



# ARMING APOLOGISTS #4: CLASSICAL APOLOGETICS

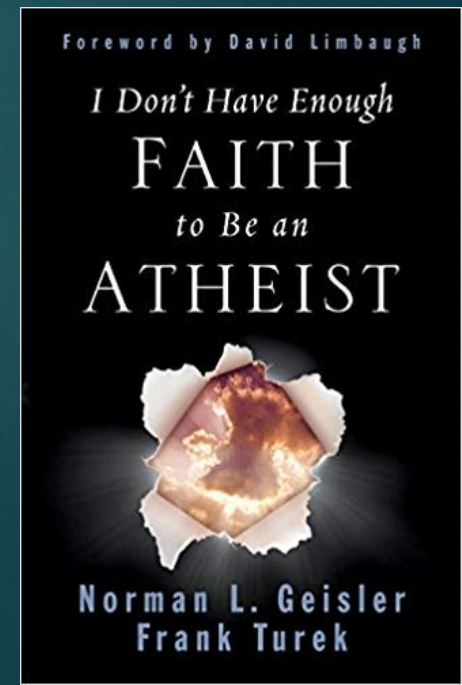
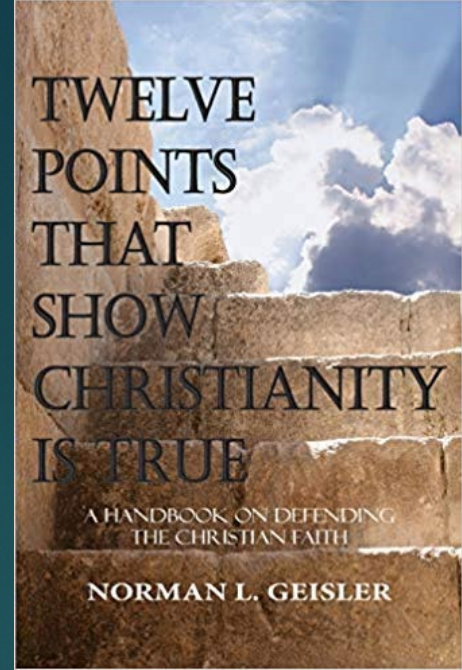
PASTOR RICHARD ALDERSON  
ATHOL BAPTIST CHURCH

# COURSE OUTLINE

- ▶ Book & Schedule
- ▶ Qualifications
- ▶ Questions
- ▶ Quick Review
- ▶ Qualifiers
- ▶ Why Classical Apologetics?

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- ▶ Southern Evangelical Seminary
  - ▶ Dr. Norman Geisler, et al
- ▶ *I Don't Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist*
  - ▶ Dr. Norman Geisler & Dr. Frank Turek
- ▶ *Twelve Points that Show Christianity is True*
  - ▶ Dr. Norman Geisler (& Dr. Douglas Potter)



# QUIZ?

- ▶ Why should Christians do apologetics?
  - ▶ Society Demands It
  - ▶ Church Needs It
  - ▶ Bible Commands It

# QUIZ?

- ▶ What is the banner verse of apologetics?
  - ▶ 1 Peter 3:13-17

# QUIZ?

- ▶ What is the difference between a witness and an expert witness?
  - ▶ Ability to provide cogent explanations for their experiences

# QUIZ?

- ▶ In Essentials...
  - ▶ UNITY
- ▶ In non-essentials...
  - ▶ LIBERTY
- ▶ In all things...
  - ▶ CHARITY

# QUIZ?

## ▶ Is unity

- ▶ A – corporate affiliation without individual agreement
- ▶ B – complete similarity in ritual and rationale
- ▶ C – oneness of heart & heading based on a common interest



# QUIZ?

## ▶ Is unity

- ▶ A – corporate affiliation without individual agreement (UNION i.e. Ecumenism)
- ▶ B – complete similarity in ritual and rationale (UNIFORMITY i.e. Catholicism)
- ▶ **C – oneness of heart & heading based on a common interest (UNITY i.e. Body of Christ)**

# QUIZ?

- ▶ What is the Essential of the Christian Faith?
  - ▶ **THE GOSPEL**

# QUIZ?

- ▶ What are the essentials of the salvation aspect of the Gospel?
  - ▶ God's Unity & Human Depravity
  - ▶ Necessity of both Grace & Faith
  - ▶ Christ's Deity & Humanity
  - ▶ Christ's atoning death & resurrection
    - ▶ Inspiration, Inerrancy, & Infallibility of the Bible

# QUALIFIERS

- ▶ Is repentance an Essential of the Christian Faith?
  - ▶ Necessary aspect of Genuine Saving Faith
  - ▶ “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation” 2 Corinthians 5:17
  - ▶ “Therefore by their fruits you will know them” Matthew 7:20

# QUALIFIERS

- ▶ How can vital Christian Doctrine be labeled “non-essential”?
  - ▶ Context, i.e. salvation vs sanctification
  - ▶ “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”  
2 Timothy 2:15

# QUALIFIERS

- ▶ Are Presuppositionalist arrogant?
  - ▶ Individually, no.
  - ▶ Methodology, yes.
  - ▶ 1 Peter 3:15... “with meekness & fear”
  - ▶ Acts 17:17... “{Paul} reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers”

# WHY CLASSICAL?

- ▶ #1 – COMPREHENSIVE
  - ▶ Foundational nature of truth
  - ▶ Fundamental doctrine of the Trinity

# WHY CLASSICAL?

## ▶ #2 – CONTEXTUAL

- ▶ Starts with the opponent's worldview
- ▶ **ENGAGE**, explain, & exemplify



# WHY CLASSICAL?

- ▶ #3 – CAPABLE
  - ▶ Nothing escapes its scope
  - ▶ Engage, **EXPLAIN**, & Exemplify

# WHY CLASSICAL?

- ▶ #4 – CONVINCING
  - ▶ Powerful, Persuasive, & Purposeful
  - ▶ Engage, Explain, & EXEMPLIFY

# WHY CLASSICAL?

- ▶ #5 – CREDIBLE
  - ▶ Valid Arguments
  - ▶ Verifiable Evidence
  - ▶ Veracious Philosophy

# WHY CLASSICAL?

## ▶ #6 – CHALLENGING

▶ The Gospel of John - Augustine

▶ "It is shallow enough for a child not to drown, yet deep enough for an elephant to swim in it."

# WHY CLASSICAL?

## ▶ #7 – CONGRUENT

- ▶ Divine Revelation Alignment
- ▶ General Revelation – Romans 1:8-28
- ▶ Special Revelation – Acts 17:10-13

# GENERAL REVELATION

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools.”

# SPECIAL REVELATION

“Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed”

Acts 17:10-12

# WHY CLASSICAL?

## ▶ #8 – CHRIST CENTERED

- ▶ Foundational Position (John 14:6)
- ▶ Focal Point (John 5:39)
- ▶ Final Purpose (John 3:16)



# COMMON CONFUSION

- ▶ Two most common misperceptions:
  - ▶ 1 – Human Reasoning greater than Divine Revelation
  - ▶ 2 – Usurpation of Holy Spirit's role in Salvation

# METHODOLOGY (TOC)

- ▶ Norman Geisler's 12 Points
  - ▶ Truth about reality is knowable
  - ▶ The opposite of true is false
  - ▶ It is true that the theistic God exists
  - ▶ If God exists then miracles are possible
  - ▶ Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God
  - ▶ The New Testament is historically reliable
  - ▶ The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God
  - ▶ Jesus' claim to be God was miraculously confirmed by prophecy fulfillment, His sinless life and resurrection
  - ▶ Therefore, Jesus is God
  - ▶ Whatever Jesus, who is God, teaches is true
  - ▶ Jesus taught that the Bible is the Word of God
  - ▶ Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God, and anything opposed to it is false

# ARMING APOLOGISTS

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## ▶ Condensed Tri-level Approach

- ▶ MAXIM: Establish Truth
- ▶ MIRACLES: Demonstrate Theism
- ▶ MESSAGE: Proclaim Trinitarianism

# ARMING APOLOGISTS



- ▶ Tri-level Approach
  - ▶ MAXIM – Establish Truth
  - ▶ MIRACLES – Demonstrate Theism
  - ▶ MESSAGE – Proclaim Trinitarianism

# ENDING EXHORTATION

- ▶ Engage, Explain, & Exemplify
- ▶ Reading Assignments

# QUESTIONS?

- ▶ 36 to go
- ▶ Thank you

# ARMING APOLOGISTS LESSON 4:

## CLASSICAL APOLOGETICS

Why Christians should utilize Classical Apologetics:

1 - It is \_\_\_\_\_, it goes from \_\_\_\_\_  
to the \_\_\_\_\_.

2 - It is \_\_\_\_\_, you must start from your  
\_\_\_\_\_ worldview.

3 - It is \_\_\_\_\_, no challenge can escape its  
\_\_\_\_\_.

4 - It is \_\_\_\_\_, our lives verify its truth and  
\_\_\_\_\_.

5 - It is \_\_\_\_\_, it provides:  
\_\_\_\_\_ arguments,  
\_\_\_\_\_ evidence, and  
\_\_\_\_\_ philosophy.

6 - It is \_\_\_\_\_.





# ARMING APOLOGISTS LESSON 4: CLASSICAL APOLOGETICS HOMEWORK

1. Read the Introduction & Chapter 1 of the 12 Points. Was there any concept from the lecture that was cemented into your mind? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Which concept from the first chapter are you most excited to learn about? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Was there any concept from the first chapter that you did not grasp during the reading?

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Memory Work:

Rewrite the following:

Maxim: Establish Truth

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Miracles: Demonstrate Theism

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Message: Proclaim Trinitarianism

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Notecards:

1 – Engage, Explain, & Exemplify / 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 \_\_\_\_\_

2 – Why Classical Apologetics / 8 reasons \_\_\_\_\_