

Evidences

October through December 2020

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Purpose of our study: God desires men to believe that He is, and that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. That belief is called Faith, and it comes from an obedient knowledge of the Word of God, the Bible. The Truth can stand up to scrutiny; therefore, we need to be ready with an answer for difficult questions on why we believe.

Class 1: The Value of Evidences

READING: Isaiah 7:10-16, Hebrews 11:1-6, John 17:17-19

CLASS POINTS: Belief is a choice. We often choose to believe important things based on evidences that are not always sound. Just because we believe something does not mean it is true. Truth exists apart from our beliefs.

QUESTIONS

1. Define the following:

FAITH
EVIDENCE
PROOF
ATHEIST
AGNOSTIC
TRUTH

2a. Briefly explain why you believe:

- a. Moscow is the capital of Russia
- b. Gravity keeps you on the ground
- c. America won World War II
- d. The sun will rise tomorrow
- e. Your family is your family
- f. An airplane you are getting into will successfully fly

2b. Which of these things can you prove? Which of them do you believe by a preponderance of evidence?

3. What are three examples of things Christians believe that people who are not Christians do not believe.

- a.
- b.
- c.

4. What are some things Christians are required to believe (i.e. Hebrews 11:6, John 8:24)?

5. Is it wrong for someone to seek evidence of God, the Bible, Jesus?

6. What is TRUTH according to John 17:17-19? What is the difference between what is true and the Truth?

CONCLUSION: We use critical skills daily to learn what is true. We can apply this to our Faith

Class 2: The War of Evidences

READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-28, Acts 17:16-32

CLASS POINTS: The western world is shaped by the ideology of materialism. This ideology is based on the concept that all things real are material; there is no spiritual reality. Obviously this is a total contradiction to the doctrine of Spirituality, which states that the Spiritual reality is more real than the physical. This has led to an ideology war against spirituality. What few understand is that materialism is merely a worldview, and is one not always agreed upon.

QUESTIONS

1. What system of ideology would you describe the non-believer in the New Testament world to have lived under (consider Acts 17:16-18)?
2. What evidences exist for materialism (consider 2 Peter 3:3-4)?
3. How does materialism deal with the following issues:
 - The Creation
 - The Flood
 - The Exodus of Israel
 - The Miracles of Jesus
 - The Resurrection of Jesus
4. What is science? Is Christianity incompatible with science?
5. What biases from materialism would we expect to find in education systems? In news media? In governmental actions and services? In environmental concerns?
6. In what ways does the materialist ideology persecute Christianity?
7. Why should we study material evidences for spiritual truths?

CONCLUSION: What anyone believes is usually based on their worldview. Understanding this causes us to realize that all belief is a choice. Pre-supposed “truths” often prevent people from seeing “Truth”.

Class 3: Evidences of an Invisible God

READING: Romans 1:16-23

CLASS POINTS: One of the most important ideas about God is that He has revealed Himself. The more we learn about the universe, the more we see that it requires a Designer, and considering that truth means we can determine certain characteristics of that Designer. Yet there is only so much we can know about God by the creation.

QUESTIONS

1. According Romans 1:20, what two characteristics of God are clearly seen in nature?
 - a. How are these characteristics seen in nature?
 - b. To what things will a materialist attribute divine characteristics?
 - c. If you did not have the Word of God, what things would you deduce about God?

2. What does it mean when people describe the universe as “orderly”?
 - a. What are some characteristics of being orderly the universe presents to us?
 - b. How does God present Himself in 1 Corinthians 14:33?

3. How might each of these fields of knowledge point to a Designer:
Mathematics
Microbiology
Astronomy

4. List some characteristics of humans that are not present in any creatures in the animal world
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

5. What are some examples of FALSE evidences given for the existence of God?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

CONCLUSION: In John 12:29 God spoke from heaven. Some heard a voice, others merely heard thunder. The universe declares that it was designed by an intelligence. Some hear a voice, while others merely hear thunder.

Class 4: Evidences of Jesus Christ

READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, Luke 1:1-3

CLASS POINTS: Our Faith revolved around the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. There are many questions asked about Him. Did he actually live? Did He create a faith that survives to this day? Did He perform the miracles claimed? Did His disciples actually exist? Did they write the New Testament? Did He return from the dead? These are all questions that are fair and honest to ask, and answers are present for them.

QUESTIONS

1. What evidences do we accept for the existence of:
 - a. George Washington
 - b. Martin Luther
 - c. Johanne Gutenberg (inventor of the printing press)
 - d. Alexander the Great
 - e. The first man and woman (any context)

2. A Court of Law:
 - a. What is a witness? What is a “martyr”?
 - b. What is testimony?
 - c. What is a “weight of evidence”?
 - d. What is the burden of proof in a civil trial? In a criminal trial?
 - e. What is a “hostile witness”?
 - f. What is “witness credibility”?

3. The Gospel Court of Law
 - a. What is John 20:30-31 witness testimony of?
 - b. What is 1 John 1:1-2 witness testimony of?
 - c. What does John 1:7 speak of regarding testimony?
 - d. What does John 5:31 speak of regarding testimony?

4. The World Court of Law
 - a. What “hostile witness” testimony of Jesus Christ exists?
 - b. How does the mere existence of Christianity testify to Jesus?
 - c. How does the martyrdom of Christians speak to the truth of their testimony?

CONCLUSION: Did Jesus of Nazareth exist? For any other person, the evidence of existence would be undeniable. The doubt of His existence pertains NOT to the evidence, but to the conclusion.

Class 5: The Validity of the Bible

READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, Luke 1:1-3

CLASS POINTS: Most people do not understand the nature of the Bible. It is not one book, but two libraries of books. This library makes a number of claims about itself. It claims it was given directly by God (inspiration) in 2 Peter 1:20-21. It claims it is indestructible in 1 Peter 1:24-25. It claims to be entirely sufficient for a Christian in 2 Timothy 3:16-17. It claims it can be understood in Ephesians 3:3-4. It can be seen that God exists, and that Jesus of Nazareth and His disciples really lived. But it is the magnificent claims of the Bible (The Holy Spirit) that make the existence of God and Jesus a matter of debate.

QUESTIONS

Are the following statements true? If so, how? Can you give an example?

1. Fulfilled Prophecy: Bible predictions, (written hundreds of years before the events they predict) have come about.
2. Scientific Accuracy: The Bible makes statements about nature, health, and the earth that are accurate.
3. Historical Accuracy: Archeology discovers new information, no discoveries create major conflict with the Bible.
4. Unity: The Bible, two libraries of 66 books written by at least 40 people from many cultures over 1500 years, has a unified harmonious message.
5. Survival (Integrity): Despite attempts to destroy or limit its availability, the Bible is the most widely circulated book of all time.
6. Survival (Distribution): There are more ancient and growing numbers of copies of Bible texts than any similar writings.
7. Falsifiability: The Bible contains specific details that could be ascertained by outside sources to be true or false, and has never been demonstrated false.

CONCLUSION: The Bible creates by its design an expectation to be examined and cross-examined by a truth-seeker and found to be true.