

Our Cultural Moment

SESSION 3 – May 1, 2023 – Pastor John Schreier

Why are we doing this?

We need a Remedy to the Cultural Moment we find ourselves in.

AND

Luke 1:4 “that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.”

12 Points That Show Christianity Is True (developed by Dr. Norm Geisler): (www.ngim.org)

- (1) Truth about reality is knowable.
- (2) Opposites cannot both be true.
- (3) It is true that God exists.
- (4) Miracles are possible.
- (5) Miracles confirm a message from God.
- (6) The New Testament documents are reliable.**
- (7) The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.**
- (8) Jesus’s claim to be God was miraculously confirmed.**
- (9) Therefore, Jesus is God. (5.8.23)
- (10) Whatever Jesus (who is God) teaches is true. (5.8.23)
- (11) Jesus taught the Bible is the Word of God. (5.15.23)
- (12) Therefore, the Bible is the Word of God. (5.15.23)

Review of the last two nights:

Point 1 – Truth about Reality is Knowable (SO ARROGANT)

Point 2 – The Opposite of True is False (SO BINARY)

Point 3 – It is true that a theistic God Exists (SO NARROW)

Point 4 – If God exists then miracles are possible (SO NOT TRUSTING THE SCIENCE)

Point 5 – Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God (SO RELIGIOUSLY GASLIGHTING ME)

Point 6 – The New Testament Documents are Historically Reliable

- 1. The Documents were copied accurately. (Evidence of the reliability of the NT writings)**
 - a. More manuscripts

 - b. Earlier manuscripts

 - c. More accurately copied manuscripts

- 2. The Events were recorded accurately (Evidence of the reliability of the NT writers)**
 - a. More writers

 - b. Earlier writers

 - c. More accurate writers

“The historicity of the New Testament is based on more solid evidence than that for any other events from the ancient world. For no other events are based on more manuscripts, that are more accurately copied, that were written by more people, who were eyewitnesses or contemporaries of the events. Were it not for an ungrounded anti supernatural bias of the negative critics, the gospel accounts would be unquestioned as to their historicity.”

“So, if the NT can’t be trusted, you have got to rule out every history department, every classics department, every university and every school in the entire world.” **Norm Geisler**

Point 7 – The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God

Important Background: The OT Claims that the Messiah would be God

(Psalm 2:7; 45:6,7; 110:1; Proverbs 30:4; Isaiah 9:6; 63:7,9; Zechariah 1:11, 12:10, 14:16)

1. Jesus claimed that He was God

- A. He claimed to be the “I AM”. (John 8:58-59)
- B. He forgave sins which only God can do. (Mark 2:5-7)
- C. He claimed He was God because of His relationship with the Father. That God was His Father, He should be honored just as the Father is honored and that He was equal to the Father (John 5:23, 5:18, 10:30-31)
- D. He said He was the Jewish Messiah who was predicted to be God (John 4:25-26)
- E. He accepted worship on numerous occasions which is due only to God. (Matthew 8:2; 9:18, 14:33, 15:25, 20:20, 28:9, 28:17; Mark 5:6; John 9:38, 20:28-29)
- F. He put His words on the level with God’s. (Matthew 24:35)
- G. He asked His disciples to pray in His Name. (John 14:13)

2. Other Claims of Deity in the NT

- A. God the Father (Matthew 3:16, 17:5; John 12:28)
- B. Angels (Luke 1: 32, 35; 2:11)
- C. Demons (Matthew 8:29)
- D. Other NT Writers
 - 1. John (John 1:1)
 - 2. Paul (Rom 9:5, Titus 2:13, Colossians 1:16-17, 2:9)
 - 3. The author of Hebrews (1:3, 5, 8)

Point 8 – Jesus’ claim to be God was miraculously confirmed

1. Confirmation by Miraculous Predictions

2. Confirmation by a Miraculous Life

- A. By Performing Miracles
- B. By Living Miraculously (Sinlessly)

3. Confirmation by a Miraculous Resurrection

- A. Jesus physically died
- B. Jesus physically rose from the dead

*"If the disciples were totally disappointed and on the verge of desperate flight because of the very real reason of the crucifixion, it took another very real reason in order to transform them from a band of disheartened and dejected Jews into the most self-confident missionary society in world history" (May 7, 1979, Time). **Jewish Rabbi Pinchas Lapide***