

# Does Your Truth Match Reality?



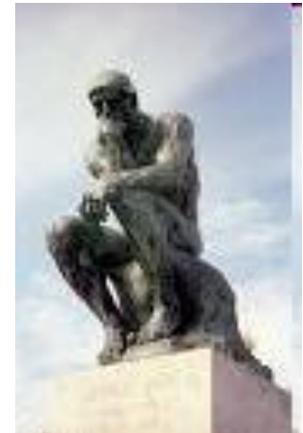
Dr. Heinz Lycklama

**heinz@osta.com**

**[www.heinzlycklama.com/messages](http://www.heinzlycklama.com/messages)**

# Overview

- What is the issue?
- Introduction to Apologetics
- Arguments for God's existence
- Why Christian Apologetics?
- What is truth?
- Contrasting views of truth
- How do we know truth?
- How do we know the Bible is true?
- Does the Truth in the Bible match reality?
- What is the evidence for Truth in the Bible?





# The Truth Issue

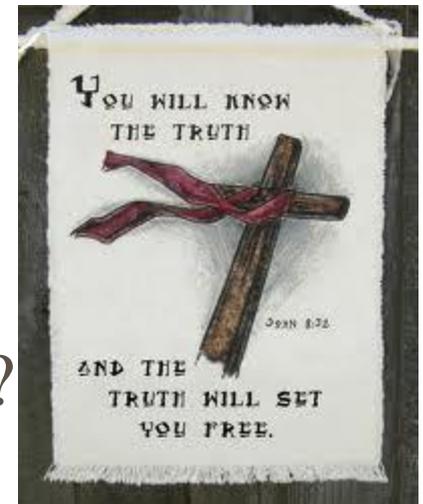
- Your “truth” is what you believe to be true
- How do you know it is true?
  - Based on presupposition?
  - Verified by credible evidence?
- Is the Christian Truth true?
  - Looking at the evidence
  - Does the evidence support Christian Truth?
- What about Atheism? Evolution? Creation?
- What about Mormonism? Hinduism? Buddhism?

# Questions About Truth

- Do we know because of the evidence:
  - From science, history or archaeology?

OR

- Do we believe because of:
  - Revelation, e.g. Holy Scripture?
  - Human reason, i.e. Logic?
  - Authority, e.g. Church tradition?
  - Human experience?





# Stumbling Blocks in Coming to Faith in Christ

1. Lack of intellectual knowledge of God
2. Other Christians – their perceived hypocrisy
3. Sin: accepting Christ would require turning away from sin
4. If God is all-loving and all-powerful, why is there so much pain, suffering, and evil?
5. Perceived conflict between Science and the Bible, e.g. Creation v. Evolution
6. No answers from the Church to the hard questions



# The Statistics!

- According to pollster George Barna:
  - Only 9% of “born again” teenagers believe that absolute truth even exists
  - At least 60% of the children from evangelical homes are estimated to leave the church once they leave home
- Reasons:
  - No answers from the church for the hard questions asked by our youth
  - Indoctrination of our youth in secularism and evolutionism



# Some Definitions

- Agnostic – one who does not know if God exists
- Apologetics – rational justification/defense of one's beliefs
- Deism – God created the world but is not involved in the world
- Epistemology – the study of how we know
- Fideism – no rational way to justify one's beliefs
- Humanism – man is the highest value in the universe



# More Definitions

- Logic – the methods of valid thinking
  - Deductive logic – start with general principles accepted as true and apply them to specific cases -> the conclusion must be true
  - Inductive logic – study phenomena to determine a general principle -> leads to most likely or reasonable conclusion (core of the scientific method)
- Metaphysics – the study of being or reality
- Modernism – human reasoning replaced reliance on God
- Ontology – the study of being



# Yet More Definitions

- Postmodernism – all meaning and truth is relative
- Presupposition – an assumption that is taken for granted
- Rationalism – determining all truth by logic
- Relativism – there are no absolutes
- Skeptic – one who doubts, questions, disagrees
- Theism – God created the world and is involved in the world



# Introduction to Apologetics

- Apologia (Greek) – speaking in defense
- Apologetics is a defense of beliefs by arguments, evidences, and reasons for why we believe what we believe
- Why Apologetics?
  - Explain basic Christian beliefs
  - Defend beliefs from those who attack them
  - Defend beliefs from heretical beliefs



# Explaining Christian Beliefs

- Instruction of the basic Christian doctrines, beliefs and history
- Answering questions about these doctrines and beliefs
- Teaching the fundamentals of defending the rationality and trustworthiness of the essential truths of the Faith
- Faith built on fact, not feelings



# Apologetics in the NT

- The word “apologia” is used in the NT eight times:
  - **Acts 19:33**, Alexander’s defense to the people
  - **Acts 22:1**, Paul’s defense before the people
  - **Acts 25:16**, Paul answers the charges against him
  - **Acts 26:2**, Paul’s defense before King Agrippa
  - **I Cor. 9:3**, Paul’s defense to those who examine him
  - **Phil. 1:7**, in defense and confirmation of the gospel
  - **II Tim. 4:16**, Paul’s defense in a court of law
  - **I Pet. 3:15**, give a defense ... a reason for the hope



# Apologetic Approaches

## ■ Defensive

- **Phil. 1:7**, “ ... inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, ... “
- **1 Pet. 3:15**, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear”

## ■ Offensive

- **2 Cor. 10:5**, “Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready ... “



# Some Early Christian Apologists

- The Apostle Paul:
  - Acts 26:2, “I make my defense ...”
  - Phil. 1:7, “defending the gospel”
- The Apostle Peter:
  - 1 Pet. 3:15, “ready to give an answer”
- Tertullian, early church leader, 155-230 AD
  - Apologeticus – Christianity as the true religion



# Christian Apologetic Styles

- Thomistic/Classical tradition
  - Based on philosophical arguments for God's existence
  - Then specific case for Christian revelation claims
- Evidentialist tradition
  - Empirical arguments about the life, miracles, death, resurrection of Christ, fulfilled prophecies – used as probabilistic proofs
- Presuppositional tradition
  - Belief in God and His Word is presupposed
  - Depends on the inspiration of the Holy Spirit
  - Non-theistic assumptions proven to be false



# Thomistic/Classical Tradition

- Based on work of Thomas Aquinas
- Wrote Summa Theologiae
- Five ways of proving the existence of God, e.g.
  - Cosmological argument – a first cause
  - One self-sufficient, efficient cause – God
  - There must be a necessarily existent being
  - God is the source of goodness
  - Teleological argument – Intelligent Design
- Science of natural and divine things are based on the foundation of Thomas' theses
- Important in the Catholic tradition



# Classical Example

- The Bible claims to be the word of God
- The Bible has been accurately transmitted
- The OT was written before the NT
- The OT contains prophecies of Jesus fulfilled in the NT
- Jesus fulfilled the prophecies
- Therefore the Bible is inspired
- Therefore the Bible is accurate
- The Bible says God exists
- Therefore God exists



# Evidentialist Tradition

- Justification of belief according to evidence
  - Belief **B** toward proposition **P** is justified for **S** at time **t** if and only if **B** fits the evidence **S** has at **t**
- Separates justified beliefs from unjustified beliefs
- Belief coherent with other justified beliefs
- The Bible is most probably accurate
  - Thus the whole of Biblical revelation is probably true
  - Where we don't have absolute certainty, we must accept the most probable theory
  - Builds from a common starting point in neutral facts

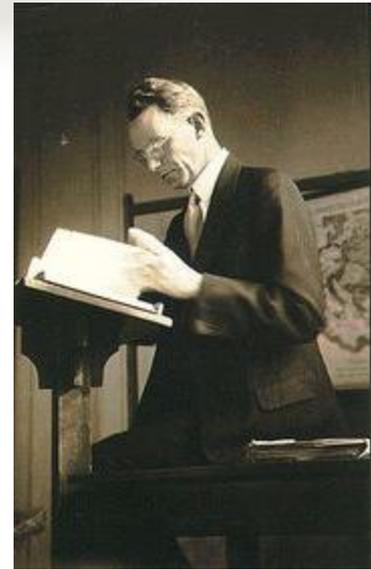


# Evidential Approach

- Stresses miracles found in the Bible
  - Jesus performed many miracles
  - Prophecies fulfilled
  - Jesus' Resurrection
- Other evidence
  - Reliability of Scripture (OT and NT)
  - Historical events and records
  - Archaeology
  - Scientific reliability of the Bible
  - Creation supported by science
- Data (evidence) supports the biblical accounts

# Presuppositional Tradition

- Objectives:
  - Present a rational basis for the Christian faith
  - Defend the faith against objections
  - Expose the perceived flaws of other worldviews
- Based on the supernatural revelation in the Bible
- Declares belief in the necessary existence of God
- Compares presupposition against reason, empirical experience, and subjective feeling
- Based on work of Dutch theologian, Cornelius Van Til, in the late 1920's





# More on Presuppositional

- Presupposes God's existence and argues from that perspective to show the validity of Christianity
- Presupposes the truth of the Bible
- Relies on the validity and power of the gospel to change lives, **Rom. 1:16**
- Regards the unbeliever as sinful in his mind and unable to understand spiritual things
- Presuppositions determine how one interprets facts



# Natural Theology

- The discipline of establishing the rational feasibility of theism (existence of God)
- Seeks to establish a “God” behind religion
- Empirical endeavor – seeks to demonstrate God’s existence based on sensory observation of nature, not on revelation
- Several arguments for God’s existence are advanced in natural theology



# Arguments For God's Existence

- Cosmological argument
  - Beginning of the universe
- Teleological (Design) argument(s)
  - Design and order in the universe, e.g Anthropic Principle
  - Design of life
- Moral argument
  - Moral law implies a moral law giver
- Ontological argument
  - The concept of God – greatest conceivable and necessary Being



# Cosmological Argument

- Premise – everything that had a beginning had a cause
  - Based on Law of Causality
  - Everything has a cause
- The universe had a beginning
  - Einstein's General Relativity
  - Second Law of Thermodynamics (Entropy)
- Therefore the universe had a cause
  - “Supernatural forces are at work ...”



# Characteristics of First Cause

- Self-existent, timeless, non-material
- Creator of time, space and matter
- Outside of time, space and matter
- Omnipresent – without limits
- Omnipotent – creator of the universe
- Omniscient – intelligent designer
- Personal – choose to convert “nothingness” into time-space-material universe

# Teleological Argument

- Every design had a designer
  - A watch requires a watchmaker (Paley)
- The universe has highly complex design
  - Verified by the Anthropic Principle
  - Universe fine-tuned (designed) to make life possible on earth
- Therefore the universe had a Designer
  - Earth was designed for us



# Anthropic Principle

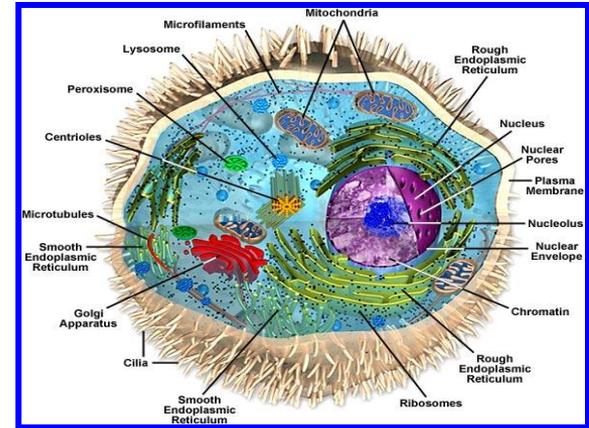
- 122 very narrowly defined constants identified
  - Oxygen level in earth's atmosphere ~21%
  - Gravity force is a precise constant
  - Expansion rate of universe
  - Jupiter orbit protects Earth
  - Thickness of Earth's crust controls release of oxygen
  - Rotation rate of Earth controls temperature differences
  - Tilt of earth at 23 degrees is just right
- Probability of 1 chance in  $10^{138}$  (ZERO/NIL)



# Teleological Argument – Life

## ■ Living organisms

- Are complex
- Appear designed
- Contain information



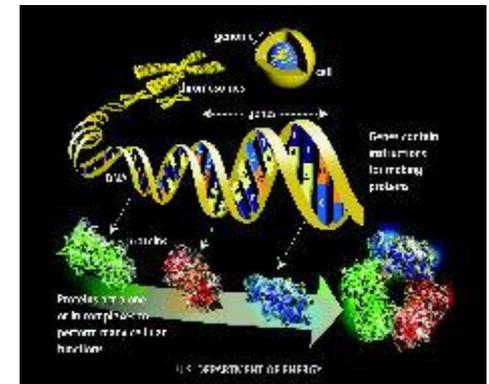
## ■ Life from non-life is impossible

- Spontaneously generated life never observed
- Probability is effectively ZERO

## ■ Therefore life requires a Designer

# Complexity of Life

- Life requires DNA (information)
- DNA contains instructions for building and replicating living things
- Irreducible complexity
  - All parts required to function
- Specified complexity
  - Order of amino acids is specified in proteins
  - Information in a “simple” amoeba requires 1000 complete sets of an encyclopedia





# Moral Argument

- Every law has a law giver
  - Legislation requires a legislature
  - Prescription requires a prescriber
- There is a Moral Law
  - Fundamental sense of right and wrong
  - Conscience (manifestation of Moral Law)
  - Absolute (and universal) moral obligations
- Therefore, there is a Moral Law Giver
  - Source higher than ourselves
  - Source of our human rights



# Existence of The Moral Law

- The Moral Law is undeniable
- We know it by our reactions
- It is the basis of human rights
- It is the unchanging standard of justice
- Defines a real difference between moral positions
- We know what is absolutely wrong – there must be an absolute standard of righteousness
- It is the grounds for political & social dissent
- If there were no Moral Law, then we wouldn't make excuses for violating it



# Ontological Argument

- Ontology – concerned with the nature and relations of being
- Argues from the concept of God to His existence
- Does not begin with the facts of experience
  - Prior to and apart from experience
- Defines God as the greatest conceivable Being
  - A Being who has every possible perfection
- God, by definition, is a necessary Being
  - Cannot not exist
- Not generally accepted argument



# Why Christian Apologetics?

1. Know what you believe
  2. Know why you believe
  3. Defend what you believe
- **1 Pet. 3:15**, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;”



# The Means of Apologetics

- **Matt. 22:37**, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”
  - We are to reason, to use logic
- **Jude 3**, “... I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”
  - A call to battle for the truth



# The Means of Apologetics -2

- **Acts 17:2-4**, “Then Paul, as his custom was, ... reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, ‘This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.’”
  - “And some of them were persuaded; ...”
- **Acts 17:11**, “... they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.”
  - Be a Berean, search the Scriptures daily
  - Look for evidence of the Truth



# The Means of Apologetics - 3

- **Acts 17:17**, “Therefore he [Paul] reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshippers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.”
  - Paul answered the questions of believers & skeptics alike
- **Acts 17:23**, “... Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: ...”
  - The Athenians believed in an “unknown God”
  - Paul introduced them to the Creator God who could be known



# Discerning The Truth

- **Deut. 18:21-22**, “... How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken? – when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; ...”
  - A true prophet’s prophecies come to pass
- **1 Th. 5:21-22**, “Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.”
  - Examine what is preached carefully
  - Discern the good from the evil



# Knowing The Truth

- **2 Tim. 2:15**, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
  - Impart God’s Word accurately and clearly
- **Rom. 12:2**, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”
  - We can use mind to reason



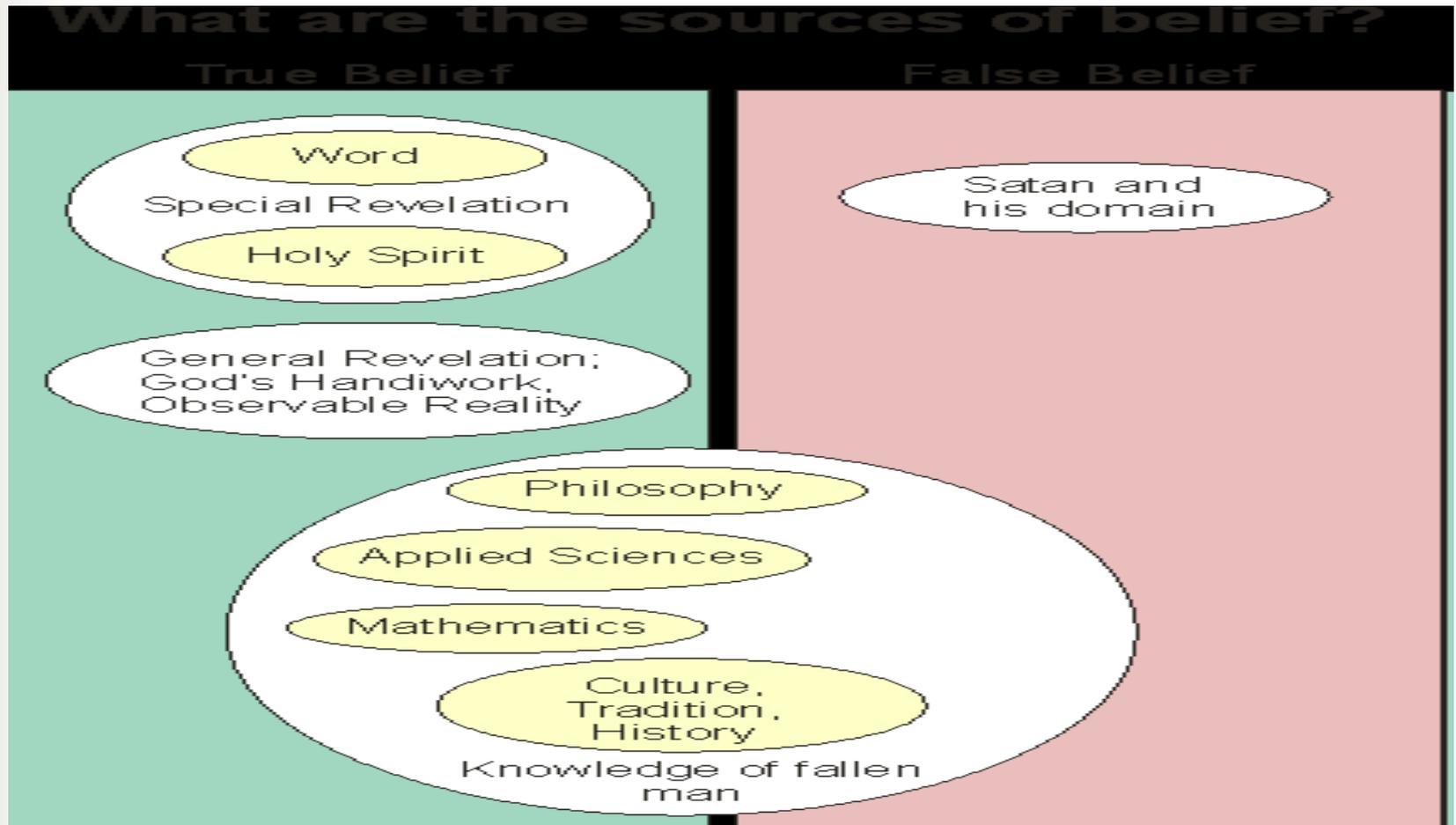
# The Path to Keeping the Faith

- Steps to leaving:
  - Doubt upon asking the hard questions
  - Discouragement upon finding no answers
  - Disillusionment and feeling betrayed
  - Apathy believing that answers do not exist
  - Departure and antagonistic to the faith
- Solving the problem:
  - Solid teaching programs
  - An emphasis on Christian Apologetics

# Sources of Belief

True Belief

False Belief





# What is Truth?

- Epistemology
  - Nature and scope of knowledge
  - How we know what we know
- Relation between belief, truth, knowledge
- **Ps. 100:3**, “Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves. ... ”
- If God made us, He would not deceive us about the nature of our existence



# Four Essential Principles of Knowledge

- Basic epistemological premises
  1. The law of noncontradiction
  2. The law of causality
  3. The basic (although not perfect) reliability of sense perception
  4. The analogical use of language
- All presupposed in Scripture
  - Found in God Himself
  - Endowed to His creatures (made in His image)
- Foundational laws/grounds of obtaining knowledge



# Law of Noncontradiction

- A cannot be A and Non-A at the same time and in the same sense or relationship
- Truth cannot be contradictory
- **1 John 2:22**, “Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.”
- Scriptures assume difference between truth and lie, righteousness and unrighteousness, etc.
- Nothing would be understandable without this law



# Law of Causality

- Every effect must have a cause
- Every miracle assumes this law
- **John 3:2**, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”
- Nicodemus affirmed the divine cause behind the works of Jesus
- Without this law, no miracle in Scripture can occur or be of evidential value – from Creation to Resurrection



# Reliability of Sense Perception

- Our senses are essentially trustworthy
  - See, hear, touch, taste, smell
  - There are limits to our perception
- Knowledge of external world impossible if our senses not basically dependable
- John and Peter saw the glory of Jesus,  
**John 1:14; 2 Pet. 1:16**
- Christ appeared to Peter, then to the twelve, and to the 500, **1 Cor. 15:5-6**
- These arguments would be useless without reliable human senses



# Analogical Use of Language

- Two things can be partly alike and partly different
  - One thing is analogous to another
- God is so entirely different from us
- God is a Spirit and transcendent
- Thus there does not appear to any way to say anything meaningful about God
- God is described in Scripture using analogical language in comparison with human attributes
- **Gen. 1:26**, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”



# Truth Issues

- Absolute or relative?
- Correspondent or coherent?
- Determining truth
  - Using our five senses
  - Using logic
  - Revealed in Scripture
- Is truth knowable?
  - Agnosticism, skepticism, etc.



# How Do We Decide Truth?

- Is truth decided by our five senses?  
[*hearing, seeing, smelling, tasting, touching*]
  - e.g. our feelings? [*touching the elephant*]
- Is our truth based on facts?
  - Does it match reality?
- Thomas asked the Lord about truth
- **John 14:6**, “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”
  - Very exclusive statement
  - But, truth IS exclusive!

# Pontius Pilate's Question



- Pilate asked Jesus “What is Truth?”
- **John 18:37-38**, “Pilate therefore said to Him, ‘Are you a king then?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.’ Pilate said to Him, ‘What is truth?’ And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, ‘I find no fault in Him at all.’”
- Pilate did not think his question had an answer
- **John 17:17**, “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”



# Jesus' Answer

- Jesus was clear that “everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”
- The Apostle John made it clear that Jesus was the Truth and there is no sin in Him
- Do you know how to answer Pilate’s question – “What is Truth?”
- How do we determine what is true?
  - Feelings don’t tell us what is true, facts do!



# Use of Logic in Apologetics

- The universe exists
- Universe cannot be infinitely old
  - Would have entered into state of disorder long ago
  - Universe is not in a state of disorder
  - Therefore not infinitely old
- Universe had a beginning
- Universe could not have brought itself into existence
- Something before the universe brought it into existence
- That something is God



# Three Views of Truth

- What does it mean for a statement to be true?
- Three different views on what truth is:
  1. Correspondence/Traditional view
  2. Relativism/Postmodern view
  3. Practical/Useful view
- The Test
  - Does your “Truth” match reality? i.e. Does “what you believe to be true” match reality?



# Correspondence/Traditional View

- Any statement is true if and only if it corresponds to or agrees with factual reality
- Declarative statements are subject to verification and falsification
- A statement can be proven false if it can be shown to disagree with objective reality
- Truth is not a matter of subjective opinion, or majority vote, or cultural fashion
- Truth is objective and knowable, e.g. photo from outer space showing the earth as a blue sphere



# Laws of Truth Logic

- For any proposition P, at a given time, in a given respect, there are three related laws of logic:
  - Law of non-contradiction – not (P and not-P)
    - For any proposition P, it is not the case that both P is true and ‘not-P’ is true
  - Law of the excluded middle – (P true or not-P true)
    - For any proposition P, P is true or ‘not-P’ is true
    - Affirms that “either P or not-P”
  - Law of bivalence – (P true or false)
    - For any proposition P, P is either true or false, i.e. any unambiguous, declarative statement must be either true or false



# More on the Laws of Truth

- Law of non-contradiction (both P and ‘not-P’ are not true)
  - Can’t both be true in the same way, at the same time
  - Both contradictory statements cannot be true
  - Can’t be true that there both is and is not X in my room
- Law of the excluded middle (P is true or ‘not-P’ is true)
  - There is either X in my room or there is not
- Law of bivalence (P is either true or false)
  - It can’t be neither true nor false
  - It can’t be both true and false



# Law of Non-Contradiction

- We live by the law of non-contradiction
- If I say XXX and my wife says not-XXX
  - One of us is wrong
  - We both can't be telling the truth
- Christians historically (traditionally) have affirmed the correspondence view of truth
  - Supports the concept of absolute truth
  - Logically self-consistent and supportable



# An Example From the Bible

- There are good historical reasons to believe that Jesus rose from the dead in space-time history, showing His divine authority:
  - **Rom. 1:4**, “and declared to be the Son of God ... by the resurrection from the dead.”
  - **1 Cor. 15:1-11**, “... the gospel which I preached to you ...”
    - Factual evidence of Christ’s Resurrection (provided by Paul)
  - **1 Cor. 15:14**, “And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.”
- Illustrates the concept of “absolute truth”



# Relativism/Postmodern View

- Statements about scientific facts, religious realities, or moral principles cannot be known to refer to objective states of affairs
- Language is contingently constructed through communities
- Language cannot transcend its own context and refer to realities outside itself
- All language fails to describe objective conditions because of its embeddedness in various cultures
- The truth of a statement depends on the views of persons or cultures, not on whether statements correspond to objective reality



# An Example of Relativism

- For a statement to be true just means that a person or culture believes it to be true
  - “Well, if that’s true for you ...”
  - “We can’t judge other cultures ...”
- Accordingly, one can say “Jesus is Lord” and another “Allah is Lord”, and both statements will be true – NOT



# Putting the Statements to the Test

- This is illogical and fails the law of non-contradiction
- The statements are mutually exclusive
  - **John 1:14**, Christians believe that Jesus is “God made flesh”
  - Muslims deny that Allah can or did incarnate
- The two statements cannot both be objectively true



# Summary of Relativism View

- Relativism offers no means of verifying or falsifying any belief
- Relativism does not support the concept of “absolute truth”
- This view is self-refuting and logically unsupportable
- This view often referred to as postmodernism



# Conclusion on Relativism View

- Relativism is false
  - It does not correspond to reality
- When truth is deemed to depend on a person or culture holding the belief, anything can become “true”
  - Which is absurd
- This attitude/view cannot be applied to medicine or science
  - Would be deemed ridiculous



# Practical/Useful View

- This view holds that a belief is true only if it works for a particular person
  - Christianity may be “true for me” if it helps me, but false for another person if it does not help him
- This view confuses usefulness with truth
  - e.g. “mismanaging money” <-> “misplacing money” (belief) <-> “stolen money” (reality)  
→ results in diligent management of his money



# Truth v. Use Value

- The “truth value” of a belief is different than its “use value”
- Does not support the concept of “absolute truth”
- This view is self-refuting and logically unsupportable



# Is Truth Knowable?

- Agnosticism – self-defeating, how do they know we can't know?
- Skepticism – self-defeating, do they even doubt skepticism?
- Rationalism – inconsistent – can't rationally prove that something is rationally inescapable
- Fideism – self-defeating, either unjustified belief or not fideism (belief in vs. belief that)
- Realism – we can know something



# What is Truth?

- Truth is that which corresponds to reality
  - Thought applies to reality
  - Knowledge is possible
  - Logic is a necessary presupposition of all thought
  - It is undeniable that logic applies to reality
  - Self-evident principles cannot be denied
- Truth is absolute, correspondent, knowable, logical
- The Bible claims to be the Word of God & true
- Does the Bible correspond to reality?
  - Is the Bible true?



# Our Mandate

- **1 Pet. 3:15**, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;”
- As believers we need to:
  - Be ready to give an answer to questions about our faith
  - Be able to explain what we believe and why we believe this
  - Answer those who ask for an explanation



# Is The Bible True?

- Some people say the Bible is full of errors or contradictions
- For most this is just an excuse for not believing
- Few who claim these errors have read the Bible and analyzed any of these alleged errors



# Alleged Errors in the Bible

- Law of non-contradiction
  - Fails truth test
- Mistranslations
  - Not true to original language
- So-called scientific errors
  - Authors used language of the day



# No Contradictions

- Bible was written
  - By 40 authors from many walks of life
  - Over a period of 1500 years
- Bible has ONE author – God
  - God is perfect, holy, true
- There are no contradictions in His Word, no matter what it seems at first
- Many supposed contradictions



# Example of “No Contradiction”

- Many supposed contradictions result by placing two passages in false opposition to each other, e.g.
  - **Eccl. 7:29**, “God made man upright.” – Talking about Adam and Eve, who God originally created upright
  - **Ps. 51:5**, “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity.” – Here King David is speaking of his personal situation, as a fallen descendant of Adam
- There is no contradiction here



# Mistranslation

- Translation of the books of the Bible is a real challenge
- We have many translations
  - KJV, NKJV, AS, NAS, NIV, etc.
- Most translation problems have simple explanations
- You should always look at the original Hebrew and Greek words used



# Example of Mistranslation

- **Lev. 11:13,19**, “And these you shall regard as an abomination among the birds; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: the eagle, the vulture, the buzzard, ... and the bat.” (NKJV)
  - Bats are not birds (a questionable word)
- The KJV uses the word “fowls” instead of the word “birds”
- The KJV used the word “fowls” in **Lev. 11:20** to describe “insects”



# Explanation of Mistranslation

- The Hebrew word used is “*owph*,” which can mean anything that “has a wing,” i.e. a winged creature
- The Hebrew word “*owph*” includes birds, flying insects, and bats
- Going back to the Hebrew word explains the supposed translation problem



# Alleged Scientific Errors

- Authors used the language of their day
  - The sun rising in the morning
  - The sun setting in the evening
  - The sun does not “rise” and “set”
  - The earth actually rotates
  - Our talk of the sun rising and setting is not “scientifically correct”
  - Spoken from perspective of the observer



# Insects With Four Legs?

- **Lev. 11:20-22**, Moses writes “All flying insects that creep on all fours shall be an abomination to you. Yet these you may eat of every flying insect that creeps on all fours: those which have jointed legs above their feet with which to leap on the earth. These you may eat: the locust after its kind, the destroying locust after its kind, the cricket after its kind, and the grasshopper after its kind.”



# Insects Have Six Legs

- We know insects have “six legs”
- We use the phrase “on all fours” to refer to the action of a creature walking around, not as a count of the creature’s feet
- The insects mentioned here have four legs with which to “creep,” and another two legs with which to “leap” – six legs in total
- The author (Moses, educated in Pharaoh’s court) had good reason for his choice of words



# Other Errors in The Bible?

- Other apparent errors in the Bible can also be resolved
- There is a logical/rational explanation for alleged errors in the Bible



# Does The Truth in The Bible Match Reality?

- Does the Bible's Truth Match Reality?
  - We apply certain tests to biblical Truth
  - History, geography, archaeology, prophecy
  - What about biblical scientific statements?
- Does what you believe (your truth) match reality?
  - What happens when we apply the same tests to your truth?
- Does the evidence match up?
  - Tests must be objective



# Topics/Questions Covered

- Jesus' Credibility – Is He God?
- Prophecies Come True – Messianic + Others
- Christ Rose From the Grave – What is the Evidence?
- Is the Bible God's Word?
- Does Archaeology Verify the Bible?
- Creation Apologetics
- Is the Bible Reliable Scientifically?
- If God is All-Loving and All-Knowing, Why Do We have Evil and Suffering?



# Jesus' Credibility – Is He God?

- Evidence of Jesus' life on earth
  - Biblical, Roman, Jewish
- Jesus in His humanity
- Jesus claimed to be God
- Jesus' attributes
- Jesus' actions (miracles)
- The Apostles taught the deity of Christ
- Four possibilities – which one was He?
  - Liar, lunatic, legend, or the Truth
- What are Jesus' credentials?



# Prophecies Come True

- What is prophecy?
- Test of a true prophet
- The importance of prophecy
- Messianic prophecies
- The significance of messianic prophecies
- Messianic prophecy issues
- Probability of fulfillment of prophecies
- Other Old Testament (OT) prophecies
- End Time prophecies



# Christ Rose From The Grave – What is the Evidence?

- Jesus' Resurrection
  - Prophesied in the OT
  - Prophesied by Christ Himself in the NT
- Pertinent data to be considered
- Historical facts to be considered
- Accounting for the empty tomb
- More than a dozen appearances of the risen Lord
  - Includes more than 500 witnesses at once
- Paul teaches the importance of the Resurrection
  - Its significance to the Christian faith



# Is The Bible God's Word?

- The Bible is unique
- How we got the Bible
- Is Scripture inspired?
- Christ's teaching on the OT
- Christ's view of the NT
- Historical reliability of the OT
- Historical reliability of the NT
- Supernatural wisdom of the Bible



# Does Archaeology Verify the Bible?

- What is archaeology?
- Some ancient archaeological finds
- The Dead Sea scrolls
- Evidence for the accuracy of the Bible
  - Internal, copy comparison, archaeology
- The Ebla tablets
- The divisions of Genesis
- Genesis and origins
- The walls of Jericho
- Other important archaeological finds
- Archaeology confirms accuracy of the Bible



# Creation Apologetics

- What Does the Bible Say About Creation?
- What Do Jesus And The Apostles Say About Creation?
- What Does Science Say About Creation?
  - The Creation and Evolution Models of Origins
  - Which Model Best Fits The Scientific Evidence?
- Challenges to Evolutionism
- Does It Matter What We Believe About Creation?



# Is The Bible Reliable Scientifically?

- Scientific statements in the Bible
  - Are they accurate?
- Reliability of the Bible established by:
  - Prophecy, history, geography, archaeology
- Laws of science consistent with the Bible
- Scientific statements/anticipation in the Bible
  - Astronomy, geophysics, geology, hydrology
  - Meteorology, biology, physics
- Alleged scientific errors in the Bible
- Scientific disciplines established by Bible-believing scientists



# Why Do We Have Evil & Suffering?

- Death and suffering are everywhere
- View of history (and God):
  - Atheists/evolutionists have a wrong view
  - The Bible gives the proper view
- The role of man's free will
- What about “senseless suffering”?
- Suffering of believers
- God's purposes
- Is God doing anything about death & suffering?
- Our source of hope



# Christianity – A Rational Faith

- Common misconceptions
- What is faith?
- Can Christianity be tested objectively?
- A rational body of truth
- Creation makes it plain
- Moral smoke screens
- More arguments for God's existence
- Addressing Bible difficulties
- Addressing postmodernism
- Addressing skepticism



# Confidence in Our Faith

- The foundation of our faith
  - **1 Cor. 15:13-14**, “But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.”
- Bring every thought captive
  - **2 Cor. 10:5**, “casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,”



# Defending Our Faith

- Don't believe lies or be deceived
  - **Col. 2:8**, “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.”
- Know how to answer
  - **Col. 4:5-6** –“Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”



# Defending Our Faith – 2

- Be able to exhort and convince
  - **Tit. 1:9**, “holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.”
- Be doers of the Word
  - **James 1:22** – “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”



# Our Faith is Rational

- Christianity is a rational faith
- Our faith can be defended
- We can use our mind and logic
- **Ps. 100:3**, “Know that the Lord, He is God. It is He who has made us, ...”
- Jesus is our Redeemer AND our Creator
  - Believe it or not!



# The Importance of Apologetics

- Defense of the Faith is essential for
  - All church leaders
  - All believers
- Christian Apologetics is crucial for
  - Discerning the Truth
  - Reaching new believers
- Creation Apologetics is important for
  - Establishing the Truth from the very 1<sup>st</sup> verse
  - Explaining why Jesus came to Earth and died for our sins
  - Providing answers to the hard questions



# Reference Books

1. Norman Geisler & Ronald Brooks, *When Skeptics Ask: A Handbook on Christian Evidences*, 2008.
2. Norman Geisler & Frank Turek, *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*, 2004.
3. Richard Swinburne, *Is There a God?*, 1997. [ISG]
4. John Ashton & Richard Westacott, *The Big Argument: Does God Exist?* 2006.
5. Paul E. Little, *Know Why You Believe*, 2000.
6. Howard Vos, *Can I Really Believe?* 1995.
7. Josh McDowell & Don Stewart, *Answers to Tough Questions*, 1993.
8. Josh McDowell, *The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict*, 1999.
9. Phil Fernandes, *No Other Gods*, 2002.
10. Phil Fernandes, *The God Who Sits Enthroned*, 2002.



# More Reference Books

1. Phil Fernandes, *Contend Earnestly for the Faith: A Survey of Christian Apologetics*, 2008.
2. Lee Strobel, *The Case For Faith*, 2000.
3. Lee Strobel, *The Case For a Creator*, 2004.
4. Don Batten, *The Creation Answers Book*, 2008.
5. Ray Comfort, *Scientific Facts in the Bible*, 2001.
6. Peter Stoner & Robert Newman, *Science Speaks*, 1976.
7. *Creation Moments, 101 Scientific Facts & Foreknowledge.*
8. Ralph Muncaster, *Can Archaeology Prove The NT?* 2000.
9. Siegfried Horn, *Biblical Archaeology*, 1985.
10. Timothy Keller, *The Reason For God*, 2008.



# Yet More Reference Books

1. Charles Colson & Harold Fickett, *The Faith Given Once, For All*, 2008.
2. Ken Ham & Britt Beemer, *Already Gone*, 2009.



# Some Useful Websites

1. [www.greatcom.org/resources/areadydefense](http://www.greatcom.org/resources/areadydefense) - A Ready Defense by Josh McDowell
2. [www.carm.org](http://www.carm.org) - Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry
3. [www.reasonablefaith.org](http://www.reasonablefaith.org) - William Lane Craig Apologetics Resources
4. [www.leestrobel.com](http://www.leestrobel.com) - Investigating Faith by Lee Strobel
5. [www.josh.org](http://www.josh.org) - Josh McDowell Ministry
6. [www.heinzlycklama.com/apologetics](http://www.heinzlycklama.com/apologetics) - Lectures on Christian Apologetics by Dr. Heinz Lycklama
7. [www.heinzlycklama.com/creation](http://www.heinzlycklama.com/creation) - Lectures on Creation by Dr. Heinz Lycklama



# More Apologetics Websites

1. [www.summit.org](http://www.summit.org) - Summit Ministries
2. [www.probe.org](http://www.probe.org) - Probe Ministries
3. [www.comereason.org](http://www.comereason.org) - Come Reason Ministries
4. [www.arcapologetics.org](http://www.arcapologetics.org) - Apologetics Resource Center
5. [www.rzim.org](http://www.rzim.org) - Ravi Zacharias International Ministries
6. [www.bethinking.org](http://www.bethinking.org) - Thinking Apologetics
7. [www.str.org](http://www.str.org) - Stand To Reason Ministries



# Special Credits

- Dr. Phil Fernandes, The Institute of Biblical Defense.
  - Apologetics arguments in his books.
- David A. Prentice, M. Ed., Origins Resource, 2007.
  - Some useful graphics and images.
- Josh McDowell, The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict, 1999.
  - Many references to specific evidences.