**Antigo Community Church – February 12, 2023**

**Title: “Not So Fast!”**

“Christianity is a picture of reality…It’s an account of the way things actually are. It’s not just a view from the inside (a Christian’s personal beliefs and relationship with God). It is also a view of the outside. It is a view of the world out there, of how the world really is in itself… Christianity is a worldview.”

Four elements of a worldview:

Creation – how things began, where everything came from including us

Fall – describes the problem – we know something is wrong with the world

Redemption – the solution that fixes the problem

Restoration - describes what the world looks like once the repair takes place

Question #1 Why is there evil with an all-good, all-powerful God?

“How can something go wrong when there was no right way for it to be in the first place?”

Psalm 86:5, 15

“You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you… But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.”

Principles of Divine Judgment: Jeremiah 18:7-10

 God announces His judgment beforehand

 God gives time to repent

 If repentance occurs – mercy is granted

 If not, judgment comes – because God is just and sin must be paid for.

Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”

2 Samuel 24:14

“I am in great distress. Let us fall into the hands of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but do not let me fall into the hands of men.”

Question #2 How can you say there is only one way to heaven? Christianity is too narrow.

John 14:6

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Question #3 Miracles – really?

“I see people; they look like trees walking around.”

Hebrews 11:1-3

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.”

And now it’s “Full steam ahead!”