

Introduction to Theology

Interpretation, Logic, and Legalism

foreword

There are those that are very critical and skeptical of what I'm saying. Then they see God move and say, "But—" and "buts" are always in the way, have you noticed that? Everybody has a but that's in the way, ha. I need you not to come full, but a little empty today. You don't know it all, we don't either, so I don't want you to have that mentality.

People leave from these teachings like that, I promise you. People didn't receive because they thought they knew it all. Lose the little bit that you think you know, for a little bit, and review this teaching—*then* be a skeptic. You'll see everything that we are saying here is scripture. I just want you to be in a receptive mode.

Stop comparing. A lot of times we miss what God wants to give us because we compare it to something else. The Bible says that it's unwise to compare yourself with another, so it's unwise to do the same with what you are receiving (**2Co 10:12**). I need you not to compare. We are the Body of Christ, aren't we? When you're the Body you can receive from each other.

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who [are] spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. - Gal 6:1 NKJV

Let's not let down brothers and sisters. I visited a church and the pastor was not preaching or teaching the Word correctly. The members downed their pastors though he was a real man of God and saved. They ended up missing the message of the Lord that he had for that season because they wanted something else.

Often times we want something else when He gives us what we need. What do you do when your leaders are in the flesh? You pray. I'm not saying our leadership is in the flesh, don't get crazy. Many of you go to work and have your criticisms of your boss, but you don't know what kind of warfare they are under.

God is about to give you something so valuable and we need to value things more. We want blessings and increase but how are you taking care of things you have now? Someone asked me to pray that they would get a new car. I asked them to show me the car they have now, "You want a new one?! This thing is messy—is that rat?!" It was just a blob of hair that looked like a rodent.

You have to value what you have, no matter how little. Have you been poor before? Didn't you value those Ramen noodles? You learned how to cook them all kinds of ways; with chicken, hot dogs, vegetables, etc. You know I ain't lying because I can relate. Start taking the time to say, "God, it could have been worse."

With value comes God's approval: "Now you are ready to move forward." The children of Israel were free but still bound. They were wandering for 40 years when it could have just took them a few days (**Deu 1:2**). It wasn't until they stopped complaining that their wandering ceased.

Complaining will keep you in the same spot. When you compare you find complaint, and because of disbelief we compare. Let me explain. Disbelief will have you think, "What are they *really* doing? They must be doing something else on the side. This person has to be corrupt." Disbelief has a belief, it's just the wrong way [of thinking]. Belief is knowing God said, "I put this in you."

I want you to have an open heart. We try to re-test things that have been proven yet we receive things that have not been proven. Isn't that weird? Remember when Jesus marveled at the faith of the Centurion soldier? He said, "I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel" (**Mat 8:10**). Jesus had moments in time when He couldn't believe the unbelief, as well as the belief in His Father.

Whenever I would travel to this particular place, I always prophesied to this one man. All of his prophecies came to pass he said, "But I still question." "Wow, *really*? How do you do that?" I was amazed. "What got you here? You've seen everything come to pass and even your marriage was restored through the prophetic ministry. What happened?"

He said something that taught a lot: "I compared you to other prophets that I had heard of." "But did anything they say come to pass?" "No." "Okay, then you need to begin tracking what is being said. The Lord said when the word of the prophet comes forth, you have to give an account of that, a report (**1Co 14:24-26**)."

We hear so much from so many people we don't know how to track what is said. You have to track what is said, that is how you differ between what is true and false. When you don't track what is said it becomes other people's opinions because you compare to all that you have already heard.

Have you ever had someone tell you what you didn't want to hear and it always came to pass? You didn't want to hear it because it wasn't what you wanted. I asked God to hear Him and He said everything that I didn't want to hear. He was showing me that it wasn't about me. "It's not about you. It's about Me changing you and who you are so that I'm more attracted to you." God is attracted to Himself in you. In Him we live and move and have our being, not I but Christ that lives within me (**Act 17:28; Gal 2:20**).

God wants to take you to the next level, place, realm, and dimension. I feel you have to hunger—God answers hunger. Comparison means that you are not hungry. When you had nothing but those Ramen noodles did you say, "This ain't a steak so I don't want it?" You tore them noodles up because you were starving. Stop comparing this to what you have read before and start grabbing hold to the real meat of the Word.

Many times we talk in the prophetic language but today we want to see a gap bridged. We've talked about the highest form of worship, knowing the word, etc., but now you have to understand how to get to that knowledge. We want you to know how to rightly divide the Word, to understand what you're reading, and know the intentions of the author (**2Ti 2:15**).

We can read books without getting the author's intention or know where he was coming from. God makes it clear where He was coming from, you just have to understand certain things. See how to flow with the Kingdom and not what you've already known in your natural self.

*Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. - **2Co 4:1-4 NKJV***

The god of this world has blinded their *minds*, not the eyes, and has taken them captive to do his will (**2Ti 2:26**). That is powerful because we are born into sin, so he was able to captivate us. So God said, "I come and knock at the door of your heart" (**Rev 3:20**). We were called children of darkness at that time but now we are children of light (**Eph 5:8**). Light means that He made something visible to us.

Satan's job is blocking your belief in the truth of God in every way that is exposed to you. Every time you hear truth, it's his job to block it. His job is to take you where you can't see the truth. Remember the one who washed his hands of Jesus' crucifixion? He said, "I'm washing me hands of this, I don't want any part. I don't understand truth" (**Mat 27:24; Jhn 18:38**). His wife told him that he just has to know truth. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" because He knew just how religious they were (**Jhn 14:6**).

The Tabernacle had three different doors for the outer court, inner court and the Holy of Holies. On each door post was written, "The Way, The Truth, The Life." This is the *way* into God's presence (outer courts), the inner court was the *truth* of God, and the Holy of Holies was the *life* with God. That's what the Tabernacle was all about, having life *with* God. But Jesus said, "Hey—you don't need a tabernacle. I *am* the tabernacle now."

If you're going to heaven don't you want to know what it's about? You need to know how the Kingdom works. When you're praying you tend to feel sleepy, dizzy, or you just don't feel God because you don't understand these principles. You have been given authority because God has revealed Himself to you. He ripped the veil in half to show that the presence of God wasn't there (**Mat 27:51**). The presence was already on the cross, dying.

Today God is saying, "I want to take off every religious veil that you have, everything that fights Me. And I want to take you out of your logic and into a Kingdom mindset, that you would have the mind of Christ" (**1Co 2:16**). God uses foolish to counteract our logic (**1Co 1:27**).

Since the disciples couldn't see how things were adding up for them Jesus said, "Go get it out of the fish's mouth" (**Mat 17:27**). Elisha told the Naaman to dip himself in the pool seven times (**2Ki 5:14**). He did something that was illogical to come against their logic because he was trying to show them how the Kingdom works. God tells you how the Kingdom works all the time through your dreams.

Your dreams aren't logical, are they? While a vision is more literal, a dream is more symbolic. You are being introduced to the Kingdom every time you fall asleep. He's trying to change you, just as he did Pharaoh. Pharaoh had the dream of the seven cows that were fat and another seven that were sick, but couldn't understand it (**Gen 41:1-40**). No one could tell him the dream because no one had a Kingdom mindset.

When you have a Kingdom mindset you begin to understand the mysteries of the Kingdom. The disciples asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" "Because the secrets of the Kingdom are made known to you. But to them it comes by means of parables so they can see but not see, hear and not hear" (**Mat 13:10-13**).

This is why the enemy distracts you, tires you, and lets you hear all of this. The god of the world blinds you and tries to keep you from getting what is given out. If you get it you will become dangerous to the little god of this world.

"How do you get sharpened in your gift?" You have to understand the Kingdom better because God always wants to reveal Himself. That's why we pray, "Let Your Kingdom come, let Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven" (**Mat 6:10**). The Kingdom has its own logic: "Give me nothing and I will make something. I don't even need anything, I can stand on my own. 300 is better than 3000. Two are better than one."

God is going to show in signs, wonders, and miracles (**Heb 2:4**). We have been given Holy Spirit, right? Jesus said, "I will make known the secret things and bring back to your remembrance the teachings of Christ" (**Jhn 14:26**). Why are we not remembering? I can tell when you don't have the mindset of the Kingdom. It's when you start worrying about bills and stuff—that's low level.

Poverty is the result of a lack of provision, that's our fault. Jesus even dealt with that with His disciples. "We are not poor. Go catch that fish and get the coin out of its mouth" (**Mat 17:27**). The Kingdom says, "We have access to everything we need." All you have to do is *believe* for it and it will be.

Jesus marveled at the Centurion's faith when he said just send the word (**Mat 8:8**). "Wait-a-minute! Someone gets this Kingdom thing? You believe like that?" Jesus was in front of His disciples when He said, "I have never seen this kind of faith in Israel" (**Mat 8:10**). You can still make Him marvel.

That was my foundation set for my wife. Now you will be receiving my lovely wife's teaching. Are you ready?

apologetics

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always [be] ready to [give] a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. - **1Pe 3:15-16 NKJV***

The word “ask” in the greek is “apologia,” the root word of “apologetics.” It has nothing do with *apologizing*, but apologetics is to defend. It is the defense of the Christian faith. What does this have to do with the scripture?

If someone asks you, “What proof do you have that God exists?” Or “If God is all powerful and all good, why is there evil in the world?” You can defend your faith without becoming defensive. You can argue your faith without being argumentative. There is a difference. The more emotional you are about what you believe and why you believe what you believe, the less likely people are to respond to what you have to say. Faith is not based on emotions and feelings, its based on truth.

The Bible does say, “Avoid foolish and unlearned questions” (**2Ti 2:23**). If you’re talking with someone and you know they are baiting you or getting under your skin, you don’t even pay attention to that. I’m talking about someone who is actually wanting to know more about your belief and needs more than, “I got some goosebumps last Sunday.” The purposes of apologetics and knowing the Word of God is not so that you can be boastful, prideful, or look down your spiritual nose at folks who may not know the Bible as well as you do—it is to defend the Faith.

*While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" - **Act 17:16-19 NIV***

Here we have Paul having a back-and-forth discussion about the scriptures. These were not your average atheists but all-out philosophers and theologians. Epicurus was an ancient greek philosopher who taught that pleasure and satisfaction were life's greatest accomplishments. Stoics were followers of Zeno, who taught virtue and knowledge were the end of existence. Stoicism became the foremost popular philosophy among the educated elite in the Hellenistic world and the Roman Empire. So these philosophers were those in the upper class of society, Paul *had* to know what he was talking about in order to refute what they were saying.

hermeneutics

Hermeneutics is the Bible’s interpretation. Let me make this point: the Bible is not a book of dark mysteries, and riddles. He is not a God of confusion, but of clarity (**1Co 14:33**). He has not spoken in order to conceal, but to be understood and known. He doesn’t take any pleasure in you not understanding the Bible. I want to give you four ways to help you interpret scripture.

1. You have to get the heart of the author. It amazes me how many people try to pick up the Bible and try to read it without consulting the author, Holy Spirit. Men, as they were moved by the Spirit, wrote the actual text (**2Ti 3:16**). They try to read the scripture with no guidance and wonder why they come away with 10,000 different doctrines and religions. God said, “You have to know the heart of the author.” If you read something in scripture and it seems contradictory, you should know (by the heart of God) what He would and wouldn’t say. Don’t expect to be able to understand the Bible, or any book for that matter, if you don’t know anything about the author. It’s just that simple.

2. Exegesis and Eisegesis. When you are interpreting the scripture, you always want to use exegesis. The “ex-” means out, the “eis-” means in, and “-gesis” means to lead or guide. So exegesis is when you are reading scripture and you draw the meaning out. You read it for what it says, rightly dividing the word of truth (**2Ti 2:15**).

Eisegesis is what a lot of cults do. When practicing eisegesis, you can make the Bible say whatever you want it to say because you are putting your ideas into the Bible. I’d say the practice of eisegesis is one of the things that make a cult a cult. Just because someone comes away with a misinterpretation does not mean that they are in a cult. But if someone is in a cult chances are there is some level of eisegesis going on.

3. Allow scripture to interpret scripture. A correct interpretation of scripture will always be consistent with the Bible as a whole. Remember when Satan tempted Jesus? “Hey, if you’re the son of God, throw yourself down because the bible says that God will give his angels charge over you and that you won’t even dash your foot on a stone.” But Jesus, “**BUT IT IS ALSO WRITTEN**, Thou shall not tempt the Lord your God.” Jesus used scripture to interpret scripture. He said, “Look I know you just quoted a scripture and all that, but when we take a look at a scripture as a whole, we both know that you are missing the intent of that scripture” (**Luke 4:1-13**).

4. Use the context of the scripture to correctly interpret the text. This is the most important thing because the context of a passage is absolutely critical to properly interpreting the Bible. Remember when you were in school and you didn’t know a word? You had to read around it and use context clues to help define that word. It works the same way with the Bible.

Every word in the Bible is part of a verse.

Every verse is part of a paragraph.

Every paragraph is part of a book.

Every book is part of the Bible (66 books).

You cannot isolate and divorce a text from its context or the scriptures around it. Interpreting a verse apart from its context is like trying to analyze the President's speech by listening to a short sound bite. You’ll leave with a misinterpretation of what was said because you never got the whole picture.

My husband and I were watching a documentary of a pastor who was molesting his daughter using scripture (he clearly was not saved). He took the text about Lot's daughters laying with their father and he showed it to his daughter (**Gen 19:35**). "It's here in the Bible so God approves of this." She didn't know any better, but any body who has read the Old Testament knows that God condemned incest (**Lev 18:6**). He used the Bible to manipulate her to do what he wanted her to do.

"As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep." - Jhn 10:15 NKJV

Jesus said He laid His life down for who? (the sheep) Who's the sheep? (we are) Who did He die for? (us) Us who? (His children) He didn't die for the rest of the world? (yes) Well which one is it, did He die for the world or for His sheep? (the world) Then the whole world is His sheep? (class laughs nervously)

This is a serious question: did Jesus die just for us or for the entire world? (The entire world) Well, the scripture right here says that He died for His sheep. Okay, remember #3? Allow scripture to interpret itself. This doctrine is called "Limited Atonement," the belief that Jesus only died for a select few of us. He didn't die for the sinners or the rest of the world.

I don't believe this doctrine. There are countless scripture that counteract this belief but I asked so that you will see what you face. You can't look stupid at people trying to find an answer. You can't convince somebody of what you don't know.

You need scripture to back up what you're saying. The Bible says that in the last days, deception is going to be so strong that even if it were possible the very elect would be deceived (**Mat 24:24**). It's not possible, but *if* it were possible they would be deceived. So, back to the question. If He died for everybody, why isn't everyone saved?

1Jo 2:2 says, "And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world." **1Ti 2:6** says that Jesus "gave Himself a ransom for all." The forgiveness of sins does not occur until a person turns from His sins to the Lord and places His trust in Jesus (**Act 17:30; Jhn 3:16, 1Jo 5:12**). Atonement is the reparation of sin, or the right of the wrong. Christ's atonement is unlimited, but its application is limited only to those who believe.

Atonement also means to become one, *at one*. When He atoned for our sins He allowed us to become one again: "Abide in Me, and I in you" (**Jhn 15:7**). Abiding is about being one. Salvation is just like a \$1M check that is never cashed, instead you remain poor. That was on you, not me. I made it available—you need to take the next step (go to the bank).

theologies

Central are the things that binds the body of Christ together to the exclusion of other religions. This is important because when we talk about central theology, we are talking about things that define you as a Christian and that separate Christians from other religions. If you don't have the central theology correct you are not saved.

For example, Muslims do not believe that Jesus was God or the Son of God, but that He was merely a prophet. And Mormons believe that Jesus was not conceived of the Holy Spirit like the Bible teaches. They believe that Jesus is not GOD, but a god among many (thousands). Jesus was very clear about who He was, which is why the Jews killed him. They accused him of blasphemy AND of being demon possessed because He said:

"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw [it] and was glad." Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." - Jhn 8:56-58 NKJV

The reason why this is important is because Jesus said, "Listen if anyone comes after Me and they are preaching another gospel, another Jesus, He is accursed" (**Gal 1:8**). This word accursed is "anathema" in the Greek—person or thing doomed to destruction (G331). You have to have the right Jesus when it comes to being saved. There is not salvation in any other name.

Peripheral theologies are things that are certainly important to know but whether you fall on one side or another of the discussion, it doesn't matter in the scheme of things. I'm not talking about other religions. It doesn't matter if you drink grape juice or wine during communion. These issues should not be a point of division.

Some people believe that you can be saved then lost, saved then lost, and then saved again. Others believe that once you've been saved, you're saved forever—and that's fine. The point I want to make is that it's not only foolishness but counter-productive to argue about these things which will allow these things to become a point of division between and another brother or sister in Christ.

*For there must be also heresies (differences **NIV**) among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you ... Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. - **1Co 11:19; 2Ti 2:15 KJV***

Our job is to evangelize the lost. If we get stuck in a place of trying to be right and constantly trying to correct and rebuke everyone who doesn't agree with us, then we will put the lost on the back-burner. The purpose of these teachings and of learning true theology is not so that we can break out the spiritual measuring stick: "Well, I know more than him and I'm right he is wrong."

Hopefully we are able to engage someone in a mature christian-like manner and open the doors to discussion so that you, assuming your views are biblically correct, can show them a more excellent way or biblical view. If you are incorrect then *you* can be taught the correct interpretation of scripture.

We want that door of communication open and not *demonize* other Christians just because they don't believe the way you believe. I'm talking about Baptists, Lutherans, and different denominations within Christianity and how we demonize them because they don't believe the way we've been taught. "They don't know what they talking about," instead of taking the mature approach like Paul did.

I believe, until Jesus comes back, people are going to have disagreements about scripture. It doesn't mean that one is wrong and the other is right. There are some areas of scripture that we just don't know and we don't want to start reading things *into* the Bible just to prove a point. That's when people get off into false doctrine.

Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately. When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers and sisters encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. When he arrived, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. For he vigorously refuted his Jewish opponents in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah. - Act 18:24-28 NIV

Apollos was under someone, like a Pastor, and instructed *accurately*. He didn't know about the Holy Spirit but preached Jesus via the baptism of John. Priscilla and Aquila didn't say, "No you're wrong! You need to come on over here and let me show you what's right." No, some texts say they showed him a more excellent way.

That's not something that you see everyday: people who actually know what they are talking about with their Bible open and refuting things. What we're doing now is a little bit cowardly. We just let people say whatever, we don't take the time to educate ourselves or become students of the Word.

This is why more and more Christians think that same-sex marriage is okay or homosexuality is okay. We are becoming so lackadaisical about the things that are going on right now because we don't to offend anyone or be *judgmental*. But, it says here that Apollo *vigorously* refuted them—he was embarrassing them!

faith and theory

Logic is the investigation of the principles governing correct or reliable inference. To infer means to deduce or conclude something based on the evidence. This is where we get theories from. The word theory in Greek actually means *sight* or to *see* something.

The Big Bang theory and theory of Evolution are based on what we currently see. No one actually saw the Big Bang or the evolution of the ape to human, but what we do see is what is here before us. These theories do not allow for a higher power or God to have created something because theory is based *only* on what you *see*. If they were based on what we don't see, then they would have to admit, that an Intelligent Creator is at least a possibility.

The Church has been preached dumb. There has been a lot of preaching emotionally and we have become dumb because we don't know how to rightly divide the word. We don't know how to combat science, logical thinker, theologian, and atheists. This is key stuff that we are talking about that will help you when running into those who are intelligent. Have you ever talked to someone who made you question yourself or your relationship with God? It's because you weren't *sure* of yourself.

faith: evidence of things *unseen*

theory: evidence of things that *are seen*

Faith and theory are not necessarily contrary. Sure they can co-exist, but you'll have a conflict of interests real quick. LOGIC and THEORY keep a lot of people from believing the Gospel. However, logic can also give you a way to explain your faith.

When you are accused of something in the court of law you are brought before the judge, jury, and lawyers. They have a theory of how you committed your crime and the *evidence*, that people can see, to prove it. "At the scene of the crime we found his finger prints, hair, etc." Then they will look for an *eye-witness* who saw you do and ask them, "What did you see?"

They are not concerned with the thousands of people who didn't see you do it. They want one person who saw you in order to match up with their theory. Then they prove to the court their theory, "We think he did it this way and here is the evidence to prove that. We saw this, this witness saw that, etc." Theories are evidence of things seen.

Logic is great in that it can help you to understand and grasp some things that you already believe by faith. But logic is limited and if you rely too heavily on logic, there is no room for faith to operate. And if someone says something to you that seems more logical or makes more sense than what you currently believe, you can be *swayed* by every wind of doctrine (**Eph 4:14**). This is why you hear about people who *were* Christians and then became atheists. It's not that they were *saved* and then changed their mind and got *unsaved*. They were never operating in a place of FAITH. They were operating in a place of LOGIC. The bible says we are saved by FAITH (**Eph 2:8**)!

This is why humanism and secularism are so wrong. Humanism is a system of values and beliefs that is based on the idea that people are basically good and that problems can be solved using reason instead of religion. Secularism the belief that religion should not play a role in government, education, or other public parts of society.

Not simply because they don't believe the Bible, but because they rely solely on logic and reason. There is no room for faith to operate, nor is there anything spiritual about it. It is all based on logic and reason. *Some* logic is good, the Bible says that Paul *reasoned* with them (**Act 17:2; 18:4**).

logic and fallacies

All oranges are fruits.

All fruits grow on trees.

Therefore, all oranges grow on trees.

Let's assume that I'm correct on my premises and deduction that all fruits grow on trees. I just used two logical premises to come to a "logical" conclusion. This is how logic works.

Harold is a grandfather.

Harold is bald.

Therefore, all grandfathers are bald.

“What? Why not? Well you can’t talk to me about no evidence because you’re a Christian. You don’t know if the Bible is true or not, you just believe that by faith. You don’t need evidence do you?” (Class laughs nervously) This is how people talk; atheists, humanists, etc.

If I wasn’t a Christian I would want some kind of evidence too! You told me that you went to church on Sunday and had a little goose-bump sensation, that doesn’t prove anything to me. That’s your emotions and flesh, that proves nothing to me. I want to know why you need evidence, why did you come to the conclusion that you came to? Ok, I’m going to leave that alone. Here’s the last one:

The fuel light goes on in my car.
I soon run out of gas.
Therefore, the fuel light causes my car to run out of gas.

Why are ya’ll looking at me like that? (because it was a lack of gas in the car) Well, how do you know that? (because I’m a mechanic, class laughs) Just because you’re a mechanic doesn’t mean your right! (let me drop the gas tank and I’ll show you, it’s empty)

The reason for these examples is to show what people do with scripture and that you understand how logic applies. It’s not logical that a man was beat beyond recognition to the point of death, was buried, then rose from his death with a few days later and had barely a few scratches and was walking through walls. That does not make sense to the natural mind.

Because we’ve never seen anything like that before, we have to conclude it didn’t happen. Where’s the evidence? No, it doesn’t make sense because “sense” is a human emotion. It’s your perception. That’s why one person will say, “Oh that makes sense” while another will say, “No, it doesn’t make sense to me.”

logic has limitations

The Bible says the carnal man cannot understand the things of the Spirit (**1Co 2:14**). So if you’re talking to an atheist in the attempt to explain the resurrection they will ask, “You actually believe that?” I replied, “You believe evolution?” “Yeah, I believe that we descended from apes.” “Now that explains a lot. Maybe *you* descended from an ape ...”

Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth (God’s job), and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will. - 2Ti 2:25-26 NIV

Please understand the limitations of logic: Some people will not be converted no matter how logically you present the scriptures. Remember that they have been blinded by a really strong delusion or they have hardened hearts (**2Co 4:4**). Your job is to *gently* instruct and God’s job is to convict, don’t get it twisted. You have to allow the Holy Spirit to convict the hearts of the person and remove the blinders.

I see a lot of people frustrated because they don't see people converting, that's not your job. Your job is to present the information; the revelation of who He is and why you believe what you believe. If you're trying to convict people then you are out of bounds in the Spirit and the natural. That's the Holy Spirit's job, "with thy loving kindness have I drawn thee" (**Jer 31:3**). It's by the Spirit that people are *drawn*—you have to get out of the way of God.

I've seen others try to *bribe* people in giving their life to Christ. That's not how you win souls because you'll have them there logically but not spiritually. Logic has limitations. If you rely too heavily on logic there will be no room for faith. People don't get saved by logic, but faith. Logically it doesn't make sense that five loaves and two fish could feed 5,000 men *plus* women and children (**Mat 14:13-21**). The Spirit sees what we logically have yet operates in the Kingdom that flips logic upside down in order to feed 25,000 out of 2 and 5.

God is alogical, being outside the bounds of that to which logic can apply. God does not have limitations, you cannot apply logic to God. God is spirit, logic only works in the natural.

legalism

*Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise [herself] up. But when Jesus saw her, He called [her] to [Him] and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid [His] hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead [it] away to water it? "So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound--think of it--for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him. - **Luk 13:10-17 NKJV***

Jesus heals this crippled old lady and you would think, in presence of Christians, there would be amazement and "praise God." But instead the *synagogue leaders* said, "Ain't nobody got time for that! It's the Sabbath! You need to go sit down somewhere and get healed on a different day!" That right there is the *epitome* legalism.

I've seen people do this, by the way. People come to service and get healed, saved, set free, delivered, then after service be like, "There was a woman up there preaching, did you see that? You know the Bible says that women need to SHUT UP and go somewhere and sit down. What she doing up there preaching?" While heaven is rejoicing and having a party, the legalist is worried about the vessel that God is using.

God spoke to me when I was in the midst of great healing movement. There were some religious people there that had a problem with it. They didn't like the manner of which it was happening—it wasn't in *their* order. God said, "Religion is disgusted when the heavens are opened while those by My Spirit are welcoming the down pour. Religion tries to find fault."

Even when the Spirit of God moves you would think everyone would welcome that. Remember the woman who wiped the feet of Jesus? There was an open heaven even then because He told her “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” But a Pharisee said, “If this man knew who this woman was he wouldn’t let her touch Him” (**Luk 7:38-50**). Religion doesn’t like the heavens open because it can’t control that.

Religion tries to be spiritual but is purely logical—it’s a facade. They were amazed when Jesus was twelve, sitting in the midst of the teachers listening and asking questions. They were astonished because they were always logically talking. But Jesus matched them logically and was bringing them up spiritually (**Luk 2:46-47**).

“Yea, you know all of things but you don’t know that I come to fulfill all of it. I’m going to help you with your logic because the letter killeth but the Spirit giveth life (**2Co 3:6**). I’m trying to bring you life because you’re dying. You’re so religious that you don’t know that heavens have opened up in your very midst.” When Jesus comes on the scene He brings the Word to life.

People can’t go into things (works, ministry, etc.) with their own agenda, legalistically. Legalistic people have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof (**2Ti 3:5**). The power of God is that of conversion and to move the earth for Heaven. That’s why He said pray this: “My Kingdom come, My will be done” (**Mat 6:10**). If you pray it that is the power of God because we get to see logic turned upside down. We see blind eyes opened and miracles happen because it is natural in the spirit realm, while this is all illogical in the earth realm.

You know how I can tell that some of us are logical Christians? If I tell you, “Let’s go to the hospital to see people get healed.” And you pray, “If it be God’s will ...” What really happened was fear. Because you have never seen healing happen before and logic goes by what it knows. Logically $2+2=4$ and $3+3=6$ because we have seen that number do that. What we haven’t seen is how 1 puts 1,000 to flight and how 2 puts 10,000 to flight (**Deu 32:20**).

That’s not even right math in our sight. We operate by what we have *seen* before while the Kingdom shows us something that we have never seen. I used to ask God, “Why didn’t Peter, or did he, walk on water again?” (**Mat 14:29**) You know what He told me in a dream? “Why is there a need to do something that was already done? You have to understand how Heaven works, We were moving on to the next thing.” Logically you would go back and retry it, right? Yet, he *did* walk on water so it had been done. They were moving onto the next thing and said, “Let them see the power of the resurrection.” Paul said, “I want to know Him ...” (**Phl 3:10**)

You can always tell where someone is by how they pray. “God, please ... God can you ... God if it be Your will.” We’re supposed to have a relationship with God that we *know* the will. When I’m going to the hospital and I am to pray for someone, He will tell me if they’re going to make it or not. He will straight up tell me and I will pray in that direction, I’m not asking, hoping, or wishing.

When I saw healing for the first time in Brazil it was very new to me. I've never seen a man's eye restored back in its socket, but it was Heaven saying, "The Kingdom is here. It has everything that you need and what you don't know that you need. I'm going to show something that is seen and unseen."

subtle legalisms

Some of us have a form of legalism that is not as "bad" as it is defined, like a subtle legalism. Someone comes to and you question what they are wearing. You see someone smoking and think, "They still struggling with cigarettes?" because you don't struggle with it. Remember *God* convicts, not you, our job is to instruct *gently*.

I'm not condoning cigarettes but if you hold people to a standard or to your own conviction, you become a legalist. It'll start with "I can't believe she is still struggling with that." Then "If they are smoking they *can't* be saved." And then you'll conclude "Everyone who smokes is going to hell." That's what we do and I've seen people do it.

We have to get to the point of asking "Where is that in the Bible?" I had a friend who's Pastor reprimanded her for wearing pants, preventing her to participate in worship at her church. "What? What are you talking about?" I questioned. "Well, the Bible says that women are not allowed to wear pants." "Where is that in the Bible?"

She then showed me in **Deu 22:5**, that men should not dress as women and vice versa, but had nothing to do with "pants." Remember, the Bible was not written in English or in America. You can't try to interpret the Bible, an ancient script, with a modern day mindset—you'll come away wrong every time.

In the minds of her pastors, pants were men's wear and skirts were women's wear. But in those days neither sex wore pants because they didn't exist. They had garments of robes, it was a cultural thing. We say, "Man that looks like a skirt" but kilts are a part of their tradition. They're not wearing women's clothing, that's a man's garment.

So what they did was take a scripture and divorce it from the rest of the Bible. I said, "Well, what about these other scriptures? Are ya'll still sacrificing animals and doing all the other laws of the Old Testament?" "No, no—it's just this one." "But the Bible says that if you keep the Law, which you don't *have* to but more than welcome to, and you break one you're guilty of breaking all of it (**Jas 2:10**). Why even try to do that?"

I took her to the New Testament and shared scriptures but she had a hard time receiving. She had been taught this for so long. They took one scripture out of context and had her jacked up. Then she told me, "I don't feel convicted when I wear pants. God never told me to stop wearing pants." "ARE YOU SERIOUS?" That was mind boggling.

water baptism

“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” - Mar 16:16 NKJV

There it is, if you do not get baptized you cannot be saved. (It didn't say, “You *have to be* baptized”) Remember what we said about how letting the scripture interpret scripture? **Rom 10:9** says you will be saved by confession and belief of the Lord Jesus and His resurrection. This was a great answer, but isn't this a contradiction? **Mar 16:16** says be baptized, believe and will be saved.

And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. - Act 16:30-32 NKJV

Jesus didn't say, “He who is not baptized will be condemned.” Neither did He say, “He who does not believe and is not baptized will be condemned.” By this our Lord made it clear that faith alone was necessary to avoid eternal condemnation. He said the same thing throughout the book of John:

“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God ... he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life ... He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me.” But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. - Jhn 3:18; 5:24; 12:44; 20:31 NKJV

Now that we have allowed scripture to interpret scripture, the previous texts did not mention baptism. It's important that you noticed in **Mar 16:16** that the only condition of condemnation was the unbelief, the same for **Jhn 3:18**. So why did they mention baptism? He was making a statement: “He who is baptized and believes will be saved.” He didn't say you *have to be* baptized in order to be saved.

Don't misunderstand, if you're saved you are to be baptized (**Jhn 3:5**)—that's scripture right? But the Bible never makes it a *requirement* for salvation. I want to make this clear with this statement: “Whoever believes and lives in Texas will be saved, but those that do not believe are condemned.” This doesn't mean that those in California can't be saved, or people who live elsewhere for that matter. My statement didn't say that neither did **Mar 16:16**.

This is what we are talking about, how logic tries to conclude a fallacy. They tried to apply logic to that scripture and it failed. They tried to make it something that it did not say when Jesus was only making a statement. Baptism is not a condition of salvation but one *related* to salvation (**Mar 16:16**).

If I said, “Having a fever and vomiting means that you are sick” (just a statement). It would be incorrect and illogical to conclude from my statement that having a fever and vomiting is *required* for being sick. You may or may not have a fever, vomit, or have any symptoms at all. Fever and vomiting is *related* to being sick, but not *required*.

You don't get baptized to get saved, you get baptized because you are saved. It cannot be denied that certainly the Bible teaches that all believers everywhere should be baptized and that if you read the book of **Acts**, you will see that almost always after a conversion, the people were baptized shortly thereafter.

Baptism is not a prerequisite, the thief on the cross was not baptized (**Luk 23:39-43**). They didn't take him down and say, "Hold on! We gotta find some water!" The jailer asked the apostle Paul "What do I have to do to get saved?" "Believe on the Lord Jesus then you and your household will be saved" (**Act 16:30-32**). Now either Paul was lying and purposely misleading this man, or baptism is not a requirement for salvation.

See how it easy it is to take a scripture out of context and apply (infer) what you think it means (eisegesis)? "That makes sense. Why else would they mention baptism and salvation in the same sentence," right? Remember about having the heart of the author? I can't imagine that God, with His love, grace and mercy, would turn someone away.

For instance, someone in a third-world Muslim country where Christianity is outlawed and you are killed if seen with a Bible. Maybe they heard the Gospel somehow, someway, and they knew that the Muslim stuff was false. "I believe in Jesus the Christ." But they didn't have a Bible, didn't get baptized, not tithing or going to church. They believed in their heart and confessed Jesus. I can't imagine them going to Heaven and God saying, "Oh I'm sorry, you didn't get baptized. I have a list here and you didn't make it. You did not get in that water."

God is not that legalistic! Yes, He wants you to obey. Obedience is a great thing, it is better than sacrifice (**1Sa 15:22**). The scripture says be baptized, but you get baptized because you're saved—not to get saved. That's what the Bible teaches, I didn't say it.

Questions

how do you explain dinosaurs?

I explained to an atheist that the book of Genesis records the creeping, crawling thing that came out of the sea first. Then there was the word “whale” that actually means dragon, sea monster, and leviathan (**Gen1:21**). Those were synonymous to our term of “dinosaur.”

People take literal stances on scripture. For instance, it is said that a day with the Lord is like a thousand years (**Psa 90:4**). So logically thinking, a day is a thousand years—but God didn’t say that. He said it is *like* a thousand years, a day is longer to God. He says, “Hey, I was just giving you a point of reference.”

Whenever God uses “a thousand” means it’s such a numerous number that He has give a word to fit our scope of thinking. He also said, “I own the cattle on a thousand hills” (**Psa 50:10**). He was telling them that He owns everything but people will go and try to count a thousand. “Well, this is 1,001 right here ...”

Read the book of Job, specifically **Job 40:15-24** with a concordance. You have to understand that “dinosaur” is an english word, *our* word. The Bible wasn’t written in english so that word won’t be found. Read it in context and interpret it in light of what we know about the Bible.

Another point to make is that the Bible is not a science book. The purpose of the Word was not for God to give us information to refute evolution. I believe there is sufficient information there, along with other things, to help you with that but the Bible didn’t address those specific things. The Word was about God’s relationship with man. God didn’t go in detail about how He created anything, just that He spoke and the world appeared (**Gen 1**).

When you look in Heaven and the faces of the angels, they were all from things that are on earth (**Eze 10:14**). God said, “I made you in My likeness and image. Because I had a garden I gave you a garden” (**Gen 1:26; 2:15**). Since you are a reflection you are supposed to have everything around the one you are reflecting.

Even Satan was known as the dragon and serpent (**Rev 12**). Everything had a point of reference from heaven. God talked about the sons of God as the stars, then comes back and called us the stars of God (**Job 38:7; Phl 2:25**). It’s a matter of reflection, Earth is supposed to reflect Heaven. Jesus said, “I do nothing of Myself but what I see My Father doing” (**Jhn 5:19**). We don’t have four-headed animals but He gave us a point of reference to have His reflection, what He has.

if God is so good, why do we have so much evil in the world?

(this question is from the teacher for the class to respond)

“In the beginning He gave us dominion over the earth, for us to take control (**Gen 1:26**). God is only involved when we *allow* Him to be involved. Evil is only in the world because man *himself* is evil. In knowing that, God doesn’t control all that goes on in the earth, we *allow* things to go on; our desires, our nature, etc. When we pray we *allow* God to intervene.”

That was a great answer! I want to add to that, I think that evil is *proof* of God's existence. Reason being, without a moral law giver how can you say that something is evil? What are you comparing it to? If everyone in the whole world was super-model gorgeous, you wouldn't have anyone who was "gorgeous" because you don't have any "normal" people to compare to. Think about it, everyone would be just "normal" or average in their beauty.

Without a moral law of what is right and wrong, how can you say that something is evil? Who told you that? If there is no moral law giver then it would all be relative. You may say it's wrong to rape people but that's your opinion. Who told you that was evil?

That's what you have to go back to. Why would an atheist even say that? "Who gave you that idea?" God told us that, that's where we get those morals from (**Exo 20**). There is a consensus that murder is bad, right? That's why people go to jail and/or receive capital punishment. There is a consensus that you don't rape people, steal, etc. Everybody knows that these are bad, we don't even need laws to tell us that—we *know*.

We who are saved don't go out and murder, rape, etc. because the government says it's wrong but because God says it's wrong. He said, "Nature teaches you some things" (**1Co 11:14**). When the government talks about legalizing this or that, it doesn't matter. I don't need them to tell me not to smoke crack. I'm not going to do it because it's wrong but because my body is a temple (**1Co 6:19**).

I have a moral compass that God gave to *everyone*. That's why everybody can agree murder is morally wrong, not the lawfully—that's where the law got it from. Without a moral law giver there is no evil, there is no good. Unless you have something to compare that to. Our youngest daughter, who's one year old, stops right in her tracks when we say, "No." She experiences shame and even conviction at one. Indeed, we all have a moral compass.

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