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Faith Bible Church  
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This doctrine is also available @ <http://fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

**APOLOGETICS 5**  
**Why Do Apologetics?**  
**God Commands Us to Do Apologetics: see Jude 3**  
**(DDR #555)**

Before we really "get into" apologetics, I have found that there is a need today to do apologetics before doing apologetics. That is why I am beginning with the biblical passages that command us to do apologetics. Today we note:

Jude 1:3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Note three precepts in the verse: 1) Jude (the half-brother of Jesus, who like James, only became a believer after the resurrection of Christ) felt the *necessity* to write to believers to tell them to contend for the Christian faith, 2) the faith was the historic Christian faith (i.e. "which was once for all delivered to the saints"), and 3) the directive to do apologetics was directed to all believers, the "saints"—not just pastors and seminary graduates.

Jude had been "making every effort to write" them about their common salvation. However, because of attacks on Christianity, he was compelled to write a call to battle for the truth. He would have loved just to talk about blessings of salvation (which is the *only* thing that many churches do today), but—given the threat of false teachers who were distorting the gospel and Christianity—he had to write this urgent appeal for Christians to wage war against error in all forms and fight strenuously for the truth. The only way the Christian can fight for truth is to know sound doctrine as contained in the Scriptures as well as the attacks on that truth.

"Once for all delivered." God revelation was delivered once as a unit, at the completion of Scripture, and is not to be edited by either deletion or addition. Scripture is complete, sufficient, and finished; therefore, it is fixed for all time. Nothing is to be added to the body of the inspired Word because nothing else is needed. It is the responsibility of every believer to study the Word and fight for it.

Since "once-saved=always-saved" means that their salvation was not in any danger, Jude addressed the real danger of corruptions, distortions, and attacks on true Christianity. He told the believers "to contend (epagonidzomai, ἐπαγωνίζομαι: exert intense effort on behalf of something, expend great effort fighting against a rival) for the faith." Christianity is always under attack, and it is every believer's responsibility to be able to defend Christianity when it is distorted (i.e. Olsten, Word of Faith) and when it is attacked by the likes of god-haters like Richard Dawkins.

We will continue to focus on the priesthood of spiritual life, but for the next few years we will also be spending time in apologetics. We will continue to grow in God's truth in regard to our priesthood (our personal spiritual life with God) and our ambassadorship (our responsibilities in presenting God and true Christianity to the world and, and against all attacks).

Below is the paradigm we will be going through (after I do apologetics on doing apologetics). I hope you are as excited as I am about all that we are going to be learning so that we can say with Paul:

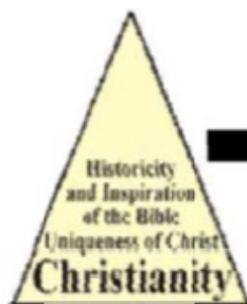
2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup> for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. <sup>5</sup> *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,



Destroying speculations against Christ and taking every thought for Him---what a life! What a privilege!

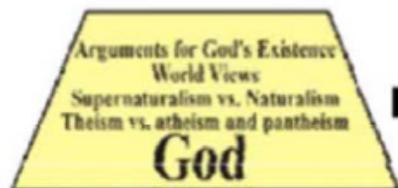
Doctrine matters!

Pastor Don



### III. The Truth of Christianity

- A. The Historicity of the Bible
  - 1. Do We Have What They Wrote?
  - 2. Did What They Write Happen?
- B. What Does the Bible Say About Jesus?
  - 1. Messianic Prophecies
  - 2. Lord, Liar, Lunatic
  - 3. Resurrection
- C. What Does Jesus Say About the Bible?
  - 1. What Jesus Affirmed About the OT
  - 2. Jesus Pre-authenticates the NT



### II. The Existence and Attributes of God

- A. Theistic Arguments
  - 1. Cosmological
  - 2. Teleological (Design)
  - 3. Moral
- B. Philosophical Theology
  - 1. Nature of God
  - 2. God's Relationship to Creation



### I. Philosophical Foundations

- A. Laws of Logic
- B. Reality and Knowability of Truth
- C. Nature of Reality