

Convincing proof

I. Introduction-

A. series introduction-

He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. Acts 1:3

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. Jn 3:16

B. Finding convincing proof-

He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe. Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God! Jn 20:27

Convincing= satisfying or assuring by argument or proof

Proof= evidence that compels acceptance by the mind of a truth or a fact
establishing the validity of a statement with principles of reasoning

C. Seeking saving faith

Without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. Heb 11:6

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. Heb 11:1

For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead. Jam 2:26

DThe tipping point of faith-

Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Mat 16:24

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Gal 2:20

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. Ps 139:14

II. The battle-

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. II Cor 4:3

This is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. Jn 3:19

A. Only for those who are willing to learn-

I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me. Prov 8:17

I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes. Jer 29:11

B. Those who refuse to hear-

This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive. For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them. Mat 13:13

III. Proof of God- from God

A. Evidence in His creation-

1. The foundation for faith is God's creation-

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Gen 1:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. Heb 11:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. Jn 1:1

2. Rejection of God's eternal power and divine nature-

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Rom 1:20

3. Do not make the Creation vs. evolution debate a salvation issue-

B. The knowledge of good and evil is written on our heart-

For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. Rom 2:14

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death. Prov 16:25

There was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. Jud 17:6

C. His inspired word-

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God] may be complete, equipped for every good work. II Tim 3:16

66 books

40 authors

1500 years

3 languages

3 continents

No communication of information

Most controversial topics

One coherent unified message

D. Prophecy is supernatural-

Set forth your case, says the LORD; bring your proofs, says the King of Jacob. Let them bring them, and tell us what is to happen. Tell us the former things, what they are, that we may consider them, that we may know their outcome; or declare to us the things to come. Tell us what is to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods; do good, or do harm, that we may be dismayed and terrified. Behold, you are nothing, and your work is less than nothing; an abomination is he who chooses you. Isa 41:21

IV. Proof of Changed lives-

A. The followers of Jesus

Matthew suffered martyrdom in Ethiopia, killed by a sword wound.

Mark died in Alexandria, Egypt, after being dragged by horses through the streets until he was dead.

Luke was hanged in Greece as a result of his tremendous preaching to the lost.

John faced martyrdom when he was boiled in a huge basin of boiling oil during a wave of persecution in Rome.

Peter was crucified upside down on an x-shaped cross,

James the Just, the leader of the church in Jerusalem, was thrown over a hundred feet down from the southeast pinnacle of the Temple when he refused to deny his faith in Christ. When they discovered that he survived the fall, his enemies beat James to death with a fuller's club.

James the Greater, a son of Zebedee was ultimately beheaded at Jerusalem

Bartholomew, also known as Nathanael, was martyred for his preaching in Armenia when he was believed to have been flayed to death by a whip. He may have also been crucified.

Andrew was crucified on an x-shaped cross in Patras, Greece. After being whipped severely by seven soldiers they tied his body to the cross with cords to prolong his agony. His followers reported that, when he was led toward the cross, Andrew saluted it in these words: "I have long desired and expected this happy hour. The cross has been consecrated by the body of Christ hanging on it." He continued to preach to his tormentors for two days until he expired.

Thomas was stabbed with a spear in India during one of his missionary trips to establish the church in the subcontinent.

Jude, the brother of Jesus, was killed with arrows when he refused to deny his faith in Christ.

Barnabas, was stoned to death at Salonica.

Phillip was crucified

Paul was tortured and then beheaded by the evil Emperor Nero

B. Tell our story-

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Jn 3:3

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. II Cor 5:17

C. Do not argue if their ears are closed-

This is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. Jn 3:19

Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. 24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. II Tim 2:24