

## THE PATH TO CHRISTIAN FAITH

### Int.

1. Aim: To show how men today arrive at Christian faith.
2. John 6:44 "No man can come to me except the Father which hath sent me DRAW HIM."
  - a. How Does God draw us? Some say by a vision, dream, or experience
  - b. Jesus answers - Jn.6:45 - taught = heard and learned "It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me." - Isa. 54:13
  - c. Faith comes by hearing the evidence - Rom. 10:17
3. Faith is produced in the hearts of men and women today.
4. Heb. 11:6 NKJV "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."
5. What is it that we believe? Basic thesis, or basic belief of Christianity. "Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and to be saved we must believe in, love, and obey Him."
6. Basic Argument:
  - (1) If we can know that God is, that the Bible is His word, and that the Bible can be understood, then we can know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that to be saved we must believe in love and obey Him.
  - (2) We can know G . B . Bx
  - (3) Therefore we can know the basic Thesis.
7. Three things to prove:
  - a. That God exists
  - b. That the Bible is the Word of God
  - c. That the Bible Teaches that Jesus Christ is the son of God, and that to be saved we must believe in, love and obey him.

**Discussion****I. GOD DOES EXIST**

- A. Observe the World about us - abundant evidence in this physical world for man to come to the conclusion that there is a God.
  - 1. How did the world get here?
  - 2. Everything must have an adequate cause! Self-evident truth
- B. Either the world always existed or it had a beginning
  - 1. We know that nothing comes from nothing
  - 2. 'If ever there was a time when nothing existed, then nothing would exist today.'
  - 3. The world cannot be eternal
    - a. Things that are eternal are self-existent and unchangeable (Self-evident Truth)
    - b. This world is changing - we all can observe this
    - c. Therefore it is not self-existent and not eternal!
    - d. The world came into existence at some time !
  - 4. How Did it begin?
- C. Only two sorts of things in the world - (1) Mind and (2) matter
  - 1. One of these must be eternal because this world is here, and since it is not eternal it must have had a beginning.
  - 2. Matter-- Could matter have created itself? Could it have created intelligence?
    - a. That's absurd -- it did not exist before it existed, and it could not have produced an effect?
    - b. It's impossible for unintelligent matter, rocks, gasses, dirt & etc. to produce intelligence

- c. This mind which is the CAUSE for all things is GOD?
- 3. Is God eternal? If God is eternal then He is the cause which produced everything !
  - a. He must be eternal, because if ever there was a time when He did not exist, then He could not exist now.
  - b. He could not have created Himself - God is self existent
  - c. He could not have been created by some other supreme being, if so then that being would have been God, because he would be greater than God
  - d. God is eternal and is the Cause which brought all into existence.
  - e. Gen. 1:1
- D. The Bible teaches that we can learn of God's existence by observation of the world and reasoning about it.
  - 1. Rom. 1:19-20 - Paul affirms we can learn of God's existence by the things that are made "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed [it] unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"
  - 2. Ps. 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."
  - 3. We know there is a GOD
- E. There is sufficient evidence in this world to lead us to the conclusion that God Does Exist! By using proper reasoning about the things around us we can learn that God is !

## **II. BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD**

A. How do we know which document is from God?

1. Many writings that claim to be of divine origin !

a. Veda - Hindu - they have several but the Vedas are the main writings

b. Tripitaka - Buddha - very large - has 40 volumes

c. Quran [Koran] - Islamic holy book - believe it was dictated to prophets

d. Book of Mormon - Latter Day Saints by Joseph Smith

e. Science & Health with a Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy -  
Christian Science

2. I Affirm that the Bible is the Word of God.

3. Basic Argument

(1) If it is the case that the Bible possesses property A, Property B, property C,....property Z (Where the total situation involved in having such properties makes it clear that the Bible is beyond mere human production) then the Bible is the Word of God.

(2) It is the case that the Bible possesses property A,B,C...Z

(3) Therefore the Bible is the Word of God.

4. Properties - characteristics the Bible must possess if from God

## B. Characteristics of the Bible

### 1. **Inerrant** - no errors, no mistakes, no contradictions

#### a. Scriptures which teach that the Bible is from God

- (1) I Thes. 2:13 "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, **ye received [it] not [as] the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.**"
- (2) II Tim. 3:16 "All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"
- (3) II Pet. 1:20-21 "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake [as they were] moved by the Holy Ghost."

#### b. God is incapable of Lying - Tit. 1:2 "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;"

#### c. God is all knowing -

- (1) I Jn.3:20b "For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things."
- (2) Ps. 139:2-4 "Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. 3 Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted [with] all my ways. 4 For [there is] not a word in my tongue, [but], lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether."
- (3) Ps.147:5b "Great [is] our Lord, and of great power: his understanding [is] infinite. {his...: Heb. of his understanding there is no number}

#### d. Therefore His Word - the Bible - could not contain one single error

#### e. The Bible is without error - It has stood the test of critical investigation

## 2. Unity

- a. About 40 Men wrote separated by:
  - (1) Years
  - (2) Distance
  - (3) Language
- b. Most did not know the others or what they had written
- c. Bible is unified book with one:
  - (1) Doctrinal system
  - (2) Moral Standard
  - (3) Plan of salvation
  - (4) One program of the ages
- d. Each book contributes its part and is necessary to complete the revelation
- e. This shows that it came from God - men could not have produced such a system of unity

## 3. Fulfilled prophecy - Prophecies about Christ

- a. Birth in Bethlehem - Mic. 5:2 "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, [though] thou be little among the thousands of Judah, [yet] out of thee shall he come forth unto me [that is] to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth [have been] from of old, from everlasting."
- b. Virgin - Isa. 7:14 "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."
- c. Fulfilled in Matt. 1 & 2
- d. There are over 300 prophecies in O.T. about Christ fulfilled in N.T.

#### 4. Inspiration

- a. II Tim. 3:16 - "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"
- b. Inspiration means God-breathed - All parts --- all words
- c. God guided and directed the writers so they did not make mistakes.
- d. The Inerrancy, Unity, fulfilled prophecy and inspiration - prove that the...

#### C. Bible is beyond human production

1. Not true of other candidates for a divine book
  - a. Filled with errors - contradictions - inaccuracies
  - b. Not united
  - c. No fulfilled prophecy -
  - d. They are not inspired by God
2. The Bible is the Word of God for these reasons

### III. THE BIBLE TEACHES THE BASIC ARGUMENT OF CHRISTIANITY

#### A. We can and must learn the truth

1. Jn. 8:32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
2. Truth is the same for all men, in all places, at all times
3. If it is the truth it does not change. If it changes it is not the truth.
4. No need for revision or addition or subtraction
  - a. Gal. 1:6-9

- b. Rev. 22:18-19 "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and [from] the things which are written in this book."
- c. II Jn. 9 "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."

## B. Two- steps in learning what the Bible teaches

### 1. Gathering the information

- a. Specific text
- b. Immediate context
- c. Any remote context
- d. That gives you the Total context

### 2. Reason correctly about the total context

- a. Possible to reason incorrectly -----
- b. Devil - Matt. 4 - used the scriptures incorrectly in trying to tempt Jesus
- c. Jesus used scriptures correctly
- d. God expects us to reason correctly about His Word

C. We can learn that Jesus is the Son of God

1. We know - it's not a leap in the Dark Rom. 10:17
2. Jesus is the Christ because of His:
  - a. Birth - Isa. 7:14 - Mt. 1:18-25
  - b. Miracles - Jn. 20:30-31 "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."
  - c. Teaching -
    - (1) Jn. 7:46 "The officers answered, Never man spake like this man."
    - (2) Acts 1:1 "The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,"
  - d. Death- Heb. 9 & 10
  - e. Resurrection I Cor. 15:13-18

D. We can learn What To do To Be Saved

1. We must believe that Christ is the Son of God - Jn. 8:24
2. We must obey His commandments - Jn. 14:15
3. His Commandments for Salvation
  - a. Hear - Rom. 10:17
  - b. Believe - Mk. 16:16 -- Heb. 11:6
  - c. Repent - Lk. 13:3 Acts 2:28
  - d. Confess - Mt. 10:32-33, Rom. 10:9,10, Acts 8:37
  - e. Baptize- Mk. 16:16, Acts 2:38, 22:16 I Pet. 3:21, Gal. 3:27

## Conclusion

1. Path to Christian Faith
  - a. God is
  - b. The Bible is word of God
  - c. The Bible teaches us what to do to be saved.
2. After obeying we must live as He has commanded. - Mt. 28:20 "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen."
3. We must live faithfully even to the point of death - Rev. 2:10 - then continue steadfast in the faith until the end of life
4. Then He will give us the crown of righteousness - II Tim. 4:8 "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

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Source - Term Paper - by Arthur Pigman - Dec. 1976 - presented to Thomas B. Warren  
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