

Eight Reasons Apologetics Belongs in our Task of Evangelizing

"Always be prepared to give a reason for the hope that is in you." (1 Peter 3:15)

The following list of reasons is not dependent on the false assumption that "seekers" are clamoring to believe the Gospel if only it can be "proven" that it is true. To the contrary, as the Apostle Paul states at the beginning of his *Romans* treatise (1:18), it is the very posture of *resistance* to evidence which marks the universal inclination (Psalm 14:1) of sinful human hearts (including even Christians—Rom. 7:15-24). Consequently, although believers in Christ are sure to find comfort in the demonstrably solid evidential foundation of our faith, the purpose of apologetics in evangelism is to announce these same truths in order to *convict* non-believers of the folly of resisting the invitation of God, to the end that they receive the salvation He graciously offers in Jesus Christ (John 1:12). Note point 8, below.

1. The Christian message entails claims about existence (Gen. 1:1), the order within nature (Ps. 19:1), and events in history (Luke 3:1-2) whose veracity can, in principle, be established.
2. It is reasonable for both Christians and non-Christians to expect that any "revealed" Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16) should harmonize with what can be known about both nature and history.
3. The very assertion that the Gospel is true demands *logically* that its revelation (the Holy Bible), whenever it addresses either matters of science or historical events, must harmonize with what scientists and historians discover to be the case in the actual world.
4. As the Bible employs the term, *faith* entails the *rational* act of entrusting our lives to Jesus Christ alone on the grounds that, in *actuality*, He is as he claims to be; the incarnate (1 John 7) and crucified, yet also risen, Savior of the world (John 3:16).
5. The Bible appeals to *events in history* which affirm the truth of its message (Isaiah 41:22-23; 42:9, Matt. 11:4-6; Luke 1:1-4; 3:1-2, John 3:11; 14:11, Acts 2:22, 32; 26:1f, and 1 Cor. 15:1f).
6. The Bible appeals to *actualities of the nature order* as a means of confirming the truth of Scripture (Isaiah 40:25-26, Psalm 19:1, John 3:12, Acts 14:15-18; 17:24-29, Romans 1:20).
7. Archaeology has vindicated the biblical record of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection most especially, as compellingly trustworthy. Furthermore, both the observable history of the expanding universe pointing to its beginning out of nothing in a manner consistent with Genesis 1:1; and the biological evidence for an early and sudden appearance of complex DNA life, proves that only a Creator who is transcendent, powerful, and intelligent, has the capacity to bring these things into existence. This evidence is documented in my essay, *The Prints are Everywhere*, found at my website: <http://www.christianityontheoffense.com>.
8. Rom. 1:18-20 states that the witness of nature, and by implication history, also function as aspects of God's **law** against which all people will be judged for their unbelief ("*so they are without excuse*"). For this reason the **Bible** expressly **forbids dismissing scientific facts**.