

Apologetics (CM4)

Morality, Miracles & Prophecy

March 6, 2015

**Ross Arnold, Winter 2015
Lakeside institute of Theology**



Apologetics (CM4)

Jan. 30 – Introduction to Apologetics

Feb. 6 – Reliability of Witnesses

Feb. 13 – The Existence of God

Feb. 20 – The Existence of God 2

Feb. 27 – **No Class**

Mar. 6 – Morality, Miracles, and Prophecy

Mar. 13 – Responding to the New Atheists

Mar. 20 – Applying the Principles; Final Exam



Defense of the Christian faith in 12 propositions:


1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. Opposites cannot both be true.
3. The theistic God exists.
4. Miracles are possible.
5. Miracles performed in connection with truth claim are acts of God to confirm the truth of God through messengers of God.
6. The New Testament documents are reliable.
7. As witnessed in the New Testament, Jesus claimed to be God.
8. Jesus's claim to divinity was proven by a unique convergence of miracles.
9. Therefore, Jesus was God in human flesh.
10. Whatever Jesus (who is God) affirmed as true is true.
11. Jesus affirmed that the Bible is the Word of God.
12. Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God and whatever is opposed to any biblical truth is false.

Moral Law as Apologetics

“Religion is not going away. Even those of us who fancy ourselves rationalists and scientists rely on moral values—a set of distinctly unscientific beliefs. Where, for instance, does our conviction that human rights are universal come from? Humans’ rights to me are as mysterious as the holy trinity.... You can’t do a CT scan to show where humans’ rights are, you can’t cut someone open and show us their human rights.... It’s not an empirical thing, it’s just something we strongly believe. It’s a purely metaphysical entity.”

Edward Slingerland, Founder,
Centre for Study of Human Evolution,
Cognition and Culture

The Moral Argument for God

- **Premise 1:** If God does not exist, then objective moral values do not exist.
 - **Premise 2:** Objective moral values do exist.
 - **Conclusion:** God exists.
- 

The Moral Argument for God

- If the moral code and/or actions of any individual or society can properly be subjects of criticism (as to real moral wrong), then there must be some objective standard (some “higher law which transcends the provincial and transient”) which is other than the particular moral code and which has an obligatory character which can be recognized.
- The moral code and/or actions of any individual or society can properly be subjects of criticism (as to real moral wrong).
- Therefore, there must be some objective standard (some “higher law which transcends the provincial and transient”) which is other than the particular moral code and which has an obligatory character which can be recognized.

Atheism Does Not Provide a Legitimate Objective Standard for Morality

- Atheism evolution cannot logically explain the existence of morality.
- Real, objective moral right or wrong cannot exist if humans are the nothing more than animals, like all others animals.
- So if atheism is correct, and we have no basis for considering people anything more than animals, then we logically have no basis for moral determinations – and cannot reasonably condemn rape, or genocide, or child abuse, or predatory sexual exploitation of children.

“A man who has no assured and ever present belief in the existence of a personal God or of a future existence with retribution and reward, can have for his rule of life, as far as I can see, only to follow those impulses and instincts which are the strongest or which seem to him the best ones.” Charles Darwin

“Everything is indeed permitted if God does not exist.”

Jean Paul Satre

Miracles as Apologetics

- Christianity is a supernatural religion. Miracles are essential to its very nature. Without them, there is no orthodox Christianity.
- Miracle: *“An event or occurrence in which God acts, or allows his servants to act, with intentionality in a way not limited by the usual boundaries of natural law which He has put in place.”*
- If the New Testament documents are true and reliable (as we have argued that they are) then their reports of miracles must be true and reliable.
- It can be argued that miracles are not only *possible*, but in fact are *probable*, given the existence and nature of God.

Predictive Prophecy as Apologetics

- There are an estimated 1,817 predictive prophecies in the Bible, many made hundreds of years prior to being fulfilled. (*Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy*)
- If the New Testament documents are true and reliable (as we have argued that they are) then their reports of fulfilled predictive prophecy must be true and reliable.
- Fulfilled predictive prophecy is a strong argument for the existence of an omniscient God.
- There are two broad categories of biblical prophecy: messianic and nonmessianic.
- Even one real case of fulfilled prophecy would establish Scripture's supernatural. To make the case *against* prophecy, all instances must be naturally explainable.