

Understanding and Defending the Reasons of our Faith in a World Gone Mad

Session #8

1. Clarifying the meaning of the Self-attestation of the Bible.
 - a. Terms are often used differently, especially in various fields.
 - b. God's word is true because God Himself is true. He cannot lie (Titus 1:1-3).
 - c. The Spirit inspired and illuminates the Word, and it is powerful in itself (Heb. 4:12).
 - d. The Bible internally attests to its divine nature by its unity and harmony, power and efficacy, beauty and excellency, etc.
 - e. Ultimately, belief in the inspiration and authority of Scripture is a matter of faith, but not an unreasonable faith.

2. Revisiting Proverbs 26:4-5.
 - a. Don't answer the fool in keeping with their systems of thought; don't give them the ground they demand.
 - b. Don't let them put God in the dock.

3. The Transcendent rebuttal (what about all of the Christian atrocities?):
 - a. In pointing out the inevitable atrocities that flow out of Godless philosophy, there will often follow the charge of wicked acts carried out in "the name of Christ".
 - i. The Crusades (Late 11th to late 13th)
 - ii. The Spanish Inquisition (1478-1834. The one thing agreed upon by all was that it was the "secular" authorities that did the *inquisitioning*, that is, the burning at the stake.
 - iii. The Salem witch trials (1692-1693. 19 people were hung.)
 - iv. Galileo and the persecution of science (17th century)
 - v. Etc.

 - b. We are all sinners alike and inconsistency and hypocrisy plague all alike, but the discussion is not advanced by pointing to inconsistent and hypocritical acts but assessing whether the acts are, in fact, inconsistent and hypocritical.
 - i. Is offering penitential reward to children in exchange for military service consistent with Christianity? Was Stephen (Étienne) of Cloyes a hypocrite?
 - ii. Is eugenics consistent with Darwinian naturalism? Was Oliver Wendall Holmes a hypocrite?
 - iii. Is turning over a heretic to a secular authority for execution consistent with Christianity? Was Pope Sixtus IV acting hypocritically when he issued a Bull ceding power to try heresies to King Ferdinand?
 - iv. Is totalitarianism consistent with Marxism? Were Stalin and Mao hypocrites?
 - v. Is hanging someone convicted of witchcraft on spurious charges and without due process consistent with Christianity? Was Increase Mather acting hypocritically when he opposed these acts in writing?
 - vi. Is abortion consistent with Egalitarianism or Feminism? Was Margret Sanger a hypocrite?
 - vii. Is protesting homosexuality at military funerals consistent with Christianity? Is Westboro Baptist Church acting hypocritically when they protest in this way?
 - viii. Is transgenderism consistent with Freudianism? Is Bruce (Caitlyn) Jenner a hypocrite?
 - ix. Etc.

4. Foundations for morality.

(Though 25% of Americans now identify as “none”, the majority of Americans would still not vote for an open atheist because the underlying assumption is that they have no moral values.)

- a. Something in the air (Dawkins: 3:07)
[Morality is something in the air of any given century or decade, that is until a gust of wind comes along and blows that something away and it becomes something else.]
- b. Converging on the fact space (Harris: 18:55)
- c. Why are God’s commandments good, and was Plato right?
 - i. Is it because He says they are good or is it because He knows they are good and thus commands them?
 - ii. The false dichotomy and the Creation Imperative.

5. The problem of responsibility (the raging debate):

- a. Determinism and the quest for “better”.
- b. Compatibilism and Incompatibilism.
- c. What about criminals?