

## **APOLOGETICS:** Apologetics = give an answer

### **HUMAN LIMITATIONS**

I. To give an answer does not require being able to satisfy objections.

A. The argument:

1. Today's view on apologetics says, "We must master answers to all relevant areas of His concern and thus prepare the way for the Gospel".
2. This is called "semi-rationalism"

B. The reason for the argument

1. Man underestimates the seriousness of fallen man's problem.
2. Man underestimates the solution that God has to deal with man's problems.

II. To give an answer does require our understanding of man's inabilities.

A. Man's inability is first a result of total depravity.

1. What is commonly said today? Evidence
2. What is commonly ignored today? Depravity
  - a. Proofs, systems and evidences convert no one according to Scripture.
    - 1) Proofs convince no one. Acts 1:3
    - 2) Evidences convince no one. Acts 26:26
  - b. Total inability is the proof and evidence given by Scripture.
    - 1) Natural man has God as His enemy. Romans 5:10, 8:7
    - 2) Natural man does not seek God. Psalm 14:2-3 CF Jeremiah 17:9, Ephesians 4:17-19
    - 3) Natural man suppressed the truth they do have about God. Romans 1:18-20, John 6:44

B. Man's inability is second a result of satanic blinding.

1. Paul was aware of satanic blinding. II Corinthians 4:3-6
2. Jesus taught about satanic blinding. Matthew 13:4, 18-19

### **THE DIVINE SOLUTION: OUR PART**

I. Our part in the divine solution is to answer with the pure Gospel (Galatians 1:6-9)

A. The pure Gospel is the power of God. Romans 1:16-17

B. The pure Gospel is according to the Scriptures. I Corinthians 15:1-6

1. Only Scripture tells us who Jesus is.
2. Only Scripture tells us why He must die.
3. Only Scripture explains the offense of sin.

C. The pure Gospel is the one given by Jesus and the apostles.

1. Listen to Jesus' call for followers of Him.
  - a. He calls them to deny self and make Him first. Luke 9:22-26, Matthew 10:32-39
  - b. He calls them to not begin what they won't finish. Luke 14:28-35

- c. He calls them to a difficult walk. Matthew 7:13-14
  - d. He calls them to preach a pure Gospel. Luke 24:45-48
- 2. Listen to Peter's call for followers of Jesus. Acts 2
  - a. God determined, but you wickedly killed Him. 22-23
  - b. Jesus was the one foretold in your Scriptures. 24-31
  - c. We are all witnesses of His passion and exaltation. 32-36
  - d. You must repent and get forgiveness of your sins. 37-40
- 3. Listen to Paul's call for people to follow Jesus.
  - a. Forgiveness is only through Jesus. Acts 13:38-39
  - b. Repent, for Judgment Day is coming. Acts 17:30-31

II. Our part in the divine solution is to demonstrate the pure Gospel.

- A. We are to proclaim deliverance from sin and then we demonstrate it. Matthew 1:21, I John 1:6-7, 26, 3:5-6
- B. We proclaim God's great compassion and then we demonstrate it. I Corinthians 9:20-23
- C. We proclaim God's offer is to whosoever will and then we demonstrate it.

**THE DIVINE SOLUTION: GOD'S PART**

I. Regeneration precedes sight and entrance. John 3:1-3

- A. What Nicodemus believed
  - 1. He believed that Jesus was sent from God, but not God.
  - 2. He believed in Him as a teacher from God, because of His miracles.
    - a. Liberals and religions today believe Jesus was a great teacher. Matthew 7:21-23, II Thessalonians 2:9, II Timothy 3:8
    - b. Natural man sees much but not the kingdom.
      - 1) They see how sin hinders relationships with man, but are blinded to its offense to God.
      - 2) They see all that the natural eye allows, but not in the realm of Spiritual.
- B. What Nicodemus lacked John 3:4-16
  - 1. Not the Word
    - a. He was a teacher of the Scriptures.
    - b. He had heard of the Baptizer
  - 2. But the Spirit
    - a. The Spirit must make the dead alive. Ephesians 2:1 CF I Corinthians 3:6-7
    - b. The Spirit must reveal truth. I Corinthians 2:7-10 CF I John 2:20, 27
    - c. The Spirit alone can clean. Titus 3:5, Isaiah 44:3, Ezekiel 36:27

II. Regeneration results in the unable being able. II Corinthians 5:17

- A. Able to hear the effectual call II Corinthians 4:6, Romans 8:29-30

- B. Able to repent Jeremiah 31:19-19, Acts 11:18
- C. Able to receive Christ John 1:12-13
- D. Able to believe Ephesians 2:8, Philippians 1:29, Hebrews 12:2, II Thessalonians 2:13-14, Acts 18:27

### III. Regeneration is the first in redemption's application

#### A. Regeneration and the Trinity

- 1. Regeneration's plans come from the Father's mercy.  
I Peter 1:3
- 2. Regeneration's propitiation is in the work of Jesus.
- 3. Regeneration's process is from a sovereign Holy Spirit. John 3:8

#### B. Regeneration in other words.

- 1. Quickened - Ephesians 2:1
- 2. Creation - II Corinthians 5:17
- 3. Workmanship - Ephesians 2:10

#### C. Regeneration makes the Scripture effective. I Corinthians 2:12-14

- 1. Man understands Scripture because he is first made able by regeneration.
  - a. Sight is distinct from light. Acts 16:14
    - 1) Light is present in Scripture long before sight is attained.
    - 2) Regeneration gives sight so the already present light may shine in.
  - b. Provision is distinct from application.
    - 1) The Father's election and the Son's blood cannot save apart from the Spirit's regeneration.
    - 2) The sick are not healed by a prepared medicine, but an applied medicine.
- 2. Man's will is submissive to God through the Scripture by regeneration.
  - a. He obeys the Gospel. I Peter 1:2
  - b. He is led in righteous paths. Romans 8:14 CF Romans 8:4, Galatians 5:16
  - c. He develops in the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23

## **LIMITATIONS & VALUES OF CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES**

### I. The limitation of Christian evidences

#### A. The different types of Christian evidences

- 1. Supernatural sign miracles
- 2. Circumstantial evidences
  - a. Reports of conversion
  - b. Fulfilled prophecy
  - c. Archaeological light on the Bible
  - d. Historical evidence of the truth of Biblical statements.

#### B. The inabilities of sign miracles

1. They promote unregenerate belief. John 2:23-25
  - a. They believed Him, but He didn't believe in them.
  - b. He knew their heart.
  - c. Only the Holy Spirit grants regenerate belief. John 3:1-3
    - 1) Nicodemus responded good, but not in regenerate faith.
      - a) He could have said "These are spectacular feats of magic and slight of hand tricks."
      - b) He could have said, "These miracles are real, but the devil does them through Him."
    - 2) Nicodemus' good response was not enough.
      - a. He still was so far from the kingdom, he couldn't see it.
      - b. He still had not entered the kingdom.
2. They promote self gratification belief.
  - a. In the case of Herod, his miracle was a side show that would gratify him. Luke 23:8
  - b. In the case of John 6, it was food that gratified those present.
    - 1) Sounds like truth faith at first. 11-14
    - 2) Jesus exposes their heart of unbelief. 26-27, 36 CF Hebrews 11:1

## II. The value of Christian evidence

### A. Value to the believer

1. A deeper appreciation of God's power
  - a. Peter witnessed the feeding of the 5,000 and there being offended by the words of Jesus and leaving saying, "Lord, where shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life and we believe and are sure that thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."
  - b. Thomas heard of the risen Christ and empirically reasoned as he had for years before. John 20:24-29
    - 1) I appreciate the pressure you all have been under.
    - 2) I, however, still have control of myself and would of course not believe unless I could myself see.
2. Helpful background material in a study

### B. Value to the unbeliever

1. Useful conversation piece in order to present the Gospel. I Corinthians 9:19-23
2. No regeneration power Luke 16:19-31
  - a. Rich man, in great torment, was concerned for his brothers.
  - b. Lazareth, who ate his garbage, was in bliss and was known by his brothers.
  - c. Plan was to send Lazareth back from the dead as evidence.

READ: Luke 24:46-48 Mark 16:15-16 Galatians 1:6-8