

Apologetics 2.1- Framing the Truth Pt 1 Transcription

Okay what we're going to be talking today about is of course defending the faith. Last week we covered the four key colors which represent the four major issues that prove who Jesus is-Red meaning that His blood covers sin, white that He is sinless, blue that He is God, and purple that He is the only mediator. Now we also covered last week three styles of witnessing to people. And you can go on our internet site if you want to see that. The very first style is that of Daniel who was a man who had tact, he was gentle, he had wisdom. The second is the style of Jesus He asked a lot of questions whenever somebody asked Him a question He answered with a question don't forget that and of course the very last one was Paul; Paul was a person who found something in common with the other person and it's very important that when you're witnessing that you find things in common with other people, that makes them feel a little more comfortable with you. Now we're going to go ahead and we're going to be looking at defending the faith today at this of course are the styles we had last week and now we're going to talk about framing the issue that proves Jesus is God. Framing the issue that proves Jesus is God, today 99% of all people that are Christians can not show you in the Bible where Jesus claimed to be God. Now most of you in this class have probably heard this frame before, this is a great refresher course. But I want us actually to use this book right here, which is known as the Bible, do y'all have your Bibles with you? Go on ahead and raise them up in the air, you're going to be writing in your Bibles. I hope that you don't think the Bible which is the sacred word of God can not be written on because actually this is simply paper but the word of God has been written on, but I want y'all to get your pens out and I'd love you to go to the New Testament and I want you to go to John chapter 8 verse 58. That's John

chapter 8 verse 58. You're going to take these pens and you're going to apply them here, John 8:58. You're going to be writing in the margin to do a little cheat sheet ok? Now I want to start at verse, let's start at verse 56 okay? Jesus is talking to the Pharisees and scribes now understand He is talking to people who want Him wiped out. They want to find fault with Him. Have you ever had anybody find fault with you? Not one, has anybody ever had anybody who tried to find fault okay. All of you guys you have been there done that okay. Now what we're going to be looking at today is how these people tried to find fault with Jesus. And they come up and challenge Him- how come you have the right to talk about all these things you talk about, about God. And He actually answers in verse 56- it's a very shocking answer, He says "Your father Abraham- and of course they were Jews so they were descendents of Abraham- rejoiced at the thought, just the thought of seeing my day. He saw it and was glad and the Jews said to Him "You're not even fifty years old yet and you've seen Abraham? And He answers them "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born I am", at this they picked up stones to stone Him but Jesus hid Himself slipping away from the Temple grounds. Now I wanted to show you what's interesting about this. A person that doesn't want to admit that Jesus ever claimed to be God there's a simple reason and I'll tell you why. It's because this is what if they're in a cult they believe- they either believe that Jesus is not Jehovah God but He is either the son or a son of God they'll say okay will accept that He is the son of God or that He is a little god. John 1:1- y'all remember what John 1:1 says? "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God; all things were made by Him without Him there is not anything made that was made." Okay y'all are with me? Now that shows Jesus is the

Word and that He is God. Now if I go up to a Jehovah's Witness, that Jehovah's Witness is going to say "Um, well He is not actually God He's just a little God." Cuz they admit the verse is saying that the Word is God. Now what do you do at that point to show that Jesus is not just a little God? Mormons will do the same thing. I don't know if you know but Mormons believe that all of us can become gods one day. You all know that right? That you could evolve into a godhood. So how do we prove that Jesus was not saying He was a little god here it's a very simple, first of all if you'll circle the two words which are I am. Just circle them very neatly and then underline the words picked up stones. The fact they picked up stones to kill Him proves He was claiming to be Jehovah God. You know why? You would really only kill somebody with stoning for three reasons- number one was adultery and Jesus hadn't just committed adultery obviously. Number two was murder and Jesus hadn't just killed anybody and number three was calling yourself God. Are y'all with me? Their reactions actually recorded here prove what He was saying. But it's even more detailed than that, I want you to in the margin right here write "ex" or Exodus and as you see I am writing it, I got a brand new Bible just to write in front of you. Exodus 3:14. Now why we doing this? Because Exodus 3:14 is where the name of God is actually called I am. In other words what we're going to do is we're going to prove and I want y'all to listen real carefully now if you want me to explain what we're doing raise your hand. This is really an open session and these students that are watching my television they'll appreciate the question I'm sure. So as you're thinking now Jesus has just said I am, that is a phrase or a name for God. Now it doesn't mean He was speaking bad grammar. How many of you who are talking to somebody would say "Yesterday I um was at the store"? You'd probably say that. But if somebody said

“Where were you five years ago”? You said “Well I am at the store seven years ago when I was there.” No you’d say, you were at the store. I mean the verb I am is the present active tense, you wouldn’t say I was I mean I am you’d say I was. Well does Jesus have bad grammar? No but He calls Himself He says I am is my name. I am before Abraham. That’s my relationship. He is saying I am Jehovah God the God of Abraham, that’s why they stoned Him. So don’t think of the word I am as a noun or a verb. Okay? Like I ran don’t think about I am as I ran. I am is **egoeme**. Now can you say that together? I am is **egoeme**. One more time. I am is **egoeme**. Now that’s the Greek, lego my ego. Remember that ad? Okay, the Greek word, for the name of God is **egoeme**- I am. So if you want to write that down, here’s the word for I am is e-g-o, what is that in English? Ego and that is where we get the word ego. Is the word “I” and so Jesus said “My name is I am.” That’s why they picked up stones to cast them. So when circle the word I am, you’re not circling a little phrase your circling the name, it’s unique, but it’s actually a name. Now when you go to Exodus chapter 3:14, I want y’all to look at this name, okay Exodus 3:14. Now, we’re in the Old Testament, those of you who may be new to the word; Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Judges, Ruth, 1st and 2nd Samuel, all that. We’re back in Exodus, the second book of the Bible. And turn to chapter 3 verse 14. And I want you to circle the 14. Okay all done that? See right here in your Bibles you want to circle the number 14. And then I am going on ahead and I am going to read this passage. I am going to read this passage. I am going to start at verse 13-Moses said to God “Suppose I go to the Israelites and I say to them “The God of your fathers has sent me to you” and they say to me “Well what’s God’s name?” “What do I tell them?” And that’s kind of a weird question, what’s God’s name? Why do you think he said that? Cuz he is talking to

Egyptians, Egyptians outside of **Altmaton**? are polytheists. That means they got a lot of gods. They got a god to cover every occasion; they have thousands of gods, they got male gods, female gods. They ripped off German I mean uh Greek gods and Roman gods. I mean they just have literally a pantheon of gods. So what's going on here is they said "Okay which god has sent you?" And He says "No no it's not which god it's just one God" and God said to Moses in verse 14, now look at this. "I am who I am this is what you're going to say to the Israelites I am has sent me to you, I am." See the name, it's a name, I am is a name. Say I am has sent me to you. Why? Because the word I am is a name that covers all time, did you know that? That conjugation it covers the past, it covers the future, and it covers the present. So God was saying I am the eternal God. I am the all knowing God. I encompass everything about all the gods; you've ever known, and more. I am the complete God. That's why my name is I am. Do y'all follow that? Now remember about Jesus in the New Testament, centuries later, there's Jesus, now stay with me, or you're going to miss this, because we're going to be just with so much time. Now we're looking in the New Testament- here's Jesus and they say "Tell us about yourself". So what does He do? He goes "I am the great I am. I am the God who created heavens and the earth; I am the God who rules the heavens and the earth. I am the God who knows all things. I am the... don't you see why the Jews got so ticked off? That's why they wanted to stone Him. So Jesus was clearly calling Himself God. Now I am going to take you a couple places real quick. Okay? What I want you to do is circle here in verse 14 the word "I am" okay and underline God said to Moses. So its God is giving Himself the identity of I am. And I want you to write, write in this little space, next to verse 14- Isaiah, Is. 43:10. Now for those of you, who are speaking Russian or listening in Russian

right now, you're going to see that there's a chalkboard here, that has those two locations we just covered and now we're going to go to the third location. The first location is John 8:58, the second location is Exodus chapter 3; the third location is Isaiah chapter 43 verses 10 and 11. Now I am going to show you something very exciting here, now why are you writing this in your Bible? I'll show you why, all of you are going to be geniuses when you walk out of this class, all you have to do is remember one verse and you've got them all down. John 8:58, okay? So just imagine that John ate 58 m and m's okay? He ate 58 m and m's, okay he ate one, two, three, four, five. So the word eight just think of it as ate okay? So he ate 58 m and m's alright? So John 8:58 is your first verse that you are going to start at to prove that Jesus claimed to be God and what do you do in John 8:58 you've got in the margin a cheat note, what does your cheat note say- in John 8:58's margin? Exodus 3:14. Okay, now we're at Exodus 3:14. Now you're going to write a cheat note after you've proven your point here, that God's name is "I am" Isaiah 43:10. Now we go over to Isaiah 43:10. And how many of you have ever been to this passage when you have talked with a Jehovah's witnesses? Anybody? Well let me tell you, Jehovah's witnesses will use this passage to identify themselves as the witnesses of God. Okay? Isaiah 43:10 now in your Bible it will be kind of close to the middle, if it's got some footnotes, Isaiah, Jeremiah- it may take you a second to get there. Don't be frustrated look up in the front your Bible if you need to find the page number, cuz this is really important, find Isaiah 43: verse now I am going to have some fun, as I show you, Isaiah of 43. Let me get over there, this is where God says something very interesting. Do y'all have your passages? Everybody got their verse? Okay we're going to go to Isaiah chapter 43 and we are going to start at verse 10. This is a great, I really love this, I mean

this is fantastic, fantastic verse and its all going to come down to it's all going to come down to it how we are willing to clearly define key words and communicate those. I'm thinking... I heard this hilarious story today. About a woman and a guy- this husband and wife, we've got that husbands and wives here, so the husband and the wife walk into the doctor's office but the husband doesn't speak English he is a foreigner. He is kind of concerned because he is not feeling well, so this is if you want to see what compassion is, let me show you what compassion is. So he is not feeling well so the wife takes him to the doctor and so they go into the doctor and he analyzes the man, he says to the wife "Are you going to translate for me?" She goes "Yeah I'll tell him afterwards. Go on ahead and tell me what's going on." He goes "Well, your husband has an immune to sickness," he says "The only way your husband is going to get well is you need to every single morning, you have to wake up faithfully for seven days a week, you have to make him a four course breakfast, you have to make him the eggs a certain way, you have to have a very special kind of fruit, and you have to carve it a very special way. At lunch time you have to be, you know making his lunch a certain way and you have to rub his feet between breakfast, lunch and dinner. Rub his feet every single day, rub his hands and rub his shoulders, you must massage his temples, you gotta comb his hair. Just make him feel fantastic about it at night, scrub in between his toes. He goes through this whole regiment how to make this guy healthy. And so, they walk out the door at the doctor's office, and the guy says, "What's the verdict?" She says, "You're going die." She wasn't willing to make the investment, what I want you all to do here...Forget it, you're not going to make it. Coz, I ain't doing that! We're going to have to make an effort here as you put the notes in, I want to encourage you, you know, we don't want the patient to die

here. We want to be able look into God's word and remember. I want you all to remember from memory John 8:58, which goes to Exodus 3:14, which goes to Isaiah 43:10 and 11. But in the meantime, you get to do these cheat sheets. And people will be thrilled because you are actually turning to the Bible to find these things. But it says this, verse 10, "You are my witnesses, declares the Lord. Which Jehovah's witnesses use this first, which I love. "And my servant whom I have chosen, so that you will know and believe me and understand that I am He." That phrase "I AM" again is there. "Before me no god was formed nor will there be one after me." And the reason I'm going to stop here for just a second is really important. We have to understand, Hinduism, Buddhism, Zintuism, Confucios, all the cults of the world, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, all of them accept basically multiple gods, except Islam. But they accept multiple gods. And their excuse, when it says in the beginning was the Word, who is Jesus, the Word was with God, and the Word was God, the only way they can escape from that is if they say to you, "ok, you showed me that Jesus claimed to be god, but he was just a little god. He is one of many gods. Are you all with me? Now how do you respond? You say, "Ok, I see that he called himself "I Am", he called himself God, and okay so he's a god. But he's not the almighty god. He's just one of the little gods. How would you answer him, right now? This is a verse that you can answer, everyone who claims that Jesus, all the verses that he says he is god; he's just a little god. Take a look at what it says. It makes a very exclusive statement. Jehovah says in verse 10, "Before me, and how do you be before God, He's forever, but He says, "Before me, no god was formed, nor will there be any gods formed after me. Which means, how many other gods are there? Well there are none now and there none before, there are none after, there are none. In other words,

God says, there is only one God. And he goes and He says, "I am the Lord and apart from me there is no Savior." I want you to understand and underline if you will, the word Savior. Okay? I want you to think now, everybody, let's just wrap your minds around this. We've now closed in on the third part of the frame. When a person says, "Well, Jesus is just one god. Or he's just a little god or one of many." We've now defeated that and we've rebutted that because we have, yeh, we know he's the son of God, but we know that He is actually God himself. We know he's not a little god, not one of many gods because he just said there are no other gods but me, none before or after. And he gives himself a new name. A new identity. It's called "Savior". Say the word "Savior" with me. What does Savior mean to some of you. Just say the word, nothing is wrong as an answer here. Umm, just tell me what the word savior means? Somebody who saves. Very Good. A Savior is one who saves. We're not talking about saving people from a boat that's sinking, or saving people from an airplane that's crashing. Because he says there's, I am the only Savior. So we know it must be a unique thing. So what kind of savior do you think he's talking about here? Yeh, eternal. He's talking about the work of God which is spiritual work. He said I'm the only Savior. The reason that you just wrote in your Bible when you came to Isaiah 43:10, is you're going to know right in your margins, the last side of your frame. Write Matthew 1:21. Matthew 1:21. And I want you to turn to the New Testament again. And you know the Old Testament and the New Testament, they are divided up, the old on the left. New Testament's on the right side. Matthew 1:21, and I'll show you something wonderful, wonderful, wonderful. Let's read this out loud together. "She will bring forth a son, and his name will be Jesus for he will save his people from their sins." Now, what is Jesus going to do according to the

Scripture? He saves from sin. He's the Savior. We see that all through the New Testament here, where he is called, "the Savior". So now you got the guy who says, ok, I believe that the Bible is true. And by the way when you are talking to people who accept the Bible as true that from cults. If you follow this four-sided frame, I've done this 100 times with people in cults, there's no escape. Now what has happened is, I have people coming to the house. And the way that I teach Apologetics is, I teach people and it is not disingenuous, but I teach people to go to the front door when a JW (Jehovah's Witness) comes to the door or a Mormon, ok? That's the first thing. How many of you have ever hidden when they've come? Raise your hands. Ok, are you just like, oh I didn't hear that. Turn up the T.V. You don't have to fear them. You don't have to fear them and I'll tell you why. Because these people have made an effort to get to know God. I mean they are making an effort coming to your door. They are coming to you to be evangelized. I mean, how many would like for your sales job to be where you sit at your desk and you have people come to you all day long. That beats having to cold calling right? Well they are saving you the cold call, so let me just tell you. Step 1 is always be gracious, Step 2 invite them in. Step 3 lock the door behind them. Step 4, no I'm kidding about that. So, Step 4, sit them down at a table and just causally in fact, who should I do this with? Ok, who wants to volunteer to just be a Jehovah's Witness coming to my door? You want to be a JW? OK. And this could be any cult in the world. OK? Now you probably, if you are a Mormon or Jehovah's Witness come with somebody, if you're an elder, you will come with somebody. So Henry, you want to be the other one? Yeh, come on up here brother. He's a pastor, so he has to say yes. Have a seat, let's get another chair. OK, now they're going to sit here and we're going to do just a little role-

playing ok? So, we sit down and this is how to start a conversation. First of all they're going to try to sell you their literature. They don't give it away, they sell it. And so, I sit down and say, "What's going on?" They come to me, and you know how they approach and they say we want to talk to you about the church. Ok, why don't you guys go ahead and make something up. Well, I was just in the neighborhood and we were wondering if you have found a church yet?

"If I have found a church yet? Yeh, I kind of go to church off and on."

"Are you happy there?"

"Well, you know, what is happiness?"

Well I'll tell you what's going on is that I never come on, and Maria will tell you this, she's watched this right? She's watched the elders in our home. I never let them know that I know anything about the Bible. So for the first 5 minutes, I am a totally abstract dysfunctional when it comes to doctrine. I am a totally, I have no idea where you're coming from, but I'm a nice guy and I'm inviting them in. And I usually call Maria to come in and usually sit and ask you guys want some coffee? And the most important thing is to be Daniel. Be wise, how you're dealing with these souls. They've come to your door. I don't want you to be afraid of them. If nothing else, what it does, is it challenges you to get better at the apologetic of your faith. If nothing happens, and they don't become Christians, it doesn't matter, well I mean, it does matter eternally but that up to God but, what's exciting about it is that you just had a 15 minute conversation with people who don't know God, but you have the joy of having your faith challenged and you're not going to be rejected right away, you know why? Because they came to your door. Like if you walk up to somebody on the street, it might be a little embarrassing, it

might be a little tougher because, you know, “hi, can I talk to you about God?” No. Ok, next one, “Hi can I talk to you about God?” No. It can be kind of tough. What you do is, I’m not really super involved in any specific church, and so you all would start to just talk to me about...Now what they’re going to talk to me about is the love of God. They’ll use the general terminology of the love of God, things like that okay? So go ahead and just speak to me, “Hi, I’d like to share this pamphlet with you.” “Oh thank you”, “Well you know to talk more about it and” “That’s great” “Discuss some of the things that are written in this book, about the love of God and” “That’s awesome” “And” “And your family will all be in heaven together” and that’s usually what they will say too is that is a very critical issue; Our families being together in heaven. They notice that I have little children and they notice pictures by the way, they also notice, they know how to spot your house. Their taught how to read your house when they walk in, well most cults aren’t taught how to read you, and I just say this they’ll look up and they’ll notice a picture of five children and three grandchildren and they’ll go right into, so what do you think about the families is it important? Do y’all follow that? Now we should learn the same thing, you know what I mean? If you go out, go into a guy’s office and you’re doing a cold call and I tell you, I may have mentioned this last week but the very first thing I do when I am walking into a guy’s office like into Rod Parsley, into an ministry office a while back guy who is an associate of his and I looked up, my goodness this guy had fishing everywhere. I mean he catches everything, so I thought immediately my Mike Arnold and I said “Hey I got this good buddy who has this organization that does fishing, hunting.” He goes “Your Kidding!” Got to love me right away, gotta love me right away. He didn’t care what my theology was, he didn’t care what my doctrine was or anything

else, I had a hook and we were all through races, you know what I am saying? Because I found something in common with him and well what I do here is, is I say yeah I think family is extremely important and I usually within five minutes of the conversation, I say so y'all believe in like God in my Jesus and stuff- that's actually how I phrase it. I don't say what is your hermeneutic? I don't do that, I just say, I simply say so you believe in God, Jesus and stuff like that? And they go "absolutely". So just kind of, let's walk that through, so you kind of believe in God, Jesus and all that stuff? "Absolutely". But do you like, y'all read the same Bible like a lot of Christians do? "We have our Bible." Yeah, yes you so this is and y'all will say so you use the same Bible I do? "No we have the New World Translation." But you wouldn't tell that, see you wouldn't give that away, see she's way to honest. Now what you would say is yeah we use the same Bible. What I am leading them to is a statement. That if I can get them to say it, I've got them; I'm trying to get them to say God wrote this book. If I can get them to establish the permanency of the scriptures, then they have to yield to whatever I show them, in this scriptures. Does that make sense? It is really critical; you must establish your foundation that is the beginning of your strategy. What is the field you are going to play upon? What are the rules? What you're doing? But you can't say well at that class I learned at, once you do they will be like whoa, and Maria will tell you, I was on a blacklist JW's and Mormons both for four or five years- told their followers when they evangelize that, I was on the list of about five people in San Antonio, that they couldn't come to my house, it's true, we had so many conversions, we had so many conversions that Jehovah's Witnesses- one on one- when they came into our home, that they weren't allowed to come to our home, it was and it was really kind of neat in fact we still see some of these saints around town today.

You know that are believers and born again and Jehovah's Witnesses but what I would simply do when I am talking to them is say so you believe the Bible is the inspired by God? And I usually do it almost a non committal way like you know, like it is not that important to me, so you do think its inspired and they go yeah, the reason they are going to go yeah is cause they are going to open their own. And they are going to say this verse and this verse and this verse and what's interesting is until the most recent translation every one of their verses were like ours, except they were miss- appropriating the Greek, but so you believe this is inspired? Yeah the minute they nod their head, you can hear this lock on the door well we're out of time today and I just wanted to thank you for being with us. Next week make sure that you tune in because we're going to show you how to use the word out of people's mouths to prove who Jesus is. It's called Framing the Issue and the most important wonderful thing is your going to see people meet Jesus, so come again next week same time. God bless you.