

Faith Bible Church

Acts 20:32 "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build (οἰκοδομέω - oikodomeo) *you* up and to give *you* the inheritance among all those who are sanctified (perfect tense).

Any Questions?

These slides will be available at
www.fbcweb.org/sermons.html

Pastor Don

Philosophical/Theological/Doctrinal & Spiritual Foundations

- Eschatology
- Thanatology
- Ecclesiology
- Israelology
- Dispensationalism
- Doxology
- Hodology
- Soteriology
- Hamartiology
- Natural Law (DE, Gvt, Econ.)
- Anthropology
- Angelology
- Pneumatology
- Christology
- Paterology
- Trinitarianism
- Theology Proper
- Bibliology
- Prolegomena: logic (7)

Broad and deep understanding of Epi-BD

1 Cor. 2:16.
"We have the
mind of Christ"

Enough BD to be overcomer; DV

1 John 2:14, "you are
strong, and the word of
God abides in you"

Lacks BD, DV

Eph 4:14,
"tossed here and
& carried about
by every wind of
doctrine."

- Mature Believer**
- Mind of JC, OWC, PLG
 - Great depth of BD
 - Supergrace life
 - Fantastic blessedness
 - Phenomenal Stability
 - +H - Prime of life
 - Great Divine Production
 - Absolute Confidence

- Adolescent**
- Overcomer of KD
 - Committed to BD
 - Not into religiosity

- Babe**
- Still has a lot of philosophical HV
 - Follows God for self/blessings
 - Lacks capacity for God /POG
 - Sensitive, defensive
 - Can only handle baby food
 - Dominated by DOL.
 - Seeks approbation/entertainment

Identify the law of logic that is relevant

I- Identity –

NC – Non-contradiction

EM – Excluded Middle

MP – Modus Ponens

PMP – Pseudo Modus Ponens

1. The laws of logic are necessary to accurately understand Scripture or they are not necessary to accurately understand Scripture. _____
2. The laws of logic find their origination in God Himself and the logical laws find their origination in man _____
3. If I depreciate logic, then I do not appreciate logic as the essential nature of Jesus Christ (John 1:1),
I depreciate logic
Therefore I do not appreciate logic as the essential nature of Jesus Christ.

4. Love is emotions. Brain is mind. My ideas are chemicals. Essence is attributes. Substance is properties. An apple is red.

5. If I believe in Jesus, then I am saved.
I believe in Jesus
Therefore I am saved

6. If I love Christ, I will love His Word.
I love Christ
Therefore, I love His Word

7. If I love Christ, I will read my Bible regularly
I read my Bible regularly
Therefore, I love Christ.

8. If I want to be more accurate about God/BD, then I will value logic.
I want to be more accurate about God/BD
Therefore, I value logic.

9. If I would rather be emotional and irrational with God's Word, then I will reject logic as important
I would rather be emotional and irrational with God's Word
Therefore, I will reject logic as important.

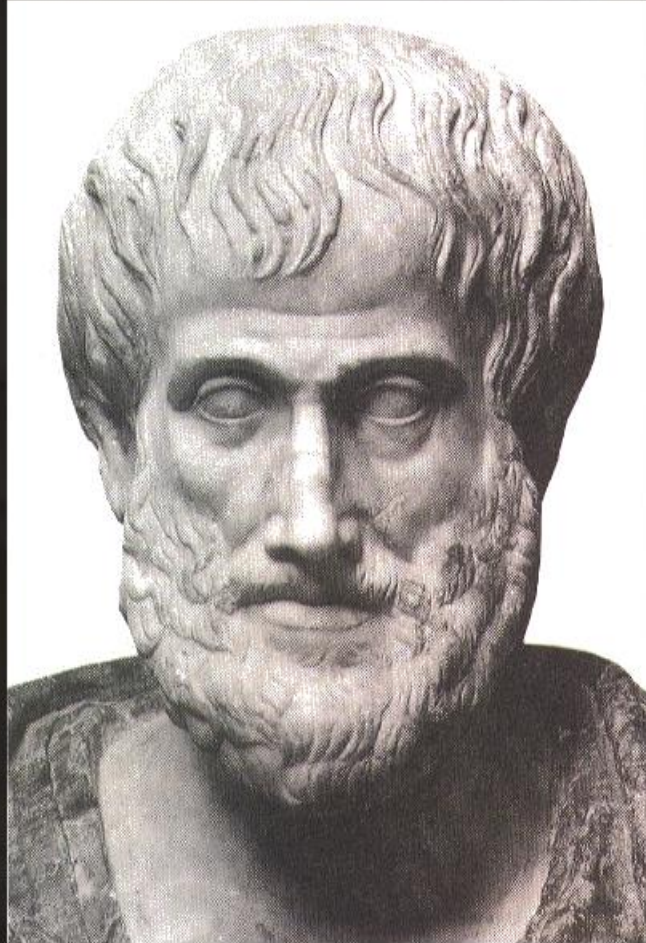
10. If I love my wife, I will buy her some chocolates
I buy her chocolates
Therefore I love my wife

11. Salvation is a work of God or a work of man _____

12. I am either in fellowship with God or not in fellowship with God

13. If I truly love my spouse, I will remain faithful
I truly love my spouse
Therefore, I will remain faithful
14. If I do not love Wisdom, I will not care for serious thinking (classical philosophy)
I do not love Wisdom
I do not care for serious thinking (classical philosophy)
15. If I really want to move into a deep profound understanding of the essence of God, I must understand basic principles of logic and metaphysics (prolegomena)
I really want to move into a deep profound understanding of the essence of God
Therefore, I must understand the basic principles of logic and metaphysics

God used Aristotle to develop *Logic* and Realism for society so that it would have capacity for Objectivity and Coherence

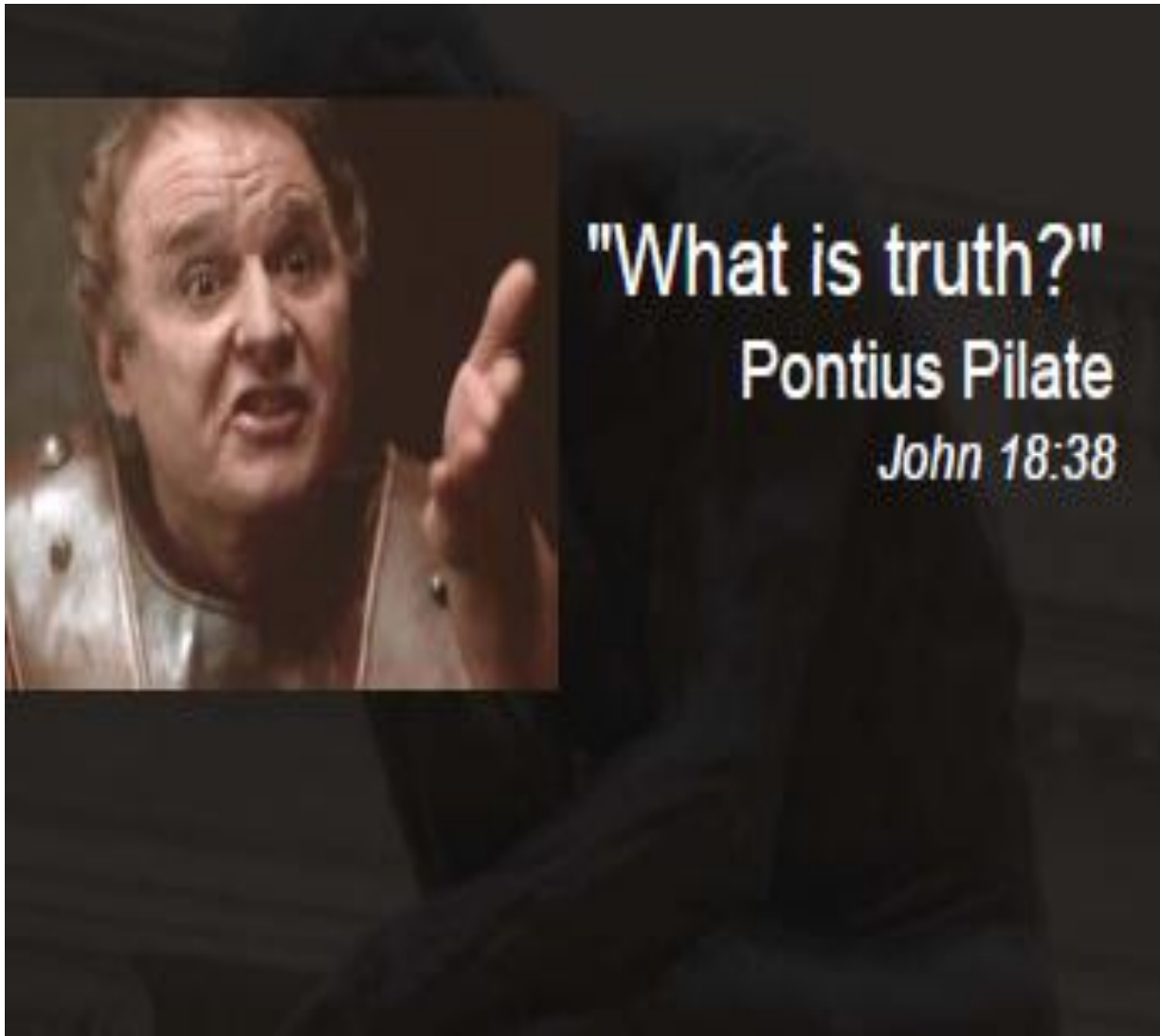


Aristotle

"To say of what is, that it is not, or of what is not, that it is, is false, while to say of what is, that it is and of what is not, that it is not, is true."

Metaphysics, IV, 7, 1001b26-29 Translation by Richard McKeon, *The Basic Works of Aristotle* (New York: Random House, 1941).

What happens when confidence in Logic & Truth is lost



Society's abandonment of Aristotelianism is the single greatest mistake ever made in the *entire* history of Western thought.

The corrosive effects of this rejection: the destruction of the intellectual foundation for traditional Western Christianity, morality, science, politics and theology; disintegration of confidence in logic; the destruction of the rational justifiability of morality and spiritual truths; widespread naturalism which entails that free will is an illusion; the belief that there is a mind-body problem; the proliferation of relativism, skepticism, and irrationality; the radical individualism which knows no bounds; the rejection of authority; no confidence in Law; the intellectual and practical depersonalization of man that all of this has entailed; mass-murder on a scale unparalleled in human history; homosexuality accepted as *natural*; positive “reality thinking” by non-Christians and Christians alike; Christians thinking of God in terms of physical body parts; deconstruction of the WOG, theology, and BD, etc. ad nauseam.

Who is Correct?

Christian Finis Dake

or

Pagan Aristotle



Finis J. Dake
1902-1987

"God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are all present where there are beings with whom they have dealings; but they are not omnibody, that is, their bodies are not omnipresent. All three go from place to place bodily as other beings in the universe do."

Finis Jennings Dake, *The Dake Annotated Reference Bible* (Lawrenceville, GA: Dake Bible Sales, 1991), in the "Complete Concordance and Cyclopedic Index," p. 81.

God is the Unmoved Mover

Who is Correct?

Christian Finis Dake

or

Pagan Aristotle



Finis J. Dake
1902-1987

"God has a personal spirit body (Dan. 7:9-14; 10:5-19); shape (Jn. 5:37); form (Phil. 2:5-7); image and likeness of a man (Gen. 1:26; 9:6; Ezek. 1:28-28; 1 Cor. 11:7; Jas. 3:9). He has bodily parts such as, back parts (Ex. 33:23), heart (Gen. 8:6; 8:21), hands and fingers (Ps. 8:3-8; Heb. 1:10; Rev. 5:1-7), mouth (Num. 12:8), lips and tongue (Isa. 30:27), feet (Ezek. 1:27; Ex. 24:10), eyes (Ps. 11:4; 18:24; 33:18), ears (Ps. 18:6), hair, head, face, arms (Dan. 7:9-14; 10:5-19; Rev. 5:1-7; 22:4-8), and other bodily parts.

Dake, NT, p. 97.

**God is not physical
in any manner**

Resurrection Special #34: Falsifying Naturalism (10)

**Resurrection &
the Spiritual Life
in the Epistles**

**A Walkthrough of the Resurrection
Narratives**

6 Arguments that

Falsify Naturalism

The Failure of All Alternate Theories

Bedrock Facts: Death of JC & Multiple Appearances

**Historiography: Establishing Historical Proof
for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ**

(cont.)

35. The most persistent argument used by atheists against theism is known as the problem of _____ . Describe this problem in light of the following questions and issues.

- a. What is the difference between the intellectual problem and psychological problem (inner and outward)?
- b. Why has the problem of evil been abandoned by the majority of professional philosophers? Yet it remains an intractable problem today among the masses.

- c. How is the problem of evil exacerbated by a philosophy that teaches that God's purpose for man is human happiness and solved by understanding that the true purpose of life is to gain knowledge of God?
- d. Can a man ever orient to God's purpose for his life if he thinks life is about his own happiness?
- e. What are the two aspects of knowing God?

- f. If the incommensurate good is knowing God, and knowing God is enhanced through the trials (evils, sufferings, and difficulties) of life, how can a believer who desires to know more of God have a “problem of evil”?
- g. How can a believer be surprised at evil and suffering in light of Scripture?

1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

- h. Human happiness is not wrong, but it is not guaranteed in this life. Although God is never the author of moral evil, He does allow physical evil for His purposes.
- i. Rather than natural/physical evil disproving God, it is entirely consistent and often His summons to a deeper knowledge and trust of Him—whether this physical evil is in our lives or the lives of our loved ones.

- j. The single greatest good is in knowing God—philosophically, theologically, doctrinally, and personally. This knowledge really is incommensurate. Nothing can compare with the measure of the good of knowing God. He is the ultimate source of all goodness.

- k. The source of all moral evil is man, not God. Man freely ignores God and flouts His will and pursues his own ends apart from God, and thus adopts an evil mindset.

- l. Although God never wills that man would do moral evil, His will does include physical evil (earthquakes, disease, cancer) in order to bring more people into knowledge of Him. We need to respect God's prerogative. The Bible is filled with examples of God bringing evil and suffering into the lives of believers to refine them, i.e. move them forward in the knowledge of God (cf. 1 Peter, Job).

- m. We have to be extremely careful in judging physical evil as direct punishment of specific individuals, cf. Luke 13:1-5. Our understanding is very limited—especially in terms of God's long-term goals. We need to respect God's prerogatives!

- n. “Problem of evil” assumes a standard of evil. There is moral evil (rape, murder) and physical evil (disasters). If there is no God, who is to say what is right or wrong? In the absence of God we are just animals and there is no right or wrong. E.g., “awful” things go on in the animal kingdom all of the time.

- o. If we really do think there is evil in the world ,then God must exist. No objective values exist without God. This is inescapable. Without God the Holocaust is the survival of the fittest—just one animal species fighting against another species, clawing and scratching for supremacy in the concrete jungle.

p. Permitting evil vs. promoting evil. God permits crime, war, and sin as they are freely perpetuated. But in permitting them, He always has morally adequate reasons. His will is even fulfilled through wicked and sinful creatures. Consider the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, a horrid evil on an innocent man, yet through this *seeming* tragedy the redemption of the world is purchased. God is in the business of bringing good out of evil. What a comfort to know that God is always in control!

Genesis 50:20 "And as for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

- q. Defense of the problem of evil is always connected with freewill. Given human freedom, God cannot just guarantee that a world of free creatures will always do what He wants them to do. They will freely perpetrate evils and suffering. We do not have to know the actual reason why God permitted specific physical evils. However, we have good reasons to believe in the existence of God, and given His goodness, we can trust that He has good reasons.

- r. The truth of the matter is that it is extraordinarily difficult to show philosophically that there is a logical contradiction between the existence of God and human suffering. It is an enormous burden to show the incompatibility because one would have to show that there is no way there can be evil that God permits. As long as it is even possible for some reason to be given, God and evil can be logically compatible.

- s. Problem of evil (Euthyphro's dilemma and the Good).
- Relevance to problem of evil.
 - Euthyphro: Is something good because the gods will it or do the gods will it because it is good? Is Good arbitrary or above God?
 - This has application to Christianity, Calvinism, God, and Good. The doctrinal solution is that Good is in the nature of God. Moral values are grounded in the nature and character of God. God's nature is Good. God could not have willed otherwise. The goodness and virtue flow from His very own nature. Therefore, they are not arbitrary, they are necessary expressions of His own essence. All values are rooted in God and expressions of God Himself.
 - This is why rejection of God is the most serious sin. In rejection of God the will of the creature is not oriented to the supreme God—instead he, at best, is oriented to lesser goods.

- t. How naturalistic presuppositions construct evil presuppositions—
thereby creating an evil person, e.g., Niccolò Machiavelli (1469-1527).
- (1) No person has been as despised, yet so followed as Machiavelli.
 - (2) His greatest influence is in the area of politics.
 - (3) He also typifies much of the modern mind in ethics.
 - (4) All of his followers repudiated his teachings, yet due to naturalistic presuppositions they live out his precepts (naturalistic philosophies).
 - (5) He was so unpopular that he was called, the son of the Devil, and one of the most popular names for the devil was old nick because Niccolo was his first name. Not only was he named after the devil, the devil was named after him.
 - (6) Although people bemoan and deplore his philosophy, almost all incorporate it into their lives due to the influence of naturalism, especially in politics. The only difference is that the average person seeks to mitigate its appearance in his life.

(7) Which of the following does postmodern man ascribe to?

- a. The aim of politics is virtue
- b. Politics is the aim of the possible.

(Guess which virtually everyone would pick before modernism, and which almost everyone picks in our postmodern world).

(8) The three naturalistic presuppositions of Machiavelli—in contrast to God and Bible doctrine.

a. Anthropological anti-realism: Man does not have a soul; he is merely an animal. Man is only matter and in an only matter world (no truth, justice, morality, etc.); it is *only* about winning.

b. Epistemology. Study of man is reduced to sense observation (history). This has led to behaviorism (cf. Skinner), and “control.” This is the “science” of “morality.”

c. Metaphysical. Ideals are not real. That reality does not include ideals or goods or values; reality only consists of material things. It is all about being pragmatic.

- (9) There are always anthropological, epistemological, and metaphysical assumptions behind everyone's ethics and worldview. They determine your worldview and even how you "use" Bible doctrine.
- (10) The naturalistic ethics of atheism always breaks down because of rejection of theology and philosophy.
- (11) The naturalist will always put self and material ahead of the immaterial, Virtue and values. Any "values" of the naturalist are created by fiat.
- (12) Every person lives out his true philosophy. Your metaphysics determine your morality, spirituality, and priorities.

(13) The naturalist will prefer appearance and the physical to ideals. They are always focused on appearances. This is more real to the naturalist.

(14) The naturalist (true to Machiavelli's anti-philosophy philosophy), believes that appearance is more important than reality. Image is everything! He says everyone sees you for who you appear to be, and only a few know who you really are. Therefore what you appear is far more important than what you are. Purely pragmatic.

- (15)Machiavelli rules the world of advertising, politics, and all who reject the ideals (truth, justice, doctrine), e.g. sensates.
- (16)Machiavelli is the founder of modern political science.
- (17)Machiavelli is a prime example of the evil that can saturate a person's mental attitude simply by adopting a naturalistic metaphysics, epistemology, and anthropology.

36. Describe the nature of existential knowledge of God and how it is the most direct and natural way man knows that God exists.
37. Describe the pathology of the world's greatest atheists of the last 300-400 years (Freud, Hobbes, Ludwig von Feuerbach, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Camus, Hume, Madeleine Murray O'Hare, Antony Flew).
38. Explain how atheism is a better candidate for a defense mechanism for denial than theism is a candidate for projection.

39. Using Scripture (e.g., Rom. 1:18-20; 2:14-15; Acts 17:26-27; Psa. 145:18; Isa. 55:6; Dt. 4:29; Psa. 105:4; Jer. 29:13; Matt. 6:33), demonstrate how anyone who desires a relationship with God will be given that opportunity in natural revelation and then special revelation—regardless of when or where he lives or his background (this answers the atheistic objection to Christian particularism). Include in your discussion:
- a. what Romans 1:18-20 tells us about the fate of the mass of humanity;
 - b. what Romans 1:18-20 tells us about natural revelation;
 - c. how Romans 1:20 explains how Aristotle could understand the divine nature of God and principles of logic better than many Christians who have special revelation;

- d. what Romans 2:14-15 teaches in regard to the universal sense of morality in mankind throughout history;
- e. how Romans 2:14-15 plays out as part of natural revelation in the witness of “conviction;”
- f. how Acts 17:26-27 teaches us that God knew where and when every person would be born. Principles:
 - (1) There are no historical or geographical accidents. No such thing as good luck that you were born in Christian environment or family!
 - (2) This passage eliminates charges against God’s love or fairness.

- (3) God's gift of freedom. He cannot grant freewill to man and then force him (cf. Bruce Almighty).
- (4) God gives sufficient grace to all men and efficient grace for those who are positive.
- (5) God has so ordered the world that those who never hear the gospel and are lost are only people who would not have believed in the Gospel.
- (6) Anyone who would have believed the gospel is born in a time and place in history where the gospel was available.
- (7) Based on Molinism (middle knowledge where God knows what every person would do in any circumstance), anyone can be saved who wants to be saved. Response to natural revelation is the first step.

- (8) What this means is that no one can stand before God on judgment day and say, “Alright God, so I rejected your revelation in nature and conscience. If only I had heard the gospel, then I would have believed.”
- (9) When the unbeliever challenges Christian particularism in light of those who have never heard, the challenger needs to be asked, “what about you?”
- (10) Man’s freewill is established biblically (1 Cor. 10:13) and is philosophically necessary for coherence regarding freewill and the problem of evil. Also the AC could not be resolved by puppets or pets.

40. Explain C.S. Lewis' argument for God based on the human existential need.



C.S. Lewis 1898-1963

41. 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.

42. 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.

43. 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.

44. 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.

45. 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.

46. 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 objection fails.

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

D- All of the above

47. 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.

48. 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.

49. What is the name of the theory that teaches that the believer does not need to do apologetics? He just needs to believe (evidence has no place in the Christian faith) _____. How is this different from religions of the world?
50. Who was the individual in the Bible who was the greatest philosopher-theologian, given the most Bible doctrine, had an unparalleled spiritual (resurrection empowered) life, and the most effective force for the spread of Christianity in history?
51. What argument for the existence of God deals with the fact that matter does not have intentionality?
52. Name the Darwinian evolutionist who has no response to the fine tuning of the universe, does not believe that there is such thing as morality, yet has developed his own 10 commandments.

53. List 2 differences between a Christian intellectual and a Christian anti-intellectual?
54. What are some of the benefits of being an intellectual Christian (in contrast to being a fanatical emotional Bible-thumper as seen on TV)?
55. The constants of our universe is balanced on a razor's edge of incomprehensible precision. List 5 anthropic illustrations:
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
56. Stephen Hawking is not only an anti-_____, he is also a full-blown p_____ .