

## **“Why Have Faith In The Faith”**

### **Sermon Series: “The Faith That Stands And The Fake That Falls”**

#### **Introduction: Jude 3 (review) and the fundamentals of the faith**

The basics of the faith are: God is the Creator and sovereign ruler of the world and we are made in His image as male and female; God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three persons who are the one God, co-equal and co-eternal; Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man, born of a virgin, lived a perfect and sinless life, died on the cross as the substitutionary sacrifice for our sins, was bodily raised from the dead, ascended to heaven, and is someday literally coming back to earth; the Bible is the Word of God, inspired, inerrant, and infallible; and salvation is by grace through faith alone with Jesus being the only way to God.

**-At the center of this faith, however, is the person and work of Jesus Christ (2 John 9, 1 Corinthians 2:2, Colossians 2:8-10)**

#### **-Explain what we are doing today and relate it to the series**

1 Peter 3:15 and apologetics (if you are not a Christian, consider why to believe this message, and if you are, here are some tools to solidify and share your faith  
Acts 17:1-4

### **Reasons To Trust And Follow Jesus**

#### **1. The evidence that God is Creator**

-The Cosmological Argument (video)

A. Whatever begins to exist has a cause.

B. The universe began to exist.

C. Therefore, the universe must have a cause.

-must be uncaused

-must be immaterial

-must be eternal

-must be brilliant

-must be incredibly powerful

-must have a will

**-Evolution violates the law of cause and effect (There is a cause for every effect, an actor for every action, and a thinker for every thought.)** Lee Strobel asserts that in order to accept evolution, we have to believe: Nothing produces everything, non-life produces life, randomness produces fine-tuning, chaos produces information, unconsciousness produces consciousness, and non-reason produces reason.

-Genesis 1:1, Colossians 1:16

## **2. The Moral Argument For God's Existence**

-However, you might want to push back against that and say, "I do not believe in God, or I do not see what God has to do with justice or right and wrong." If that is where you are, consider these ideas. The first one is from C.S. Lewis, who wrote, "If no set of moral ideas were truer or better than any other, there would be no sense in preferring civilized morality to savage morality or Christian morality to Nazi morality. The moment you say, 'One lot of morals is better than another,' you are in fact measuring them by an ultimate standard." Any time we use words like good and evil or right and wrong we are assuming an absolute standard, which implies there is someone who is an absolute standard giver. When atheists use those words, they are borrowing theistic categories (Please note that I am not saying that atheists do not have morals. Some professing atheists live more morally than some professing Christians. However, there is not a logical basis for morality in atheism.). King pointed out in Letter From A Birmingham Jail that what Hitler did in Germany was legal even though we know it was immoral. This fact points to us having a conscience and to the reality that there is a higher law that transcends earthly laws, and these realities point to the existence of God. If truth and morality are subjective and relative, on what logical ground can we call anything objectively wrong or evil, even the Holocaust?

-Also, if there is no final judgment, there will not be justice because there is certainly not justice in this world. We crave justice which makes no sense unless we are made in the image of God (animals don't).

## **3. Christianity provides the most compelling answer to the question of evil and suffering.**

-C.S. Lewis in Mere Christianity, "My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of "just" and "unjust"?... What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?... Of course I could have given up my idea of justice by saying it was nothing but a private idea of my own. But if I did that, then my argument against God collapsed too—for the argument depended on saying that the world was really unjust, not simply that it did not happen to please my private fancies.... Consequently atheism turns out to be too simple."

-The cross is the ultimate answer to evil and suffering because it demonstrates that God suffered with and for us to forgive us and to redeem us and ultimately end our suffering.

## **4. The historical fact of the bodily resurrection of Jesus demonstrates that He is the Son of God who died for our sins.**

**Claim:** Christianity is not based on religious beliefs but on the fact that Jesus was seen alive by eyewitnesses after his death. Luke says that “He also presented Himself alive after His suffering *by many infallible proofs, being seen by them* during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.” Paul said that he was seen by Peter, the twelve, over 500 brethren at once, all the apostles, James (the half-brother of Jesus), and by Paul himself.

**Proof #1:** The fact that Scripture and the early church creeds were written so close to the time of the resurrection (which means there wasn’t time for legends to arise), and they claim the tomb was empty and Jesus appeared to His followers.

**Proof #2:** Many of His followers gave their lives not for what they believed but what they saw. Lee Strobel, an atheist who turned to Christ and now writes and speaks about Jesus, says that this was a crucial point in his spiritual journey. He writes, “It had been put to me this way: People will die for their religious beliefs if they sincerely believe they’re true, but people won’t die for their religious beliefs if they know their beliefs are false. While most people can only have faith that their beliefs are true, the disciples were in a position to know without a doubt whether or not Jesus had risen from the dead. They claimed that they saw him, talked with him, and ate with him. If they weren’t absolutely certain, they wouldn’t have allowed themselves to be tortured to death for proclaiming that the Resurrection had happened.”

**Proof #3:** Peter preaching Jesus in Jerusalem less than two months after he denied Jesus, and the religious leaders opposing the church but not being able to produce a body to shut it up.

**Proof #4:** James and Jude worshipping their brother as God.

**Proof #5:** The conversion of Saul the persecutor to Paul the follower and preacher of Jesus.

**Proof #6:** The claim that the women discovered the tomb and were the first eyewitnesses to the risen Lord.

**Proof #7:** The fulfilled prophecies in the life of Jesus that demonstrate the reliability of the biblical records.

**Proof #8:** Jews who were strictly monotheistic and revered Yahweh now worshipping Jesus as God.

**Proof #9:** The changes in their religion made by these Jews such as going from synagogue to church, worshipping on Saturday to worshipping on Sunday, abolishing the sacrificial system in favor of the ordinances of baptism and communion, law to grace, and a political Messiah to a spiritual Messiah.

**Proof #10:** The lack of a compelling explanation that fits the facts other than the resurrection.

**5. Grace is unique in religious thought and not an idea that we would think up.-DO vs. DONE**

- How other religions are essentially the same in that they are works based
- The Honesty Test
- It runs counter to human nature and goes against the idea of karma
- Luke 18:9-14

**Conclusion:** John 7:14-17 and are you willing to submit your will to Jesus