

# Defending and Building Your Faith Christian Apologetics – Worksheet 01

## Introduction

Over the coming weeks we will work to increase our faith while we learn how to defend our faith against various groups and philosophies. The purpose of this class is to...

- increase your faith,
- help you better understand what you believe and why you believe it,
- help you understand false religious and secular systems,
- help you refute the false teachings of those systems,
- help you develop confidence in dialogue with those who are not Christians,
- and help you present a competent and rational defense of the Christian faith.

Christianity is under attack all over the world. In secular school, on television, on radio, in literature, etc., Christianity is increasingly insulted and dismissed as an antiquated philosophy. Add to this the rise of such cults as Mormonism and Jehovah's Witnesses, not to mention the increase in popularity of Islam, and you can see that is necessary that we learn to defend the Christian faith. <sup>SMJ1</sup>

To accomplish the purposes of this class we will study the following topics over the coming weeks.

- Week 1 – Class introduction and the Scriptures Inspired
- Week 2 – The One True God and the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ
- Week 3 – Creation and the Fall, Salvation and Sanctification of Man
- Week 4 – End Times Topics
- Week 5 – The Bible
- Week 6 – Apologetics Basics
- Week 7 – Relativism
- Week 8 – Atheism
- Week 9 – Evolution
- Week 10 – Abortion
- Week 11 – Islam
- Week 12 – Cults
- Week 13 – Jehovah's Witnesses
- Week 14 – Mormonism
- Week 15 – Roman Catholicism
- Week 16 – Open Theism

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## Week 1 – Class introduction and the Scriptures Inspired

### Introduction

Over the coming weeks we will learn some basic Christian \_\_\_\_\_. Don't be scared by the word apologetics.

The word "apologetics" comes from the Greek word "apologia," pronounced, "ap-ol-og-ee'-ah." It means, "a \_\_\_\_\_." It is used \_\_\_\_\_ times in the New Testament: Acts 22:1; 25:16; 1 Cor. 9:3; 2 Cor. 7:11; Phil. 1;7,17; 2 Tim. 4:16, and 1 Pet. 3:15. But it is the last verse that is most commonly associated with Christian apologetics.<sup>SMJ1</sup>

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always **to give an answer** to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: (1 Peter 3:15) [emphasis added to indicate use of the Greek word for apologetics]*

In the first few lessons we will lay a basic theological foundation because it is very necessary to apologetic studies. This leads us to our first lesson which is entitled, "The Scripture Inspired, Inerrant and Authoritative."

### The Scriptures Inspired, Inerrant and Authoritative

As the title indicates, this week we will examine the inspiration, inerrancy and authority of the Bible. Our topics include:

- Assemblies of God Fundamental Truth #1
- Defining the Bible
- Inspiration and Inerrancy
- Authority

These topics will provide the basis for this brief examination which will hopefully re-affirm your beliefs and strengthen your faith. We will begin with the Assemblies of God formal view of the Bible.

#### Assemblies of God Fundamental Truth #1

The opening line of the Assemblies of God Statement of Fundamental Truths states, "The Bible is our \_\_\_\_\_ for faith and practice."<sup>AG1</sup> The first fundamental truth re-affirms this statement and provides the basis for all other stated truths and reads, "The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are \_\_\_\_\_ of God and are the \_\_\_\_\_ of God to man, the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ rule of faith and conduct."<sup>AG1 p. 1</sup>

As we study Christian apologetics and prepare to give an answer to everyone that asks a reason of the hope that is in us we must use the Bible as our absolute source of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Since the Bible is our source of absolute truth we must ask ourselves, "what is the Bible?" This leads to our next topic of learning, defining the Bible.

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## Defining the Bible

Matthew Slick of CARM summarizes the Bible as being “the literary source of the Christian religion,”<sup>SMJ2</sup> and so it is in its most basic sense. It is a singularly unique book of books and was written:

- Over a span of approximately \_\_\_\_ years. MJ1 p. 4
- By more than \_\_\_\_\_ from every walk of life including kings, military leaders, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, tax collectors, poets, musicians, statesmen, scholars and shepherds. MJ1 p. 4
- On \_\_ continents. MJ1 p. 4
- In different places. MJ1 p. 4
- At different times. MJ1 p. 4
- During different moods. MJ1 p. 4
- In \_\_ different languages. MJ1 p. 4
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (most of the Old Testament).
  - \_\_\_\_\_
    - Parts of Daniel.
    - Parts of Ezra.
    - Some references in the New Testament, the most notable being Christ’s cry from the cross: “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani.” MJ1 p. 5
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (almost all of the New Testament).

Despite these facts, the message throughout the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_, without \_\_\_\_\_, with all the books and authors in perfect \_\_\_\_\_!

As previously described, the Bible is a book of books. The \_\_\_\_ books of the Protestant Christian \_\_\_\_\_ are organized as shown below.

<b>Old Testament - 39 books</b>	
<b>Pentateuch - 5 books</b>	
Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy	
<b>Historical Books - 12 books</b>	
Joshua, Judges, Ruth, First Samuel, Second Samuel, First Kings, Second Kings, First Chronicles, Second Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther	
<b>Poetical - 5 books</b>	
Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon	
<b>Prophetical - 17 books</b>	
<b>Major Prophets - 5 books</b>	<b>Minor Prophets - 12 books</b>
Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel	Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

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<b>New Testament - 27 books</b>
<b>Historical Books - 5 books</b>
Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts
<b>Pauline Epistles - 13 books</b>
Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
<b>Non-Pauline Epistles - 9 books</b>
Hebrews*, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude, Revelation
* Note: Some authors attribute Hebrews to Paul.

The Bible was fully gathered and recognized by the end of the \_\_\_\_\_ century. Church councils convened to establish what the accepted books of the Bible would be: <sup>SMJ2</sup>

“No canonical lists appear before around A.D. 150...The inclusion of Revelation was a matter of considerable disagreement. The second and third Letters of John, 2 Peter, and Jude were often not included, and Hebrews was sometimes omitted. At the same time, writings not found presently in our canon of twenty-seven were sometimes cited. The twenty-seven-book Latin Vulgate (Vg.) of Jerome (late fourth century) exerted considerable influence upon what books were generally recognized; moreover, provincial church councils held at Hippo (393) and Carthage (397) recognized a twenty-seven-book NT canon.

God used the councils of men to \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture. The Christian Church recognized God's Word - they did not \_\_\_\_\_ it. <sup>SMJ2</sup>

This must be repeated and highlighted for emphasis – “***The Christian Church recognized God's Word - they did not \_\_\_\_\_ it.***” This statement leads nicely into our next subject, the inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible.

### Inspiration and Inerrancy

#### Inspiration

As stated in the Assemblies of God first fundamental truth, the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ of God and is \_\_\_\_\_. The Scriptures themselves testify to this fact:

*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. (2 Peter 1:21)*

*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (2 Timothy 3:16)*

The word "inspiration" means "\_\_\_\_\_." Therefore, when we say that the Bible is inspired, we are saying that it is authored from God; that God moved through the personality and abilities of the Biblical writers in such a way that what they wrote was without \_\_\_\_\_ and was \_\_\_\_\_ in all that they addressed. "The 'breath' or 'spirit' of God in the OT denotes the active outgoing of divine power."

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Therefore, the Scriptures are the product of both men and God. The writings are the words of God written by men who were the \_\_\_\_\_ by which the Scriptures were \_\_\_\_\_. The result is the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ work that conveys God's truth. <sup>SMJ2</sup>

The process of inspiration was not a mechanical dictation during which the apostles heard a voice and wrote down what they heard. Nor does it mean they went into some sort of a trance and God wrote through them without their knowledge. Instead, the writers were \_\_\_\_\_ to write what they wanted as they were \_\_\_\_\_ by the Holy Spirit. In fact, the writings reflect the personalities and styles of the various writers. Yet, these personalities and styles did not degrade the quality or authority of the Biblical writing. <sup>SMJ2</sup>

The Christian Church, through its councils in the first few centuries, did not determine what the inspired Scriptures were. They \_\_\_\_\_ what they were. In other words, *God moved through the Christian Church to affirm those writings that He had inspired*. Of course, the Old Testament documents were never disputed, but there were New Testament documents that were such as Hebrews, Revelation, etc. <sup>SMJ2</sup> [emphasis added]

### Inerrancy

Because the Bible is inspired, it is also \_\_\_\_\_. This means the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ in the original documents, and that everything it addresses is without error in fact or understanding. The Bible is not a scientific book, but what it says scientifically, is accurate: <sup>SMJ2</sup>

- The spherical shape of the earth - (Isaiah 40:22)
- The earth is suspended on nothing - (Job 26:7)
- The stars are innumerable - (Gen. 15:5)
- The existence of valleys in the seas - (2 Sam. 22:16)
- The existence of springs and fountains in the sea - (Gen. 7:11; 8:2; Prov. 8:28)
- The existence of water paths (ocean currents) in the seas - (Psalm 8:8)
- The water cycle - (Job. 26:8; 36:27-28; 37:16; 38:25-27; Ps. 135:7; Ecc. 1:6-7)
- The fact that all living things reproduce after their own kind - (Gen. 1:21; 6:19)
- The nature of health, sanitation, and sickness - (Gen. 17:9-14; Lev. 12-14)
- The concept of entropy, that energy is running down - (Psalm 102:26)

Furthermore, no archaeological discoveries have ever proven anything in the Bible to be wrong. As a \_\_\_\_\_ record, it is \_\_\_\_\_. <sup>SMJ2</sup>

Although the author of the preceding text states that the Bible is without error “in the original documents”, we can be \_\_\_\_\_ that the text we have in the King James from which we read is an \_\_\_\_\_ representation of God’s Word in the English language. Having covered the basics of the inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible, we will now close the lesson by examining the authority of the Bible.

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### Authority

All of the following indented text is from the materials referenced as SMJ2 in the bibliography.

The word "authority" in the Hebrew Old Testament is translated from several different words depending on their context. We see phrases such as "submit thyself under her hands" (Gen. 16:9). The word "authority" is used in Esther 9:29 as the Hebrew "toqeph." It means power, strength, and authority. However, in the New Testament, the word is translated from the Greek "exousia" and is found in verses such as John 1:12 and John 5:27, where it means "authority." Authority basically means, "the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ something." The Christian has the authority to be a child of God (John 1:12). Jesus has authority to judge (John 5:27). Furthermore, in regard to the Bible, this authority is the right to \_\_\_\_\_ what is true and what is not true. This means that the Bible carries the God-ordained and God-derived power of proclaiming who God is, who and what He is not, who Jesus is, what He did on the cross, and what is required of us in order to be forgiven of our sins.

The authority of Scripture is not derived by its relationship to the Christian Church; that is, the \_\_\_\_\_ does not grant authority to the Bible. Neither is Biblical authority derived by a \_\_\_\_\_ whereby Christians agree that it has authority and then choose to submit to it. Instead, the authority of Scripture is derived by the virtue of it being \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of God, and it has authority over everyone, whether they be Christian or not. Though not everyone submits to God's Word now, they will later, when the truths of God's Word are made evident on the Day of Judgment. Because the Bible comes from God, everything it says is true and authoritative, and will come to pass.

Why is this important? First of all, this means that the Bible has authority over \_\_\_\_\_ areas of the Christian's life. It means that we are to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves to God's Word and \_\_\_\_\_ it. Of course, this obedience does not grant us salvation, nor does it increase our standing with God in any way. But, it does mean that we are to submit to what it says. Therefore, when the Bible says "Do not steal" (Exod. 20:15), we are to submit ourselves to that standard of \_\_\_\_\_ correctness and not steal, not bear false witness (Exod. 20:16), honor our parents (Exod. 20:12), etc.

Second, the Scriptures themselves make \_\_\_\_\_ upon unbelievers. As is often the case when defending the faith, we must tell people that the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23), that all have sinned (Rom. 3:23), that Jesus is the only way to be forgiven of our sins (John 14:6), and that He is the only way to escape the judgment of God (Rom. 2:4). However, we are not saying these things based on our own authority, but on the authority of \_\_\_\_\_, which has stated these things.

Third, it means that when you speak God's Word, you are speaking authoritatively - so be careful what you say unless you misrepresent God.

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Fourth, God's Word \_\_\_\_\_ what He wants it to, because it has the authority to do so. This means that you need to \_\_\_\_\_ the Word, \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture, and tell it to people when appropriate. The Word of God is powerful, and it must be used during the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the faith. Therefore, when speaking forth the truth of God's Word, be confident that it has the authority to accomplish what God wants it to.

A brief summary of the authority of the Bible from the text above follows for the sake of emphasis.

- The Bible carries the God-ordained and God-derived power of proclaiming who God is, who and what He is not, who Jesus is, what He did on the cross, and what is required of us in order to be forgiven of our sins.
- The Church does not grant authority to the Bible.
- The authority of Scripture is derived by the virtue of it being authored and inspired of God, and it has authority over everyone, whether they be Christian or not.
- Though not everyone submits to God's Word now, they will later, when the truths of God's Word are made evident on the Day of Judgment.
- The Bible has authority over all areas of the Christian's life.
- The Scriptures themselves make judgments upon unbelievers.
- When you speak God's Word, you are speaking authoritatively - so be careful what you say lest you misrepresent God.
- God's Word accomplishes what He wants it to, because it has the authority to do so.

### **Week 1 Conclusion and Challenge**

Today we learned about the Bible; its composition, inspiration, inerrancy and authority. Next week we will explore the basis of our belief in the One True God and the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Week 1 Challenge**

I challenge you to memorize 2 Peter 1:21 and 2 Timothy 3:16 by next Sunday. At the beginning of class next week I'll ask for someone to say these from memory. The first one to raise their hand and say the verses from memory will earn a prize. I hope to see you all next week. Until then, I pray you have a blessed week.

*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. (2 Peter 1:21)*

*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (2 Timothy 3:16)*

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### **Week 1 Review Questions**

What is the definition of the Greek word from which the word apologetics is derived?

How many books are in the Bible?

How many books are in the Old Testament?

How many books are in the New Testament?

In how many languages was the Bible written and what are they?

What does the word "inspiration" mean?

Does the inspiration of the Bible mean that the writers were like robots dictating what was told to them? Please explain.

What is a great verse that states the Bible is inspired?

What does the word "authority" mean?

Why is the Bible authoritative?