

An open Bible with a pair of glasses resting on it. The Bible is open to a page with dense text, and the glasses are positioned over the center. The background is a soft, out-of-focus brown.

A Study of Christian Apologetics

GIVE A DEFENSE

A Publication of Ray Reynolds Rap

BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

Workbook by Ray Reynolds, Ph.D.

Videos by Apologetics Press

GIVE A DEFENSE: A STUDY OF CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.” (1 Peter 3:15-16)

Bible Class Study Guide – Video Study Series

A Publication of Ray Reynold Rap

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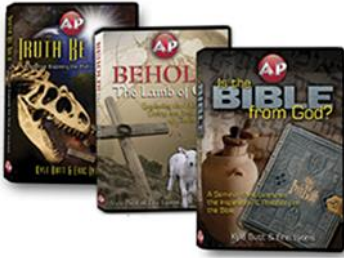
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PILLARS OF FAITH SEMINAR SERIES #1
Truth Be Told: A Seminar Exposing the Myth of Evolution
Kyle Butt & Eric Lyons
Lesson #1 = The Existence of God

What is the theory of the atheistic evolution in a nutshell?

How does the Christian approach differ from the theory atheistic evolution?

Who are some of the militant atheistic evolutionist that teach this theory? What do they say about people who disagree with them?

What percentage of the world believes in the biblical account of creation?

What percentage of the world believes that a supernatural Creator was involved?

What percentage of the world believes that no divine being was involved in creation?

What can we learn from the law of cause and effect?

Who came up with the Big Bang Theory? What does it proclaim? Why?

How did people count stars in the past? How do we do it now? How many are there?

What evidence forces people to believe in the Big Bang? What does that reveal?

What is the only logical explanation for creation according to the law of cause/effect?

What can we learn from the law of biogenesis?

Who came up with the idea of pasteurization? Why?

How is atheistic evolution, the Big Bang theory, etc. taught to children in school?

Who came up with the law of cause and effect? Who came up with the law of biogenesis?



PILLARS OF FAITH SEMINAR SERIES #1
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Lesson #2 = Dinosaurs: The Poster Children of Evolution (Part 1)

What are the three periods of the dinosaurs are taught to our children?

How many different ways does Elijah hear about dinosaurs? Explain.

Why are theories of dinosaurs propagated? Why do they market to young people?

What percentage of the "evolution" textbook referred to dinosaurs? Why?

What did Daniel Dennett say about parents who teach otherwise? How do you feel about that?

What is the evolutionary tree? Whom do atheistic evolutionists target with this propaganda?

What does Dr. Philip Kitcher say would happen if we discovered that dinosaurs and humans co-existed? What other kinds of evidence would be found? Do we have such images?

What evidence can be found at the Natural Bridges National Monument? What does this mean?

How could these Indians draw a picture of a dinosaur if they lived millions of years after them?

How do the experts explain this? How did the park rangers explain this?

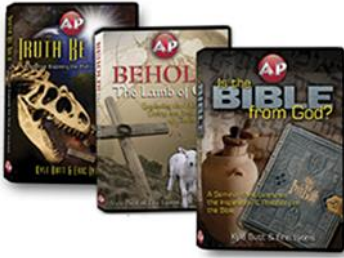
What evidence can be found in the columns of the temple Ta Prohm in Cambodia?

Who carved this image? When was it carved? What does this mean?

How do the experts explain this? How does this change the debate?

How can we judge evidence fairly? What other evidence could be considered on this debate?

What does this evidence do to the foundation of atheistic evolution?



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Lesson #3 = Dinosaurs: The Poster Children of Evolution (Part 2)

Why is it hard for atheistic evolutionists to imagine dinosaurs co-existed with humans?

What happens if we "hedge" ourselves into a box? What happens if we open our minds?

What are some of the amazing creatures that currently share the planet with us?

Why is it important to know that we can tame many of the creatures of the world today?

What is the largest known dinosaur? How big was it?

What is the largest known animal ever believed to be on this earth? How big is it?

What does the Bible say about dinosaurs? When were they created?

How are the large creatures described in Job? What were their names? When did they live?
What does God say about them?

What are some other unique creatures that God made for us to observe?

What does the term "dragon" actually mean? Did they really exist?

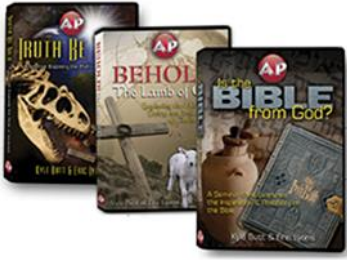
How do atheistic evolutionists describe dragons? Which cultures taught about them?

Why have stories of dragons been around since as long as history has been recorded?

What creatures look the most like dragons? Why is this compelling evidence?

How could humans remember dragons? Is it possible then to remember dinosaurs?

What do the pterosaurs look like? What can we learn from that evidence?



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Lesson #4 = Evolutionary Hoaxes

What happens when textbook answers disagree with the Bible?

How do teachers and instructors explain to young people the conflicts with the Bible?

Why do children tend to follow scientific textbooks instead of their parents and Bible teachers?

Are scientists and teachers indoctrinated in atheistic evolution? How do we know this?

How are they using their influence to indoctrinate our children? Explain.

Why are educators afraid of the Bible? What happens when teachers challenge the system?
What happens when parents or students oppose atheistic evolution in the public forum?

What can we learn from the arguments over the English peppered moths?

How did Ernst Haeckel observe evolutionary theory? What evidence did he provide?

Why are these evolutionary hoaxes still in textbooks? Why won't they pull it out?

What can we learn from the atheistic evolution chart of the horse?

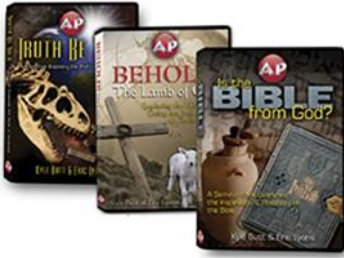
How do atheistic evolutionists look at the contradictions and misinformation in the textbooks?

What did Time magazine say about *Ardipithecus Ramidus Kadabba*? Is that good science?

What did atheistic evolutionists say about Piltdown Man? Was it good evidence?

What is the problem with looking at evolutionary things with an open mind?

Why won't people in academia come out against these evolutionary hoaxes?



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Lesson #5 = Creation: In Six Days or Six Billion Years?

What conflicts do Christian biologists struggle with? Does this happen at Christian schools?

How do they try to fit the evolutionary model into the Bible? What happens when you do that?

How many days did it take God to create the world according to the Genesis account?

Where do people get the evolutionary timetable? Is it possible to insert it before the Creation? Is it possible to insert it during/between the days? Is it possible to insert it after the Creation?

How could a re-creation theory accommodate this argument? Does the Bible teach this?

Where can we see God's work? Does the Bible clarify creation or leave man to speculate?

What do the words "make" and "create" mean? Are they similar terms? Explain.

Is it possible to wedge one million years in between each day of creation? Is that sufficient?

How do other Bible writers refer to the creation account? Give examples.

What happens when you try to wedge millions of years into the creation account?

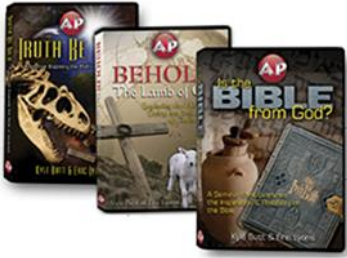
How can **II Peter 3:8** be misinterpreted? Does it have anything to do with creation?

When the term "day" is used in the Old Testament, how is it used? What does this mean?

What does the Bible say about the foundation of the world? What happened before it?

How long has man been on the earth? How can this be proven in the Bible?

Who should be the foremost expert on creation?



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Lesson #6 = The Fruits of Atheism

What city was to be established for liberal atheistic evolutionists? Why did he do this?

How was this city described in the newspaper? What happened in this city?

What can we learn from the comments of Bertrand Russell?

What happens when a person follows the morality of the Bible, even without being a Christian?

How do atheists act? How would people act if there was no morality?

What are the statistics of sexuality in the United States? Can this be tied to atheistic evolution and the teachings of atheism in our schools today?

What does the Bible teach about sexuality, fornication, and adultery?

How do atheistic evolutionists view sexual promiscuity among our teenagers? Why?

Why do atheistic evolutionists choose to disregard the existence of God?

What do atheistic evolutionists think about rape? What does the Bible say?

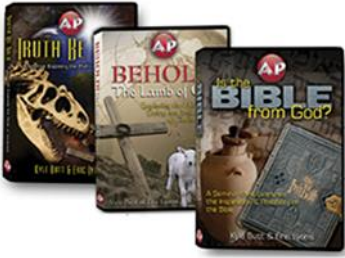
How do atheistic evolutionists view abortion/infanticide? What does the Bible say?

Why can't we just do what the animals do if there is no fundamental differences? Explain.

Where did Adolf Hitler get his principles and mission? Whom did he learn from?

How should we view the Crusades, Spanish inquisition, the Salem witch trials, etc.?

What is the bitterest fruit of atheism? Why?



PILLARS OF FAITH SEMINAR SERIES #2

*Behold! The Lamb of God: Exploring the Historicity, Deity,
and Personality of Christ*

Kyle Butt & Eric Lyons

Lesson #1 = The Historicity of Jesus

How can we defend the historicity of Jesus?

What evidence do we have for the historicity of Jesus? Explain.

What documents from the first century are available to validate Jesus' presence and works?

How can we trust the evidence presented by Jewish and Christian scholars?

In his book *The Passover Plot*, High Schonfield described Jesus as a real historical figure, but that he was "a cheap charlatan" and a messianic manipulator?

How would you respond to High Schonfield?

There are non-Christians like Rousseau, Renan, Goethe, and Gandhi that embraced the philosophy of Christ, but not the Christian faith. Why is this common? Explain.

There are those like George Bernard Shaw that claimed Jesus started His ministry with His sanity, but became a psychotic lunatic who superimposed deity upon Himself because of the glory and honor He received from His peers?

How would you respond to his view?

If you were given nothing but a Bible, and a day to prove the deity of Jesus to an audience of skeptics, what evidence would you present?

Which verses would you use if you were speaking to many Jews who doubted Jesus' Messiahship?

How could Christians do more harm than good if they are ill equipped to give a defense?

Can we be a true apologist if we do not abide by the entirety of God's Word? Explain.

What can you do to become a more effective apologist?



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Lesson #2 = The Uniqueness of Christ

What “savior” gods are often noted by other religions and found in mythology?

How do skeptics spin the life of Jesus and attempt to categorize Him in a similar way?

What did Farrell Till say in a debate with Norman Geisler?

How would you respond to Farrell Till?

What other sources are noted in the video?

Do you think people are persuaded to follow these views? Why? Explain.

The New Testament can be simply outlined in what way? How does that aid our study?

How did the stories of “savior gods” originate?

How is the story of Jesus Christ different?

What does the Bible say about prophets who would speak of the Savior? Explain.

Who are some of the prophets of the Bible? What is said of them? What did they say?

What individuals, outside of the Judeo-Christian persuasion, are mentioned in the Bible following God and/or seeking out the Savior of the World? Why is this important?

Why were people seeking out the perfect sacrifice? How long has this been happening?

What extremes have people taken to please God (and false gods)? Why did they do this?

What makes Jesus unique according to the material presented in class?

What substance could you add to these arguments? Cite specific examples and/or Scriptures.



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Lesson #3 = The Predicted Messiah

The Old Testament is filled with prophecies of the coming Messiah. Bible scholars have said that Jesus fulfilled 333 specific prophecies. These Scriptures add to the plethora of evidence available to the Christian apologist. What other evidence could we use to prove Jesus as Christ?

What story of death is the first recorded in the Bible?

How do you think it was perceived by the family? What prophecy was given about death? Who was to blame? Why?

How much of human history was recorded in the first 11 chapters of Genesis?

How much of human history was recorded from Genesis 12 through the rest of the Bible?

Why don't we have the stories of the other faithful people in the book of Genesis?

Why are there 66 books in the Bible about the history of the Jewish nation?

What does this have to do with the seed promise of Genesis 3:15?

What is the central point of the Bible?

What do we know about the seed of Abraham? Explain.

What do we know about the throne of David? Explain.

What are some of the problems with the Messianic prophecies for the Jews? How could the Son of Man, the Messiah, and the Suffering Servant all be the same Savior? Explain.

Why do the gospel writers refer to Jesus by using different titles? Why is that significant?

How did the apostles struggle with the identity of Jesus? Why is that recorded in the Bible?

How did Jesus try to reconcile this confusion on the cross? What did He say on the cross?



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Lesson #4 = The Resurrection of Christ

In their book, Jackson, Lyons and Butt say, “It is absolutely inconceivable that a myth could have precipitated so powerful a movement as Christianity.” What do you think?

What did Richard Carrier say about the risen Christ in *Why I Don’t Buy the Resurrection Story*?

How would you respond to these comments by Richard Carrier?

Do skeptics believe in things they have never seen?

How is the resurrection any different?

Is it wise to deny something exists despite the evidence? Explain.

How important is it that Jesus rose from the dead? What does the Bible teach?

Why does the story of the resurrection become a focal point for the accuracy of Scripture?

What evidence can be presented in a case for the resurrection? Explain.

How difficult would it be to fulfill ALL the prophecies of the resurrection? Explain.

What do we know about the tomb of Christ? How could one explain this event?

What did the Sanhedrin say about this event? Why is that important evidence?

What would happen to the soldiers after the resurrection? How do we know this fact?

What did Paul and Peter say about the evidence of Jesus and His resurrection?

What would be the most effective evidence of a resurrection? Did that happen? Explain.

If Jesus of Nazareth was a historical person (and He was), the evidence leads one to see that He was not a crazed con-artist, or psychotic lunatic, but truly the risen Christ! There are those who died because they saw the evidence and refused to denounce it. What will you do with this info?



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Lesson #5 = Answering Christ's Critics

People have questions about the life and works of Jesus. It falls to the Christian apologist to present the evidence, answer these questions, and defend the truth in love. What is your role?

When people attempt to discourage people from following Jesus, Christians should rise up to answer these criticisms. The Bible holds the answers. What will you do with the evidence?

How can Jesus be viewed as a friend? What would you do to defend a friend? Explain.

Some people refuse to follow Jesus and they have their reasons why. What did Bertrand Russell say? What did Dan Barker say? What have other critics said? Explain.

What are some of the arguments that skeptics attempt to use against Jesus?

Who are some of those who skeptics? Why do they make such statements?

How does the Bible describe Jesus? What do we see when we rightly divide the Bible?

Why doesn't the Bible record everything that Jesus ever did? Would that stop the arguments? Does that challenge Christians or provide great opportunities to teach?

What would happen if someone could prove Jesus was a liar, a thief, or disrespectful?

Why is it important to consider culture and context? Can it make a significant difference?

What prophecies do critics try to use against Jesus? Are they solid arguments? Explain.

In what ways do critics say the resurrection of Jesus was unremarkable? How would you respond to these specific arguments? What makes it remarkable?

Is it okay to have doubts? Is it okay to question the Bible and your faith? Explain.

Every time people attempt to invalidate the deity of Christ the arguments are not valid. However, the Christian apologist should learn both sides of the argument to see all views. What opposing views have you considered?



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Lesson #6 = Was Jesus Really God?

The story of Jesus has softened the hearts of millions of people. The great question for the apologist is “Do you personally believe that Jesus is the Son of God?” If one truly believes this fact, then one must be wholly devoted to worshipping, working, and serving Him. Do you?

How should we interact with others if we believe that Jesus is the Son of God? Explain.

How could someone believe that one man, many men, or a religious group could turn a man into God? Is that possible? What about Jesus? Explain.

What did Jesus claim about Himself? Why does this have substance?

What did others say about Jesus? What should that tell us about Him?

Can you prove that people considered Jesus to be deity before Constantine? Cite examples.

How could Jesus be a good man if He claimed to be God, but lied? Explain.

What are some things you admire the most about God?

What are some things you admire the most about Jesus?

What are some things you admire the most about the Bible?

Can you truly know that God exists? Where is your evidence?

Can you truly know that the Bible came from God? Where is your evidence?

Can you truly know that Jesus is the Son of God? Where is your evidence?

What responsibility do you have to reveal these things to the world? What responsibility do you have to defend these beliefs? Explain.

The work of a Christian apologist never ends. You can't complete a course, read a book, or finish a series of videos and expect to be completely equipped for service. Now that you have been given this information what will you do with it?



PILLARS OF FAITH SEMINAR SERIES #3

*Is the Bible from God?: A Seminar that Examines the Inspiration
and Reliability of the Bible*

Kyle Butt & Eric Lyons

Lesson #1 = The Bible & Science

In this lesson today we are going to introduce our subject matter and attempt to challenge ourselves in respect to our knowledge of the Bible, its accuracy, and its value. What are your thoughts on the conflicts between science and the Bible?

How many copies of the Bible are sold every year?

How many languages have the Bible?

How many countries have the Bible?

How much money does Bible sales bring in each year?

How many times does the “Word of the Lord” come to Jeremiah? Why is that significant?

Why is it NOT enough to claim inspiration? Would that make it true? Explain.

What were the backgrounds of the writers of the Bible? How does shake the critics?

What do we know about the *Ebers Papyrus*? How did it conflict with the Old Testament?

What famous person would have been saved if the doctors had followed Leviticus 17:11?

Why was circumcision practiced on the 8th day (Genesis 17:12, Leviticus 12:3)? Explain.

What did Dr. Ignaz Simmelweis learn the hard way (Numbers 19:11-22)?

Who created the perfect recipe for soap? What was it called? Why?

What was the purpose and significance of the food consumption laws (Leviticus 11)?

Why is it dangerous to eat the puffer fish? Explain.

The Bible is full of value in the realm of science and medicine, not just morality and religion. What would happen if these things were taught to children at an early age?



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Lesson #2 = The Bible & Prophecy

There are many who seek the wisdom of Nostradamus. Why?

Everyone in world knows that the ability to accurately predict the future is something super human. What happens when one realizes the supernatural wisdom of the prophets?

What does Deuteronomy 18:21-22 and Jeremiah 28:9 say? Why is that significant?

How many times would the Bible have to be wrong to prove it is uninspired? Explain.

How could you prove if Baal was a real deity (Isaiah 41:22-23)? Is this an effective test?

What three predictive prophecies are the most blatant? Where can we find these prophecies? What can we learn from them?

#1 _____

#2 _____

#3 _____

How could these prophets know this information hundreds of years before these events? What arguments have some tried to make against the infallible Word of God?

The Bible contains predictive prophecy about nations (Isaiah 10:5-25, II Kings 17:24, Jeremiah 25:9-12, Habakkuk 1:5, II Chronicles 36:21) and people (II Kings 18:13, 19:7, 19:32-34, Isaiah 37:37-38, I Kings 13:2, II Kings 23:15-16, Isaiah 44:28, 45:1)?

There are more than 800 prophecies in the Old Testament. How many are about the Messiah?

After the Septuagint (Greek) translation of the Old Testament was recorded, how many more years would pass before Jesus came to the earth?

Would it be possible to mastermind a way to fulfill ALL of these Messianic prophecies? In the book, *Science Speaks*, mathematician Peter W. Stoner selected 8 random Messianic prophecies and suggested that the odds of them accidentally being fulfilled would be approximately 1 in 10^{17} (that is 17 zeros). What does this mean? Explain.



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Lesson #3 = The Bible & Archaeology

There is much to be learned from excavating historical sites. Beyond the pages of the Word of God there is archeological evidence to support biblical events, characters, and stories. Should Christians engage in these digs? Explain.

Hollywood paints archaeology as a very exciting endeavor (i.e. Indiana Jones), but that's not completely accurate. However, it is fascinating. How can archaeology be exciting?

What are some things that archaeology cannot do? Explain.

When we ask archaeology questions we will find honest answers. In fact, the more we uncover the _____, the more we uncover the _____. What does that mean in reference to the Bible? Explain.

Why did people question the existence of King David? How often is he mentioned in the Bible?

How many of the psalms did David write? Why did he write them?

What happens when people make an argument from silence? Why is this dangerous?

How can Hezekiah's tunnel and Sennacherib's records shed light on the Bible? Why are these important discoveries? Why do you think vandals tried to destroy the inscription?

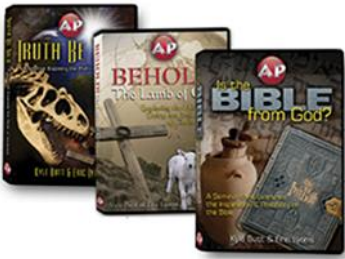
What did Henry Layard find on the walls of Sennacherib's palace in Nineveh? How long was it? What does it describe? Why is that important?

What happened to Sennacherib according to the Babylonian record? What about the biblical record? How does this establish validity to the Bible?

What other historical records can be found outside of the Bible regarding its characters?

There are many places that we would love to excavate, and subsequently gather additional archaeological evidence, but is that needed to prove the Bible is true?

The evidence is clear. The information can be studied. Does the Bible pass every test?



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Lesson #4 = Is The Bible Reliable?

There are many who believe there are discrepancies in the Bible. Critics and skeptics are becoming more militant. Should we take the same approach? Explain.

People consider the Bible to be full of inconsistencies and contradictions. The Bible claims to be reliable, but is it? Explain.

In *Losing Faith in Faith*, how did Dan Barker describe the Bible?

What did Dennis McKinsey say in the *Encyclopedia of Biblical Errancy*?

How would you respond to these critics?

What are some of the alleged discrepancies? What arguments can be made for and against?

- #1 _____
- #2 _____
- #3 _____
- #4 _____
- #5 _____
- #6 _____
- #7 _____

What is prolepsis? How is it used in the Bible? Explain.

How do we know that supplementation does not equal contradiction? Explain.

If all stories agreed 100% down to the smallest detail, would that be realistic? What would that tell you about the people telling the stories? What are the odds of it being fabricated?

What is the law of contradiction? How did Aristotle describe these things?

Is it possible to confuse Bible names, places, and objects? Is it possible to confuse Bible times, cultures, and events? Discuss some illustrations.

Why are skeptics and critics seeking out contradictions? Are they successful?



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Lesson #5 = Scripture Cannot Be Broken

People seek to know if the Bible writers made mistakes. The Bible itself claims to be perfect. How should we view the Bible?

Do Christians often get caught up in debates about the durability and reliability of Scripture? Why? Who is more likely to be wrong? Humans or the Word of God? Explain.

Why do some Christian scholars think we should give up on defending Scripture? Does it create a crisis if we test the spirits or give an answer for every alleged contradiction? Explain.

How would we respond to people who make historical and geographical mistakes?

What was the view of Jesus and the writers of the New Testament toward the Old Testament? Why is that significant?

The apostles had some major disagreements (see Acts and Galatians), but they still considered each other's works to be inspired. What does that tell us about unity?

When Jesus was confronted He used Scripture to debate his enemies. Why?

What is the significance of saying the Scripture cannot be broken? Explain.

What significant comments of narration are considered to be inspired by Jesus and the other writers of the New Testament? Discuss some examples.

How is God described in the Bible? How is His Word described? Explain.

Did God only get the spiritual matters correct? Who determines what is spiritual?

Even the most controversial passages of the Scriptures were never challenged by the other writers in the Bible. Why? Explain.

As Christians, we believe that the Bible has been supernaturally preserved for the purpose of keeping the Word of God alive until the end of the world. What does that mean for its value?



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Lesson #6 = Hearing God in the 21st Century

We live in a high-tech society. Communication has drastically changed over the centuries. Likewise, God has changed the way He has communicated to humans. He does not change, but His methods have often changed (Hebrews 11:1ff). What does that mean?

How has God communicated to His people in the past? How does He choose to communicate to us today?

Why does God choose to speak to us through Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son (Matthew 17:5, Matthew 28:18-20, John 3:16, John 6:68, John 12:48, John 14:6, John 17:20-21) who is the Living Word of God (John 1:1ff)?

How do we know that the witness of His disciples can be established as reliable (John 13:20, John 20:21, Acts 2:42, II Corinthians 4:7)?

When the apostles walked the earth they were associated with the mind and spirit of whom (I Corinthians 2:10-16)? Explain.

The church was dedicated to following the apostle's doctrine (Acts 2:42, Ephesians 3:3-5). How do we receive the doctrine of the apostles today?

Why did the apostles read the epistles out loud (Galatians 1:12, I Thessalonians 5:27)? Why did they re-write these books for others and quote them repeatedly?

Haven't others through the centuries been inspired by God to reveal His message (Matthew 28:18-20, John 14:26, 16:13, II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:3, Jude 3)? Explain.

What is the significance of the word "once" in the Scriptures? How many times did God need to reveal His divine word to have it placed in the canon? Does it need to be re-emphasized from time to time? Couldn't it stand forever? Explain.

How did God directly tell the good news to others in the New Testament? Consider the stories in the book of Acts. Why is this significant?

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