

Section One – The Romans Road – Romans 10:9

First Week: Romans 3:23. For all have sinned and fall short of the __ glory __ of God.

Second Week: Romans 6:23. For the wages of sin is __ death __, but the gift of God is eternal __ life __ in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Third Week: Romans 5:8. But God shows his __ love __ for us in that while we were still __ sinners __, Christ died for us.

Last Week: Romans 10:9. Because, if you confess with your mouth that __ Jesus __ is __ Lord __ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

I. Faith - Trust in what you have good reasons to believe

A. Choose the true statements below: 1, 4

1. Our faith is a rational faith.
2. Our faith is a hopeful belief without reason.
3. Our faith is without evidence, yet we believe anyway.
4. Our faith is based in objective historical realities.

B. Read Exodus 4:1-9 and answer the below statements:

1. One sign God told Moses to offer was a __ staff __ that turned into a serpent.
2. Another sign was his __ hand __ that became leprous, then healed.
3. The last sign was that water from the Nile would be turned into __ blood __.

C. Explain the significance of what Jesus said in John 14:11.

Jesus says believe I am in the Father, and the Father is in me, but if you have doubts, look at the evidence. Believers themselves sometimes doubt, and at that point apologetics becomes useful for them even apart from its role in dialogue with unbelievers. That is to say, apologetics confronts unbelief in the believer as well as in the unbeliever.

D. What did John say in 1 John 1:3 as a reason to believe? Why is this important?

He said what he wrote many had personally seen and heard. Eyewitness testimony is real evidence that one can accept as a foundation of belief, much like that given in a court of law. In court juries find a verdict based on the preponderance of the evidence, not without a doubt, but without reasonable doubt. John is saying that that the evidence is really good if you investigate it, but if you are looking for absolute proof, you won't find it (still need a step of faith), but then there is not much in life that offers absolute proof.

II. Faith – Evidence for the Resurrection

A. Richard Dawkins claim of no evidence for the resurrection can be refuted by the following accepted historical principles:

1. Each suggested fact must be _____ **confirmed** _____ by several strong and _____ **independent** _____ arguments.
2. A vast majority of even critical scholars must recognize the occurrences _____ **historical** _____ nature.

B. Historical people who attested to the crucifixion of the historical Jesus:

1. _____ **Josephus** _____, a Jewish historian.
2. _____ **Tacitus** _____, a Roman historian.
3. _____ **Lucian** _____, a Greek satirist.

C. Name two sources of testimony for the empty tomb.

The three women mentioned in Luke 24 and Mark 16 along with the enemy testimony of the guard in Matthew 28.

D. Name people who saw the resurrected Jesus Christ.

In 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 Paul mentions Cephas, the twelve disciples, five hundred brothers, and Paul himself.

E. Explain why the explosive growth of the early church is a proof of the resurrection.

The apostles and early believers suffered all kinds of persecution and even death to proclaim the gospel. If they did not have direct evidence in the resurrection, they would have avoided the persecution.

Note the difference in this and Muslim terrorist and Japanese kamikazes. Both of them died for what they believed to be true. The disciples were in a position to actually know if the resurrection was true or not. Seldom will someone die for what they KNOW to be a lie.

III. Community Thinking

How will the thoughts of Acts 17:30-31 impact how we interact with unbelievers?

Section Two – Going Deeper -

Apologetics: What is Apologetics?

What is apologetics, and why should Christians be concerned with it?

The English word “apologetics” comes from the Greek word apologia which means “to give a reason or defense” (1 Pet. 3:15). The word apologia appears 17

times in noun or verb form in the NT, and can be translated “defense” or “vindication” in every case. The idea of offering a reasoned defense of the faith is evident in Php 1:7, 16: and especially 1 Pt 3:15, but no specific theory of apologetics is outlined in the NT.

Apologetics develop their defenses of the Christian faith in relation to scientific, historical, philosophical, ethical, religious, theological, or cultural issues. It turns out that a diversity of approaches have been taken in defining the meaning, scope, and purpose of apologetics.

Here are a few reasons to study apologetics:

Apologetics is part of both loving God “with all your mind” [Mk 12:30] and “watching your life and doctrine closely” [1Ti 4:16].

Apologetics is a part of daily life. The questions that apologetics seeks to answer are questions that come up all around us.

Apologetics helps us worship God.

Apologetics is often “pre-evangelism”.

Apologetics deepens your own trust in God.

Apologetics is an inoculation against a virus. False religions, Christian cults, atheism, skepticism, relativism, indifference, and other views or attitudes can infect people like a virus. Rather, learn why they’re false so that you won’t fall prey to them when suddenly confronted by old, long-answered objections that are simply new to you.

Doctrine

Q. 52. *How was Christ exalted in his resurrection?*

A. Christ was exalted in his resurrection, in that, not having seen corruption in death, (of which it was not possible for him to be held,) and having the very same body in which he suffered, with the essential properties thereof, (but without mortality, and other common infirmities belonging to this life,) really united to his soul, he rose again from the dead the third day by his own power; whereby he declared himself to be the Son of God, to have satisfied divine justice, to have vanquished death, and him that had the power of it, and to be Lord of quick and dead: all which he did as a public person, the head of his church, for their justification, quickening in grace, support against enemies, and to assure them of their resurrection from the dead at the last day.