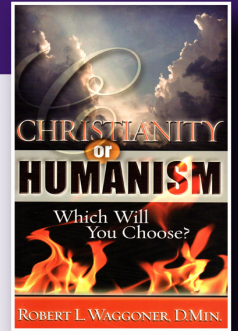
- To the question “where did I come from?”
 - Humanists respond that “the human species is an emergence from natural evolutionary forces.”
 - Christians answer that mankind was created by God: made from the dust of the ground in the image of God
GEN 2:7, 3:19, 1:26-27, 9:6

The Religion of Humanism



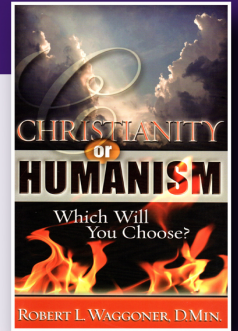
- To the question “**why am I here?**”
 - Humanism declares the ultimate goal should be the fulfillment of personal potential
 - Christians answer that man is made to glorify and serve God
 - MATT 25:21, 23**
 - I THES 1:9**
 - HEB 11:28**
 - I COR 9:19**
 - GAL 5:13**

The Religion of Humanism



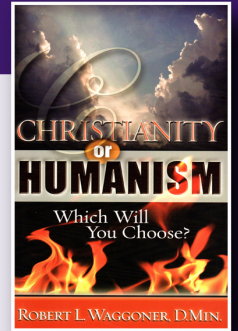
- To the question “Where am I going?”
 - Humanists consider the complete realization of human personality to be the end of man’s life and seeks its development/fulfillment in the here and now
 - Christians respond that everyone has an eternal destiny:
 - JOHN 5:28-29**
 - ROM 6:23**
 - 2 THES 1:7-9**

The Religion of Humanism



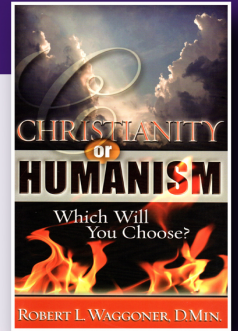
- **Reason #3: Logical Thinking**
 - Which is better?: Thinking God’s design and purpose are the cause of human ancestry or humans evolved by blind chance?
 - A belief in God’s purpose gives meaning to life, but a belief in life from non-life negates meaningful life
 - Believing that life is best lived when spent in praise to God and service is better than believing life is to be spent in selfish, materialistic, and hedonistic pursuits

The Religion of Humanism



- Conclusion:
 - Humanism can be recognized as a religion because it claims to be a religion, and acts like a religion
 - Humanists and Christians differ in their religious foundations and beliefs about immortality, nature, humanity, and source
 - Christianity is superior to the religion of Humanism due to its consistency, superior handling of questions on identity, and logical thinking

The Religion of Humanism



- I Timothy 6:20-21

“O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge,” for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. Grace be with you.”