Right Thinking in a World Gone Wrong
Introduction

I. The Premise of this Book:

a. “It is common in the evangelical church today for people to verbally acknowledge that the Bible, as God’s Word, is the final authority for both what they believe and how they live. Yet in reality, a clear connection between that public confession and personal conduct is rare.” Agree or Disagree?

b. “The fact is that far too many professing Christians live their lives, day in and day out, on the basis of something other than the Bible.” Agree or Disagree?

c. What are some of the sources Christians turn to instead of the Bible and what answers are they often seeking from those sources?
   i. 1. 
      2. 
      3. 
      4.  
   ii. 1. 
        2. 
        3. 
        4.  
   iii. 1. 
        2. 
        3. 
        4.  
   iv. 1. 
        2. 
        3. 
        4.  
d. **What is a Practical Atheist?** (Psalm 14:1; James 1:22; 2:18-20; Colossians 2:8; Romans 12:1-2)

i. “What is deadly to the church is when the external forms of religion are maintained while their substance is discarded. This we call practical atheism. Practical atheism appears when we live as if there were no God. The externals continue, but man becomes the central thrust of devotion as the attention of religious concern shifts away from man’s devotion to God to man’s devotion to man, bypassing God. The “ethic” of Christ continues in a superficial way, having been ripped from its supernatural, transcendent, and divine foundation.” ([http://www.ligonier.org/blog/practical-atheism-vs-biblical-christianity/](http://www.ligonier.org/blog/practical-atheism-vs-biblical-christianity/), R.C. Sproul)

ii. **Actions vs. Words?** (James 1:22; 2:18-20)

iii. **Taken Captive?** (Colossians 2:8)

1. “As a result, their priorities reflect the world’s priorities, not God’s. Their patterns of behavior and their plans for the future differ only slightly from those of their unsaved friends and neighbors. Their expenditures reveal that their perspective is temporal, and that they are vainly pursuing the elusive American Dream. Their shortcomings, when they admit to them, receive the same fault-free labels that the world ascribes (“mistakes” or “diseases” or “addictions” rather than “sins”), as they search for answers in psychology, medication, or the self-help section of the bookstore. Though they adhere to an external form of traditional Christian moralism, there isn’t anything particularly biblical or Christ-centered about how they live.” (pg. 8)

iv. **Love vs. Indifference?** (Romans 12:1-2)
e. So, what is the premise of this book? (John 14:15)

i. “True Christianity is not defined on the basis of external moralism, religious traditionalism, or partisan politics, but on the basis of a personal love for Jesus Christ and a desire to follow Him no matter what the cost (John 14:15).” (pg. 8)

II. The Heart of the Christian Ethic:
   a. What is at the heart of the Christian ethic? (Titus 3:5-8; Romans 8:13-14; Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Peter 1:16; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

   b. What happens when we only focus on external behavior modification? (Matthew 23:27; Samuel 16:7; Mark 12:30-31)

   c. What MUST a truly Christian Ethic affirm and apply? (Isaiah 64:6; Ephesians 2:8-10)
III. The Total Sufficiency of Scripture (Psalm 19:7-9):

a. What does it mean to say the Scriptures are “Totally Sufficient”? (2 Peter 1:2-3; cf. 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:21)

i. “To say the Scriptures are sufficient means that the Bible is all we need to equip us for a life of faith and service. It provides a clear demonstration of God’s intention to restore the broken relationship between Himself and humanity through His Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior through the gift of faith. No other writings are necessary for this good news to be understood, nor are any other writings required to equip us for a life of faith.” (http://www.gotquestions.org/sufficiency-of-Scripture.html)

ii. “The sufficiency of Scripture is under attack today, and, sadly, that attack comes far too often in our own churches. Management techniques, worldly methods of drawing crowds, entertainment, extra-biblical revelations, mysticism, and some forms of psychological counseling all declare that the Bible and its precepts are not adequate for the Christian life. But Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me” (John 10:27). His voice is all we need to hear and the Scriptures are His voice, completely and utterly sufficient.” (http://www.gotquestions.org/sufficiency-of-Scripture.html)

b. What does it mean when the Psalmist says the “law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul”? (2 Timothy 3:15-17; cf. 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; 2:10-16)

c. What does it mean when the Psalmist says “the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple”? (Romans 1:21-23; 1 Corinthians 1:20-29)
d. **What does it mean when the Psalmist says “the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart”?** (Psalm 119:14-16; Proverbs 10:27-32; 1 Peter 1:6-9; cf. Matthew 5:1-12)


e. **What does it mean when the Psalmist writes, “The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes”?** (Psalm 119:105-106, 129-130)


f. **What does it mean when the Psalmist writes, “the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever”?** (Psalm 12:6)


g. **What does it mean when the Psalmist writes, “the judgments of the LORD are true, they are righteous altogether”?** (John 17:17; Psalm 119:160; 2 Samuel 7:28)


h. “Scripture describes some people as “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (2 Timothy 3:7). That is not referring to intellectual truth or the wisdom of this world; it is referring instead to the truth of life, death, God, man, sin, right, wrong, heaven, hell, hope, joy, and peace. People cannot find that kind of truth on their own. That is why God has given us His ___________.” (pg. 12)
IV. Putting It All Together:

   a. “The Bible is the final source of __________—about God, creation, life, death, men, women, children, husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, friends, and enemies. It shows us how to ________, and to do so abundantly.” (pg. 13)

   b. What must our responses to moral questions NOT be grounded in?
      i. 
      ii. 
      iii. 
      iv. 
      v. 
      vi. 

   c. Where does each of our personal Christian ethics begin? (John 14:15)

   d. What happens when we sidestep or ignore the instructions contained in God’s Word? (1 John 2:3-6)

      i. “In The Cost of Discipleship, Dietrich Bonhoeffer penned the words, "Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate". Cheap grace means living as though God ignores or condones our sins. But forgiveness means that sin is real, and must be dealt with. We cannot ignore it, because God does not ignore it. The denial of sin is not grace: it is a lie. Cheap grace means living without the demand of obedience upon us. And where there is no call for obedience, then all things are tolerated. "Do your own thing" becomes the motto. And so nothing can be labeled as "sinful." No act is clearly right or wrong. Thus, there is no need of forgiveness. But because John insists that God calls us to obey the commands that have been given, he also reminds us that when we fall short of keeping them, there is forgiveness in Christ. And, to come at it from the other angle, where there is forgiveness available, it follows that certain actions—whether thoughts, words or deeds—can be dealt with only when one confesses and is forgiven. In short, the call to confession and the offer of forgiveness go hand in hand with the call to obedience. Cheap grace is grace without obedience, and the Elder knows no such grace. It is not the grace given to us in Jesus Christ.” (IVP New Testament Commentaries)