

Evidences – An Introduction

Why should we study Evidences?

“The gospel is not only true, but it can be rationally and objectively known to be true. It is not something that should be swallowed naively; in fact, it requires careful evaluation. But if the message of Christ is true, it is by far the most important truth in the world- and it is worthy of being defended.”
Gary Henry – Obeying the Gospel, October 28

I. All of us at one time or another have or will face a crisis of faith. Sometimes this crisis is based on events in our lives, other times it may be on emotion or some other factor. For many young people the first crisis they may face is intellectual – there aren’t any “smart” people who believe the Bible. There are many questions they have (many times unstated until they decide to leave the faith) which are not dealt with in their Bible classes or from their associations with Christians.

II. The bible appeals to man on all levels – including intellectual. Note the follow

A. I Samuel 12:7 – Samuel reasons with the people at Saul’s coronation

B. Isaiah 1:18 - God appeals to Israel to reason with Him regarding their sins

C. Thomas - John 20:25-28 Note that he specified what it was that he needed to believe. It is Important if we (or others) have doubts about our faith, we should identify exactly what type of evidence we need to confirm it. List ways that we might get our children to talk about things that may affect their faith.

III. Perhaps our faith is well established, and we have successfully navigated the challenges to our faith that we have met in our lifetime. If that is so, why should we spend time studying evidence for faith? As a believer, does the scripture teach that we have that responsibility?

IV. Is all of reality subject to our 5 senses? Provide at least 4 things which are real but cannot be directly determined by our 5 senses. If we cannot “sense” them, how do we know they exist?

V. Define the following terms (not necessarily in a religious sense)

Faith

Doubt

Evidence

VI. List at least 5 things which may cause one not to believe or fall away from the faith. Is there an intellectual basis for these or are these just feelings?

VI. Should we use the Bible as evidence for faith on someone who does not believe the Bible? How should we treat the Bible when talking with someone who does not believe?