

## Apologetics

### Main Topics and Reading\*

**Session 1. Kickoff**—Introductions, Agenda Overview, Your Apologetic desires.

**Session 2-3. Truth**—Theories, Absolutes vs Relativism (no assignment).

**Session 4-5. God**—Existence: pp. 24-28; Trinity: pp. 37-38, Personality: pp. 39-40. See <https://ronnyberg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/God-Logic.pdf>

**Session 6-7. Scripture**—Reliability: pp. 1-17; Evidence: pp. 12-17. See <https://ronnyberg.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Word-Logic.pdf>

**Session 8-9. Jesus**—Lord, Liar, or Lunatic: pp. 44-48; Deity: pp. 49-51; Resurrection: pp. 63-65.

**Session 10-11. Science vs Faith**—p. 90; Marriage: p. 91; Creation vs Evolution Views: pp. 81-90; Universe/Earth's Age: pp. 88-90.

**Session 12-13. Problem of Evil**—Sin, Suffering, Pain, and Death: pp. 94-107; Sovereignty/ Determinism, Free Will, and God's Image, Glory, and Goodness?

**Session 14-15. Salvation**—Works vs Grace: pp. 108-116; Eternal Security: pp. 117-126; Sharing and Defending Your Faith.

**Session 16. Conclusion**—Final thoughts and Questions and Answers (Q&A).

*\*Reading from: Nyberg Jr., James R., Top 10 Bible Doctrines, 2013 (available at [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B000APR004). Paperback=\$10, eBook=\$3.99, KindleUnlimited=Free).*

## Introduction

**Apologetics**—Defending the Faith. Will you be Ready to answer meekly with reasons (*1 Peter 3:15-16*), Contend (*Jude 1:3*), Defend (*Php. 1:7, 17*), Fight (*1Ti. 6:12*), and Gracefully Answer (*Col. 4:6*) questions with a good conscience about your faith and profession of the gospel? Will you try to win over, not just win the argument with non-Christians.

## Truth

**Why did you choose Christianity?** 7 strong reasons for me.

1. It's True, Most Logical/Intuitive—most rational, scientific...
2. Consequences/Risk—today, eternity, no hope, purpose...
3. Best Alternative—all others have real credibility problems...
4. Best for the World—love/laws, it works, proven historically...
5. Credible witnesses—Apostles, antagonists, caring friend...
6. Bible says so—no other written authority even close...
7. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, says so—most unique, popular, best..

Take the challenge to differentiate "How is Christianity true and best?"

## Truth Theories—The Philosophical Nature of Truth

1. **Pragmatism**—Works for you; is useful; ends inquiry; satisfying (personal, changing, relative, can be false, or only works short-term-then there are long-term consequences).
2. **Coherence**—Coherent; fits within a system of beliefs, part of a bigger system; systematic; defensible beliefs (a system can be false, inaccurate, relative to its completeness or truthfulness; it may only be partially true or partially false—a half lie).
3. **Consensus or Common**—Majority believe is true (majority is often wrong, and will end up in Hell; only measures the truthfulness of a given population, not the truth itself).
4. **Correspondence**—Matches or corresponds with reality; objective; verifiable (true for all, absolute, unchanging).

### Truth Summary. Truth is:

1. Objective, not subjective (not opinion-based).
2. Absolute, not relative (intuitive until rejected).
3. Verifiable, not unverifiable (with diligent study).
4. Eternal, not temporary (discovered, not created).
5. True for all, not just for some (universal, not individual).
6. Works for all, not just for some (useful, pragmatic).
7. Knowable, not unknowable (known, not unknown).
8. From an absolute immutable eternal God (known best by knowing God more; all truth is God's truth. Truth is True, Regardless of Perspective).

### Common statements you will hear about truth and some answers.

1. “You have your truth, I have mine.” —*Truth is truth, regardless of whether we know it or not.*
2. “True is relative, there are no absolutes.” —*Are you absolutely sure?*
3. “Truth is only true to me, if it works for me.” —*No, truth is always true for all, and works for all.*
4. “I’m agnostic, no one can know religious things for certain.” —*Are you absolutely certain?*
5. “New Ager says statement can be both true and false.” —*That violates the logical Law of Non-Contradiction.*
6. “God said it's true, I believe it's true, that settles it as true.” —*No, God said it, that settles it, whether I believe it or not.*

## God

1. **Existence and Who He Is:** pp. 24-28.
  - “How do you know God exists?” —*Reason, Scripture, Jesus, history, answered prayer, my change, hope, joy...*

- “What is your strongest reason for believing in God?” —*Cause/Effect, Teleological, Morality, Personality, a Universal belief in Him, Love, Truth, Fine Tuning: Math, Science...*
  - “Don't you have to check your brain to believe in God?” —*No, honestly you must if you don't. Many of the smartest people today and throughout history knew God exists. I couldn't choose to believe in God if He didn't clearly reveal Himself to my mind, heart, and soul...*
2. **Trinity:** **pp. 37-38**. See 7/16/2025 slides, notes, and audio preached at WBC: <https://ronnyberg.org/resources/presentation-slides/>
- “You believe in Tritheism or Polytheism, not Monotheism.” —*No, you just don't understand how God explains the Trinity. There is 1-God, eternally existing in 3-Persons.*
  - “How can the trinity not be 3 Gods?” —*God says He is 1-God, God says He eternally exists in 3-Persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), each member in the Godhead is said to be One, distinct, equal, possessing Divine attributes and titles, doing Divine works like creation; God is not like us, we can't fully understand Him, but must trust Him, especially believing what He has revealed of Himself in His Word.*
3. **Personality:** **pp. 38-39** (if time).
- “Sure, God exists as a force, but He is not personal.” —*No, He has personality (Intellect, Emotions, and Will), He created us with personality, He treats us personally, morally, as He is not a force or power, but is personally good, He has person names, uses personal pronouns...*
  - “God has never been personal with me.” —*Respond to Him personally by faith and you will experience Him personally and eternally; “O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him” (Psa. 34:8).*
  - “The intelligent believe in God as Deists, not Theists.” —*No, logically with Scripture, with Jesus, with miracles, with most of all religions have personal followers and claim to have a personal relationship with God through Jesus.*

### Scripture

1. **Reliability:** **pp. 1-17**.
2. **Evidence:** **pp. 12-17**.
3. **Translations:** **pp. 6-8**. With over 7,100 languages in the world, many translations are needed. There is only one reliable Bible, but over 400 English translations alone, and many levels of version reliability or equivalence to the original languages. I list some of the most well-known and sold translations from most literal/formal/complete/word-for-word, to more functional/meaning/dynamic/thought-for-thought, all the way down to non-translations that are paraphrases/focusing on idea/intent in their equivalence. Many debate what is the optimal equivalence level for desired readability and understanding. This can blur the line of what is written or read with what it means or how best to interpret. Also, various releases of a version can vary dramatically in their reliability and fidelity to the original texts. ***I strongly recommend using a Bible***

**translation that is literal or a word-for-word translation**, as you can read notes and compare verses from those who start to vary, and it is frequently a very slippery slope, where translators and publishers admit that they added, removed, or changed words (cf. [Rev. 22:18-19](#)) to be more culturally sensitive, like “gender-neutrality” and other popular politically correct norms of the day. For those who already purchased something less literal, I would not discard it as they can be helpful references or useful as a study tool, when predominantly reading from a literal translation. My baker's dozen continuum listed from literal to non-literal equivalence: NKJV-New King James Version (1982), KJV-King James Version (1611, 1769), NASB-New American Standard Bible (1971, 1995), ASV-American Standard (1901), ESV-English Standard (2001/2007), NIV-New International Version (1978, 1984, 2005, 2011), HCSB-Holman Christian Standard Bible (2004), CSB-Christian Standard Bible (2017), RSV-Revised Standard (1952/1971), NRSV New Revised Standard Version (1989), NLT/NLB-New Living Translation (1996, 2004), and paraphrases (not actual translations), \*TLB-The Living Bible (1971), and \*MSG-The Message (2002)...

### **Common statements you will hear about Scripture and some answers.**

1. “How can you trust the Bible, with so many scientific, genealogical, and archaeological errors?”--*There are 0, show me 1.*
2. “Aren't other sacred books, just as good as the Bible?”--*No, none are even close. The Apocrypha is not even agreed to by all Catholics, the Koran condones wife beating and jihad, the writings of Confucius and Buddha have some good sayings but don't even claim to be from God...The Bible always has been the #1 published, #1 translated, #1 quoted, #1 studied, #1 most influential in all history, it clearly has distinct Divine fingerprints...*
3. “Scholars show textual manuscripts conflict...”--*The Bible is most accurate literature in world by even unsaved standards, no real conflicts exist, see Textus Receptus, Bible confirmed by Jesus, Apostles, historians, church fathers, and Dead Sea Scrolls.*
4. “The Bible has changed so many times, how can you trust it?”--*The Bible has never changed since the 66 Books were included, completing Scripture, was attested by prophets, Jesus, Apostles, Israel, and the Church. God says that Scripture is eternal and will never change, be added to, or taken away from since It's final Book, Revelation, was written.*
5. “So many translations exist, which is really God's Word?”--*God's Holy Bible is God's Word, originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. There are many great literal translations into English and thousands of languages that don't add, remove, or change any of God's Word, e.g. NJKV, KJV, NASB...(those that do are NOT accurate or God's Word). The fact that many translations exist, actual is a strong proof that God's Word is getting much of the attention and desire to provide it accurately in all languages.*

### **Jesus Christ**

1. **Lord, Liar, or Lunatic:** [pp. 44-48](#).

*“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man*

*and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic 'on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg' or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. . . . Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God".—C. S. Lewis (Mere Christianity).*

2. **Deity:** pp. 49-51.
  3. **Resurrection:** pp. 63-65. Promised in the OT and NT, Promised by Jesus, Performed by Jesus, Proved to >500 eye-witnesses (2 are required to put someone to death), Preached by disciples (martyred for; to eye-witnesses and others), Proved by Jesus for 40-days ("*infallible proofs*" after He rose), and believed by 1/3 of the World (even today). Christ's death, burial, and Resurrection is the Gospel (*1Co. 15:3-4*), so Boldly Believe and Proudly Proclaim. *Joh. 11:25*—"Jesus said unto her, *I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believes in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.*" *Acts 17:32*—"And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, 'We will hear You again of this matter.'"
- ✓ 1. God/Christ/Bible promised/prophesied/fulfilled (*Psa. 16:10-11; 49:15; Jon. 1:17; Mat. 12:40; 16:21; 17:23; 20:19; 27:63-64; Mar. 8:31; 9:31 10:34; Luk. 9:22; 18:33; 24:7, 46; Acts 10:40; 26:23; 1Co. 15:3-4; Heb. 13:20*)
  - ✓ 2. Christ's body heavily guarded, sealed tomb, earthquake, body missing, grave clothes folded, angels rolled large stone away, guarding soldiers bribed not executed (*Mat. 28:2; Joh. 20:5-8...*)
  - ✓ 3. Sunday Bodily Resurrected (*1Co. 15; Luk. 24:3-8*)—"He is risen."
  - ✓ 4. >500 Eye—Witnesses together; most alive when written (*1Co. 15:4-8*)
  - ✓ 5. Christ proved He defeated Sin, Satan, and Death (*Heb. 2:14-15*)
  - ✓ 6. Christ promised and proved His power to Bodily raise us (*1Th. 4:16; 1Co. 15:52; Joh. 6:40; 11:25*)
  - ✓ 7. Jesus showed Himself alive for 40 days after rising (*Acts 1:3*)

#### **Common statements you will hear about Jesus and some answers.**

1. "Jesus was a great moral teacher and prophet, but not God."—*He was a great moral teacher, giving absolute truth and morality, and the highest ethical teachings (e.g. the Sermon on the Mount, the Golden Rule...in Mat. 5-7). He clearly prophesied (so also a great prophet). Obviously, God as the standard of perfection would be moral, and as omniscient would clearly know what to teach and predict, as Jesus did.*
2. "Jesus was either God or man, no one can be both."—*The Bible says "In Him dwells ALL the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Col. 2:9). So, He's 100% God and 100% man, the*

God-man. He is unique, God's "only begotten" (*Joh. 3:16*). So, He could live perfectly and die, and rise again.

3. "Jesus can't be God since He was tempted." --True the Bible says "**God cannot be tempted**" (*Jam. 1:13*), but Jesus "**was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin**" (*Heb. 4:15*). Humanity tempted, divine guaranteed sinless; He wasn't tempted as God, but as the God-man.
4. "How can Jesus be eternal God and die." --Yes, God cannot die, but that is why Jesus took on "**flesh and blood**" (as God-man), so He could suffer and "**taste death for every man**" "**that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death**" (*Heb. 2:9, 14*). Death is the separation of the body from relationship with the spirit, which miraculously happened to Jesus on the cross.
5. "There is no proof that Jesus rose from the dead." --There is more proof of Jesus' resurrection than George Washington existed. Greater than 500 eye-witnesses at one time saw Him resurrected, the disciples were martyred for Jesus' resurrection, soldiers guarding were not executed, there were no credible other explanation, Prophets and Apostles witnessed of it, the Bible witnesses of it, contemporary historians' were witnesses, 1/3 of world today believes in Jesus' resurrection, and Jesus Himself proved by showing 40-days of "**infallible proofs**" after He arose, that He had in fact arisen.

#### **Science Vs Faith** (Creation vs Evolution)

1. **Science vs Faith:** **p. 90.**
2. **Marriage:** **p. 91.**
3. **Creation vs Evolution—Views:** **pp. 81-90.**
4. **Universe's Age:** **pp. 88-90.** Most maintain between 6,000-10,000 years old. Genealogies permit some more time ("**sons of,**" "**children of,**" "**descendants of**"). Appearance of Age:  
1) **At God's Creation** (universe created mature enough to support grown man; landscapes, trees, fruit, vegetables, not seeds, grown animals, geological gems, artistic waterfalls, caves...). 2) **At Natural Events** (volcanoes, lightning, Flood(s), hail, lava, meteor strikes, disasters, tsunamis, tectonic plate shifts...). 3) **At man's manipulation** (excavations, water, oil, gas, and mineral extractions, deforestation...).

#### **Common statements you will hear about Science and Faith and some answers.**

1. "Science/Evolution=Objective Facts and Faith/Creation=Subjective Opinion." --Both are belief systems about the truth. Creation is more objective, logical, scientific, and in accordance with the facts.
2. "Science proves man evolved and wasn't created by God." --No, science actually logically proves creation from an eternal, powerful, personal, intelligent, moral God.
3. "Marriage is man-made so can be redefined or removed." --If mankind wasn't created by God and God hadn't said, "it is not good for a man to be alone, I will make a help fit for him" and then instituted marriage between 1 man and 1 woman for life (*Gen. 2:18, 24-25*), then man could redefine or abolish it. Since God did, man can't.



4. "The Fossil Record proves evolution, not creation."--*No, it is actually the strongest evidence against evolution. NOT tons of simple fossils in many layers with a gradual increase of more complex fossils in higher strata. The fossil record shows a sudden appearance of life, where simple and complex fossils appear together. There are "0" transitional fossils, not even 1.*
5. "Dating methods prove the earth is billions of years old."--*Dating methods have been proven unreliable and that is why estimated dates man, etc. have so drastically continued to change. Living turtles have been shown thousands of years old by carbon dating, volcanic rocks millions by radioactive or radiometric dating...Comparing items to preassigned age, speed, rate of decay, or strata level, based on assumed uniform dates or rates (beyond our observation, testing, or control) to assign something else an age is at best an assumption or circular reasoning.*

### **The Problem of Evil** (Pain, Suffering, Sin, Death, Determinism)

1. **Evil, Sin, Suffering, Pain, Death, Hell: pp. 94-107.** 7 facts of the problem of pain (sin, sickness, suffering, evil, death...), It is:
  1. Inescapable (preparing for, in, or coming out of).
  2. Personal (different for all; repent from, learn from, improve from).
  3. Perceptual (nothing-->excruciating-same event to you or others).
  4. Universal (experienced by all).
  5. Purposeful (received-->ends, rejected-->repeated)-partially or fully.
  6. Temporal (saved; Jesus saves eternally from and will rid us of it forever).
  7. Eternal (unsaved, the ultimate pain from ultimate rejection-->Hell).

The problem is big; there is so much of it. **Why evil (pain, sickness, bad things, death...)? Why allowed by a good and powerful God when He could stop, not allow, or supernaturally intervene? Why is this universe that includes evil, best? Why does it happen to me?** The context of pain. Pain is personal. Only Jesus understands and suffered and died in our place to save us from all evil, pain, sickness, and death. **Do you still believe in a personal God when He doesn't heal...?** It sure helps when you trust the person or know why. The glory of God cannot be seen thru the tears of adversity... but when trusting Him during the trial, you will always come out seeing more of God's glory and goodness. If you look for God, His glory, His eternal purpose...in you, in those around, in the life of the lost, and still trust Him until you see it, you can have joy and an eternal perspective even during the pain. This will allow you not to have to stay in the trial any longer than needed or repeat the same trial repeatedly until you see God's glory. Pain more conforms you to the image of God, to His glory, and eternally value His glory in a greater way. You can then seek pain (or at least count it joy), for His pleasure. You understand even evil's place in working to cause you and others to be flat on your back and be forced to look up to God and acknowledge, He is good, He is perfect, and does all things best.

2. **Sovereignty/Determinism, Free Will, and God's Image, Glory, and Goodness.** Who caused evil? Determinism-Everything is set or predetermined by results of (2 views):

**Universe's natural forces** (Atomic, Gravitational, Chemical, Electrical...) based on natural laws—in the stars, fleshly needs/desires, allusion of intellect, emotions, and will are only chemical reactions in your body or brain...**Atheism**; Evil is natural, purposeless.

**God's sovereignly decreed creation of ALL** things, natural and supernatural based on His will alone for His glory—God made all to do x and all will not do otherwise...**Theism**; God caused or allowed, can He be good to do so, is so why? There are **2 main Christian views of God's decrees** (in regards to free will and who is responsible).

- **Divinely Determined Without Free Will** (Determined based on God's Will alone)--Calvinism (God caused it, so **God is responsible**-claims man is; man does not have free will, only an illusion of free will or it clearly wasn't involved in God's election).
- **Divinely Determined** According to His Foreknowledge of Free Will (Determined based on God's Will alone in accordance with all the choices of His creation that He endowed with Free Will in His image)--Scriptural (God lovingly, impartially, omnisciently foreknew all possible universes and chose ours. *Rom. 8:29; 1Pe. 1:2*-Predestined/Elect "*according to the foreknowledge of God.*" **Angels/Men are responsible**-as they are the only ones given a volitional and moral nature, so are the only ones held accountable. God elected all taking into account all choices, laws, consequences, environments, and circumstances that influenced their free will).

**The problem with free will are the consequences of our choices.** Man chose sin, producing pain, suffering, death, see **pages 94-107**, and *Rom. 3:23; 6:23; 8:22; Gen. 3:16-19; Gal. 6:7-9; 2Cor. 7:10*. So with these problems from free will, **why does God allow free will?** If men and angel choices bring sin, evil, pain, suffering, death, and even Hell...Why, for what reason, or **how can a good God allow evil with its horrible consequences?** No pain, no gain. Tempering your faith. Tempering-improving the hardness and elasticity of a metal by reheating, pounding, and cooling it. See *Rom. 5:3, 8; James 1:2-4*. God says even evil works together for good (*Rom. 8:28*). God's ways are not ours and His ways are deep and unsearchable (*Rom. 11:33-36*). God will remove it all for all eternity soon. The pain is temporary; the gain is eternal.

**So why create man in God's image as a moral agent with free will, if we get all this pain from evil?** God's glory (so we can see and desire His image). Man is given freedom, insight, and glorification from God's Image and Son. God's image and Son gives proper perspective and permits intimacy with God for all eternity (robots can't choose or enjoy Him). Seeing the evil opposite(s) of God point our hearts to Him/His goodness. Christ perfectly partook of all our pain and will make us more like Him. Pain can change our course, causing us to look upward for healing, hope, and saving. The truest earthly test and refinement of our glory, faith, and image is found in our growth and ability to handle pain, suffering, sickness, and death. You can't best see God's glory and grace through tears of the trial, but can always see it best when trusting, coming out, and looking back on it and all you learned of Him, you, and what matters most...

**So why does God allow free will, with all its terrible consequences?** God's eternal glory and also ours is worth it all. It's all for you, the saved, His elect. That, abundant



grace thru thanksgiving may redound and reverberate, it is really temporary light affliction, it produces a much better future, an eternal glory, seen/felt things are temporary, unseen things are eternal and matter, cf. [2Co. 4:15-18](#). We can experience and testify of Christ's power on your life, when you receive His sufficient grace, only received in pain and weakness. [2Co. 12:9](#)--"*And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*"

**The problem with evil is it is allowed by God's will. How can man be responsible for his choices if not really free?**—*Man is free and responsible for his choices—we reap what we sow...How can God allow pain, suffering, death if good and all powerful?—God is good and all-powerful, yet constrained by His character and eternal immutable laws based on His nature. God has a greater purpose to accomplish a greater good even when we don't understand Him. It is for God's glory and our blessing.*

**Why is it God's will to have evil in the universe?**—*For God's glory and our blessing.* Recapping since so deep:

1. Divinely decreed universe—for His glory, the greatest good (Sovereignty/Determinism /Election/Predestination with Free Will; Omniscience: [Rom. 8:29](#); [1Pe. 1:2](#)).
2. God created man in **His image**—**free will to choose intimacy/love**.
3. **Free will leads to sin/evil**—showing our need for a savior.
4. **Sin/evil leads to pain/suffering/death**—which **best shows good/glory** (God's and Ours)...

**The problem of evil is that it's painful**, cause it's not good. Sin has terrible and educational eternal consequences for each sinner, permeating their environment and all those around (later and greater). Persons are far better than robots—with freedom is responsibility. The price of freedom is always high and paid by someone (either by yourself or someone with great love and deserved honor). Sin shows God's "agape" unconditional great love to suffer and die in our place to provide an eternal intimate place with Him ([John 3:16](#); [15:13](#); [Rom. 5:8](#)). "*God has a goal so far reaching that He is willing to interrupt the health and happiness of His children in order to accomplish it*" (**Dr. Charles Stanley**). No pain, no gain (pain produces prized character and eternal values). A true test of trust is its ability to endure pain, suffering, sickness, and even death...Evil proves and points us to value good, God, by definition. [Rom. 3:5](#)--"*our unrighteousness commends* [exhibits] *the righteousness of God.*"

**The problem of pain is pleasure.** None could begin to understand, value, or experience God's glory, His perfections, attributes, character, or nature; His: love without hate, joy without sadness, peace without war, patience without waiting, gentleness without harshness, goodness without evil, faith without distrust, meekness without arrogance, self-control without over indulgence; kindness without unkindness, spirit without body, sovereignty without anarchy, immutability without change, omniscience without learning, omnipotence without weakness, omnipresence without confinement, calm without storms, holiness without sin, mercy without judgment, grace without works, unity without separation, pleasure without pain, beauty without ugly, health without sickness, cleanness without filth, light without darkness, creation

without destruction, giving without stealing, truth without lies, clarity without deceit, justice without injustice, life without death, eternity without time...

God's glory (worshiping and being conformed to it) is the highest virtue, not our pleasure. High level summary:

- **Good and Evil** are from **God's decrees** = **Glory**
- **Freedom and Blessing** are from **God's image** = **Intimacy**
- **Evil and Judgment** are from **Man's sin** = **Death**
- **Love and Peace** are from **Jesus' Death** = **Life**

#### **Common statements you will hear about the problem of evil, pain...and some answers.**

1. "God can't be good and all-powerful to allow: murder, evil, pain, suffering, storms, cancer, serial killers..." --*Just seeing evil points to a good God. There is always a high price for freedom, and consequences of all moral choices. Contrasts best reveal and help understand good/bad/best/God's glory. All (even bad) works together for good. Trials and tests make us work harder, become better, stronger. Sin brought the savior and greatest love. Evil is only temporary.*
2. "How could God allow my sister to die (I begged)?" —See 1.
3. "How can God allow innocent (even children) to suffer?" —See 1.
4. "How can God be sovereign/everything already be elected/ predestined/determined if man has free will?" --*His election was "according to the foreknowledge of God" of our choices (Rom. 8:29; 1Pe. 1:2), He has always been omniscient, so didn't decide without that foreknowledge. He chose our choices for His purpose and glory in this universe. He also elected all circumstances, environments, and every interconnection of all things. That gives more glory when we're not robots and we choose Him, and clearly makes us responsible for our decisions. It elevates God and His sovereignty exponentially to be in complete control of free moral agents and not simply pre-programmed robots.*

#### **Salvation**

1. **Works vs Grace:** pp. 108-116. The solution of evil, pain, sin, death, and even Hell, is faith Jesus Christ alone. Great Scriptures to commit to memory: *John 3:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Tit. 3:5; Rom. 4:4; 11:6*. Salvation is by grace thru faith in Christ alone.
2. **Eternal Security:** pp. 117-126. Salvation is provided and kept by God alone.
3. Sharing and Defending Your Faith.

#### **Common statements you will hear about how to become and stay saved...and some answers.**

1. "Faith alone can't save you; you must do something." —God says, *"For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."* (Eph. 2:8-9)

2. "All religions say you must do good works to be saved." —*True, and one of the reasons why they are all false. Men always think they are good enough, so do all man-made religions, but God is perfect, and "there is none righteous, no not one" (Rom. 3:10).*
3. "James writes that you must do works to be eternally saved." —*No, he actually says that Abraham was saved by faith (cf. 2:23), so knew eternal salvation is by faith alone. James emphasizes true faith always shows itself alive/real and is always demonstrated, seen, and declared good by others by works. If you never have works consistent with what you "say" you believe, you're lying, your faith is not real, so that will "profit" none (James 2).*
4. "If a Christian commits murder or suicide they will go to Hell." —*No, if you received Christ's death, burial, and resurrection to pay for ALL your sin, even murder or suicide have all been forgiven. Some argue a truly saved person would never do such severe sins. No where does God say those or any other sins won't be forgiven. In fact, God says, "all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven men..." (Mat. 12:31).*
5. "No one can ever truly know they are eternally saved..." —*God says, they can. "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life" (1Jo. 5:13).*