

Apologetics FBCS

January 10 - March 28, 2021

Evidences for God's Truth in Scripture

- I. God is personal, relational and communicative - Trinity
 - A. We are personal, relational and communicative; God does not give what He Himself does not possess
 - B. As image bearers, we reflect God. He reveals through our relational roles
 1. Family, friend, spouse, parent, child
- II. The Christian Picture or Story of Reality is told by God in His Word
 - A. God reveals in creation
 - B. God reveals through the Prophets and Apostles who write down the revelation
 - C. God reveals in the history of humanity, in particular His chosen people
 - D. God reveals for the purpose of making Himself known ultimately in Jesus
- III. How can we know when God speaks? We are sinful, separated, blind, easily deceived
 - A. God instigates, makes Himself known. We cannot reach Him. He must condescend.
 - B. God gives us rational equipment to understand, but also transcends those tools
 - C. General (Creation), Special (Bible), Ultimate (Jesus) Revelation will all be unified
- IV. God's Word is:
 - A. Inspired - Written by man, given by God
 - B. Inerrant - Without error in it's facts
 - C. Infallible - True in it's doctrine
 - D. Sufficient - All we need to live in reality, for salvation.
- V. Textual Criticism - restoring texts as near as possible to their original form
 - A. Evidence does not allow for either complete skepticism or absolute certainty
 - B. Unprecedented accuracy among ancient manuscripts due to mind-blowing numbers of available manuscripts "an embarrassment of riches"
 - C. Many variants, but 99% make no difference to the meaning of the text
 - D. Orthodoxy, in essentials, absolutely unified. A few hundred places of possible translation error, always documented.
- VI. Internal Reliability
 - A. Miracles - If God created the world from nothing, then walking on water or raising the dead is child's play. Dismissing the supernatural is based on a belief that nature is all there is.
 - B. Historical Accuracy - Scripture is loaded with testable historical details. Christianity is an evidence-based faith system. Historical criteria such as congruence, embarrassment, coherence, dissimilarity and dating only increase its trustworthiness.
 - C. Archeological Evidence - Absence of evidence is NOT contradictory evidence. Thus far there is no evidence that directly contradicts the Bible's claims.
- VII. Canon
 - A. Definitions: Exclusive, Functional and Ontological
 - B. Criteria of inclusion: Apostolicity, Orthodoxy, Catholicity
 - C. A list of authoritative books, inspired and compiled by God, not an authoritative list by men
 - D. Self-attested, Self-authenticated.
- VIII. Jesus
 - A. The Grand Narrative of Scripture gives us God's ultimate purpose in communicating: TO SAVE
 - B. All of Scripture (law, narrative, history, poetry, writings, biography, letters, prophecy) is pointing to this purpose.
 - C. Jesus foretold in the Old Testament through: Prophecy, Type, Metaphor, Grand Narrative
 - D. Miraculous evidence of God's sovereignty and power to save