Dear professors, employees, and students of Trinity Christian College of Chicago—may the peace, grace, and the blessings of God be with you.

First of all, I wish to express my utmost gratitude to Dr. Steven Timmermans for inviting me here today. It is a tremendous honor. I also would like to thank the professors and the students at Taeshin University for sending me here.

This morning, I would like to speak to you on the biblical worldview. The course of one’s life depends on what kind of worldview they choose. There are several different worldviews—humanistic, materialistic, and nihilistic to name a few.

Today’s text from Romans 11:36 can be called the conclusion of the Pauline theology. It may also be called a psalm of gratitude and praise. “For from Him and through Him and unto Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever!” From this text, we need to focus on three prepositions— from, through, and unto. We may say that these three prepositions describe the very structure of the world, as well as the worldview. The message of Apostle Paul is a strictly God-centered one—that God is the Origin, the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Judge of all things.

However, many different scholars and interpreters of today have freely changed the meaning of this text to suit their own needs. Mostly, they have taken God out of the text and put in humanism and materialism, re-writing it as “For from man and through man to man are all things. To man be the glory forever.” This is humanistic worldview—the world without the intervention of God. This belief focuses on humans—humans are the masters of the universe, the redeemers, the judges, and capable of all things. The boundary of good and evil is only marked by how much pleasure they experience.

As Dr. G.C. Berkouwer from the Vrije Universiteit (Free University) stated earlier on, the most serious problem of the world today is humanism—a world without God. However, humanism has already stained almost every aspect of academia possible—politics, economics, socials, art, education, and even religion. Humanism, founded by John Dewey, was recognized as a religion by the Supreme Court of the United States in 1967, and indeed, humanism has become a kind of religion in itself. It is frightening to see just how much humanism has come into life. Today’s politics seeks to operate without God; today’s world culture is slowly leaning towards humanism without God; today’s academics is also beginning to found itself on agnosticism and atheism. Today’s education has killed God and has built the tower of Babel instead. Even today’s theology and faith are being focused on man and not God. Make no mistake; humanism is anti-Christian.

Secondly, the meaning of Romans 11:36 has been distorted into materialism—that is, the word “material” is inserted instead of “God,” making the text into “For from materials and through materials and to materials are all things. To materials be the glory forever.” Again, the scenario is the same. Materialism lives within us and has also corrupted the various fields of the world philosophy, including politics, economics, socials, culture, art, academics, education, and religion. Money has not only become the idol for today’s world, but it has also become the origin of its destruction. Materialism
has caused politics to be corrupted, economics to fall, and mankind to be forever insatiable in their continuous desire to have.

Dear professor and students of Trinity Christian College—today, I wish to tell you of the great worldview the Bible offers us; the God-centered worldview. We may also call it a Calvinistic worldview. I firmly believe that the core of Romans 11:36 is the message of hope for the world today, which is that God is the Creator, Redeemer, and the Judge of all things. A great Calvinistic scholar named B.B. Warfield once said the Calvinism is seeing the invisible hand of God work within history. God holds the key to history, and I believe that Jesus Christ dwells within our history.

God-centered worldview, just as the other two worldviews, can also have a tremendous effect on the world—on not only our theology and faith, but politics, economics, socials, culture, art, academics, education, and every other field. Whatever area of professions you are in, you must work for the glory and the sovereignty of God. This is where our calling as Christians lies. A great Calvinistic scholar named Abraham Kuyper once said that there is nowhere which God’s sovereignty does not reach. I believe that wherever we are today, that is the place where we are to humbly serve God for His glory and sovereignty. The very reason we live in this world and the very reason we study is for the glory of God. This is because “For from Him and through Him and unto Him are all things.” The very place we are in today is the place of evangelism and missions. Jesus Christ is the head of the Church, families, schools, and nations, and most of all, the head of this community.

Then, how can we apply Calvinistic worldview to our lives today? Only by applying the Word of God—that is, the Bible—into our lives, can we live for Him. Psalm 119:105 says, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” Therefore, the Word of God must be in the center of every aspect of our lives. About 35 years ago, I had the honor of meeting with a great Calvinistic scholar named Dr. Herman Dooyeweerd. I asked Dooyeweerd on what the core proof of the Christian faith was. Dr. Dooyeweerd laughed and told me, “You must think I am a philosopher and not a theologian! What I know is in Psalm 119:105—’Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path,’ and that is the basis of all my beliefs, philosophies, and the foundation of my life.” I was greatly impressed by this humble answer.

Dear professors and students of Trinity Christian College, we are all believers in the Reformed faith. We can proudly say that we have the same Calvinistic faith as Apostle Paul, St. Augustine, Calvin, Kuyper, and Dooyeweerd. The 21st century suffers with religious pluralism, secularism, humanism, and materialism. The students at Trinity Christian College as well as Taeshin University must rise and live for the glory of God. We must become the light of the world and the salt of the earth, be soldiers of God, and fight against the humanistic and the materialistic worldviews. May the grace and the peace of God be with you. Thank you.