

Apologetics - 13.1 Apologetics Review – Part 1 Transcription

Let's remember what we have learned. Now the key to apologetics is really simple. It's why we believe what we believe. In other words, if somebody were to walk up to you and say "Do you believe that Jesus Christ is Lord?" You would say "yeh". Do you believe he rose from the dead? Yeh. That's faith. By grace you are saved in faith, right? And that in itself is what? Is a gift of God. Not of any work that we do, it's not of baptism, it's not the way that you dress, it's not the shoes you wear. It's not of anything we do, otherwise we would do what? Boast. In other words, God wants us to not be prideful and so I mean it's obviously His work. So, the purpose of apologetics, would you read those, 6 words together? "Why we believe, what we believe". There's going to come a time though, in your faith, you're saved, through faith. It's not through knowledge that you are saved, but through faith. Or we'd be Gnostic, which we are not. But, there will be a time in your life when somebody says, "really, why do you believe what you believe?" Where does it say in the Bible that Jesus is God? Does it actually say that? Did anyone, can anyone think of a verse? Can anyone remember the verse? I'll give you 5.7 millionopinions..oh. John 8:58! That excellent! Where Jesus claimed to be God. In other words, He not only, does the Bible claim Jesus was God, but Jesus claimed Himself to be God. So, in other words, they'll ask you why you believe what you believe. And it's critical to us, according what Paul has taught in the scripture. I think it is critical for us to know why we believe what we believe and that's why we learn to defend it. It's the ultimate purpose of scriptures to prove who Christ Jesus is. Can you all say that with me? The ultimate purpose of scripture is to prove who Christ Jesus is. Now, we talked about the bride of Christ, we talked about the physical bride of Christ, Mary Madeleine who was NOT the physical bride of Christ. And we talked about the true bride of Christ which is the church. Anyway this is the ultimate purpose, of scripture is to prove who Christ Jesus is. And to rescue the damned from hell, and they build up the saints while they live on this planet. So that's what we're going to do tonight . So I want you all if you will, but what

I want you do is, we're going to review, but I don't want you to open it yet. What I want you to do is, now for those of you who were not here on the 9th, you know, its okay. But can you all give me, and this gets to be you all. Because what I'm going to do is, I'm going to do a little role playing tonight. We're also, I'm the cultist and all of you get to be the Christians who are talking to me okay? So if one of you do not have the answer the others can. Anyone even if you make a wrong answer, it doesn't matter because I'll make believe I didn't hear it. And I'll just go with the right one okay? So you guys can throw out all the answers if you want. Okay? Or questions if you want to ask me a question, you know as a cultist. But so tonight, what I want to do is, do you remember who the three people are that we have learned verbal communication skills from in the Bible. Jesus, Paul and Daniel. Awesome, great students! Okay. We have Jesus, Paul and Daniel. Now if you open up, I left them blank so you can fill it in one more time. Now we're only going to fill it in once, and I want all of you to remember. So, Paul's method was what? Finding what? Common ground. So will you fill that in? Now the reason I do this is because I believe very strongly in repetition not redundancy. In other words tonight, I'm going to repeat things, but it's not just to be redundant. It's because a lot of you I think probably have about 70% grasp, your holding on with your finger nails on memory and tonight, I'm hoping to just kind of "pound it in" so that we can make sure that we remember it. Daniel's style was what? Tact! Excellent! Tact and maturity. Now, can anyone explain really quickly what common ground means? Common interest. Excellent. If he's a fisherman, be a fisherman. Second, Daniel's style is tact, and maturity. This is a person who approaches things...don't bruise the fruit. If a person is talking to you and you know that they are from a cult. Don't say, "Yo, you're going to hell, it's gonna hurt!" I mean don't start out that way, give him a break and be tactful. And third of all is the Jesus method which is to ask questions ...excellent! Awesome, you guys. You all probably thought I didn't notice you were reading it, but I don't care. I'm really excited, but okay. Step 2, okay, now that is our very first thing is, that is why you know, that is how you communicate what your believe is. Now the next thing is, what do you major on when you're talking to a cultist? The Mormons, let's say, they

worship here in a temple that you all have seen up here on Stone Oak. It's got a great big golden Moroni angel, which did you know at one time they almost were called "morons", because Moroni their angel is the giver of elation. But as culture evolved, they stuck with Mormon. But, uh, even though the angel's name was Moroni. But, so, do you get all caught up and talk about gold statues on the top of buildings? No! Major in the major and minor in the minors. When you're talking to a cultist and because you'll find 500 things in their cult that you disagree with, but really won't send them to hell or heaven. Which day do you worship on? What they dress, whatever. It's going to come down to majoring in the majors, which comes down and you all are thinking probably, but what are the four colors that it comes down to? Right. Always think of the American flag, red, white, blue and purple. Red plus blue is purple so it's really easy to remember. Red, white, blue, that's your flag, and purple which is a combination of red and blue. Those four colors give you the clues on what cardinal doctrines are. So what do you all say cardinal doctrines are? Anyone shout out a cardinal doctrine, which means it's really important, its life or death for this person. What? Okay, solo Christi, Christ alone, He is only way, and the truth, no man comes to the Father but by Him. Okay. What else? He is without sin, that's white. Red. Only by the shedding of blood is there a remission of sins. That's right, that's atonement. What would the blue mean to you? Heavenly, it's like sky. He's God. Not a little god. Remember the John 1:1. In the beginning, was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God, and through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made all things were made by Him and there is not anything made that...you know. Okay. Now that, is not, that is "The God". "The God", it's not a little god. And so, what's really critical is that you remember that and you will be able to prove that Jesus never claimed to be a little god and the Bible never claimed Him to be a little god, which Jehovah's Witness and everyone else, Mormons, believe. But He is the one true God. Okay? So that's red, we have the atonement of the blood, which means by the shedding of blood there is remission or removal of sin. White, is that Jesus was sinless. Blue, is that He was God, and purple that he is the perfect mediator. A priest, king.

Okay. Now, our next thing is, don't peek ahead. I want to see if you guys can remember it. You guys are doing great. And for those of you who missed some of these classes, it will be in here and you can go home and memorize it. Okay. Does anyone want to try to give me the frame on the four sided frame and if you remember the first verse, which I know a lot of you do. If you can start at the right place on the four sided frame, which proves that not only did Jesus claim to be God, but He there's no other option, but that He is the one true God. Does anyone remember where that's starts? Back up one more. Good. John 8:58. Let's say that together one more time. John 8:58. Now in this verse, it's a fascinating verse, I want to remind you what it's about. It begins literally a chain that binds Satan in these cults from denying who Christ is. You'll hear a lot people say that "Jesus never claimed to be God". I gotta tell you, if you haven't heard that yet, you just need to talk to a lot more people. They say, "Jesus never claimed to be God". Well, yeh, He did. "The Bible never claimed that Jesus was God". Ah, yeh it does. "No, it says He's a good man and a prophet". Remember He's either God or He's a liar. Now which always stresses me out to even saying it. But, the reason that I say that is not only, He claimed to be God. And a good man would not claim to be god, that's blasphemy. So either Jesus is who He says He is or He may be a lunatic or something else. But you can't put him in the middle as just a good man and a nice guy and a good prophet. Because good prophets don't lie. Good people don't lie. They don't call themselves god particularly, so it's one of those things that forces you into a simple world view that you either accept Him for who He says He is or you don't. There are no options. That He was a worldly nice guy, only or He was a good man only, that he was a prophet only. Those are not options. So, John 8:58 is the beginning of a wonderful trip and if you have your Bibles, if you have your Bibles, and you haven't been in your Bible, we're going go because this is a review tonight. But what we started is John 8:58. Tell me why that verse is important. He says He's God. Now how does He say that He's God? I AM. Right. That's right. The "I AM". Does anyone remember what it is in Greek? EGO EMI. Let go of my EGO, EGO EMI is I AM. In the Greek, it's very clearly a derivative of a constructed phrase which is in Hebrew, which we're going to next. Does

anybody remember after John 8:58 if you had it in your Bible you should have written Exodus 3:14 scribbled on the side of John 8:58 so you really look intelligent. So when you're talking to them you can be real smart and say, "Let's look over here in Exodus 3:14. And you go over here to Exodus 3:14 and what is that story about in Exodus 3:14? That's right, Jehovah gets His name. His name is Ego Emi in Greek. He is saying my name is "I AM". That's right. That is his pure name. Now if you want to look at it in a logical way, what is he saying, I am what? I am constitutes all the tenses and constitutes all the characteristics of God. I am eternal, I am sovereign, I am omniscient, I am omnipotent, I am omnipresent, I am all. I am. I am all encompassing. I am before, I am after. I am during, I am in the midst, I am around. I mean, that's the brilliance of that name, I AM. Now what you have is a cultist, right now, that when he sees Ego Emi and he sees what Jesus calls himself. Oh what's the other proof, by the way in John 8:58 and 59 that Jesus was calling himself God? They tried to stone him. What's great about this story is, even if modern cultists don't get it, the Jews did. They knew what he was saying. He was saying, I'm Jehovah. Yeh, and the reaction was to kill him. Well now we go to of course Exodus 3:14 and Jehovah called himself, the great I AM. Now at this point, every cultist says to you, Okay. Okay, let's say, okay, Jesus was calling himself a god. Not a little ahh, remember, a god. Now at this point where do you take him? Awesome! Awesome! Isaiah 43:10 & 11. Now Isaiah 43:10 & 11 is a wondrous passage, which is an irony, because verse 11 is what Jehovah's Witnesses use and actually to get their name. So you take them there and they are going to feel right at home. What you're going to show them is one verse up. Isaiah 43:10. Jehovah God says that there are no other gods before me and no gods after me. Now if there are no before and no after, and there are no during, there are none. Okay? Do you have a corvette? I've never owned a corvette, I don't want to ever own a corvette, I don't own a corvette now. So then, where is that corvette? So then they have nothing to do with you right? You don't have a corvette. So this is a critical verse. And it goes on and talks about being that there is only one savior. But it says that there is only one god, no little gods. So you have just now said to the Mormon, hey, where'd you come up with all of these little gods? You

have just said to the Jehovah's Witness, who takes John 1:1 which says "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God, the same as the beginning with God all things are made by Him and what? With God, without Him was not anything that was made and was life. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. Well it constructs that passage they have to put that word "a" in there like this because they have re-written the passage to say, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was a god. That's what they add in there. That's not there. Now, let's presuppose and agree that the "HO" which is the word "the" is applicable there and it's really easily constructed. There's not a Greek theologian in the world outside of the Jehovah's Witnesses cult that would ever interpret that verse that way. But they are stuck, because if it really means what it says, that means Jesus is Jehovah. Which means that He came to earth, God came to earth and was actually crucified for our sins, which will completely blow away their theology. Now we are in Isaiah 43:10 & 11 and verse 11 starts with there's only one Savior and now what's your last side of the frame that you go to? Now you come back to the New Testament, that's right. So you go New Testament, Old Testament, Old Testament, New Testament. It goes to Mathew Ch. 1:21. And what is there? What does Jesus claim? He's called the Savior. Now if there is only one Savior, and Jesus is Savior, and God you know calls Himself Savior, things equal to the same thing, remember the mathematical? You know construction? Things equal to the same thing are equal to each other. So Jesus claims to be, or the Scriptures claim that He is Savior. And God says that He's Savior, then Jesus is claiming to be who? God. Hey, you really can't escape it. So those of you who have a Bible and you keep the same Bible with you all the time, you can scribble those little notes in the passage and little by little, it's like anything else, you would become very good at being able to communicate that idea. Now, prophecy is the next way that we make sure that we prove who Christ is. Prophecy is the most potent powerful method of proving that the Bible is inspired. What does inspired mean to you all? "En Spiritus", in the Spirit of God, that the Spirit of God literally wrote this book. When they say somebody's inspired, it's because you feel like the person is almost supernatural.

When Mozart, when Handel wrote the Messiah, that great composition, people say he was inspired, that he was literally in the spirit. That there was a supernatural essence that wrote the Messiah and if you've ever sung or worked with the Messiah, I mean I got to tell you the truth, I think God literally gave him the "Messiah". That piece doesn't mean it's the Bible, but it means that it's inspired. But it doesn't mean it's the Word of God obviously. But it's from the Word of God. But anyway, what we want to do here, is... What if you could open the Bible and say to a person, "this is proof, this is inspired and you can't beat it"? Wouldn't you feel good about that? Okay. The Bible testifies centuries before the event occurs, the date Jesus, the messiah would appear in Jerusalem, centuries ahead of time. God did it, in this way. Have you all ever seen banks that have like two keys or three keys? And they actually don't tell the people who the other people. So that in case of an emergency, those people are called individually but they can't get together and collude. Are you all with me? That's how this, God constructed this prophecy so that it couldn't be collusion and nobody could actually fulfill it on their own. And the way it worked was this. Daniel in Daniel Chapter what? Daniel, Chapter 9. There is a prophecy which Daniel gives, dealing with the Messiah and he says the Messiah will come "X" number of days from the date that Jerusalem will be rebuilt. Now Jerusalem at that time had been trashed. The Assyrians and the Babylonians, everybody and their uncle had just ravished and abused Jerusalem. Daniel writes that when Jerusalem was rebuilt, which doesn't happen in his lifetime, he writes when Jerusalem begins to be rebuilt some day, start a stop watch, start a clock and 173,880 days from then, the Messiah will ride in to Jerusalem. You see he couldn't fulfill it because he wrote it a century and half before the clock started. So he doesn't have control of it. Centuries go by the month of Nisan, 440 BC Artaxerxes has a man working in his court, he's a wine-taster basically and his name is Nehemiah. And Nehemiah, he looks at Nehemiah and he says, "Nehemiah, your countenance is so sad, actually you can be beheaded for acting that way in front of the king, even though you weren't being rude or anything else. If you acted negative in front of the king, you could be beheaded. Assyrians and Babylonians both had this really strange thing, the kings did not want to be around someone who

was negative , they wanted to be surrounded by great, aggressive strong, people, but they could have been killed with this. Umm, there's an interesting book written just about that one concept, but he looks at Nehemiah and he goes "you know you really look down". And he goes, "I am". Oh great king, I am really happy, dah, dah dah dah dah, "I'm really feeling rotten today" (musically). I don't want to die!" (sings it) You know Jerusalem was ransacked, my homeland, and of course in the time that Daniel lived of course what happened is that every time that a nation would conquer Babylon or Assyria, let's say Assyria would take that court and just move it into their court, so there was a Jewish lineage. I'm fully convinced that the Jewish lineage, the wise men were Jews, which were in the court, the Magi in the court still were in the top echelon, they always kept Jews in power, right underneath them. You know why? Because they gave the best advice. It was just their training, their dietary laws, it was the way the Word of God constructed their thinking. The Jews were great when it came to giving advice. So, a century and a half passes, Nehemiah is in this court and Xerxes is so effected by this , he says, "You know what, I'm going to go ahead and give you an edict and I'm going to give you free passage all the way from.....Artaxerxes is actually is what you may know him as. I'm going to give you an edict which allows you to go all the way to Jerusalem and rebuild it. Now this is what's cool. If you think, gosh, I wish we knew that date, so we could really see if now that the clock's going. If 173,880 days later, Jesus actually appeared. Well guess what happened? We do know that date. It's been discovered by archeologists who are non-believers. The tablets about a century ago were found which have Nicene 10 444 BC as an edict of Artaxerxes Xerxes. And did you know if you take edict on Nicene 10 444 BC and you count 173,880 days over the centuries.....ding... you know what day it dings? The day when even Josephus, who is a non-believing Roman historian who was a Jew, who writes decades after Christ, it's recorded to the day, the day that Christ came through with the triumphal entry into Jerusalem right before he was crucified. Now that's beyond mathematical possibility. You have three key bearers, you have three centuries, I mean you've got, several centuries, thousands of days and it's impossible for any single individual to fulfill that covenant. That

promise, that prediction, see? So, when you show that and you logically it sounds like it's a whole lot of work, but it's really not. When you sit down and you really show that to people. He says, now how did this happen? Mathematicians have said that it would be easier for a Boeing 707 to be exploded with bombs and when that Boeing explodes, for the fragments to go up in the air and when they come down that they typeset perfectly, a million fragments type-set perfectly Webster's dictionary and bind it. That's not going to happen, I don't care how many billions of planes that you have blow up, they are never going to print Webster's dictionary. And that's more likely than this mathematical chance. Does that make sense? It's impossible that this could have been conceived by men. It is supernatural intervention. So that's why prophecy, that's something I type out as clearly as I possibly can, that's why prophecy is so important. Because people can't go against history and prophecy. They can't, it's like me denying that Adolph Hitler didn't live. Adolph Hitler didn't live, I mean I can say it all day long but I just can't deny it. There is so much overwhelming evidence that Adolph Hitler lived but I would really be foolish to deny that he ever lived. The same with prophecy, prophecy is how you prove the Bible. Okay? Anyone remember Satan's fib? Okay, in other words, this is stopping Satan's fib, you know that Satan tries to deny who Christ is so I just put fib. You go forward prophecies in the future and you look at ourselves inside to know that God does convict us of truth. And backwards, you look at history like we just did we just used history to prove who Christ is. I want you to look at the bottom, the hand written number is the one that counts. This is for those of you that want to go home and read. Christ and the validity of Jesus has more documented evidence than Julius Cesar, himself. Christ is the most historically documented individuals to ever live. So then, if anyone says "we don't believe that Jesus lived". That's like that...I don't believe that there is matter. I don't believe that there are houses in America. I don't believe that there are side walks; you know you are not really dealing with a rational person. The evidence is overwhelming as to who Christ is and I put some names down just to encourage you as to you have the historical evidence as to who Christ is. Now we're at this point. What I covered last week, now it's going to seem like a lot , but you know if

you read through this just once a week, a couple of times a week. You would be amazed at what of what the Holy Spirit will imprint this in your mind. I used little acronyms here, the little feat and I know that it is misspelled. You know, but it was as close as I could get. But FEAT are also now a new method to debate who Christ is. The Facts, E is what? Can you say it with me? What is "E"? The empty tomb. We went through that on how there is evidence. The empty tomb itself is evidentiary. And if you look on the next page, why? First of all Roman soldiers wouldn't let anyone steal the body, why? Because Roman soldiers would have been killed if they had let them steal the body. Second of all, the reality is this. If you and I plot, let's say that you and I are disciples. We're here to night and we're like, okay, look you guys. Christ's body has been in the tomb a couple of days. Well what we want to do is go and steal it. And let's say that we are actually clever enough to go and steal by moving a ton, a one ton stone. From the entrance without the soldiers hearing it who were four feet away. And if we actually could do that, go steal the body, take it out, so we could start a new religion. There is a basic philosophical flaw. Do you all know what it is? But we know it's a lie. Do you remember the phrase I put up here one night? People will die for what they believe to be the truth but they will not die for what they know to be a lie. They simply won't. But you say that Moslems die for what they believe is the real truth, they believe they are going to get 40 virgins. They really believe that if they blow themselves up and they obey, they believe it. But I'll guarantee you, if you're the person who takes the body out of the tomb and you know that you've hidden the body, you know that Jesus is not raised. And then they start to drive nails and they say that they are going to nail you upside down. You're going to go, "wait, wait, wait, okay, maybe I need to change my theology just a little. You're not going to die for that. Does that make sense? Because you know it to be a lie. In FEAT, the fact and the evidence of history deny the possibility of men creating a religion and purposely having their body skinned alive, having their flesh ripped off their bodies, their flesh lit on fire, tortured to death for what they know to be a lie. There is no way you're going to hold on to it, why bother? Why bother? Come on, your Timothy and you're in India somewhere and somebody is

about to put you to death because you claim that Jesus has risen from the dead. Where there's no one around to be embarrassed, you're not going to go ahead and die out of embarrassment. You're going to go like, "okay guys, let me moderate that just a little, my theology. You're going to do that, why? Because if you know it's a lie, you're not going to die for it. But every one of these men were martyrs. Everyone of them except for John of course. Because they knew it to be the truth. That's why they died. So history itself, the appearance, of course they had seen the appearance and the transformation. That means they went from cowards to lions overnight. How did that happen? Because they saw something extraordinary, Jesus walked through a wall. How many of you affected tonight, if I'm sitting here and all of a sudden you see walking through this T.V. and through this screen, and suddenly he just stands here and who talks to you. Somebody who died here, like last month. And he's a good friend of yours and all of a sudden he is standing here physically and you can touch him. But he just walked through the wall so we know that he didn't come through the door. How many of you would say that you could walk out of here tonight and not say you would not believe this Bible study that I went to. I mean how many of you would not be affected? You would be! Right? And if he came through here and he gave you a word from the Lord, I'd say that's one of the words from the Lord that we really need to listen to. Okay, that's the word of the Lord that I want to hear. Okay. So. Evidence. Now the next four letters that we use as a memory trick were MAPS. Can you say MAPS with me? MAPS is manuscripts first of all. I don't know if you know it, but and we're on page, hand-written 7. Manuscripts. Can anyone tell us what a manuscript is? Yeh. A written document, excellent. There are over 40,000 pieces, solid pieces of the Scriptures written down which have not been changed a jot or a tiddle. The very fact on the believability, the volume of evidence. The volume of evidence of who Christ was in the history of the Scriptures is in itself overwhelming. I mean most people will tell you almost every document in the world has been copied, has major alterations. People will say, well the Bible has been changed over the years and I don't really believe the Bible because it's an old manuscript and you know what's really silly about that? Smile, and be sweet and go,

“I’m sorry but you’re really wrong.” I think that’s really all there is to it. Actually it hasn’t changed a bit. In fact when the scribes would copy a book, if they came and whenever they came to Yahweh, the name of God. They would put the pen down, bring in a new pen, write the word Yahweh, break the pen, throw it away and go back to the other pen because they were so detailed that they didn’t think that God’s name should be used with another word. If they missed a comma or they left out a word, man that thing went into the fire and they started all over. And how many of you have typos when you type? I got to tell you the truth; I’d be here one month just doing one page. Right? That’s how detailed they are and it’s the only manuscript method in history wherein the authors refuse to alter a comma or period when copying the documents. The religious documents of the Christian faith and Judaism. So you have manuscripts which are on your side as far as, no it hasn’t changed. How many of you have heard a phrase, “well the Bible has changed over the years”. I’ll tell you translators may alter the English words because they better communicate the original manuscript but the manuscripts, which are the original, have not changed. Okay. The “A” in MAPS.

