The background of the slide is a close-up, artistic photograph of an hourglass. The top bulb is filled with a light blue liquid, and the bottom bulb is filled with a golden-brown liquid. The hourglass is positioned on the right side of the frame, with the top bulb at the top right and the bottom bulb extending towards the bottom right. The lighting is soft, creating a gradient from light blue on the left to light orange on the right.

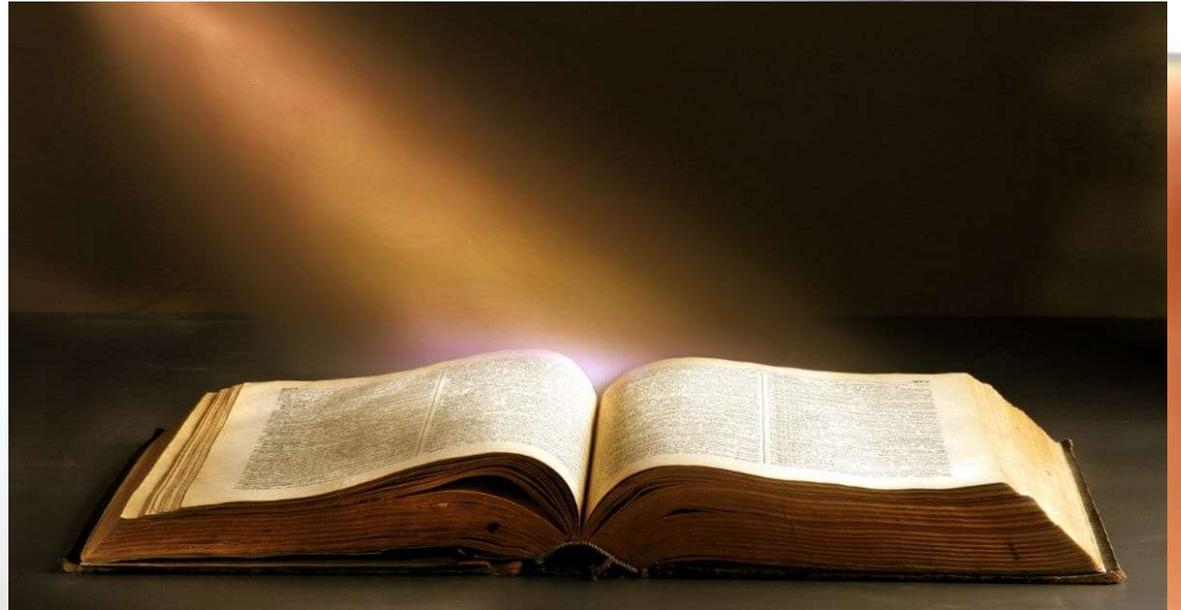
THE BATTLE FOR INFLUENCE

The Challenge from HUMANISM

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. (Colossians 2:8)

PROPHETIC WARNINGS FROM THE BIBLE

- Romans 1:18-32
- 2Timothy 3:3-7



Perilous Times and Perilous Men (2Timothy 3:3-7)

- 3 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! ⁶ For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, ⁷ always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

HUMANISM –The New Civic Religion

- **It is necessary to reject objective truth in order to have freedom. Gone are the ‘laws of Nature and of Nature’s God’**
- **There is no God, so it is up to humans to save themselves by creating their own morals and way of living.**
- **Humans are by nature good. Sins are just mistakes.**
- **Morality is relative and situational. No God to guide or command. No concept of sin. No absolute rights or wrongs**
- **People cannot be blame for what they do**
- **Everything can be explained by science and rational thoughts**

Humanism as defined by the International Humanist and Ethical Union (bylaw 5.1)

- Humanism is a democratic and ethical life stance, which affirms that human beings have the right and responsibility to give meaning and shape to their own lives. It stands for the building of a more human society through an ethic based on human and other natural values in the spirit of reason and free inquiry through human capabilities. It is not theistic, and it does not accept supernatural views of reality.

The World-view of a Humanist

- trusts to the scientific method when it comes to understanding how the universe works and rejects the idea of the supernatural (and is therefore an atheist or agnostic)
- makes their ethical decisions based on reason, empathy, and a concern for human beings and other sentient animals
- believes that, in the absence of an afterlife and any discernible purpose to the universe, human beings can act to give their own lives meaning by seeking happiness in this life and helping others to do the same.

The 'doctrines' of Humanism

- ***Atheism***- do not belief in the existence of God
- ***Moral relativism***- What you believe is true for you. What I believe is true for me
- ***Post modernism***- rejects absolutes
- ***Pluralism*** – all cultures, religions, beliefs , norms and practices are equally valid
- ***Hedonism*** –pursuit of pleasure for pleasure's sake
- ***Consumerism & Materialism*** – from needs to desire culture and nothing exists except matter
- ***Individualism*** –identity of self over other relations
- ***Existentialism*** – emphasizes defining self and the meaning of life through free will and choice.

Humanism Advocate

- LGBT rights
- Selfism (satisfying person rights)- same-sex marriages, consensual sex partners (without marriage), pro-choice in abortion and gender preference
- Against critique from religious or civic groups especially. Christianity
- Against public display & promotion of biblical values especially, in institutions of higher learning and schools
- Legislation to protect the above
- Media support for humanist values. Most media in the West are pro-humanist

The spread of Humanism

- Indifference of the church- liberalism, false doctrines
- Cultural Marxism – equality in everything
- Globalization of culture- cultural cross fertilization
- Spreading of knowledge, social comparison and influence through the digital social media
- Empowerment of individuals by technology platforms (e.g. e-wallet, digital shopping malls, easy credit).
- Deception, lies, fakes being acceptable. Facilitate manipulation

The Futility of Human Wisdom

- 1 Corinthians 3:19-23 (ESV) ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” ²⁰ and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” ²¹ So let no one boast in men.

WARNING –The Wrath of God

- Romans 1:18-20 (ESV) ¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

The “ism” generation

- *What is their world view and how are they being shaped ?*

Proverbs 22:6 (AMP) ⁶Train up a child in the way he should go [teaching him to seek God’s wisdom and will for his abilities and talents], Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

