

Apologetics FBCS
January 10 - March 28, 2021
Introduction Part 1

- I. What is Truth? How do we know the Truth? John 9:1-41, John 18:37
 - A. Truth - the way things really are. God is the "I AM", the ultimate source of truth/reality.
 - B. Knowledge - When what you believe corresponds to the way things really are.
 - C. Belief - The necessary tool by which we interact with reality, the Truth, and make that how we live; what we know. "I believe in order to know" Augustine
 - D. Apologetic - A well-reasoned, persuasive argument based on belief that demonstrates the truth, the way things really are, so that others can believe and by belief, know.
- II. Revelation from God in Creation, Word and Flesh is our bridge to Knowledge of Truth in Reality. We receive this Knowledge by faith. Proverbs 1:7 - Fear of the Lord is the beginning of Knowledge/Wisdom
 - A. Christianity is a Story of Reality
 - 1. Planned and Purposed - has a trajectory and a telos (ultimate aim that gives value)
 - 2. Predictable and Personal - physical/moral laws in space and time, Knowing a Person
 - B. Christianity is a Picture of Reality
 - 1. God gives tools: Body, Mind, Will, Community
 - 2. God gives evidence: God in Creation, God in Word, God in Flesh, God in Spirit
 - 3. God gives belief: Eyes of the heart opened
 - 4. God gives weapons to fight against unbelief/belief in a false reality. You do battle against your sin, the world and the powers of darkness for right belief, to live in God's right reality. Ephesians 6
- III. What are we fighting? Are you believing a false story? Are these puzzle pieces getting mixed up in your picture?
 - A. Modernism: We can find truth by using Reason (mind) and Empiricism (senses). Proof and certainty are possible without belief. Descartes - I think (doubt) therefore I am. Set up false dichotomies of reason/faith, knowledge/belief, truth/experience.
 - B. Skepticism: Everything can be doubted, nothing can be certain. (Can this statement be doubted?) Abandons all knowledge.
 - C. Postmodernism: All external truth claims are suspect. Truth is not discovered but created; experience/emotion determines reality.
- IV. True knowledge requires belief/faith/commitment. Living in reality is dependence on the One who created and sustains that reality. We are all living by a creed, a worldview. There is always a lens through which we see the world. Does your belief match what really is?
 - A. 2 Peter 1:12 "I will always remind you about these things even though you already know them and are standing firm in the truth you have been taught" 1 Timothy 6:20
- V. The Story of Reality.
- VI. Overview of the class:
 - A. Purpose: To know in Whom you believe and why you believe Him
 - B. Point: To tell others and ourselves the True Story of Reality and live in it consistently
 - C. Plan: Introduction, God - Author of Reality, God's Word - Revelation of Reality, Jesus - God in Flesh - Presence in Reality, What it means to be human, Comparative Stories of Reality (Religion/Science/Self), the Problem of Evil, God's Mercy and the doctrine of Hell
- VII. If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free John 8:31