

Apologetics

The Reliability of Scripture

Lesson 4

Introduction?

It is impossible in a single brief core seminar to satisfactorily answer the legitimate and important questions participants might have.

I. Where Did the Bible Come From?

The Bible Came From God, By The Holy Spirit, Through Men, To Humankind.

The 66 books of the Bible are known as the _____,
meaning _____.

Criteria for Canonicity

1. _____ Origin
2. _____ Acceptance
3. _____ Use
4. _____ Message

II. How Do Christians View The Use of Scripture In Christian Apologetics?

Christians' Ultimate Authority Is the Word of God

Christians accept God's revelation of himself in _____.
As God's word, the Bible is the ultimate standard of _____.

Non-Christians Do Not Recognize the Authority of the Word of God But Christians Should Use Scripture as Part of Their Christian Apologetics

1. Using Scripture challenges the postmodern idea that _____.
2. Scripture is always _____.
3. Scripture contains in many places its own arguments for the _____ of its claims.

III. As Christian Apologists, How Do We Explain Why We Believe the Bible Is True?

- 1. The New Testament documents are Historically Reliable and Credible**

A. Unity of Message

B. Internal Consistency

Framework:

- Scripture is always *true*, but not always _____.
- First and second causes do not exclude _____.
- Don't hold the Bible to what it doesn't _____.
- Different accounts do not imply _____.

C. External Consistency

2. Jesus' Character is Shown To Be Trustworthy

Liar

Lunatic

Legend

Lord

3. Jesus Claims that the Old and New Testament Books were the Word of God

Old Testament

(John 10:34, Matthew 22, prophecy of Old Testament, Matthew 19, Romans 1)

New Testament

(John 7:16, Matthew 24:35, Matt 7:29, Matt 10:19-20, John 14:26, John 16:12-13, Acts 1:8)

IV. Rebuttals to Common “Charges” Against The Bible

I. We Can Trust God As He Has Been Revealed To Us

1. The Bible is Full of Myths.
2. The Bible Conflicts with Science.
3. The Bible is Full of Contradictions.
4. The Bible is Historically Inaccurate.

Resources

Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christ, The Case for Faith*

R.C. Sproul, *Reason to Believe*

J. I. Packer, *Fundamentalism and the Word of God*

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

B. B. Warfield, *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible*

John Wenham, *Christ and the Bible*

Josh McDowell, *New Evidence That Demands a Verdict, A Ready Defense*

Norm Geisler, *When Critics Ask*

William Lane Craig, *a number of books and articles*

F.F. Bruce, *a number of books and articles*

J.P. Moreland, *a number of books and articles*

Ravi Zacharias, *a number of books and articles*

Course outline

- Lesson 1: Introduction to Christian Apologetics
- Lesson 2: The Existence of God (No Handout)
- Lesson 3: The Problem of Evil
- Lesson 4: The Reliability of Scripture
- Lesson 5: Resurrection (No Handout)
- Lesson 6: World Religions
- Lesson 7: Panel Discussion (No Handout)

Further Questions?

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