

# “I’m Glad You Asked” - Week One

## What is (are) Apologetics?



### Three Barriers that Exist:

- The E \_\_\_\_\_ Barrier – bad experiences with Christians or the church
- \*The I \_\_\_\_\_ Barrier – belief that Christianity is not intellectually credible
- The V \_\_\_\_\_ Barrier – strong, willful decision to not consider Christianity

### Key Verse:

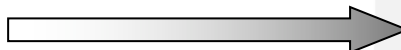
*“Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence”*  
(1 Peter 3:15)

“Sanctify Christ as Lord”



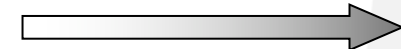
K \_\_\_\_\_

“the hope that is in you”



K \_\_\_\_\_

“everyone who asks you”



E \_\_\_\_\_

“always being ready to make a defense”



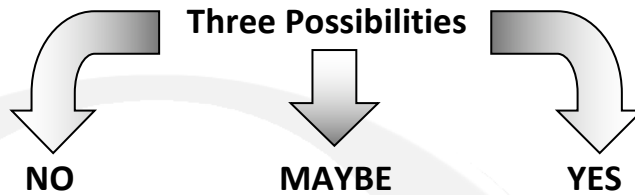
A \_\_\_\_\_

“[do this] with g \_\_\_\_\_ and r \_\_\_\_\_”

### Our Schedule:

Topic	Date
Introduction to Apologetics	February 21 <sup>st</sup>
How do you know there is a God?	February 28 <sup>th</sup>
Miracles? Can you prove the resurrection took place?	March 6 <sup>th</sup>
Isn't religion a crutch for the psychologically weak?	March 13 <sup>th</sup>
How accurate and reliable is the Bible	March 20 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup>
If God is so loving and powerful, why is there evil and suffering?	April 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Is Jesus the only path to God?	April 10 <sup>th</sup>
What about those who don't hear about Jesus?	April 17 <sup>th</sup>
Doesn't hypocrisy invalidate Christianity?	April 24 <sup>th</sup>
What about “good works?”	May 1 <sup>st</sup>
Isn't salvation by faith “too simple?”/What does it mean to “believe?”	May 8 <sup>th</sup>
Can anyone be sure of their salvation?	May 15 <sup>th</sup>

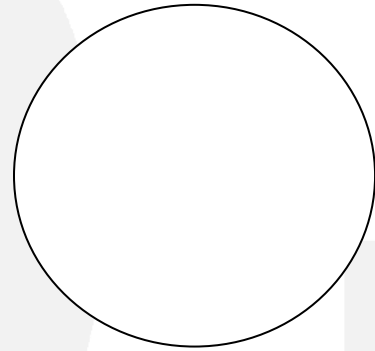
## Does God Exist?



A \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_

### To an Atheist:

- Look at a circle (represents all knowledge).
- Draw something within the circle = your knowledge.
- If less than full circle, there is a problem.
- Cannot prove an "absolute n\_\_\_\_\_."
- Discuss life without a God; there would not be any
  - M\_\_\_\_\_, V\_\_\_\_\_, or P\_\_\_\_\_



### To an Agnostic:

- What is an acceptable form of p\_\_\_\_\_?
- Consider L\_\_\_\_\_ H\_\_\_\_\_ proof
  - "making a decision based upon preponderance of c\_\_\_\_\_ evidence beyond a r\_\_\_\_\_ doubt."
  - Consider C\_\_\_\_\_ and E\_\_\_\_\_ reasoning
- "IF" Proposition:
  - If anything now exists (effect), something must be E\_\_\_\_\_ (cause), or something not eternal (effect), came from N\_\_\_\_\_ (cause).

- **Explanations for the Existence of the Universe:**

- The universe is an I \_\_\_\_\_.
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- The universe emerged from N \_\_\_\_\_.
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- The universe is E \_\_\_\_\_. *“The Cosmological Argument”*
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- The universe was C \_\_\_\_\_ by an eternal being.

To a **Theist**:

- What kind of God is He: P \_\_\_\_\_ or I \_\_\_\_\_
- If someone thinks God is Impersonal:
  - Look at the D \_\_\_\_\_ of the universe. *“The Teleological Argument”*
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Look at the P \_\_\_\_\_ of Man. *“The Anthropological Argument”*
    - Man has I \_\_\_\_\_, E \_\_\_\_\_ and W \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Creature is not above its C \_\_\_\_\_.
- If someone now thinks God is Personal:
  - Realize that life now has M \_\_\_\_\_, V \_\_\_\_\_ and P \_\_\_\_\_.
  - May be able to consider the G \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Pascal’s Wager:** *To believe in God is to risk nothing but potentially gain everything.*
- **Additional resources:**

Web sites: [www.apologetics.com](http://www.apologetics.com) [www.doesgodexist.com](http://www.doesgodexist.com) [www.reasons.org](http://www.reasons.org)  
**20 Compelling Evidences that God Exists** by Ken Boa  
**Darwin on Trial** by Phillip Johnson  
**Darwin’s Black Box** by Michael Behe

Questions

## "I'm Glad You Asked" - Week Three

# Have Miracles Occurred?



Why are miracles i \_\_\_\_\_?

- "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man a \_\_\_\_\_ to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— (Acts 2:22)
- "Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me; otherwise believe on account of the w \_\_\_\_\_ themselves." (John 14:11)
- "But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is v \_\_\_\_\_, your faith also is v \_\_\_\_\_." (1 Cor. 15:13-14)

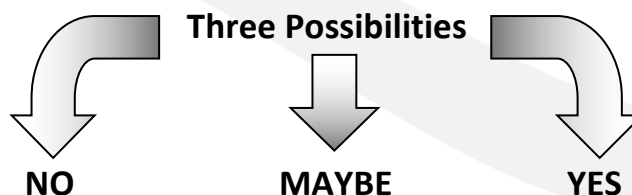
### Miracle Defined:

- "A phenomenon that occurs in time-space history that is so r \_\_\_\_\_ different from o \_\_\_\_\_ operations of nature that its observers are justified in attributing it to the direct i \_\_\_\_\_ of a s \_\_\_\_\_ agent." (p.52)

### The Concept of a Miracle

- A h \_\_\_\_\_ principle (supernatural) supersedes a l \_\_\_\_\_ principle (natural)
- The concept of miracle is r \_\_\_\_\_, not absolute. (For God, there are no miracles)

## Have Miracles Actually Occurred?



### ***If you say NO:***

- Consider the “A\_\_\_\_\_ assumption”
- Admit the I\_\_\_\_\_ of science
  - Science is more D\_\_\_\_\_ than P\_\_\_\_\_
- Look at the case for the existence of God (previous lesson)
  - If God exists, miracles A\_\_\_\_\_ possible!
  - But, if miracles are possible, how do we know that they have o\_\_\_\_\_?

### ***If you say MAYBE:***

- Realize that this is a H\_\_\_\_\_ issue.
- Look at the recorded miracles of C\_\_\_\_\_
  - If someone does not believe in the reliability of the Bible (upcoming lesson)
  - Look at the biggest miracle of Christ – The R\_\_\_\_\_!

## **The Case For the Resurrection**

### **Eight Key Historical Facts- not in dispute:**

- **Pre-resurrection**
  - Jesus died from Roman crucifixion.
  - Jesus placed in secured tomb with a stone and a seal.
  - Disciples were clearly discouraged.
- **Post-resurrection**
  - A tomb was found empty.
  - The seal on the tomb was broken. The stone was moved.
  - The Roman guard reported to chief priests that the tomb was empty.
  - Grave clothes were found in the tomb empty.
  - Followers of Christ “reported” that a resurrection occurred.
- **We will use L\_\_\_\_\_ H\_\_\_\_\_ Proof – A process of elimination**

# The Case For the Resurrection

## Explanations Regarding the Tomb without a Resurrection

### Tomb Occupied

1. U \_\_\_\_\_ Tomb
2. W \_\_\_\_\_ Tomb
3. S \_\_\_\_\_ Resurrection
4. Jesus had a T \_\_\_\_\_

### Tomb Empty

1. F \_\_\_\_\_ stole body
2. E \_\_\_\_\_ stole body
3. "S \_\_\_\_\_ Theory"
4. "P \_\_\_\_\_ Plot"

Notes:

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## Explanations Regarding Christ's Appearances without a Resurrection

### Accusation

1. Witnesses L \_\_\_\_\_
2. H \_\_\_\_\_
3. Made up L \_\_\_\_\_

### Response

One will not die for a known lie  
Uncharacteristic of hallucinations  
Not enough time to create one and the problem of Eyewitnesses

## A Look at all the Circumstantial Evidence for the Resurrection:

1. Jesus f\_\_\_\_\_ His Resurrection
2. The S\_\_\_\_\_ of the Jews
3. The Changed L\_\_\_\_\_ of the Disciples
4. The G\_\_\_\_\_ of the Early Church
5. Worship s\_\_\_\_\_ from Saturday to Sunday
6. Emphasis in B\_\_\_\_\_ and C\_\_\_\_\_
7. The Total D\_\_\_\_\_ for the Tomb site
8. The Conversions of J\_\_\_\_\_ and S\_\_\_\_\_ (Paul)

### ***If you say “Yes! Miracles have occurred:”***

- Realize the purpose of miracles – C\_\_\_\_\_ to faith.
- Realize that Christ’s resurrection v\_\_\_\_\_ His entire ministry.
- Embrace the G\_\_\_\_\_.

### **Notes:**

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### **Recommended Resource:**

**The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus** by Gary R. Habermas and Michael R. Licona



## "I'm Glad You Asked" - Week Four

# Isn't Christianity Just A Psychological Crutch For Weak People?

There are two possibilities:

- Christianity Is merely S\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
- Christianity Is O\_\_\_\_\_ly True - \_\_\_\_\_

**Religion C\_\_\_\_\_ BE a Crutch and is often portrayed this way.**

Karl Marx - *"Religion is the o\_\_\_\_\_ of the masses"*

Sigmund Freud - *Religion is an obstinate i\_\_\_\_\_, a mass neurosis – a way to deal with dangers and u\_\_\_\_\_ of life*



**P\_\_\_\_\_ Objections To Christianity:** (But, the same can be said of A\_\_\_\_\_)

1. P\_\_\_\_\_ determines belief

Response: \_\_\_\_\_

2. B\_\_\_\_\_ / E\_\_\_\_\_ determine truth

Response: \_\_\_\_\_

3. E\_\_\_\_\_ determines truth

Response: \_\_\_\_\_

**Everyone needs m\_\_\_\_\_ in life, but faith is only as good as its O\_\_\_\_\_!**

Illustration: Frozen Colorado Lake

**Is There An O\_\_\_\_\_ Basis For Christianity?**

## How Can We Show That Christianity is **Objective**?

1. Consider objective **L**\_\_\_\_\_ **H**\_\_\_\_\_ **Proof** for God's existence.
2. Explore the proof of the **R**\_\_\_\_\_ and **C**\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ
3. Observe that everyone has a **n**\_\_\_\_\_ for Christ even if they don't feel it!  
Example: Undiagnosed illness
4. Consider that Christianity is **NOT** a **C**\_\_\_\_\_ for minimal a\_\_\_\_\_,  
But a **C**\_\_\_\_\_ for maximal a\_\_\_\_\_!
5. Concede that Christianity **W**\_\_\_\_\_ (It can be **S**\_\_\_\_\_ **Experienced**)  
Because it is **T**\_\_\_\_\_ (It's **O**\_\_\_\_\_ **True**)

**Notes:**

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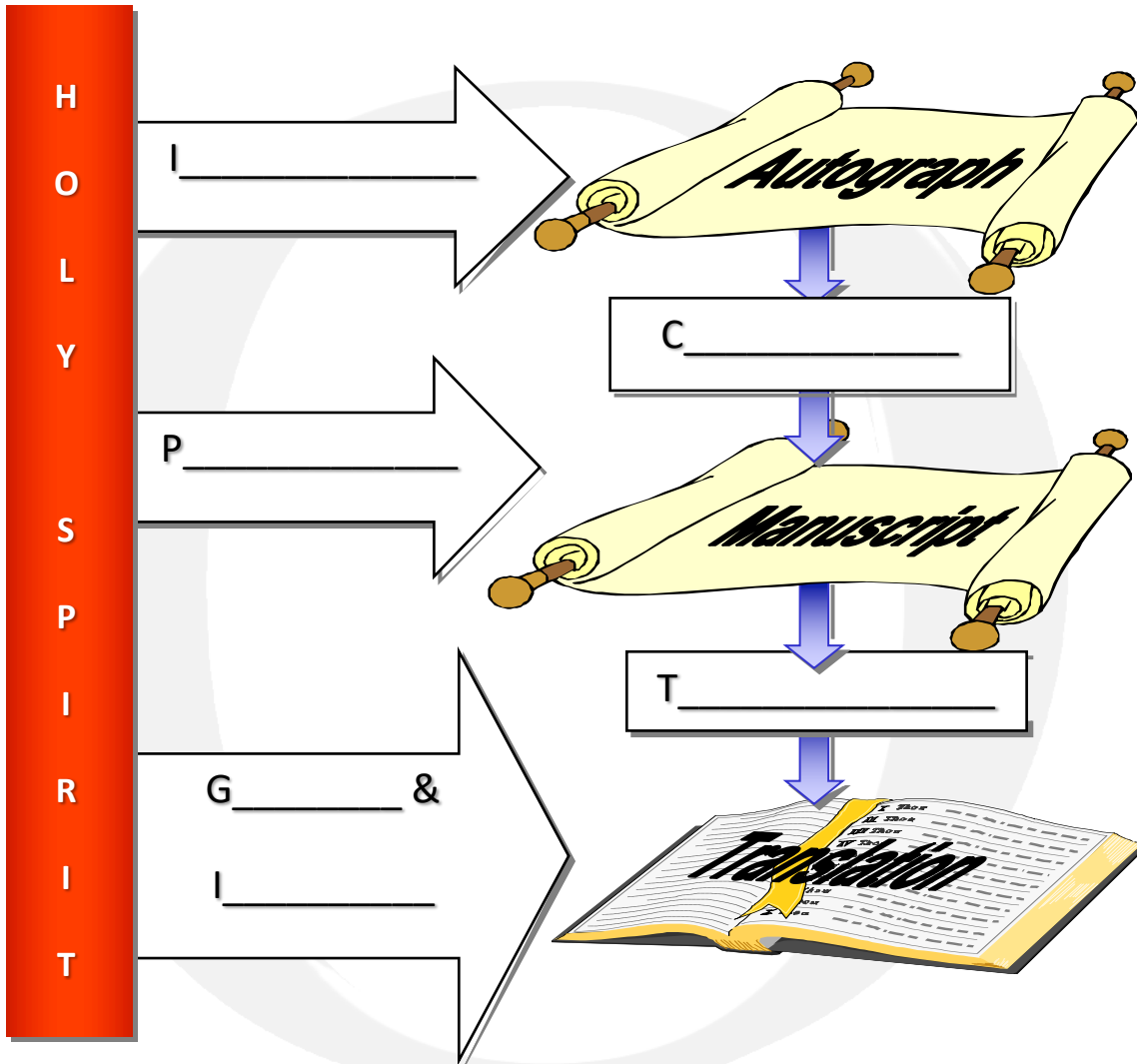
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# "I'm Glad You Asked" - Weeks Five and Six

How do we know that the Bible was **INSPIRED** by God and is **RELIABLE**?



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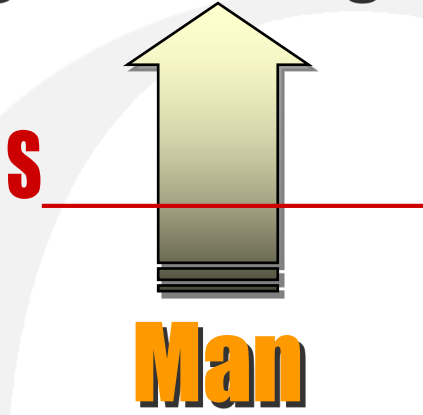
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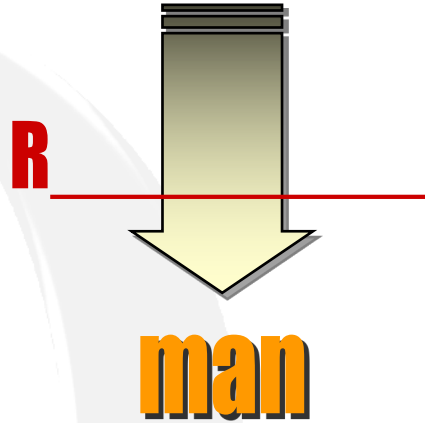
# The Case for Inspiration

**"god" or religion**



**"B u "**  
**Approach**

**God**



**"T D "**  
**Approach**

- Since nearly \_\_\_\_ of the Bible was prophetic at writing, and
- Since events were predicted well before the fact (sometimes centuries), and
- Since it is highly improbable if not impossible for man to know the f\_\_\_\_\_ with such accuracy,
- Then, the best conclusion is that an infinite God, who sees all of time at once, r\_\_\_\_\_ the future events to finite man who recorded them.

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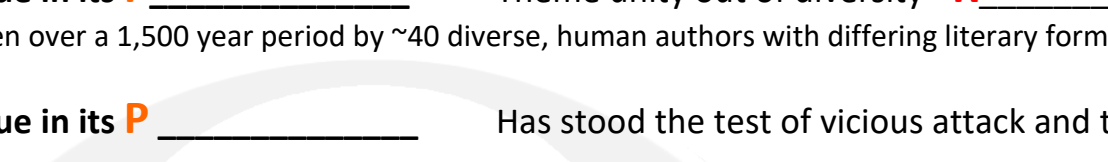
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Take a look at the **Uniqueness** of the Bible:

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1. **Unique in its P** \_\_\_\_\_ Theme unity out of diversity - **R** \_\_\_\_\_  
Written over a 1,500 year period by ~40 diverse, human authors with differing literary forms
  2. **Unique in its P** \_\_\_\_\_ Has stood the test of vicious attack and time
  3. **Unique in its P** \_\_\_\_\_ Nearly ¼ of this book was prophetic at writing
  4. **Unique in its P** \_\_\_\_\_ It remains the most influential book ever written

Notes:

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# The Case for Reliability

Apply same standard tests on the Bible that are used to establish reliability of any ancient document

## 1. The B\_\_\_\_\_ Test

- a. The Q\_\_\_\_\_ of manuscripts (M\_\_\_\_\_ is better)

5,000 Greek

8,000 Latin

1,000 other

10,000 citations

\_\_\_\_\_ manuscripts

Plato, Aristotle

Caesar, Tacitus

each have at most

only \_\_\_\_\_ manuscripts

- b. The Q\_\_\_\_\_ of manuscripts (P\_\_\_\_\_ is better)

- c. The T\_\_\_\_\_ span between autographs and manuscripts (S\_\_\_\_\_ is better)

Average Gap for

Ancient Writers:

About \_\_\_\_\_ years

Average Gap for

NT Writers:

< \_\_\_\_\_ years

## 2. The I\_\_\_\_\_ Test

*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life... That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you (1 John 1:1-4)*

## 3. The E\_\_\_\_\_ Test

- a. Outside sources: such as Greek, Latin, Jewish, etc. (example of Josephus)  
b. Archeology – There has never been a single archeological discovery that refutes the Bible.

### Conclusion:

The Old and New Testaments pass the bibliographic, internal and external tests like no other ancient book. Those who discard the Bible as historically untrustworthy must realize that the same standard would force them to eliminate almost all ancient literature.

Recommended Resources:

How We Got the Bible by Neil Lightfoot

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth by Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart

## **How were the books of the Bible selected?**

### **Five Principles Were Observed:**

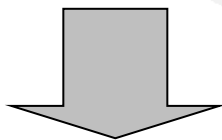
- 1. Was the book written by a \_\_\_\_\_ of God?**
  - a. OT = Prophet, priest, king
  - b. NT = apostle or under the direction of apostle
- 2. Was the writer confirmed by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God?**
  - a. Moses – Exodus 4:1-9
  - b. Elijah – I Kings 18
  - c. Peter - Acts 5:15
- 3. Did the message tell the \_\_\_\_\_ about God?**
  - a. God cannot contradict Himself.
  - b. God cannot utter what is false.
- 4. Does it come with the \_\_\_\_\_ of God?**

Transforming power for edification and evangelism
- 5. Was it accepted by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God?**



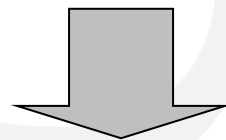
### **Old Testament**

39 books were  
accepted as  
early as 400 BC  
and no later  
than 150 BC



### **New Testament**

27 books were  
accepted as  
early as 367 AD  
and no later than  
393 AD



# What about the other books (e.g. The Apocrypha)?

## Why were they not included?

1. They had only \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ recognition.
2. They were never included by major \_\_\_\_\_.
3. They were \_\_\_\_\_ to accepted books
4. They had \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ inaccuracies,
5. They teach \_\_\_\_\_ doctrines and foster practices \_\_\_\_\_ to inspired Scripture.

### Example: History of the Apocrypha:

1. Philo, Alexandrian Jewish philosopher (20 B.C – A.D. 40) never quoted it as inspired.
2. Josephus, Jewish historian (A.D. 30-100) excluded it and never quoted it as inspired.
3. Jesus and the New Testament never quoted it as inspired.
4. Jewish scholars of Jamnia (A.D. 90) never recognized it.
5. Many church fathers (Origen, Cyril of Jerusalem and Athanasius) spoke out against it.
6. Jerome (A.D. 340-420) scholar and translator rejected it.
7. Martin Luther and the Reformation rejected it.
8. **Only in the counter-Reformation Council of Trent (1546) did the Roman Catholic church give it full canonical status.**



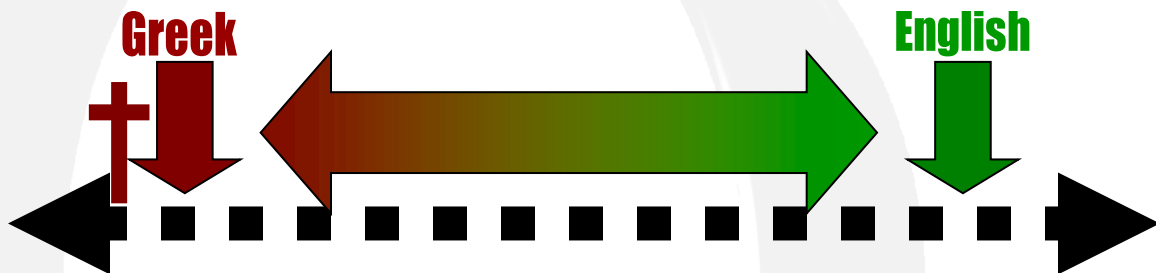
Responses	Old Testament	New Testament
<p><b>Unquestionably Accepted</b></p> <p>(homologoumena - spoken as one)</p> <p>This was the majority of books.</p>	<p>Always Accepted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 34 of the 39 OT books fit into this category starting with the Law.</li> <li>• Once accepted as divinely inspired, always accepted.</li> </ul>	<p>Always Accepted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 of the 27 NT books were not questioned.</li> <li>• All the church Fathers spoke in favor of their canonicity.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Accepted but questioned</b></p> <p>(antilegomena - spoken against)</p> <p><i>The Old Latin version omitted Hebrews, James, 1 &amp; 2 Peter.</i></p> <p><i>The Old Syriac Bible omitted 2 Peter, 2 &amp; John, Jude and Revelation</i></p>	<p>Question 5 OT books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Song of Solomon: too sensual but really beautiful.</li> <li>• Ecclesiastes: too pagan but summary sets standard.</li> <li>• Proverbs: self-contradictory (Pr 26:4-5) but it isn't.</li> <li>• Esther: no use of God's name but God is very evident.</li> <li>• Ezekiel: anti-Mosaic but nothing contradictory</li> </ul>	<p>Question of 7 NT books</p> <p>Hebrews: no clear author made the distant Western church suspicious.</p> <p>James: Western church not certain James was the apostle; doctrinal conflict (justification).</p> <p>2 Peter: highly debated because of style difference but this is due to the lack of a scribe (1 Pe 5:12).</p> <p>2,3 John: was doubted because of vagueness of who the 'elder' was and limited circulation.</p> <p>Jude: questioned because of reference to Book of Enoch (14-5) which was not inspired.</p> <p>Revelation: Debated longest because of doctrinal issue of chapter 20 and Montanists misuse of the book.</p> <p>Interestingly, it was one of first books recognized by church Fathers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Philemon, 1 Peter and 1 John at times lacked recognition but considered more omitted than disputed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Accepted only by some</b></p> <p>(apocrypha - hidden or doubtful)</p>	<p>15 Books of Apocrypha</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The acceptance of the apocrypha is largely due to the inclusion of it by Greek scholars in the Septuagint. Certain church fathers like Augustine accepted them. They have historical value.</li> </ul>	<p>11 Books of Apocrypha</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The acceptance of these books by some show their devotional value.</li> <li>• These books, though, were never accepted as canonical nor did they claim</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The apocrypha, however, was never accepted authoritative by the Jewish community nor does it claim to be so. Jerome rejected its inspiration.</li> </ul> <p><u>OT Examples:</u>  <i>1, 2 Maccabees</i>  <i>Tobit</i>  <i>Ecclesiasticus</i>  <i>Prayer of Manasseh</i></p>	<p>or have the authority of the New Testament books.</p> <p><u>NT Examples:</u>  <i>Epistle to Corinthians</i>  <i>Shepherd of Hermas</i>  <i>Ancient Homily</i>  <i>The Didache Teachings</i></p>
<p>Rejected by all</p> <p>(pseudepigrapha - false writings)</p>	<p>The OT Pseudepigrapha</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These 17+ books were written between 200 BC and 200 AD.</li> <li>• Although they often claim to be written by biblical authors, they have been treated as spurious and even heretical at points.</li> </ul> <p><u>OT Examples:</u>  <i>The Book of Adam and Eve,</i>  <i>Psalms 151,</i>  <i>The Assumption of Moses</i></p>	<p>The NT Pseudepigrapha</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 9th century there were said to be 280 such books all of which are nearly unanimously rejected.</li> <li>• They are heretical and most often books of cultic movements such as the Gnostics, Docetists, etc.</li> </ul> <p><u>NT Examples:</u>  <i>Gospel of Thomas</i>  <i>Gospel of Peter</i>  <i>Gospel of Nicodemus</i>  <i>Acts of Paul</i>  <i>Lost Epistle to Corinthians</i></p>

## How did we get the translations of the Bible?

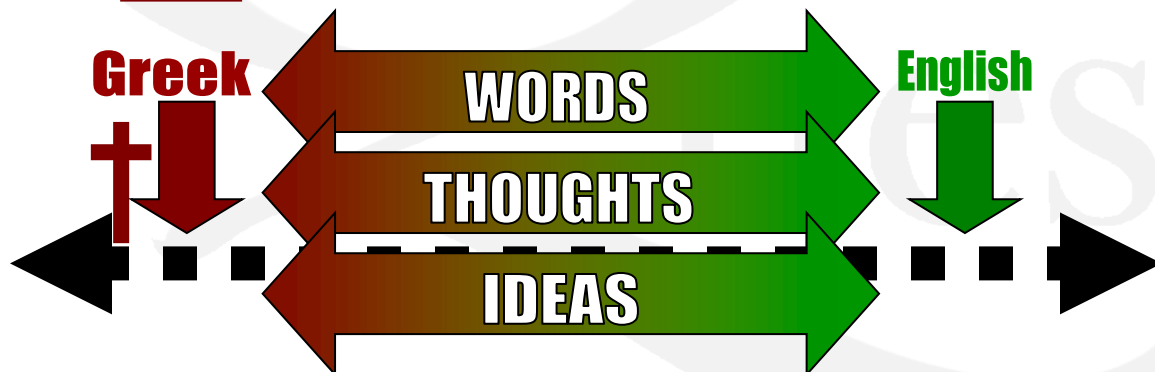
### Three Terms:

- 1) O \_\_\_\_\_ Language = Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic
- 2) R \_\_\_\_\_ Language = in our case, English
- 3) H \_\_\_\_\_ distance = difference of the two



### Three Types of Translation Theory:

- 1) F \_\_\_\_\_ equivalence = literal/w \_\_\_\_\_ for w \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) F \_\_\_\_\_ equivalence = dynamic/t \_\_\_\_\_ for t \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) F \_\_\_\_\_ translation = paraphrase/i \_\_\_\_\_ for i \_\_\_\_\_



# What is the difference with our English Translations ?

word for word	thought for thought	idea for idea		
Formal equivalence (literal)	Functional equivalence (dynamic)	Free Translation (paraphrase)		
KJV NKJV	RSV NRSV ESV	NAB NJB	JB NLT	LB TM
NASB NASU	NIV TNIV	GNB REB	NEB	

## Translation Terms:

Original Language – the language that one is translating FROM (e.g. Hebrew, Greek)

Receptor Language – the language that one is translating TO (e.g. English)

Historical distance – the difference that exists between the original language and the receptor language, both in matters of words, grammar, and idioms as well as in matters of culture and history

Formal Equivalence – the attempt to keep as close to the “form” of the Hebrew or Greek, both in words and grammar, as can be conveniently put into understandable English. The closer one stays to the Hebrew or Greek idiom, the closer one moves toward a theory of translation often described as “literal.” Translations base on formal equivalence will keep historical distance on all points.

Functional Equivalence – the attempt to keep the meaning of the Hebrew and Greek but to put their words and idioms into what would be the normal way of saying the same thing in English. The more one is willing to forego formal equivalence for functional equivalence, the closer one moves toward a theory of translation frequently describes as a “dynamic equivalent.” Such translations keep historical distance on all historical and factual matters but “update” matters of language, grammar, and style.

Free Translation – the attempt to translate the ideas from one language to another, with less concern about using exact words of the original. A free translation, sometimes called a paraphrase, tries to eliminate as much of the historical distance as possible and still be faithful to the original text.

# BIBLE TRANSLATION CHART

Translation	Reading Level	Translation Philosophy	Target Audience	2 Corinthians 10:13	Distinctives
<b>AMP</b> Amplified Bible	11	Word-for-word plus additional amplification of word meanings	Those looking for more detailed shades of meaning in Scripture	"We, on the other hand, will not boast beyond our legitimate province and proper limit, but will keep within the limits [of our commission which] God has allotted us as our measuring line and which reaches and includes even you."	A popular translation used to understand the hidden meaning of Greek and Hebrew words. Published in 1964 (updated in 1987). Break through the language barrier.
<b>CEV</b> Contemporary English Version	5.4	Thought-for-thought	Unchurched	"We won't brag about something we don't have a right to brag about. We will only brag about the work that God has sent us to do, and you are part of that work."	Written at an elementary-school reading level, the CEV is readable and understandable for the modern reader. Published in 1995.
<b>ESV</b> English Standard Version	7.4	Word-for-word	Bible readers of all ages	"But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you."	A literal update of the Revised Standard Version, seeks to produce word-for-word correspondence. Published in 2001.
<b>God's Word</b> Translation	4.3	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Christians and non-Christians; adults and children	"How can we brag about things that no one can evaluate? Instead, we will only brag about what God has given us to do—coming to [the city of Corinth] where you live."	Published in 1995, a meaning-based, contemporary translation utilizing the thought-for-thought translation philosophy.
<b>HCSB</b> Holman Christian Standard Bible	7.5	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Bible readers of all ages	"We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but according to the measure of the area [of ministry] that God has assigned to us, [which] reaches even to you."	A translation that attempts to combine both formal and dynamic equivalence. Published in 2004.
<b>KJV</b> King James Version	12	Word-for-word	Conservative Protestant	"But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you."	Traditionally loved and accepted by all Christians. Purpose in translation was "to deliver God's book unto God's people in a tongue which they can understand." Published in 1611. Timeless Treasure.
<b>The Message</b> A Paraphrase	5.5–10 depending on the passage	Thought-for-thought. Converts the original languages into the tone and rhythms of modern-day American speech while retaining the idioms and meaning of the original languages	Christians who want a fresh Bible-reading experience and seekers	"We aren't making outrageous claims here. We're sticking to the limits of what God has set for us. But there can be no question that those limits reach to and include you."	This paraphrase was translated using the rhythms and tone of contemporary English to communicate to the modern reader. Complete Bible published in 2002.
<b>NAB</b> New American Bible	6.6	Word-for-word	Catholic	"But we will not boast beyond measure but will keep to the limits God has apportioned us, namely, to reach even to you."	Published under the direction of Pope Pius XII, this Catholic version of the Bible represents more than 25 years of effort by the Catholic Biblical Association of America. All editions include the Deuterocanonical/Apocryphal books. Published in 1970.
<b>NASB</b> New American Standard Bible	11	Word-for-word	Conservative, evangelical Protestant	"But we will not boast beyond our measure, but within the measure of the sphere which God apportioned to us as a measure, to reach even as far as you."	A highly respected, formal translation of the Bible. Purpose of the work was to update the American Standard Version into more current English. Published in 1971. Updated in 1995. The most literal is now more readable.
<b>NCV</b> New Century Version	5.6	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Those who want a highly readable translation of the Bible in today's language	"But we will not brag about things outside the work that was given us to do. We will limit our bragging to the work that God gave us, and this includes our work with you."	Based on the ICB (International Children's Bible), it's a readable and simple translation using the thought-for-thought translation methodology. Published in 1991.
<b>NIV</b> NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION	7.8	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Evangelical Christians of all ages	"We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you."	The bestselling translation, widely accepted by evangelical Christians. Purpose in translation was to "produce an accurate translation, suitable for public and private reading, teaching, preaching, memorizing, and liturgical use." Published in 1978. Most read. Most trusted.
<b>NIRV</b> New International Reader's Version	2.9	Balance between word-for-word translation and thought-for-thought, with an emphasis on meaning when necessary for simplification	Children ages 10 and under	"But I won't brag more than I should. Instead, I will brag only about what I have done in the area God has given me. It is an area that reaches all the way to you."	A thorough, scholarly simplification of the NIV, the NIRV was specifically designed to help young children and new readers understand the Bible for themselves and create an easy stepping-stone from a children's Bible to an adult Bible. Published in 1994. Updated in 1998. The NIV for kids!
<b>NKJV</b> New King James Version	8	Authors used the original KJV as a benchmark, while working to produce an accurate and modern word-for-word translation	Those who want a readable translation of the Bible that is great for study but maintains the poetry of the KJV	"We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you."	A modern language update of the original KJV. Purpose was to update and modernize the original KJV but preserve the KJV as much as possible. Published in 1982.
<b>NLT</b> New Living Translation	6.3	Balance between word-for-word translation and thought-for-thought	Adults and children	"But we will not boast of authority we do not have. Our goal is to stay within the boundaries of God's plan for us, and this plan includes our working there with you."	Based on the work of 90 Bible scholars and a smaller team of English stylists. These scholars and stylists went back to the original languages and sought to produce the closest natural equivalent of the message in natural, contemporary English. Published in 1996.
<b>NRSV</b> New Revised Standard Version	8.1–10.4	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Mainline and interconfessional	"We, however, will not boast beyond limits, but will keep within the field that God has assigned to us, to reach out even as far as you."	A widely accepted translation in the tradition of the King James Version. Purpose was to make a good one better." Published in 1990. A Bible for all Christians.
<b>TNIV</b> TODAY'S NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION	n.a.	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Today's generation of Bible readers looking for readability without sacrificing accuracy	"We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the sphere of service God himself has assigned to us, a sphere that also includes you."	Remaining faithful to the original texts while using up-to-date language of today's world, the TNIV is a highly readable and highly accurate translation. Complete Bible published in 2005. Timeless truth. Today's language.

# How Can there be an All-Loving and All-Powerful God, and Evil and Suffering Still Exists?



Acknowledge two kinds of evil: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

## Three Possibilities:

### 1. Evil Exists – God Does Not Exist

a. Classical P \_\_\_\_\_

IF you say there is a God who is all good and all powerful, but evil still exists, THEN, there cannot be a God who is both all good AND all powerful!

b. Classical Proposition R \_\_\_\_\_

IF God is all good and all powerful, but evil still exists, THEN, God will O \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_ destroy evil!

### 2. God Exists – Evil Does Not Exist

Contradicted By:

- i. P \_\_\_\_\_ Experience
- ii. S \_\_\_\_\_ Evidence (Natural Evil)
- iii. Legal H \_\_\_\_\_ Evidence (Moral Evil)
- iv. C \_\_\_\_\_ and the Bible – (*Matthew 13:41; Mark 7:21-23*)

### 3. Evil Exists - God Exists

(Three Scenarios):

#### a. God < Evil

- i. False Premise: God Has N \_\_\_\_\_ Destroyed Evil and C \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. There is No A \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. Contradicted By The B \_\_\_\_\_ (*Rev. 19:6; 20:1-2*)

#### b. God = Evil

- i. False Premise: "Evil" cannot be c \_\_\_\_\_ by God
- ii. Evil is the a \_\_\_\_\_ of God
- iii. Contradicted By The B \_\_\_\_\_

#### c. God > Evil

## The Case for "God is greater than evil"

We must answer two important questions:

**C** \_\_\_\_\_ - Where did evil come from?

1. Man was created perfect with free C \_\_\_\_\_
2. Man chooses evil resulting in C \_\_\_\_\_: temporal and eternal
3. God's Solution: S \_\_\_\_\_
4. Man Still Has a C \_\_\_\_\_

**C** \_\_\_\_\_ - Why doesn't God do away with evil and suffering?

1. Man's C \_\_\_\_\_ Elimination of evil
  - a. What would it take to E \_\_\_\_\_ all evil by midnight?
  - b. Answer: Removal of A \_\_\_\_\_ people
  - c. No one L \_\_\_\_\_ to accept eternal life
2. God's P \_\_\_\_\_ and P \_\_\_\_\_
3. God is greater than evil and will defeat it one day!

*<sup>4</sup> He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." <sup>5</sup> He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." Revelation 21:4-5 (NIV)*

4. Consider the G \_\_\_\_\_ News!

Recommended Resources:

**If God Is Good . . . Faith in the Midst of Suffering and Evil** by Randy Alcorn  
**Where Is God When It Hurts?** by Phillip Yancey



# “I’m Glad You Asked” – Week Eight

## Is Jesus the only way to heaven?

### 1. Christianity is N\_\_\_\_ Narrow.

- a. C\_\_\_\_\_ Claims – *John 14:6,9*
- b. D\_\_\_\_\_ Affirmed Christ Claims - *Romans 6:23; Acts 4:12*

### 2. Christianity is Narrow and it is W\_\_\_\_\_.

Deal with F\_\_\_\_\_ Assumptions:

- a. S\_\_\_\_\_ or **STRONG BELIEF** makes something true.

*One can be sincere and right...or sincere and wrong!*

- b. **EXCLUSIVENESS** or N\_\_\_\_\_ makes something wrong.

*Exclusiveness does not make something wrong or true!*

- 1. All religions are D\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. All religions are N\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Use the “**Law of Non-contradiction**”

If two or more statements contradict each other, then either:

- (1) only o\_\_\_\_\_ of them is true and the others are false, or
- (2) they are a\_\_\_\_\_ false.

**They cannot all be true!**

### 3. Christianity is Narrow and it is T\_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Key Question: **Is Christ Who He Claimed To Be?**

He is either:

Response

- 1. L\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. L\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. L\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. L\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_



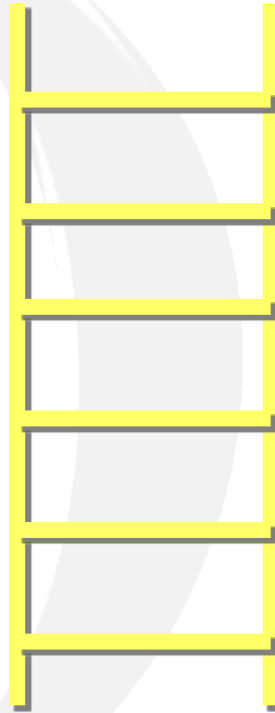


b. It's the only one that w\_\_\_\_\_!

**DO**

VS

**DONE**



Final Thought...

“If there are more ways to get to God than through Jesus Christ, then why would God kill His Only Son?”

# **“I’m Glad You Asked” – Week Nine**

## **What about those who don’t hear about Him?**

### **Three Possible Ways to Deal with the Question:**

#### **1. God will N\_\_\_\_\_ Judge.**

##### **a. But Scriptures state: A\_\_\_\_\_ Must Stand Before God in Judgment**

- i. *“... the j\_\_\_\_\_ arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation... through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men... through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners...” (Romans 5:16-19)*
- ii. *“... the dead were j\_\_\_\_\_ from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds... they were j\_\_\_\_\_, every one of them according to their deeds.” (Rev. 20:11-15)*
- iii. *... it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes j\_\_\_\_\_,” (Hebrews 9:27)*

##### **b. If true, Christians should change s\_\_\_\_\_:**

- i. Stop all evangelism, world missions
- ii. Burn all Bibles, tracts, other gospel media
- iii. Eradicate the telling of the Good News
- iv. Then, no one would hear about Jesus, and everyone would go to heaven!
- v. Problem: The Great C\_\_\_\_\_!



## 2. God will judge and it will be U\_\_\_\_\_.

But, God Judges According To P\_\_\_\_\_ Knowledge

*"For there is no partiality with God...God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus." (Romans 2:11,16)*

### i. Ignorance of G\_\_\_\_\_?

#### 1. E\_\_\_\_\_ Revelation

*"...the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. In the past, he let all nations go their own way. Yet he has not left himself without testimony" (Acts 14:15-17)*

#### 2. I\_\_\_\_\_ Revelation

### ii. Ignorance of S\_\_\_\_\_?

#### 1. M\_\_\_\_\_ Standards

#### 2. C\_\_\_\_\_

### iii. Ignorance of S\_\_\_\_\_?

#### 1. R\_\_\_\_\_ Requires a R\_\_\_\_\_.

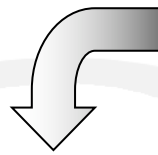
#### 2. S\_\_\_\_\_ will Find. (Acts 8)

#### 3. Missions and other means

## 3. God will judge and it will be F\_\_\_\_\_.

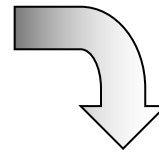
**"I'm Glad You Asked" – Week Ten**

# **What about the hypocrites?**



**Invalidates  
Christianity**

**Two possibilities:**



**Does Not Invalidate  
Christianity**

## **1. Important Admission: Hypocrisy is a real p\_\_\_\_\_**

a. Sources and forms of hypocrisy:

- i. People attending church for the w\_\_\_\_\_ reasons
- ii. Christians p\_\_\_\_\_ to be more spiritual than reality
- iii. Christians revering d\_\_\_\_\_ more than application
- iv. M\_\_\_\_\_ who fail to "practice what they preach"
- v. Christians failing to keep solemn church v\_\_\_\_\_

## **2. However, hypocrisy in other realms does not invalidate the real thing!**

## **3. Definition: P\_\_\_\_\_ to be something that you are not**

To become a Christian require the opposite – Honest A\_\_\_\_\_

## **4. False Assumptions concerning hypocrisy:**

- a. Profession does not mean P\_\_\_\_\_
- b. The Christian life is not about Perfection, but P\_\_\_\_\_
- c. All Hypocrisy is Sin, but not all sin is h\_\_\_\_\_

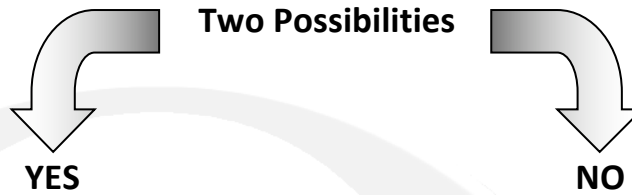
## **5. Christ denounced Hypocrisy – Matthew 23**

## **6. Christianity stands on the P\_\_\_\_\_ of C\_\_\_\_\_, NOT the Performance of Christians**

**"Don't let the sins of others keep you from a relationship  
with Someone who agrees with you!"**

## "I'm Glad You Asked" – Week Eleven

# Can I get to heaven based on my good works?



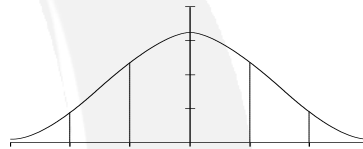
If someone says "Yes":

Point out that their standard is based upon d\_\_\_\_\_ of goodness:



The Balance Theory

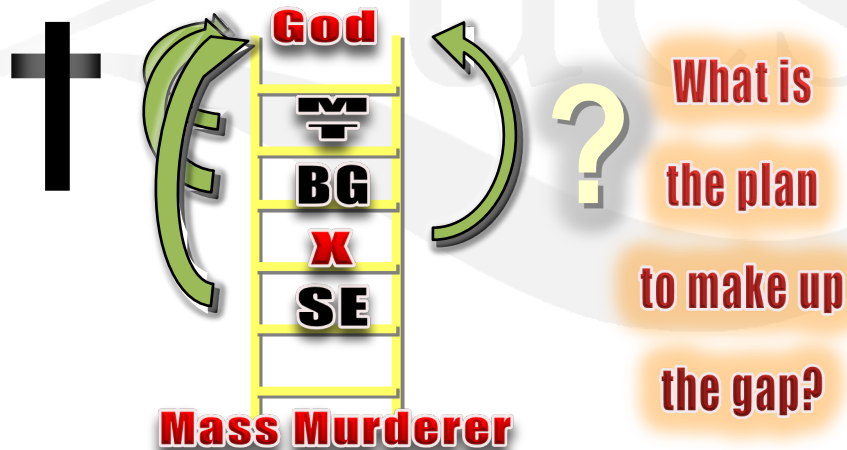
OR



The "Curve" Theory

### The fourfold problem with a Works System:

1. A \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. It is an arbitrary choice of which set of good works.
  - b. It is an arbitrary choice of how much of that set must be kept.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ - It offers no assurance that one has done "enough."
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ - It requires God to accept some evil
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ - The Bible clearly states that one is not saved through works
  - a. "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
  - b. "He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit," (Titus 3:5)



A works system puts you "on the ladder" but does not "make up the gap!"

**God's standard is NOT some degree of goodness, but P\_\_\_\_\_!**

*"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:48)*

**But, if God's standard is perfection, how can anyone make it to heaven?**

**Bad News: Man is I\_\_\_\_\_**

*"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." (Romans 3:23)*

**More Bad News: A P\_\_\_\_\_ must be paid.**

*"The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23)*

**Can be paid by: 1) By offender, or 2) By someone else**

**Good News: C\_\_\_\_\_ paid the penalty for man's sin!**

*"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)*

**Great News: Believers in Christ are made p\_\_\_\_\_t before God!**

*"...remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ." Ephesians 2:12-13*

**So, what good are good works?**

**Good works are not the m\_\_\_\_\_ of salvation, they are the r\_\_\_\_\_ of salvation.**

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:8-10)*

**“I’m Glad You Asked” – Week Twelve**

**Isn’t salvation by faith “too simple?”**

**Presumptions:**

“Salvation must be e\_\_\_\_\_, right?”

“Nothing of value is ever f\_\_\_\_\_!”

“There would be not i\_\_\_\_\_ for righteous living!”

**Responses:**

Remember the 4 \_\_\_\_’s (from week 11)

Example of gifts at Christmas, birthday

G\_\_\_\_\_ for the gift

**Free does not mean E\_\_\_\_\_!**

1. Not easy for the F\_\_\_\_\_

2. Not easy for the S\_\_\_\_\_

3. Not easy for M\_\_\_\_\_

He had to give up His S\_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 9:6)

He had to bear our s\_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 53:3-7)

We must give up our P\_\_\_\_\_ (Philippians 3:8-9)



# What Does the Bible mean by Believe in Jesus?

## I \_\_\_\_\_ Acknowledgement?

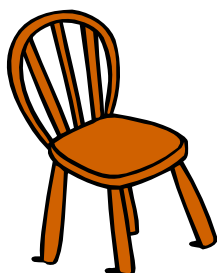
*"You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder." (James 2:19)*

*"...And behold, they cried out, saying, "What do we have to do with You, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" (Matthew 8:29)*

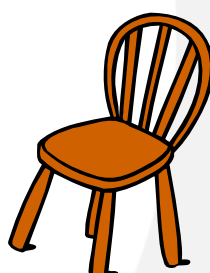
...Not just **belief about** but **belief i\_\_\_\_\_!**

### Three elements of saving faith:

1. **"Noticia"** – objective notice of the f\_\_\_\_\_
2. **"Assentia"** – intellectual assent that the facts are t\_\_\_\_\_
3. **"Fiducia"** – personal t\_\_\_\_\_ in those facts believed to be true



*You*



*Jesus*

### To Believe is to R\_\_\_\_\_ – salvation is a gift!

*"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12)*

### But what about D\_\_\_\_\_?

**Faith is not the absence of doubt, but belief in the face of doubt.**

*"When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted." (Matthew 28:17)*

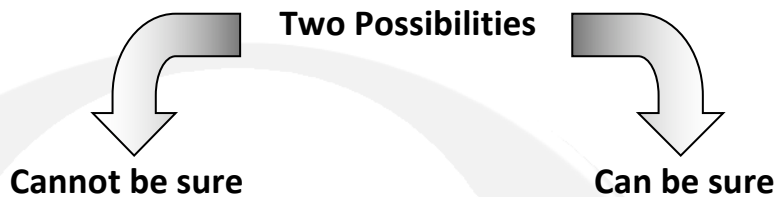
### But what if the level of C\_\_\_\_\_ wavers?

*"...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." (Hebrews 12:1-3)*

*"I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!" (John 21:18-19)*



## Can anyone have assurance of their salvation?



Possible **Assumptions** for someone lacking assurance:

1. **The nature of f\_\_\_\_\_** – “Can’t someone just stop believing?”

There is a difference between **pro**\_\_\_\_\_ and **pos**\_\_\_\_\_

*"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'" (Matthew 7:21-23)*

2. **The nature of s\_\_\_\_\_** – “Can’t certain sins disqualify us?”

If **any** sin can disqualify someone as a Christian, **all** of us would be disqualified.

*"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. (Matthew 5:21-22)*

3. **The nature of w\_\_\_\_\_** – “Isn’t salvation maintained by how we live our lives?”

It is maintained by His **p**\_\_\_\_\_ not by our **performance**

*"To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy" (Jude 1:24)*

*"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3:4-7)*

## Biblical Reasons for someone having assurance:

### 1. The nature of a gift

- a. A gift is **not paid for** i\_\_\_\_\_
- b. A gift is **not paid for** s\_\_\_\_\_

### 2. The nature of eternal life

- a. It's **un**\_\_\_\_\_

*"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. (John 5:24)*

- b. It's the very **I**\_\_\_\_\_ **of Christ**

*"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)*

## But, if it's a free gift, **why can't someone just live anyway they want afterwards?**

### 1. The Christian motivation to live for God – **G**\_\_\_\_\_

Good works are not the **means** of salvation, but the **results** of salvation.

*"And from everyone who has been given much shall much be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more." (Luke 12:48)*

### 2. If a Christian chooses to sin:

- a. There is loss of **F**\_\_\_\_\_ but not loss of **Relationship**
- b. God will **D**\_\_\_\_\_ His children who choose to sin.

*"And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: 'My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.'" (Hebrews 12:5-6)*

## Biblical Passages on Assurance:

*"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life." (John 5:24)*

*"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand." (John 10:28-29)*

*"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." (1 John 5:13)*