

# Law, Grace, and Citizenship

## Labor Day Conference—2012

### Session #1 (1 Sep): "Our Situation Today: The Big Picture"

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

This conference about us in \_\_\_[contact with our culture]\_:

This conference is about \_[what we can do to strength ourselves]\_: (2 Tim 3:16)

In our family units

In our churches

In our participation as Christian citizens with governing powers never experienced by the Church prior to the 1600s

Conference method:

#### **II. PRE-ISRAELITE ORIGINS OF CIVILIZATION**

##### Creation Gen 1-2

Major concept #1: epistemic authority is \_\_\_[revelation]\_\_\_

*Only assurance of \_real\_]\_ knowledge vs relativism of a pluralist society*

Major concept #2: man is \_[lord]\_ of nature (dominion)

*Irrationalism + old-earth delusion + evolution = elevates \_[Nature]\_ over man (old pagan nature religion revival)*

Major concept #3: man's \_[sexual]\_ nature is profoundly different from rest of creation

*If man is the final "definer", than sex & marriage are merely '\_[social constructs]\_, 'just a title for whatever we want to create.*

##### Fall Gen 3-4

Major concept #4: real evil began with rebellion against God in BOTH the invisible and visible realms of creation with serious consequences for both man and nature

*Evil extends beyond the visible world into the invisible world*

Major concept #5: natural evil began with God's cursing--"as goes [man], so goes [nature]"

*Man is connected with nature through responsibility to God and His judgments*

Major concept #6: Origin of evil establishes TWO needs--redemption and doxological justification

*God killed the [first animal] for sacrifice (1st substitutionary atonement)  
Every move in the plan of salvation must also meet forensic challenges*

Major concept #7: The Presence of God ("sacred space") requires lethal enforcement of approach protocol (Gen 3:24)

*Sacred spaces = locations where God meets man [physically] (Eden-Gen 2-3; Bethel-**Gen 35:7**; Sinai-**Ex 20**)*

*God's physical presence in fallen creation creates death to all violators*

Flood & Noahic Covenant (Gen 8-9)

Major concept #8: Self-government and family-tribal government failure led to civil governmental authority

*End of a civilization that relied upon angelic agencies, additional cursing by God, and human conscience for social order—vastly more extensive human freedom than our present civilization*

*God's 3 choices: repeat antediluvian history, end history, do a new thing*

*A new form of government introduced to restrain evil and judgment for grace to be extended to man*

### **III. CONCLUSION**

"Situational awareness"

Eight major concepts that separate the Bible from the world of unbelief