

# Any Questions?

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# DOCTRINAL/THEOLOGICAL/PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS

**1. Prolegomena:** Logic, philosophy, metaphysics, epistemology, essence, existence, rationalism, empiricism, realism, idealism. We live in all of these realms daily, and they do affect the structures of our thinking: how we view self, God, Reality, Bible Doctrine, and the Plan of God.

**2. Bibliology**

**3. Theology Proper**

**4. Trinitarianism**

**5. Paterology**

**6. Christology**

**7. Pneumatology**

**8. Angelology**

**9. Anthropology**

**10. Hamartiology**

**11. Soteriology**

**12. Hodology**

**13. Israelology**

**14. Ecclesiology**

**15. Eschatology**

## Prolegomena: Logic (1)

Every conscious person reasons. Logic is right/precise reasoning. Right/ precise reasoning is difficult & requires effort. Right reasoning is what separates man (*imago Dei*) from animals. Benefits of logic:

1. Logic helps you build mental habits of thinking in an orderly way.
2. Logic gives you the power to demonstrate truth and defeat error.
3. Logic helps you read any book more clearly and effectively.
4. Logic helps you write more clearly and effectively.
5. Logic helps you enjoy life.
6. Logic can add a great deal to your Christian faith.
7. Logic can help you attain wisdom.
8. Logic can help you evaluate spiritual and political authorities.
9. Logic can help you catch contradictory ideas.
10. Logic can add a great deal certainty to your life.
11. Logic helps you find truth (what is Real).
12. Logic helps you detect sophistry (false reasoning)
13. Logic will enable you to accurately think for yourself.
14. Logic helps you be faithful to God's Word (instead of "proof-texting") and trust Him (instead of being an emotional wreck).

# Spiritual Life Foundations

**Every believer has two spheres of responsibilities: his priesthood before God and his ambassadorship to others.**

- **Priesthood** (ἱερεύς, Rev. 1:6 ). This covers your responsibilities before God with regard to your spiritual life, Rom. 12:1-2; 1 John 1:7-9; 2 Pet. 3:18; James 4:4-6. This focus is on having a healthy, robust, growing spiritual life (e.g., the supergrace life).
- **Ambassadorship** (πρεσβεύω, Eph. 6:20). This includes your God-given responsibilities before man as you represent God to the world, Matt. 5:13-14; 1 Pet. 3:15; Rom. 13:1-5; James 1:27. This focus includes reaching out to others and defending the Christian faith in a hostile world.

## Resurrection Special #27: Falsifying Naturalism (3)

1. Map of our studies on the historiography of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
  - ✓ Historiography.
  - ✓ Bedrock facts.
  - ✓ Bankruptcy of all alternate (naturalistic) theories.
  - ✓ Falsifying naturalism (physical determinism)
    - ✓ Irreducible Complexity (e.g., Bacterial Flagellum) defeats Darwinism (methodological naturalism).
    - ✓ Six arguments that make naturalism and atheism untenable: cosmological, teleological, moral, rationality, resurrection of Jesus, existential knowledge of God.
2. Next: a step by step walkthrough of the resurrection narratives. Then we will move to the epistles and the SL.

## Reasons This Information is So Critically Important

1. We live in a culture that is becoming increasingly secular and hostile to Christianity—month by month! Where are the attacks? How should we respond?
2. What we currently face in America is the emergence of what is called the New Atheists. What makes the New Atheists different than the old atheists is not their arguments. What makes this something of concern is that the New Atheists are well organized and they are *very aggressive*.

3. The New Atheists have set as a goal to stamp out any and all supernatural religion in the United States—to rid the schools and culture of any kind of supernatural religion.
4. The New Atheists have set as their goal: make Christians look dumb, ignorant and backward—especially in the areas of science and logic.
5. The New Atheists are well organized, producing best sellers, and are very active on the internet (e.g., the Internet Infidels).

6. This new atheistic movement is spreading rapidly throughout America on many levels.
7. Don't kid yourself into thinking that Americans will never persecute Christians. Consider how they are labeling us as anti-intellectual superstitious idiots—indeed mad—who stand in the way of their grand “Enlightenment” goals.
8. Don't fool yourself into thinking that God so loves America that He will protect this country and see to it that Christians are protected from persecution—just because we are Americans & Christians. God does not love and protect America anymore than any other nation that adheres to laws of DE and Bible doctrine.



9. The downward trend. Fifty to sixty years ago the church was reasonably vibrant in Europe, especially in Great Britain (GB). Today less than 10% of the people attend any church in GB, and the culture is overwhelmingly secular in Europe.
10. The USA is next and most Christians are not prepared. Things do not look good. A lot of the problem is what is called by theologians as the curse of “Christian anti-intellectualism” that has saturated the American church—and to a lesser extent even in the doctrinal movement where many young people are totally unprepared to deal with the New Atheists and their popular arguments when they go to college.

11. The fate of Christianity in America is going to depend upon the local church and whether believers keep growing spiritually *and* have the ability to defend their faith. It is just that simple. The world is not going to be impressed with ignorant “piety” or *nice* law-abiding Christians. We need to be able to *defend the faith!* It is unfortunate that many Christians are not aware that the arguments are their side and not on the side of secularism.

## 12. Strengths and weaknesses in doctrinal movement.

- Superb job of valuing the grace of God (salvation by grace, confession of sins, faithfully taking in Bible doctrine, living the faith-rest life, walking by the Spirit, and growing in grace and doctrine).
- Areas of concern. Some “doctrinal” believers are so wrapped up in building their own ECSs that they have forgotten their responsibilities as ambassadors for Christ. They have developed a form of spiritual narcissism like Charismania. This has resulted in intellectual laziness in certain areas. This result is a sensate life—life with no development of the mind—the empty life which no amount of information can fill or fix.

13. Many churches are good at telling people what to believe but not why they believe it. Even many fantastic doctrinal churches send their kids to college totally unprepared as ambassadors for Christ and Christianity. The results are devastating.
  
14. We need to be as committed to our responsibilities as ambassadors as we are to our priesthoods. We need to be able to defend the faith before our hostile world. The apostle Paul is best example of this. Why do you think God gave Paul so much revelation?

15. It is important that we know how to give reasons for our faith. Christianity is unique in being able to offer reasons.

- While apologetics is not all that we are, it is an important part of what we are. Christianity is not blind faith—it is about reason and evidence.
- Christianity celebrates the life of the mind. In Christianity faith and reason work together. We are to value reason. We are to value being able to give evidence of the existence of God and the truth of Christianity.
- We are mandated to defend the truths of Christianity before an increasingly hostile world, 1 Pet. 3:15.

16. The nature and curse of anti-intellectualism.
- a. Anti-intellectualism has nothing to do with a person's IQ, or being a "factoid." It has everything to do with attitude. It is mental laziness. It is a non-reflective life.
  - b. The very nature of man (*imago Dei*) and what distinguishes him from animals is rationality—not being sensate.
  - c. To be anti-intellectual is to be disconnected with Reality as it is, and to live the sensate life—the DOL life
  - d. To be anti-intellectual is to be superstitious, even with Bible doctrine. The superstitious treat doctrine as magic words and talismans. Just say the right thing and it will all work out, cf. Charismatics.
  - e. Why did God give us GAP? So there is no excuse, right?

17. Experts (e.g., J.P. Moreland) are very concerned about the current anti-intellectualism in Christianity. The most dominant characteristic of the anti-intellectual is one of possessing an “empty non-reflective life.” It is a life that is non-reflective about BD, God, life, the SL, and reality.
18. This empty self creates meaning *only* in self-interest.
  - a. The empty self is infantile—needs approbation.
  - b. The empty self is narcissistic—it is all about self.
  - c. The empty self is passive—no power of the mind.
  - d. The empty self is sensate—needs stimulation.
  - e. The empty self has no capacity for life—bored.
  - f. The empty self is hurried and busy—can’t stand being alone.
  - g. The empty self is a danger to society and the church—others must do thinking for him/her.

- h. The empty self is also the enemy of the Christian mind and its cultivation.
- i. The empty self is an enemy of spiritual maturity.
- j. The problem of the empty self cannot be solved *simply* by more and more information, doctrine or otherwise.
- k. The only solution to the problem of anti-intellectualism and the empty self is in developing God's gift of rationality (critical thinking) under the influence of the Holy Spirit and WOG.
- l. Other helps in developing the mind: admit the problem, stop letting culture squeeze you into its "pomo" mold, read, develop vocabulary, learn logic, think often on the things of God (Bible doctrine).



19. The New Atheists' challenge of naturalism must be met and answered by the Christian.
20. The good news is that modern science demonstrates the failure of naturalism and thus deals a death blow to all naturalistic arguments against the supernatural.
21. Naturalism is the philosophy that the material world is all there is. The supernatural is excluded.
22. Creation of the universe by a transcendent cause (cosmological argument) falsifies naturalism.
23. Design in the universe by a transcendent cause (teleological argument) falsifies naturalism.

24. Through special revelation we know the identity of the Transcendent One (that scientists are now facing): the Second Member of the Trinity, Jesus Christ, who created and sustains the universe.

➤ **Colossians 1:16** For by Him [Pre-incarnate Christ] all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together (συνίστημι).

- **Hebrews 1:1** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, <sup>2</sup> in these last days has spoken to us in *His* Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. <sup>3</sup> And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds (φέρων) all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high;

25. The consensus of the scientific community is that the universe has a transcendent cause. This is not debated! Consider Stephen Hawking's *Brief History of Time* and *The Great Design*.
26. The consensus of the scientific community is that the universe has unbelievable precise design. This is not debated. There is no longer any debate about design. When you look throughout the scientific disciplines the impression of design is overwhelming.
27. The only question that remains is the identity of this transcendent Creator and Designer: God or Math/Physics?
28. If it is the God of the Bible, we would expect the evidence to continue to grow. Indeed, it is growing at astronomical rates monthly.

# What the Bible Says about Evidence for God

**Romans 1:19** because that which is **known** about God (τὸ γνωστὸν τοῦ θεοῦ) is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, **being understood** (νοούμενα) through what has been made [creation], so that they are without excuse.

- “known” – *Not* what might be “believed” about God.
- “being understood” —not by personal testimony.
- God is *known* and *clearly seen* by what has been made.
- The issue of God-consciousness.

1. Romans 1:19-20 teaches that there is something about the created order that provides all people with the knowledge that there is a Supreme Being.
2. So what we can do in regard to the New Atheists is to formulate an argument that would provide evidence from the created world.
3. None of this evidence requires faith. It does not take faith to believe there is a God. It takes faith to have a relationship with God. But believing there is a God is not a function of faith but of knowledge. We know God exists; we can know there is a God.
4. There are 6 major ways to falsify naturalism (and atheism) and demonstrate evidence for the existence of God.

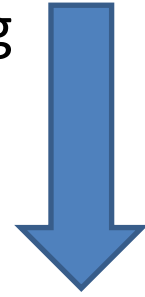
# #1 The Universe Began to Exist and Something Supernatural Had to Create It

We now know (from science and philosophy) that we live in a very unusual universe. This universe has not been here forever. We now know that the universe of space, time, energy, and matter began to exist in the past (singularity beginning)—it is not eternal.

## 2 Scientific Reasons Why We Know the Universe is Not Eternal



The Universe Began to Exist & Something Supernatural Had to Create It – it is no longer scientifically credible to deny a supernatural cause for the universe.



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Law of Thermodynamics

- The universe is running out of useful energy (e.g., like a car running out of gas).
- Heat and the lights will go out.
- Universe will become motionless
- If the universe was eternal then all of these things would have already taken place. There would be no energy, light, or motion.

### The Expansion of the Universe

- The universe is expanding
- This points to a “singularity beginning.”
- Before this beginning there was no space, time, energy, or matter.
- Something transcendent (outside of space and time and matter) brought the universe into existence.
- Ergo, naturalism is falsified & the New Atheists are defeated.



## #2 – Teleological Argument falsifies Naturalism

1. In recent decades scientists are stunned by the precise conditions for life. Scientists no longer question design. The question is: Is the Designer physics and mathematics or God?
2. Three 3 choices with regard to the incredible precision (from atomic particles to the moon and sun).
  - a. Chance? Odds are absolutely inconceivable that random material would create this precision.
  - b. Physical necessity? No, compare gravity.
  - c. Designer? On the micro level we know that one cell in your body has more information in it than the UCLA library. (Consider Satan's SETI efforts.)

3. For technical gurus, the details and sources on some of the fine-tuning aspects of life and the universe (teleological arguments) can be accessed at

<http://www.reasons.org/fine-tuning>

- ✓ 140 features of the universe as a whole that must be fine-tuned for the possibility of physical life.
- ✓ 402 quantifiable characteristics of a planetary system that must be fine-tuned.
- ✓ 922 probability estimates for features required by various life forms.

### **#3 – Moral reality falsifies Naturalism**

1. Moral absolutes are real and objective like math. They are not invented, they are discovered. They are real not illusory.
2. No man lives as though they were not real—e.g., no morals, no virtues, no vices, nothing good or evil? No justice? If you doubt this then find out what some relativist cares for, suggest its destruction, and see what happens. See how wrong he will think this is. Consider the Nazi trials where the defendants continued to appeal to obeying German law.
3. There are moral laws that are above cultural human laws.
4. Moral absolutes are best explained by a Moral Lawgiver. Just as human laws come from a person, so Moral Law comes from a Person.
5. Naturalism cannot truly condemn things like rape or the torture of babies—especially if those acts could be shown to provide for further “Enlightenment” or benefit to man in some way.

## #4 – Rationality falsifies Naturalism

1. Naturalism rejects the mind as a real entity.
2. Naturalism must posit that thinking is only the results of *physical* brain activity that translates into states.
3. Through reductionism naturalism essentially equates a physical biochemical, bioelectrical event with thoughts, concepts, feelings, love, i.e. qualia.
4. If all thoughts are nothing but the results of *natural* physical causes in the brain, then the very basis of rationality is destroyed.
5. Naturalism can not even pass its own test.
6. Naturalism is self-defeating since it teaches that we are only brain functions operating according to naturalistic causal physical laws.

## #5 - Resurrection of Jesus Christ falsifies naturalism

1. Jesus came on the scene as God in accordance with prophecy, performed miracles, and was raised from the dead.
2. There is no natural explanation of the combined historical data which points to the reality of the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. All of the naturalistic theories of the resurrection of Jesus Christ have been abandoned by the greatest minds among unbelievers for hundreds of years.

**#6 - Existential knowledge of God falsifies naturalism.** Man innately knows there is a God just as he knows he has a soul and there is a designed external world in which he lives.

- ✓ **Romans 1:19-20** because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.
- ✓ **John 16:8** "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; <sup>10</sup> and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me;

## Quiz

**Which of the following provides a correct description of *naturalism*?**

A- Most opposing theories offered to date adequately account for Jesus' resurrection.

B- The natural world is all there is.

C- Although Jesus rose from the dead, it was by natural causes.

D – Eating all natural foods without preservatives is the best diet one can have.

## Quiz

**Some critics claim that science has shown that resurrections are impossible. Why is this position false?**

A- Scientists are always biased by their atheism and their conclusions should always be rejected.

B- Although scientific studies may reveal that resurrections are impossible, we must accept Jesus' resurrection on faith alone.

C- Science has only shown that resurrections are impossible by *natural causes*.

D- All of the above.



## Quiz

**If a skeptic told you that he could never believe that Jesus rose from the dead because his experience tells him that when people die they stay dead, how might you respond?**

A- My experience from the Bible tells me differently. So our experiences cancel each other out.

B- His experience shows that the dead do not return to life by natural causes. However, this does not eliminate the possibility of God raising someone from the dead under special circumstances.

C- His experience shows him that 5,000 cannot be fed by five loaves of bread and two fish. However, it happened. Therefore, his reasoning is problematic.

D- All of the above.

## Quiz

**Skeptics will sometimes claim that even if God exists He cannot violate the laws of nature. What could you say in response?**

A- Nature is all there is. God exists and is, therefore, included in the definition of nature. Thus, His actions within nature do not violate nature's law.

B- The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."

C- God does not desire to violate nature's laws and Jesus' resurrection fits in well with those laws.

D- If God created the universe and its natural laws, there is no reason why He could not suspend or override those laws if He wanted to.

## Quiz

**If a skeptic suggested that science can explain everything and, thus, we do not have to appeal to a god, what might you say in response?**

A- Science is unable to answer the evidence for Jesus' resurrection. This attests to the extraordinary evidence for it.

B- Since appealing to a god can explain everything, we do not have to appeal to science for answers.

C- What we know from medicine, history, and psychology disprove natural explanations for Jesus' resurrection.

D- A & C.

## Quiz

**If a skeptic said that only what science proves is true, you might respond with which of the following?**

A- Since science cannot prove this position it cannot pass its own test.

B- I am only referring to religious matters, not science. So your objections fails.

C- Near death experiences (NDE's) are proof from science that resurrections are possible.

D- All of the above

## Quiz

**If a skeptic said, “I’ll grant we can know that something happened. But we cannot say that Jesus rose,” how should you respond?**

A- We can make this conclusion because the inspired Word of God reports it.

B- Since all the evidence points to a resurrection and no plausible opposing theories exist, Jesus’s resurrection is the only plausible solution to account for the known facts

C- That’s a good point. I can see why you’re not a Christian.

## Quiz

**Skeptics frequently appeal to problem passages in the resurrection accounts in the Gospels. What is a good way to respond to this tactic?**

A- This objection is irrelevant, because we know that the Bible is inspired and have no need to answer critics who claim that the Bible contains errors.

B- Jesus' resurrection would be disproved if the Bible contains errors, since it is our best source regarding the resurrection accounts.

C- A minimal facts approach keeps us focused on facts, which both sides admit. Problem passages, even in the resurrection accounts, don't at all undermine these minimal facts.

D- This objection is irrelevant, because the majority of scholars believe that Jesus rose from the dead.

## Quiz

**What are the six arguments that falsify naturalism?**

## Quiz

**What are the six canons of historiography?**



# The “Hypothesis” of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ (from purely an historical perspective)

1. Great explanatory scope. The resurrection of Christ explains why the tomb was empty, why the disciples had post-mortem experiences of seeing Jesus, why the Christian faith came into being.
2. Great explanatory power. The resurrection of Christ explains why the body of Jesus was not in the tomb, and why people repeatedly saw Him alive. It explains their willingness to be tortured and murdered for this faith.

3. It is not ad hoc. It is not contrived; it only requires one hypothesis: God exists. Even that need not be an additional hypothesis if you already believe in God.
  
4. Plausibility. It is in accord with accepted beliefs. Christians readily accept that *naturally* dead men do not rise. Given His unparalleled life, wisdom, claims, and prophecy, the resurrection serves as divine confirmation. Christ was either God or a blasphemer.

5. Illumination Thus, it is in accord with accepted beliefs and provides illumination to *all* facts.
6. It far outstrips all rival theories in meeting the canons of 1-5 above. This is why alternate theories continue to be abandoned for the last 200 years. This is precisely why all other theories have not attracted wide scholarship and most “pop” theories have been almost universally rejected.

All alternate theories fail miserably to meet the canons of history as to the best explanation.

- 1) Explanatory scope.
- 2) Explanatory power.
- 3) Plausibility.
- 4) Less ad hoc.
- 5) Illumination.
- 6) Outstrips all rival theories.