

Christian Apologetics – A branch of Christian Theology that defends Christianity against objections.

Categories of Apologetics

- 1) Is there a creator?
- 2) Who is God? Is the creator the God of the Bible?
- 3) Biblical apologetics – How I know the Bible is true
- 4) Doctrinal Apologetics – Defending views of Scripture

We need to know WHY we believe, not just WHAT we believe.

Four reasons why people believe what they do.

- 1) Sociological – influences (family, culture) led to belief
- 2) Psychological – based on comfort, peace of mind, hope, etc.
- 3) Religion – Believing because someone says it (follow a pastor/teacher, etc.)
- 4) Philosophical – Finding truth through logic, evidence, and science

Why is this important?

Moving from a Christian majority to a Christian minority culture

Review of last semester

Week 9 – Is Jesus the divine son of God?

Week 10 – Was Jesus crucified?

- The existence of Jesus is an undisputed historical fact.
- 99% of skeptics hold one of two views on the resurrection
 1. Theory #1 – Jesus didn't die on the cross
 2. Theory #2 – The disciples stole the body and made up the story
- The independent American Medical Association doctors concluded that it was impossible for Jesus to survive crucifixion.
- There was an empty tomb and the stories, and the apostles died for their belief. People don't die for conspiracies they know are false

Week 11 – Was Jesus resurrected?

- The fact that the tomb was empty is undisputed.
- Any early skeptic of the resurrection could have proven the resurrection false by producing the body

- The authorities (Jewish and Roman) had interest in disproving the resurrection
- Nobody could produce the body

Week 12 – Prophecies

Over 300 individual prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament

Archeological evidence proves prophecies could not have been written with hindsight

Inspiration and Inerrancy

Inspiration and Inerrancy – What are they and why is it important?

2 Tim. 3:16-17

- Inspiration Definition - *“God superintended the human authors of the Bible so that they composed and recorded without error His message to mankind in the words of their original writings.”*
 - Charles Ryrie

2 Peter 1:20-21, I Corinthians 2:16

- Inerrancy
 - Important to establish Biblical authority
 - Important because to deny inerrancy declares that there are errors in the Bible
- Argument for “errancy” usually says that if humans are involved, there must be errors.
 - Theoretical argument, no manuscript evidence
 - Takes authority from God and puts it in people.

More on this next week 😊