CHRISTIAN FUNDAMENTALS PART II:

WHY WE BELIEVE

CHRISTIAN FUNDAMENTALS:

Remaining Schedule

4/20/21: Is Jesus Christ God? / Did Christ really rise from the dead?

4/27/21: Is the Bible God’s Word? / Is the Bible reliable?

5/4/21: Does Archeology support the Bible? / Are Miracles Possible?

5/11/21: Are science and faith at war?

5/18/21: Why does God allow suffering?

5/25/21: What about other religions? / Is Christian experience valid?

6/1/21: How to defend our faith with non-believers.

CHRISTIAN FUNDAMENTALS:

1. Is Christianity Rational?
2. Introduction: Why Asking Questions Is Essential
3. Summer 2019
4. Several Christian leaders announce leaving the faith to ‘deconstruct’ their faith.
5. Common theme from all the leaders who left the faith was that asking questions was discouraged.
6. Faulty Vs. Firm Foundations for your faith
7. Why Apologetics is not optional for Christians in the early 21st century.
8. 1 Peter 3:15-16
9. Christ as Lord
10. We should have a Reason for the Hope we have in Jesus.
11. Many Christian’s do not know how to answer that question.
12. Engaging our hostile skeptical culture with love and respect, something we will come back to at the end of this series of teachings.
13. Common Sense: Is Christianity Intellectual Suicide?
14. Biblical Faith is not Anti-Reason
15. “Come Now, let us *reason* together, says the Lord” (Isaiah 1:18)
16. A World of Challenges to our Faith
17. Understanding faith
18. Faith is not “believing something you know isn’t true.”
19. We all use faith every day.
20. Faith is only as valid as the object in which it is placed.
21. Testing the reliability of objects of faith is rational and advisable.
22. Intellectual Mainstream Pillars
23. All religions are equally valid.
24. Contradictions between religious systems are fully acceptable.
25. Absolute truth does not exist.
26. How we feel and perceive ourselves can override reality

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1. Christianity Stands on a Rational Body of Truth
2. Christianity stands out because it is built on verifiable truth claims unlike many other religious and spiritual truth claims.
3. The Bible stresses the importance of ‘revealed rational processes’, putting our faith in Him should involve the mind, emotions and will.
4. Christianity is always equated with truth.

“Belief doesn’t create truth; unbelief doesn’t destroy truth. Christian faith goes beyond but not against reason” (page 21).

1. Dealing with Doubt
2. Even Committed Christians will question if their faith is true.
3. It is natural to question our faith as we get older, particularly if we made a commitment to Christ at a young age.
4. Doubt should be seen to grow in our faith, not something to be avoided or suppressed.
5. How did Jesus respond to the father who struggled with doubt in *Mark 9:23-25*
6. While not every question can be answered (*Deuteronomy 29:29*), God gives us more than enough information to have a solid foundation under our faith and life.

“Christianity is based on reasonable faith” (page 27).

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1. Is There a God?
2. Searching for God: Man’s Most Profound Question
3. Can we scientifically prove God exists?
4. We cannot examine God in a test tube or prove Him by the scientific method, but we also cannot do that with many other things that we know have a basis.
5. For something to be proved by the scientific method, it would have to be able to be experimentally repeatable.
6. We cannot repeat the beginning of the universe or historical events.
7. The scientific method only deals with measurable, material things.
8. God-Shaped Vacuum
9. Anthropological evidence suggests mankind has always had a universal belief and search for the divine, with a focus on a ‘highest’ power even in polytheistic traditions.
10. Ecclesiastes 3:11 says, *“God has set eternity in the heart of man.”*
11. The evidence always shows that most of humanity, at all times, and in all places has believed in some sort of god or gods, it is an important beginning reference point.
12. Evidence for the existence of God: Reasons to Believe He exists
13. Law of Cause & Effect
14. No effect can be produced without a cause.
15. Life and the Universe are effects that must have a cause.
16. God is the uncaused cause behind our existence.
17. Skeptics like Bertrand Russell ask, ‘who created God?’, but God is a self-existent being who is uncreated.
18. Were God a created being he would not be a cause, he would be an effect and therefore could not be God.

“*An Eternal God is outside of time, but knowable” -Hugh Ross*

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1. Intelligent Design
2. There are basically two choices for Christians and non-Christians alike: Did human life and the universe begin by chance or by purpose and design?
3. The human body is the most complex thing known to man.
4. The human genome, DNA and RNA are encoded biological software programs with information.
5. The intricacies of the human cell and the impossibility of a living cell coming together randomly have naturalists showing more faith than those who believe in a Creator.
6. The laws physics and the universe display intentional design for life to exist on our planet.
7. The Human Eye is an example of molecular design that even Darwin admitted was baffling for his theory.
8. While life and the universe appear intelligently designed, they also appear imperfect which we should expect from a biblical worldview.

“As biochemists more and more about the awesome complexity of life, it is apparent that its chances of originating by chance are so minute they can be completely ruled out. Life cannot have arisen by chance.” -Sir Fred Hoyle

1. The Moral Argument
2. There is an influence or a command inside each of us that is trying to get us to behave in a certain way.
3. There is some surprising consensus from civilization to civilization about what is moral decency.
4. If no set of moral ideas were truer or better than others, what would set apart Christian morality from Nazi morality.
5. If there is no God, there are no rules and no ultimate accountability.
6. The Bible says that Human begins were made in God’s Image and were given conscience by Him (*Romans 2:15).*
7. Experiencing God personally
8. While we what is finite cannot penetrate what is infinite, the infinite can penetrate the finite.
9. God is personally involved with His creation while revealing Himself, and Jesus Christ is the ultimate revelation of who God is.
10. Evidence for the reality of God’s existence is in the hearts, minds and lives of men and women who encounter Him through His Son, Jesus Christ.

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For Homework: Please read through chapters 3-4 of our book, Know Why You Believe, for next week’s session.