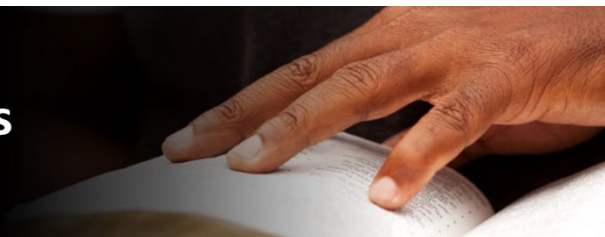


Biblical Apologetics

How do we know it's true?



Class 1, Wednesday, January 4, 2023

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."

(1 Peter 3:15-16, NIV)

Introduction to This Class

1. We must know *what* we believe.
2. We must also explain *why* we believe. This has become more important as faith in God, Jesus, and the Bible is waning.
3. We must talk to non-believers with gentleness and respect, not putdowns and anger.
4. Our lives as Christians must match our words as Christians.

Personal Notes

1. I am certain that the Christian faith is true.
2. I am certain that my faith is reasonable and makes sense religiously, scientifically, historically, and philosophically. Faith and reason work together and are in no way opposed.
3. I am certain that one of the best things I can do is to persuade others of the truth of Christianity.

Introduction to Apologetics

Apologetics is defined as "reasoned arguments or writings in justification of a religious doctrine." It combines Biblical truth with reasoned arguments, and the two supplement each other. Reasonable arguments can lead to inquiry which can lead to faith. And reasonable understanding builds faith.

Section 1 – Reasons Why There Must Be A God

We will look at reasons for the existence of God, why the Bible is trustworthy, and evidence for the reality and divinity of Jesus.

Many people don't need reasons for faith. Their experiences confirm their belief; nothing will change it. However, even firm believers acknowledge that many do not believe in God, and it is necessary for us to know these reasons to make disciples as Jesus taught us to do.

#1 The argument from c_____.

This builds on reality as we know it. Everything that *is* came from something else. Every event was caused by something else.

Scientists believe this. Evolutionists trace back a series of cause-and-effects. Astronomers trace the universe to a series of cause-and-effects back to a "big bang." What caused that?

At some point, there must have been an "u_____." Therefore, there must be a God.

#2 The argument from d_____.

The universe at every level displays an amazing degree of order and intricacy—galaxies, a human body, an eye, or a single protein molecule. There is a deep degree of complexity and interaction.

1. This either happened by c_____ or d_____.
2. Experience and study say it can't be c_____.
3. Therefore, there is evidence of I_____.
4. Intelligent d_____ comes from a d_____.
5. Therefore, there is an _____.

More Study:

Handbook of Christian Apologetics: Hundreds of Answers to Crucial Questions, by Peter Kreeft and Ronald K. Tacelli. *(A study book which I have used extensively in preparing for this class.)*

The Big Book of Christian Apologetics: An A to Z Guide, by Normal L. Geisler. *(A Dictionary approach to Apologetics.)*

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Introduction to This Class

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