

Christian Apologetics Defending the Faith

Session 4

How Do I Know God Exists?

God's Attributes / The Trinity

REVIEW

What is Apologetics?

A reasonable defense of the Christian faith

REVIEW

What is Presuppositional Apologetics?

A defense that starts with the assumption that
God exists
Scripture is true
God's truth comes from the Bible

REVIEW

What is Evidential Apologetics?

A method of defense that focuses on

Evidence from outside the Bible
to try to prove Scripture as true

Archeological discoveries and
written historical documents

Defending the Faith

How Do I Know God Exists?

Genesis 1:1

*“In the beginning God created the heavens and
the earth.”*

Genesis 1:1

Who is mentioned in this passage?	God
What is the action verb in this passage?	Created
“Heavens and earth” is a figure of speech that means ?	Everything / Universe

Genesis 1:2-5

“Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light “day,” and the darkness He called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.”

Genesis 1:16-19

“¹⁶ God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars.¹⁷ God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.”

1st and 4th days

**He separates the waters and creates the sky,
land, seas and plants...**

Genesis

What do these passages tell you about the creation of time?

God existed before time was created

He created the sun, moon, stars and planets

Day –
Yom = 24 hours

Genesis

What does this section of Scripture teach us about God?

Creator of all things, including time and the whole universe

Existed before time began.

Eternal and self-existent.
Not a created being

Always was and is

Genesis

Why is God the only one
there?

He hadn't created
anyone/anything yet

Beginning of Time

God created the universe by the power of His Word

So what was before this?

God

Infinite and Eternal

Always existed

Exists today

Will never cease to exist in the future

Difficult Concepts

“What is the name of that bachelor’s wife?”

God is causally but not temporally prior to the beginning of the universe.

God can exist without the universe with a timeless intention to create a world with a beginning

Newton vs Augustine

Exodus 3:13-15

“Moses said to God, ‘Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is His name?’ Then what shall I tell them?’”

Exodus 3:13-15

“¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ “This is My name forever, the name you shall call Me from generation to generation.”

I AM

What did Moses ask God?

What do I tell the Israelites?

Who should I say sent me to them?

What is Your name?

I AM

How did God answer Moses (v. 14)?

I AM has sent you

YHWH

Tetragrammaton

Hebrew theonym

"LORD"

I AM

He's the one who is and always will be

He just IS

He is ETERNAL

Again, the Bible is pointing to the Lord God as:

The one who was here before anything else

The same throughout all ages

The same God of creation, Moses and us

Romans 1:20-21

“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

Romans 1:20-21

What attributes or invisible qualities are being discussed in this passage?

God’s eternal power and divine nature

God’s nature and characteristics can be learned by looking at all that was made

All of creation points to the Lord God

Romans 1:20-21

What does God say to the people who believe there is no God.

That they are without
excuse

If people turn away from the testimony of creation and continue to doubt or deny God's existence, what does this text teach will happen?

Do not glorify God
Not thankful to Him
Hearts become foolish
and dark
Thoughts become futile

Biblical Worldview

General Revelation:

All people know that God exists from the creation that surrounds them
(Romans 1:18-22)

Special Revelation:

Salvation Plan in Scripture
Saved by Grace through Faith in Christ

General Revelation

All people can look around at creation

Variety of color, types and design

Perfect order and interactions of nature, biology, space and weather, plant and animal life, human life, etc

Know in their hearts that there is a God

General Revelation

Some choose to deny that truth and turn away to say there is no God or to worship false gods

That's why Paul calls their thinking foolish

They know better in their hearts,
but refuse to admit it

Creation Theories without God

Ways to explain the beginnings of our universe
without God

math and physics

patterns and reactions

relationships

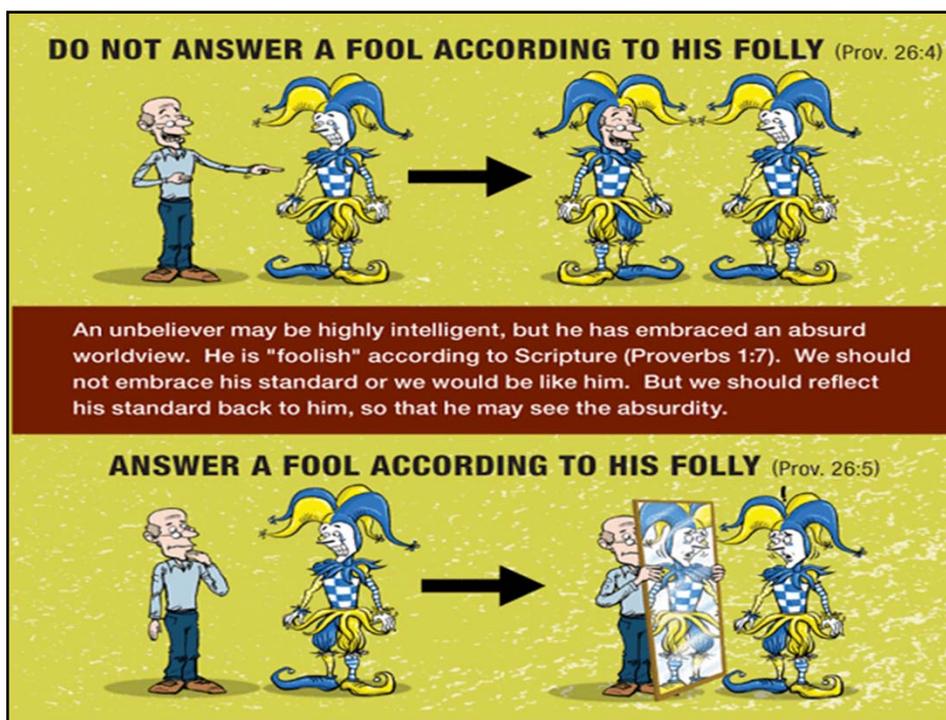
Creation Theories without God

Cannot start or explain the very first step –
how it all started

Must assume that there was some eternal matter
or energy in existence

Do not call it God

Do not know how that matter or energy
came into being



Scientists who are Christian

Like any other type of career –

Mathematicians

Biologists

Geneticists

Physicists

Astronomers

other scientists

Include Christians and unbelievers

Scientists who are Christian

The Christian scientists will:

do the math

look at the physics

be in awe at the complexity and

consistency of nature

Then---

Give God the Glory

Scientists who are Christian

Those who deny the existence of a Creator
see the science as explanation instead of God

Romans 1:25

“²⁵ They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised.”

This denial of God is sin

Truth / Faith

Romans 10:17

(ESV) *“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”*

(NIV) *“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.”*

Apologetics

No amount of physical evidence can convert a sinner to becoming a child of God

This responsibility belongs to the Holy Spirit

Never feel afraid that you could
“turn someone off” by showing them
God’s Word in the Bible

Apologetics

Christians do not need to feel fearful of using the Bible in sharing their faith

There are so many passages encouraging believers to proclaim God’s Word to everyone whenever possible

Apologetics

What is the best way to answer someone who asks you how you know God exists?

Use the words of the Bible

Genesis 1:1

Ex. 3:13-15

Psalm 90

John 1

Rom.1:20-21

Let Scripture be your ultimate authority

Apologetics

Can evidence from history or science ever be used to defend our faith?

Yes, but it should never be the primary source

Scripture should always be the main source of our information about the Lord

Evidence

What are some examples of evidences used to point us to God?

Beauty

Variation

Complexity and order of creation,
biology and space

Unlikely that:

such complexity evolving from a single cell

DNA could hold so much information

just by spontaneous sources or by chance

Evidence

What are some examples of evidences used to point us to God?

Information Science

DNA

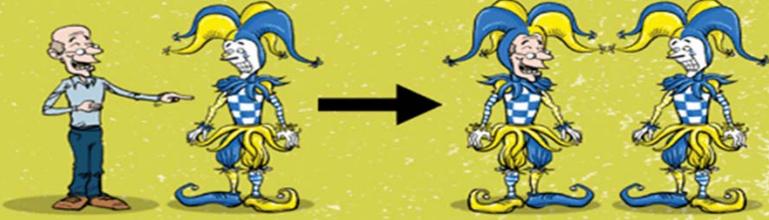
Irreducible Complexity

Blood Clots

NB – Presuppositions

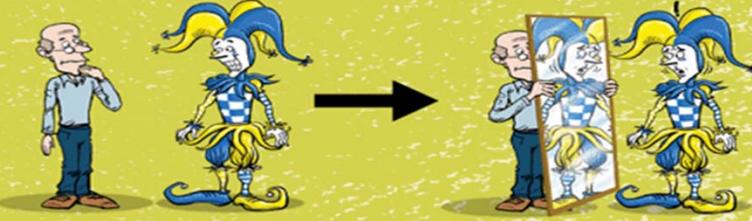
Proverbs 26:4-5

DO NOT ANSWER A FOOL ACCORDING TO HIS FOLLY (Prov. 26:4)



An unbeliever may be highly intelligent, but he has embraced an absurd worldview. He is "foolish" according to Scripture (Proverbs 1:7). We should not embrace his standard or we would be like him. But we should reflect his standard back to him, so that he may see the absurdity.

ANSWER A FOOL ACCORDING TO HIS FOLLY (Prov. 26:5)



Information Science

Information Science

Theorems of information science:

creative information *cannot* arise
spontaneously in matter by chance process

Information always results from an
intelligent source

Information Science

Information –

Coded message containing an expected action
and intended purpose

DNA

in every cell of living organisms
in quantities of almost
unimaginable proportions

Information Science

Vast amounts of information in living things supports what we read in the Bible concerning the creative acts of an all-powerful God

God was the intelligence behind the message we find in the DNA of living things

No other explanation can account for this information, so the necessity of God's existence is clear through what He has created

Irreducible Complexity

Irreducible Complexity

Many systems found in living organisms are interdependent

Bombardier Beetle

Giraffes

Irreducible Complexity

Blood Clots -

Many chemical reactions

Must take place in a highly specific order

If any of these parts are missing the process fails

Hemophilia

Irreducible Complexity

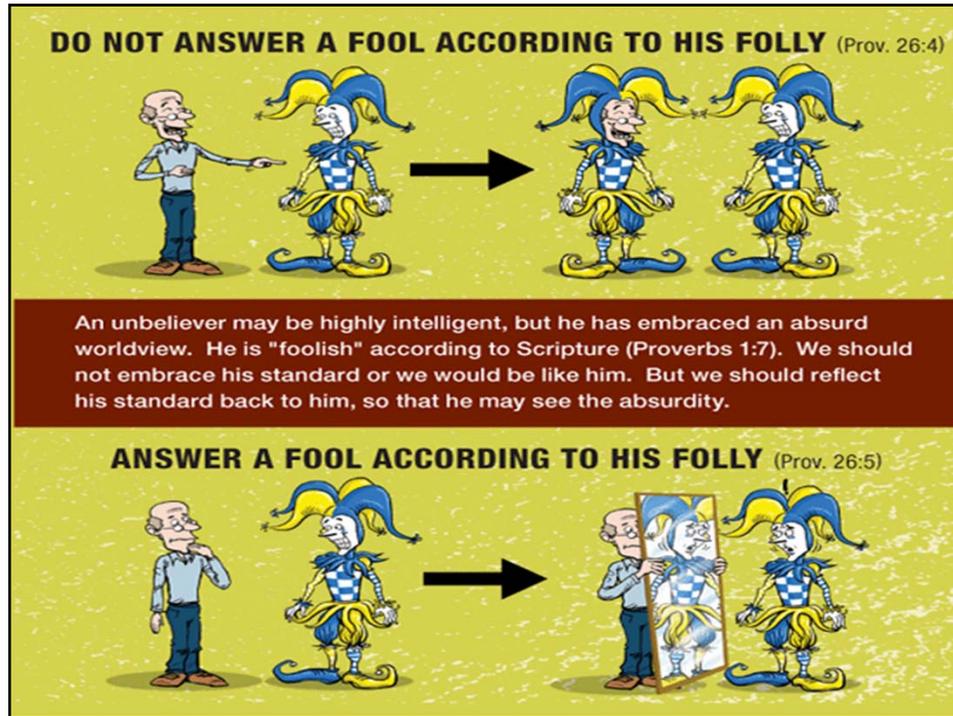
Molecules-to-man evolution requires

all component parts
from the very outset
or the system cannot function

Irreducible Complexity

This complexity is explained by the
Creator we read of in the Bible

Systems were made to function
when God created them



Evidence / Presupposition

No matter how much evidence - the arguments are based on presuppositions

Christian Belief:

Based on Word of God

Secular Belief:

Process / Evolution

Presuppositional Universality

Everyone has presupposed ideas

Evolutionist Worldview –

No God / No controlling force

Man can understand all on own

Random events

Biblical Worldview –

God in Control

Word of God basis of understanding

Christian Presuppositions

The Bible is the only revealed Word of God

We trust that it contains truth from
the Creator of the universe

Our Role – vs – Holy Spirit

We might present
piles of evidence
an articulated defense for God

***** but *****

The unbelieving mind
Blind to the spiritual truths
Reject the truth

Defending the Faith

Draw attention to the heart of the matter-
Different starting points of the arguments
Different Presuppositions

Must rely on Scripture as our anchor
Let the Holy Spirit work in their hearts

Understand:
Everyone has a worldview

Authority of Scripture



How do you know God exists?

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created...

Exodus 3:13-15

God is eternal (I AM)

He is outside of time

Creator of all things

How do you know God exists?

Rom. 1:20-21

Creation proclaims God's wisdom,
knowledge, power

All people have consciences and a
sense of what is right and wrong

How do you know God exists?

Start with the Bible

Make the assumption God exists –
Genesis 1:1 pre-supposes His existence

Science, the Big Bang Theory, physics, etc.,
cannot prove God doesn't exist

Everybody has to make an assumption one way
or the other about the beginning
before time

What are some Biblical examples that point to God's existence?

Genesis 1:1-19

Before God created light
He just was – all by Himself...
He created time

Exodus 3:13-15

He calls Himself, "I AM"
He is eternal, outside of time
Always in existence

What are some Biblical examples that point to God's existence?

Romans 1:20-25

Says that God's nature, His characteristics,
can be learned by looking at all that was
made

All of creation points to God

Man has no excuse for disbelief or denial
of God's existence

Attributes of God

What is God Like?

Exodus 33:18-34:8

after

God gives Moses the 10 Commandments

40 day & night conference with God

Israelites partying and worshipping a
golden calf idol

tablets broken in anger

calm is restored to the people, punishments
and repentance have occurred

Exodus 33:18-34:8

¹⁸ Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.”

¹⁹ And the LORD said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ²⁰ But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”

Exodus 33:18-34:8

²¹ Then the LORD said, “There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. ²² When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.”

Exodus 33:18-34:8

The New Stone Tablets

34 The LORD said to Moses, “Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. ² Be ready in the morning, and then come up on Mount Sinai. Present yourself to me there on top of the mountain. ³ No one is to come with you or be seen anywhere on the mountain; not even the flocks and herds may graze in front of the mountain.”

Exodus 33:18-34:8

⁴ So Moses chiseled out two stone tablets like the first ones and went up Mount Sinai early in the morning, as the LORD had commanded him; and he carried the two stone tablets in his hands. ⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. ⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming,

Exodus 33:18-34:8

“The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

⁸ Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped.

Exodus 33:18-34:8

God gives Moses another copy of the
10 Commandments

Moses pleads for God to share His mercy and
His presence with the people of Israel

God answers him....

Exodus 33:18-34:8

What does Moses ask of the Lord?

For God to show him His glory

Why was this a bold request?

Sinful humans cannot look on
God's face and live (Gen. 33:20, 23)

Exodus 33:18-34:8

What does this tell you about Moses?

Trusts God completely
Wants closeness w/God

What does this tell you about God?

Truly loves Moses; compassionate –
Allows Moses a way to have this
intimate relationship with Him
without losing his life

Attributes of God

How does God fulfill Moses' request to be shown His glory?

God puts Moses in a little cleft in the rock and allows Moses to view the "back" of His glory

Attributes of God

What characteristics does God proclaim about Himself?

His name (The LORD)

Compassionate

Gracious

Slow to anger

Abounding in love & faithfulness

Forgiving

Just (doesn't leave guilty unpunished)

Attributes of God

In Gen. 34:8, what is Moses' response to this revelation of God's character?

He immediately falls to the ground and worships the Lord

Attributes & Meanings

The LORD –

Jehovah – almighty

I AM

Self-existent One

Compassionate –

Merciful

Caring

Showing Sympathy

Attributes & Meanings

Gracious –

Generous
Giving Undeserved Gifts

Slow to Anger –

Patient
Long-suffering

Loving –

Always Wanting what is Best
Unconditional Affection
Cherish
Treasure

Attributes & Meanings

Faithfulness –

Trustworthy
Dependable
Reliable

Forgiving –

Reconcile
Pardon
Exonerate

Attributes & Meanings

Doesn't Leave Guilty Unpunished –

Just

Fair

Punishes to 3rd & 4th Generation –

Unchanging in His justice

Even when sin takes

Several generations to remove

1 John 4:9-11

Exodus simply names the attributes of God

1st John shows God's character through His actions toward mankind.

1 John 4:9-11

⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:9-11

Who are the persons involved in this passage?

God, Jesus & us (believers)

What action word or attribute describing God is repeated?

Love

1 John 4:9-11

What specific actions are described in this passage?

God showing us His love
God sending His Son into
the world as an atoning sacrifice
Believers living through Jesus
God loving us and we showing
love to each other.

1 John 4:9-11

What does the term “atoning sacrifice” or “propitiation for our sin” in v. 10 mean?

The sacrifice by which we are forgiven of our sins; the penalty of our sins, paid; the act that turned away God’s wrath over our sins. (Jesus’ death on the cross)

1 John 4:9-11

Which action of God mentioned in this passage best describes His loving character?

**Sending His Son to pay the sacrifice
for our sins**

According to this passage, who is the ultimate standard of love?

God /Jesus

Psalm 90:1-4

¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

² Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

³ You turn people back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, you mortals."

⁴ A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.

Psalm 90:1-4

How is God described in v. 1?

A dwelling place throughout generations.

What characteristics of God would that picture be illustrating?

A safe place, a refuge, Long-time Protector, eternal (throughout ALL generations.)

Psalm 90:1-4

In verse 2, what does “everlasting to everlasting” refer to?

Eternality of God.

He is who He is, now and forever more

What does the phrase, “turn men to dust” mean?

Eventual death of all men

Psalm 90:1-4

How does v. 4 describe God's relationship to time?

What seems like a very long time to us can seem like just a day or a few hours to God

God is outside of time

Everywhere all at once

Eternal

Psalm 90:1-4

This passage compares the brevity of human existence to the eternal nature of God. what do these verses tell us about God?

Everlasting

Sovereign control over all things

Our Protector all our lives

Creator

Power over death

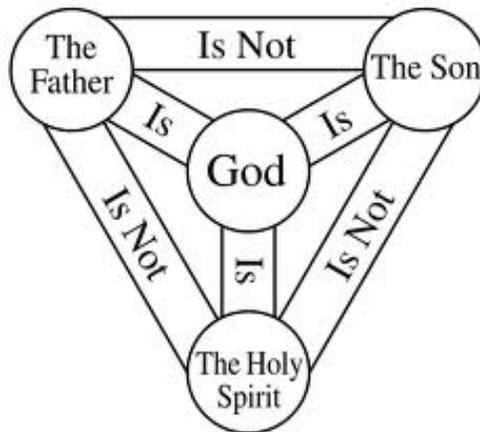
Exists outside of time

Attributes of God

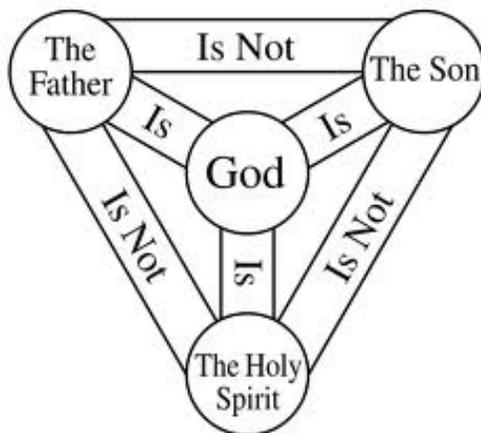
By understanding God's eternal nature from this passage, we can have confidence that God knows everything past, present and future

God always knows what is best

Trinity



Trinity



Attributes of God As Evident in Each Person of the Trinity

	God (The Father)	Jesus Christ	The Holy Spirit
God	1 Corinthians 15:24; Philippians 1:2	John 1:1,14; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:8	Acts 5:3-4
Lord	Matthew 11:25	Luke 2:11; John 20:27-29	2 Corinthians 3:17-18
Creator	Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 44:24	John 1:3; Colossians 1:16	Job 33:4
omnipotent	Genesis 17:1; Isaiah 43:13 Jeremiah 32:17, 27 Matthew 19:26	Daniel 7:13-14; John 13:3; 1 Peter 3:22; John 17:2	1 Corinthians 2:4 Romans 15:18-19
omnipresent	1 Kings 8:2; Psalms 139:7-10 Proverbs 15:3 Jeremiah 23:23-24 Acts 17:24, 27-28	Matthew 28:19-20 Ephesians 1:23	Psalms 139:7-10
omniscient	Job 34:21-22 Psalms 139:1-6, 11-18; 147:5 Romans 11:33-36 1 John 3:19-20	John 16:30; 21:17 He knew their thoughts: Matthew 9:4; 12:25; 22:18 Mark 2:8 Luke 5:22; 6:8; 9:47; 11:17 John 2:24-25; 5:42; 6:6; 16:19; Acts 1:24 He knew the future: Matthew 16:21; 20:18-19 John 2:19-22; 12:23-33	John 14:26 1 Corinthians 2:10-11

Attributes as Trinity

immutable	Malachi 3:6	Hebrews 13:8	1 Corinthians 12:4-11
eternal	Genesis 21:33 Exodus 3:14 Psalms 90:2; 102:27 Isaiah 41:4 Romans 1:23; 16:27 1 Timothy 1:17; 6:16 Revelation 4:8	Isaiah 44:6; 48:12 1 Timothy 1:17; 6:16 Revelation 1:4, 5, 8, 11, 17; 2:8; 21:6; 22:13 Hebrews 7:23-25 pre-existent to creation: Micah 5:2 John 1:1-3; 8:58; 17:5, 24 1 Corinthians 8:6 Ephesians 3:9 Colossians 1:15-7	Hebrews 9:14
holy	Revelation 15:4	Acts 3:14	Romans 1:4 John 14:26
sanctifies	1 Thessalonians 5:23	1 Corinthians 1:2	1 Peter 1:2
searches	Jeremiah 17:10	Revelation 2:18, 23	1 Corinthians 2:10
gives life	Genesis 2:7; John 5:21	John 5:21	2 Corinthians 3:6

Trillionaire Game

<http://www.jc-schools.net/tutorials/PPT-games/>

50:50



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**Who Wants to
be a Trillionaire?**

- 15 ● \$1 Trillion
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- 13 ● \$250,000
- 12 ● \$125,000
- 11 ● \$64,000
- 10 ● \$32,000
- 9 ● \$16,000
- 8 ● \$8,000
- 7 ● \$4,000
- 6 ● \$2,000
- 5 ● \$1,000
- 4 ● \$500
- 3 ● \$300
- 2 ● \$200
- 1 ● \$100

QUESTIONS

Christian Apologetics Defending the Faith

Session 5 – Kevin Altman
The Seven C's of History
What is the Gospel?