

An Introductory Course on “Classical Apologetics”

Teacher: Dr. Aaron Ford

Twelve Points That Show Christianity Is True

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of true is false.
3. It is true that the theistic God exists.
4. If God exists, then miracles are possible.
5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God (i.e., as an act of God to confirm a word from God).
6. The New Testament is historically reliable.
7. The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.
8. Jesus' claim to be God was miraculously confirmed by:
 - a. His fulfilment of many prophecies about Himself.
 - b. His sinless life and miraculous deeds;
 - c. His prediction and accomplishment of His resurrection.
9. Therefore, Jesus is God.
10. Whatever Jesus (who is God) teaches is true.
11. Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God (and anything opposed to it is false).

12. Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God (and anything opposed to it is false).

Apologotics: To give a reason or defense.

The history of anti-intellectualism in the U.S. within the Christian culture

- 4 ways in which we come to our beliefs:

Sociological Reasons	Psychological Reasons	Religious Reasons	Philosophical Reasons	
Parents	Comfort	Scripture	Consistency	
Friends	Peace of Mind	Pastor/Priest	Coherence	
Society	Meaning	Guru	Completeness	
Culture	Purpose	Rabbi	(best explanation of all the evidence)	
	Hope	Imam		
	Identity	Church		

Every worldview must answer with coherence the deepest questions of the human mind and heart:

1. Origin: **Where did I come from?**
2. Identity: **Who am I?**

3. Meaning and Purpose: **Why am I here?**
4. Morality: **How should I live?**
5. Destiny: **Where am I going?**

As Christians we are commanded to be ready to give a reason for our belief in the gospel.

1 Pet. 3:15¹⁵ Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.

1 John 4:1¹ Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.

2 Cor. 10: 4-5⁴ ^[a]We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. ⁵ We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

Matt 22:37³⁷ Jesus replied, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind."

Reason alone does not bring a person to faith:

Reasoning saves no one, not because there is no proof for Christian faith, but because the dead soul cannot respond to evidence.

Application of apologetics and knowledge of our faith:

We have knowledge of something when we are representing it (thinking about it, in an appropriate basis of thought and experience. Knowledge involves truth or accuracy of representation, but it must also be truth based upon adequate evidence or insight.

Belief has no necessary tie to truth, good method, or evidence. We can believe what is false and often do.

Commitment, made so much of today in religion and in life, need not involve belief, much less knowledge. You can commit yourself to something you don't even believe. Commitment is simply a matter of choosing and implementing a course.

At an even greater distance from knowledge is proffesion. Sometimes people profess to believe things they are not even committed to. They may do this just to fit into a social setting.

Knowledge, but not mere belief or commitment, confers on its possessor an authority or right—even a responsibility—to act, to direct action, to establish and supervise policy, and to teach.

- Dallas Willard in *Knowing Christ Today Why We can Trust Spiritual Knowledge*

A generation ago, on both sides of the Atlantic, the vision of evangelicals outthinking liberals grabbed leading Christian minds. That vision has borne much fruit over the years, and I for one am thankful that it still remains alive and motivates many; long may it do so! But it is high time that a comparable vision of Evangelicals out living nonevangelicals made a similar grab for our attention and began to motivate us to explore the realities of holiness afresh at the deepest level of scholarship, pastoral insight, and personal experiment.

-J. I. Packer

What is truth? _____

What is objective truth? _____

Point 1 and 2: Truth

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. Truth is absolute, not relative.
3. The opposite of true is false. Truth is exclusive.

⁶ *Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. John 14:6*

- Law of noncontradiction- something cannot "be" and "not be" simultaneously (something cannot be "A" and "non A" at the same time).

Point 3: It is true that a theistic God exists.

What is a theistic God? _____

Pantheism: God is all

Polytheism: Many Gods

Atheism: No God at all

Agnosticism: I don't know if there is a God

- 3 primary arguments for a theistic God

1. Cosmological argument
2. Teleological argument
3. Moral argument

⇒ **Cosmological argument**

1. Everything that has a beginning has a cause.
2. The universe had a beginning.
3. Therefore the universe had a cause.

⇒ From the cosmological argument alone we can conclude that the "First Cause" has these attributes:

- A. Super intelligent
- B. Unimaginably powerful
- C. Outside of time, space, matter: uncreated
- D. Timeless, nonspacial, immaterial
- E. Personal: to make nothingness into time, space, material including personal human beings.

⇒ **Teleological argument** (Telos= design)

1. Every design has a designer.
2. The universe and life are highly complex and designed
3. Therefore the universe and life had a designer

Proofs for Design within the Universe

⇒ If the universe had expanded at a rate one millionth more slowly than it did, expansion would have stopped, and the universe would have collapsed on itself before any stars had formed. If it had expanded faster, then no galaxies would have formed.

Any of the laws of physics can be described as a function of the velocity of light (now defined to be 299,792,458 meters per second). Even a slight variation in the speed of light would alter the other constants and preclude the possibility of life on earth.

If Jupiter were not in its current orbit, the earth would be bombarded with space material. Jupiter's gravitational field acts as a cosmic vacuum cleaner, attracting asteroids and comets that might otherwise strike earth.

If the thickness of the earth's crust were greater, too much oxygen would be transferred to the crust to support life. If it were thinner, volcanic and tectonic activity would make life impossible.

If the rotation of the earth took longer than twenty-four hours, temperature differences would be too great between night and day. If the rotation period were shorter, atmospheric wind velocities would be too great.

The 23-degree axis tilt of the earth is just right. If the tilt was altered slightly, surface temperatures would be too extreme on earth.

DNA

- ⇒ There are approximately 50,000 different types of proteins in the human body and they either perform tasks or synthesize molecules required for the biological activity that sustains life. The DNA in every individual, therefore, is the source of information that directs all of the biological functions in the body.
- ⇒ The DNA itself is specified and complex. "Complex" meaning the structure itself is designed and specified meaning it has information which it uses to perform its task.

Inconsistency of the materialist's logic

- ⇒ In holding to pure materialism the naturalist causes for himself an insurmountable problem... If chemical processes are what cause all of our thoughts, what objective way can we know whether or not they are really true?

Ex. If your chemicals or your DNA are telling you that everything is here by chance and mine are telling me that it is here by design, how can we discern which is really true? We both simply believe what our chemical reactions are telling us.

Therefore, their own theory is self defeating; claiming that the truth is that chemical reactions or DNA are driving our reasoning they prove their own reasoning is not objective but simply a chemical reaction.

It's not about science it's about personal accountability:

"Our willingness to accept scientific claims that are against common sense is the key to understanding the real struggle between science and the supernatural. We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated "just so" stories, because we have a prior commitment to materialism. It is not that the methods or institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counterintuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover that materialism is absolute for we cannot allow a divine foot in the door."

-Darwinist Richard Lewontin of Harvard University

“The history of most fossil species includes two features particularly inconsistent with gradualism: 1) Stasis. Most species exhibit no directional change during their tenure of the earth. They appear in the fossil record looking much the same as when they disappear; Morphological change is usually initiated and directionless. 2) Sudden Appearance. In any local area, a species does not arise gradually by the steady transformation of its ancestors; it appears all at once and ‘fully formed.’”

-Harvard paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould (an evolutionist)

⇒ *Rom. 1:18-27¹⁸ But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness.^[a] ¹⁹ They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. ²⁰ For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.*

²¹ *Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. ²² Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. ²³ And instead of worshipping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.*

- **Moral law**

1. Every law has a law giver.
2. There is a moral law
3. Therefore, there is a moral law giver.

⇒ *The moment you say that one set of moral ideas can be better than another; you are, in fact, measuring them both by a standard, saying that one of them conforms to that standard more nearly than the other. But the standard that measures two things is something different from either. You are, in fact, comparing them both with some Real Morality, admitting that there is such a thing as a real Right, independent of what people think, and that some people’s ideas get nearer to that real Right than others. Or put it this way. If your moral ideas can be truer, and those of the Nazis less true, there must be something—some Real Morality—for them to be true about.*

– C.S. Lewis

Point 4: If a theistic God exists then miracles are possible

What is a miracle? _____

⇒ *A miracle is something which would never have happened in nature, as it were, been left to itself.*

- Anthony Flew

⇒ *If we admit God, must we admit miracles? Indeed, indeed you have no security against it. That is the bargain.*

- C.S. Lewis

⇒ **Satanic signs**

2 Thes. 2:9^o This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles.

Ex. 8:19^o "This is the finger of God!" the magicians exclaimed to Pharaoh. But Pharaoh's heart remained hard. He wouldn't listen to them, just as the LORD had predicted.

⇒ **What a miracle is not:**

	ANOMILIES	MAGIC	PSYCHOS- OMATIC	SATANIC SIGNS	PROVIDENCE	MIRACLES
DESCRIPTION	Freaks of nature	Sleight of hand	Mind over matter	Evil power	Prearranged events	Divine act
POWER	Physical	Human	Mental	Psychic	Divine	Supernatural
TRAITS	Natural event with pattern	Unnatural and man- controlled	Requires faith; fails for some sickness	Evil, falsehood, occult, limited	Naturally explained; spiritual context	Never fails, immediate, lasts, glory to God
EXAMPLE	Bumblebee	Rabbit in hat	Psychosomatic cures	Demonic influence	Fog at Normandy	Raising the dead

Divine Miracle	Satanic signs
• Actual supernatural acts	• Only supernormal act
• Under Creator's control	• Under creatures control
• Never associated with occult	• Associated with occult
• Connected with the true God	• Frequently connected with pantheistic or polytheistic gods
• Associated with truth	• Associated with error
• Associated with good	• Associated with evil
• Involves true prophesies	• Involves false prophesies
• Glorifies the Creator	• Glorifies the creature

Point 5: Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God

⇒ A miracle is a special act of God which is used to confirm a messenger or a message from God. We clearly see this with Moses, the apostles and Jesus.

- A. Ex. 4:1-5 "What if they don't believe me."
- B. Num. 16:5, 28-30,33 Rebellion of Korah
- C. 1 Kings 18:21,36,39 Elijah and the prophets of Baal
- D. Luke 7:20-22 John asks if Jesus is the Messish
- E. John 3:1-2 Nichodemus statement
- F. Heb. 2:3-4 God has testified to salvation by signs
- G. John 9:30-33 Man born blind

⇒ A miracle confirms a message from God.

⇒ A sign confirms the sermon.

⇒ An act of God confirms a word from God.

Point 6: The New Testament is historically reliable

⇒ *2 Pet 1:16-21* ¹⁶ For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw his majestic splendor with

*our own eyes*¹⁷ when he received honor and glory from God the Father. The voice from the majestic glory of God said to him, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.”^[a]¹⁸ We ourselves heard that voice from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

⇒¹⁹ Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines^[b] in your hearts.²⁰ Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding,^[c]²¹ or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.

1. Is the NT an accurate copy of the original New Testament writings?
2. Is the NT an accurate copy of fact or fiction?

How many handwritten Greek manuscripts for the NT do we have?

⇒ **Questions for historical reliability:**

1. Do we have early testimony? Did people start writing about the events within 100 yrs of the events?
2. Do we have eyewitness testimony? Helps us establish what really happened- It's not heresay.
3. Do we have eyewitness testimony from multiple, independent eyewitnesses? Proves that it really happened and gives us greater detail of the facts.
4. Are the eyewitnesses trustworthy?
5. Do we have cooperating evidence from archaeology and other writers?
6. Do we have enemies attesting to the events? Ex. If your mother says you are brave it's one thing, if your enemy says you're brave it's another.
7. Does the testimony contain events that are embarrassing to the author? Most people don't like to record negative information about themselves.

Early Testimony—“The Creed”

⇒ 1 Cor. 3-8³ I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. ⁴ He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. ⁵ He was seen by Peter^[a] and then by the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers^[b] at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he was seen by

James and later by all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.

Eyewitness Testimony:

- ⇒ *Acts 2:32³² "God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this.*
- ⇒ *Acts 3:15¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. And we are witnesses of this fact!*
- ⇒ *2 Pet. 1:16 ¹⁶ For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw his majestic splendor with our own eyes.*
- *¹ We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning,^[a] whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. ² This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us. 1 John 1:1-2*

What we can learn from non-Christian historical sources of the first century:

1. Jesus lived during the time of Tiberius Caesar.
2. He lived a virtuous life.
3. He was a wonder-worker.
4. He had a brother named James.
5. He was acclaimed to be the Messiah.
6. He was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
7. He was crucified on the eve of the Jewish Passover.
8. Darkness and an earthquake occurred when he died.
9. His disciples believed he rose from the dead.
10. His disciples were willing to die for their belief.
11. Christianity spread rapidly as far as Rome.
12. His disciples denied the Roman gods and worshiped Jesus as God.

Canonization

1. Scriptural authority

1 Tim. 5:18 - ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, "You must not muzzle an ox to keep it from eating as it treads out the grain." And in another place, "Those who work deserve their pay!"^[a]

2 Pet. 3:16-¹⁶ speaking of these things in all of his letters. Some of his comments are hard to understand, and those who are ignorant and unstable have twisted his letters to mean something quite different, just as they do with other parts of Scripture. And this will result in their destruction.

1 Thes. 2:13-¹³ Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you didn't think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very word of God—which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe.

John 14:26-²⁶ But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

2. Circulation

Col. 4:16-¹⁶ After you have read this letter, pass it on to the church at Laodicea so they can read it, too. And you should read the letter I wrote to them.

1 Thes. 5:27-²⁷ I command you in the name of the Lord to read this letter to all the brothers and sisters.

Point 7: The New Testament says that Jesus claimed to be God

Among these Jews there suddenly turns up a man who gows about talking as if He was God. He claims to forgive sins. He says He has always existed. He says He is coming to judge the world at the end of time. Now let us get this clear. Among the Pantheists, like the Indians, anyone might saythat he was a part of God, or one with God: there would be nothing very odd about it. But this man, since He was a Jew, could not mean that kind of God. God , in their language, meant the Being outside the world who had made it and was infinitely different from anything else. And when you have grasped that, you will see that what this man said was, quite simply, the most shocking thing that has ever been uttered by human lips.

- C.S. Lewis

1. He claimed to be the great 'I Am'. (Jn. 8:58, Ex. 3:14)
2. Claimed to be Yahweh by claiming the following: (Judaism pronounced the name of God 'Adonai' – in the Septuagint it was translated 'Kyrios' or Lord. Kyrios was reserved for referring to God. Josephus records Christians being punished for not calling Caesar Kyrios. Rom. 10:9 'Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord.', Phil. 2:10-11, Isaiah 45:23)
 - Eternal glory with the father (Jn. 17:5, Isa. 42:8)
"glorify me together with yourself"
 - First and the last (Rev. 1:17, Isa. 44:6)
 - Good shepherd (Jn. 10:11, Ps. 23:1)
 - Judge of all men (Jn. 5:27, Joel 3:12)
3. He claimed equality with God.
 - Forgiving sins (Mk. 2:5)
 - Power to raise and judge the dead (Jn. 5:25-29, 1 Sam. 2:6, Deut. 32:35-39)
 - (Jn. 5:18) "said that God was his father making himself equal with God."

4. One with the father (Jn. 10:30, Jn. 14:9 “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”)
5. Accepted worship; OT forbids worship of anyone except God (Ex. 20:1-4, Deut. 5:6-9 Ten Commandments)

- Healed leper (Mk.8:2)
- Disciples after a storm (Mt. 14:33)
- Canaanite woman (Mt. 5:25)
- Garasene demon (Mk. 6:6)
- Blind man (Jn. 9:38)
- Thomas “My lord and my God” (Jn. 20:28)

6. Requested prayer in His name (Jn. 14:13, 15:7)

- Disciples- by calling Jesus God
- Col. 2:9, Heb1:3, Jn.1:1, Phil. 2:5-8, Jn. 20-28- “All fullness of the Godhead bodily.”

7. Messiah/God

- Zech. 12:10, Jn. 19:37, Isa. 45:23, Isa. 9:6

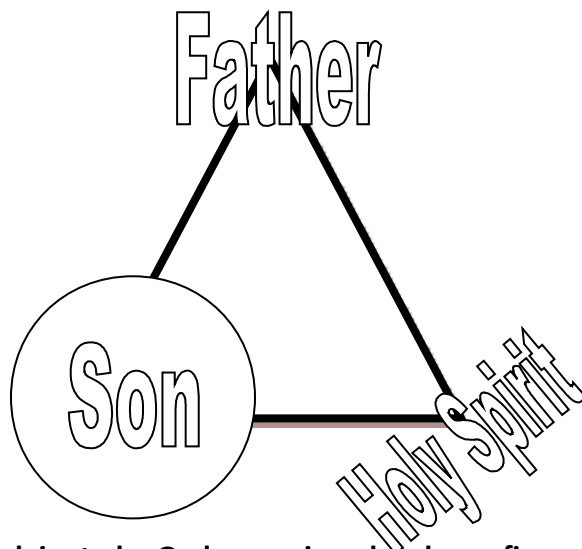
I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish things that people often say about Him: “I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.” That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would rather be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

– C.S. Lewis

Objections to deity to Christ:

1. Jn. 14:28 “The father is greater than I”
 - The Father is greater in office and position but not in nature or essence.
 - Ex.—My earthly father not greater in humanity – just in office
2. Mt. 19:17 “No one is good but one, that is God.” Here Jesus is affirming His deity, He is saying “do you know who you are talking to? Do you know the implications of calling me God?”
3. Mt. 24:36 “But of the day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”
 - Jesus has two natures in one being. So as God Jesus knew, but man he did not.
 - Lk. 2:52 “Jesus increased in wisdom and stature.”

Trinity



Point 8: Jesus' claim to be God was miraculously confirmed

- **Jesus was sinless**

- A. Jesus claimed that he was sinless. Jn. 8:42-47 "Which one of you convicts me of sin?"
- B. Jesus' disciples claimed that he was sinless
 1. 1 Pet. 2:22 "who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth."
 2. 1 Pet. 1:19 "unblemished and spotless lamb"
 3. 1 Jn. 3:5 "in Him there is no sin"
 4. Heb. 4:15 claims Jesus was "without sin"
 5. 2 Cor. 5:21 says Jesus "knew no sin"

Jesus fulfilled prophecy. 191 of them

- A. Gen. 3:15- Jesus was of the seed of a woman (not a man) therefore he would be human and divine. He would crush the head of the serpent (Satan).

- B. Gen. 12:3- from the seed of Abraham. "All the peoples on earth will be blessed through you."
- C. Isa. 7:14- He would be born of a virgin and be God with us. "The virgin will be with child and give birth to a son and they will call His name Immanuel which means God with us." (Matt. 1:22-23)
- D. Gen. 49:10- He will be from the tribe of Judah.
- E. Micah 5:2- He would be born in Bethlehem. "Out of you will come one who will rule over Israel."
- F. Jer. 23:5-6-He will be of David's dynasty. "I shall raise up from David a righteous branch His name will be called the LORD our righteousness.

Jesus predicted and accomplished His own resurrection from death:

1. Jn. 3:14-15- "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."
2. Jn. 10:17-18- "The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life only to take it up again...."
3. Jn. 16:20-22- "Now is your time of grief but I will see you again."
4. Mt. 12:39-40- "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so that Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."
5. Mt. 17:9- "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead. Coming from Matthew of transfiguration. (Moses, Elijah, and Jesus the three deliverers and primary miracle workers."
6. Mt. 17:22-23- "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life."

The Creed *1 Cor. 15:3-7* ³ I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. ⁴ He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. ⁵ He was seen by Peter^[a] and then by the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers^[b] at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles.

Point 9: Therefore Jesus is God

Point 10: Whatever Jesus (who is God) teaches is true

- A. God is morally perfect (The Moral Law Argument from Point 3)

- B. An all-knowing, morally perfect God would not teach error.

Point 11: Jesus taught that the Bible is the word of God

1. **It is divinely authoritative** (Mt. 4:4-7,10)

But He answered and said, it is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" ... 7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" ...Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

2. **It is imperishable** (MT. 5:17-18)

Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

3. **It is infallible** (Jn. 10:35)

If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken.

4. **It is inerrant** (Mt. 22:29)

Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.

5. **It is historically reliable**

For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so that Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (Mt. 12:40)

But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark (Mt. 24:37-38)

6. **It is scientifically accurate**

And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ 5 “and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?”

If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? (Jn 3:12)

7. It has ultimate supremacy

He answered and said to them, “Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?... Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. (Mt. 15:3,6)

Jesus affirmed Old Testament prophets and amazing stories

1. Daniel was a prophet (not a mere historian) – Mt. 24:15

Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),

2. God Created Adam and Eve (they did not evolve) –Mt. 19:4
3. Jonah is literally true (not mythological) –Mt. 12:40
4. World was actually drowned in a flood –Mt. 24:39

Point 12: Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God (and anything opposed to it is false).

Tactics in defending the faith

(These notes are taken from Greg Kokle’s notes by the same title)

1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the faith that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

Matthew 10:16 I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and innocent as doves.

Columbo question 1

- What do you mean by that?

- Does that symbol have meaning for you?
- Do you have any spiritual belief?

Columbo question 2

- How did you come to that conclusion?
- Why do you say that?
- What are your reasons for holding that view?

When things get too aggressive:

- Hold on a minute this is new to me. Tell me what you believe and why you believe it, then let me think about it.

Suicide Tactic:

- Self refuting statements

See if you can find the contradictions in these statements?

- I can't speak a word of English.
- I used to believe in reincarnation but that was in my former life.
- Ask me about my vow of silence.

Taking the roof off:

- The point is to see if the person can live with the moral or intellectual consequences of their beliefs.

Matt. 12:24-26 ²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard about the miracle, they said, "No wonder he can cast out demons. He gets his power from Satan,^[a] the prince of demons."

²⁵ Jesus knew their thoughts and replied, "Any kingdom divided by civil war is doomed. A town or family splintered by feuding will fall apart. ²⁶ And if Satan is casting out Satan, he is divided and fighting against himself. His own kingdom will not survive.

Analysis of the differences in the Gospel accounts to the resurrection

Matt.28:1-10

1. Mary Magdalene and Mary(mother of James and John)
 - Quake
 - Guards run
 - Angel rolls away stone
2. "See where He laid."
 - "Risen as He said"
 - "Jesus going before you to Galilee"
3. Ran to tell disciples
4. Jesus meets them on the way

Mark 16:1-8

1. MM,M,S spices
 - "early on the 1st day of the week"
 - "when the sun had risen"
 - See the stone rolled away
2. Enter tomb
 - See young man (angel)
 - "He is risen"
 - "See where they laid him"
3. Go tell the disciples
 - "Going before you into Galilee"
4. Fled from the tombs
 - "Said nothing to anyone"

Luke 24:1-12

1. "They" (the women) from 23:55
 - "Early in morn"
 - "Bring spices to tomb"
2. Enter tomb 2 angels
 - "Remember" what Jesus said

3. They go tell the 11. MM, Joanna, M , and other women
4. Disciples don't believe
5. MM says to Peter that she's seen Jesus ,and he runs to the tomb

John 20:1-18

1. 1st day MM goes to tomb "while it was still dark"
2. She runs and tells Peter and John that "they've taken Him"
 - She had obviously not seen the angel
3. Peter and John run to tomb
4. Disciples go home
5. Mary is at the tomb weeping
6. Sees angels
7. She turns and sees Jesus
8. Jesus tells her to go stalk to the disciples
9. She goes and tells them all she has seen

Primary divergent detail is that of who was at the tomb first, who saw Jesus first etc.

1. **John 20:1-9;** Mary Magdalene visited the tomb early Sunday morning while it *was still dark*.
2. Seeing that the stone had been rolled away, she ran back to Peter and John and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."
3. Peter and John ran to the tomb and saw the empty graveclothes and then they, "the disciples", went home.
4. **John 20:12;** Mary Magdalene had presumably followed Peter and John to the tomb. After they left she stayed behind and saw the two angels inside the tomb where Jesus body had been laid.

5. **John 20:13-18**; Mary Magdalene turned around and sees Jesus. He tells her to go tell the disciples, "My brethren", that, "I will be ascending to... God." This is confirmed in **Mark 16:9,10**.
6. **Mark 16:1-8** As Mary Magdalene is leaving, the other women arrived at the tomb with spices to anoint the body. Mary meets them but they want to see for themselves.
7. **Luke 24:3-4**; The women including MM enter the tomb and the angels say, "He is risen", "Remember" he told you what would happen (Luke 24:6,7)
8. **Matt. 28:9-10**; The women meet Jesus on the way to tell the disciples.
9. **Luke 24:9-11**; The women tell the disciples but they don't believe them; however Peter runs back anyway (vs. 12) because the women have claimed to seen Jesus.