

ENGAGE YOUR CITY

Saturday, July 27th
8:15am-3:45pm

TOPICS:

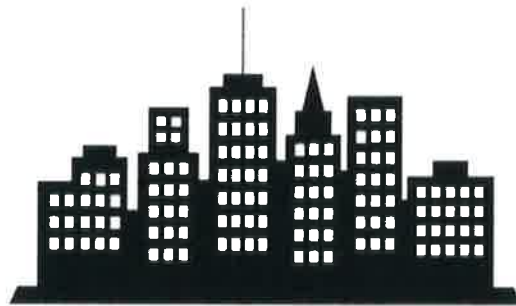
Apologetics

Overview of Worldviews

Existence of God

Reliability of the Gospels

Led by Caleb Harrelson



Schedule:

8:15am- Welcome/continental breakfast

8:35am- Session #1: What is Apologetics and why should you care about it?

9am- Break

9:15am- Session #2: Overview of Worldviews

10am- break

10:15am- Session #3- The Case for Total Truth and the existence of God

11am- Break

11:15am- Session #4: The Reliability of the Gospels

12pm- Lunch

12:45pm- Leave for Worldview Surveys

1-2:45pm- Session #5: Worldview Surveys (malls, park, etc.)

3pm- Debrief back in the Osborn Room

3:45pm- Dismissed

Three descriptions of what faith from the Reformers:

1. _____ (latin): Knowing the facts/notes about the subject
2. _____: Agreeing with it.
3. _____: saving faith- place your trust in and submission under

“The first two can be accomplished by demons. The latter is done only by the regenerate, through the Holy Spirit alone. The first two are the role of apologetics” R.C. Sproul

2. What is apologetics.

- 1 Peter 3:15 & “apologia”:
 -
- Promoting _____ knowledge of God (2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Jude 3)
 - The role of apologetics is clearing away objections with the goal of promoting true knowledge of God.

3. Why does apologetics matter? We need to respond, strengthen & promote a Biblical worldview

➤ We must respond and engage with objections:

- What is the ocean that our culture is swimming in?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

○ The stats on Gen Z: (whoisgenz.com)

- Only _____ of Christian teens in Gen have a Biblical worldview

-
-
-

- This shows what happens when we ignore apologetics
- Engaging with people on these issues **DOES** model how Jesus and Paul interacted with others (Matt 22:23-32, Acts 17:1-4)

- Strengthen our _____ - i.e. apologetics promotes boldness in evangelism

- Love God with all of our (Matt 22:37-40)

“the heart cannot exult in what the mind _____” Dr. Stephen Meyer

- Promoting a biblical _____ for the good of society and the glory of God

- Test against _____ ideas and teachings (1 Thess 5:21; 1 John 4:1; Col 2:8 Romans 12:1-2)

- Developing a Biblical worldview will cause a believer to bear much fruit (2 Peter 1:5-9; Colossians 2:3-10- “in Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and

Worldview Survey Questions:

- **Origins:**
 - How did humans get here? God? Evolution? Both evolution and Creation? Something else?
 - Who is God?
 - Who or what is man? An evolved creature or a special creation? Where do human rights come from?
- **Fall:**
 - What is humanity's greatest problem?
 - How do you know what is morally right or wrong? Why is it wrong?
 - Have you ever done something wrong? Why is it wrong? What do you do to deal with your guilt?
- **Solution:**
 - What is the purpose of life?
 - What is the solution to humanity's greatest problem?
 - Who do you think that Jesus is?
 - What will happen to you after you die?

6 major worldviews:

	Creation	Fall	Solution
1. Naturalism			
2. Post-Modern			
3. Pantheism			
4. Polytheism/Spiritism Animism			
5. Islam			
6. Christianity			

Testing a worldview:

1. Do the beliefs make sense? Is it consistent within itself or are there contradictions?
2. Does it line up with reality?
3. Is it livable? (i.e. does denying suffering or evil work in the real world?)

First Principles:

1. **The principle of existence**
 - Something exists. For example, I exist. This is undeniable, for I would have to exist in order to deny my existence. In the very attempt to deny my existence I implicitly affirm it.
2. **The Principle/law of identity:**
3. **The Principle/Law on non-contradiction:**
4. **The Principle/law of excluded middle**
5. **Law of causality**
6. **The Principle of Analogical language**
7. **Basic reliability of sense perception**

Arguments for the existence of God:

- **Cosmological Argument**
 - Everything that _____ to exist has a cause
 - The universe had a beginning
 - We know this because:
 -
 -
 -
 - Therefore, the universe had a _____
 - Therefore, the cause of the universe must transcend its effect and be described as....

- **Contingency Argument**
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 - Necessary existence:
 - Contingent existence:

Comparison of the NT with other ancient writings...

Author	When Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	No. of Copies
Homer (Iliad)	900 BC	400 BC	500 years	643
Cesar (The Gallic Wars)	100 - 44 BC	900 AD	1,000 years	10
Plato (Tetralogies)	427 - 347 BC	900 AD	1,200 years	7
Aristotle	384 - 322 BC	1,100 AD	1,400 years	49
Herodotus (History)	480 - 425 BC	900 AD	1,300 years	8
Euripedes	480 - 406 BC	1,100 AD	1,500 years	9
New Testament	50 - 90 A.D.	130 AD	30 years	6,838 (GK) 24,000 (total)

This chart was adapted from charts in Evidence that Demands a Verdict, by Josh McDowell, 1979, pages 42 and 43;

Do we have any manuscripts close to the actual events of Jesus's life?

- We have fragments within **decades** of its original composition
- **Complete** books of the NT within 100 years
- Complete manuscripts of the **entire NT** a little over 300 years away.

Early Church Father quotations of the New Testament

Writer	Gospels	Acts	Pauline Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation	Totals
Justin Martyr	268	10	43	6	3 (266 allusions)	330
Irenaeus	1,038	194	499	23	65	1,819
Clement of Alex.	1,107	44	1,127	207	11	2,406
Origen	9,231	349	7,778	399	165	17,992
Tertullian	3,822	502	2,609	120	205	7,258
Hippolytus	734	42	387	27	188	1,378
Eusebius	3,258	211	1,592	88	27	5,176
Total	19,368	1,352	14,035	870	664	36,289

Here are a few quotes from Extra-Biblical authors...

Josephus (AD 37-100) Jewish Historian & Pharisee of the priestly line
wrote about Jesus in *Antiquities of the Jews*

- Describes the death of John the Baptist
- Mentions the execution of James (the brother of Jesus)
- In one passage in *Antiquities* he describes Jesus as a "wise man."

"At this time there was a wise man who was called Jesus. His conduct was good, and [he] was known to be virtuous. And many people from among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. And those who had become disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive; accordingly, he was perhaps the Messiah concerning whom the prophets have recounted wonders." Josephus

Thallus, AD 5-60- Samaritan historian.

- Wrote an expansive history of the Mediterranean area around AD 50
- Much of Thallus work has been lost to us, however, another historian, Sextus Julius Africanus wrote a text entitled *History of the World* in AD 221 where he quoted Thallus trying to explain the darkness during Jesus' crucifixion:

*"On the whole world there pressed a most fearful darkness; and the rocks were rent by an earthquake, and many places in Judea and other districts were thrown down. This darkness Thallus, in the third book of his *History*, calls, as appears to me without reason, an eclipse of the sun." Africanus quoting Thallus*

- **Excruciating Testimony**

- Almost all the disciples were martyred
- There are only 3 reasons people commit a crime or engage in a conspiracy:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- If the resurrection was a lie, what motivation did they have to die?

Discussion questions over lunch

- What is your favorite "E" in this last section and why?
- What "E" would you like more info on?
- Can you practice making a brief case on why truth exist, God exists, why the New Testament is true and how the gospel best solves humanity's problem (sin before a Holy God)?

*****Worldview surveys: you will receive instructions during lunch for it.*****