



Step Three: Being Ready

Studying to Give a Thoughtful Answer to the Disciple, the Skeptic, and the Scoffer

Disciples: _____ of Christ who are looking to learn

Acts 4:10-12 – “Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole... Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Skeptics: unconvinced, confused, _____

All the world’s religions really are different. Different concepts of God, different values and moral codes, different paths to ‘salvation.’ To treat them all the same is profoundly dangerous. They can’t all be ‘true’!

Truth is not affected by sincerity or belief or desire. Just thinking something is true (or wanting it to be), doesn’t make it true! Just because I believe Jesus rose from the dead, doesn’t mean He really did... and just because someone DOESN’T believe in the resurrection, doesn’t mean it didn’t happen. Jesus tomb is either empty or holds His bones.

The claims of Jesus can be evaluated like any other objective truth claim. These historical truth claims are the foundation of all Christian beliefs, making it uniquely open to investigation of whether it’s true or not!

Evidence that Demands a Verdict, More than a Carpenter, Mere Christianity

Scoffers: mocking, uninterested, _____

In my experience, religious lies enslave people – and truth sets them free. I’m not trying to be narrow minded, but I think standards of ‘truth and lies’ really do apply to religion and morality.

I’m not trying to be arrogant when I say that only this key opens this lock... I just want you to be able to open the door!



Step Four: Shine as a Light

Living out an Answer with our Lives

If we believe that there is objective Truth – and Jesus is the Truth...

→ We should be _____ in standing up for Jesus

Matthew 5:16 – “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”



Ready to Give an Answer

Answering the tough questions with our words and with our lives

Part 7: “Can’t All Beliefs Be True, If They’re Sincere?”

The Text: 1 Corinthians 15:1-22

15:1-2 – The Good News about _____

“Gospel” = *euangelion* = Good tidings, joyful news

John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

15:3-4 – According to the _____

2 Peter 1:16 – “For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.”

15:5-8 – The _____ Nature of all the Key Events

Acts 26:26 – “For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.”

15:9-11 – The News: From _____ Eyewitnesses

1 Corinthians 5:6 – “After that, He was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present”

15:12-13 – This News is _____ True or False

“Everyone can have their own opinion... but not their own facts!”

15:14-19 – IF FALSE: Empty, _____, Miserable, _____

“Vain” = *mataios* = devoid of force, useless, empty, of no purpose

15:20-22 – IF TRUE: In Adam = _____. In Christ = _____!

1 John 5:12-13 – “He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 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, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”



Step One: Understanding Honestly Considering the Hard Questions

→ **Relativism:**

- “Every religion leads to the _____ God”
- “Religious belief is personal – there are no _____”
- “As long as you’re morally _____, that’s all that matters”

Judges 17:6 – “In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”

→ **Skepticism:**

- “Truth might exist, but we can’t _____ for sure”
- “The best we can do is follow our _____ and be moral”

John 18:37-38 – “Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. Pilate saith unto him, What is truth?”



Step Two: Strengthened Belief Being Thoughtful About What We Believe

Faith ~ Reason ~ Experience

Faith: A _____ trust in the _____ of Jesus and the Bible

Trust Jesus: He said the _____ would make you free!

John 8:31-32 – “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Trust Jesus: He said _____ IS the Truth

John 14:6 - “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

Trust Jesus: He warned us about false _____!

Matthew 23:13 - “But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.”

Trust Jesus: He warned us about _____ lies!

John 8:44 - “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.”

Trust the Bible: it says there is religious _____ and religious _____

2 Timothy 4:3-4 – “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

Reason: consider the _____ and _____

Evidence:

- ✓ Truth: is not _____ by sincerity, desire, or belief
Just thinking something is true, doesn’t make it true!
Rejecting a fact doesn’t cause it to disappear!
- ✓ There is an objective _____ world.
“Truth” must correspond to reality
- ✓ Many religious claims can be _____ on objective truth
Claims like “Jesus rose from the dead” must be true or not

Logic:

- ✓ Relativism is self-_____: Is the claim that ‘all truth is relative,’ absolutely true? If there is 1 absolute truth, why not 2?
- ✓ Relativism has confused *opinions* with _____. It’s reasonable to have a positive or negative opinion of Jesus – but that doesn’t change if He rose from the dead or not!
- ✓ Relativism is exceedingly _____. If no religion or moral system is ‘wrong’ or ‘false’ – then any evil can be allowed.
- ✓ Skepticism is just thoughtful _____. If it’s impossible to know, then it’s also impossible to judge!

Experience: finding it to be _____ in our own lives

Pastor Josh’s experience with sincere belief:

- ➔ I have regularly and sincerely believed something *untrue*!
- ➔ Believing lies enslaves you. Learning the Truth sets you free.