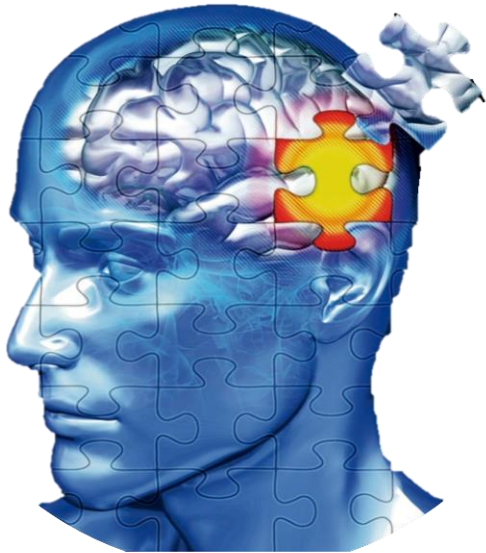


# APOLOGETICS



The  
Mind's  
Journey  
to  
Heaven



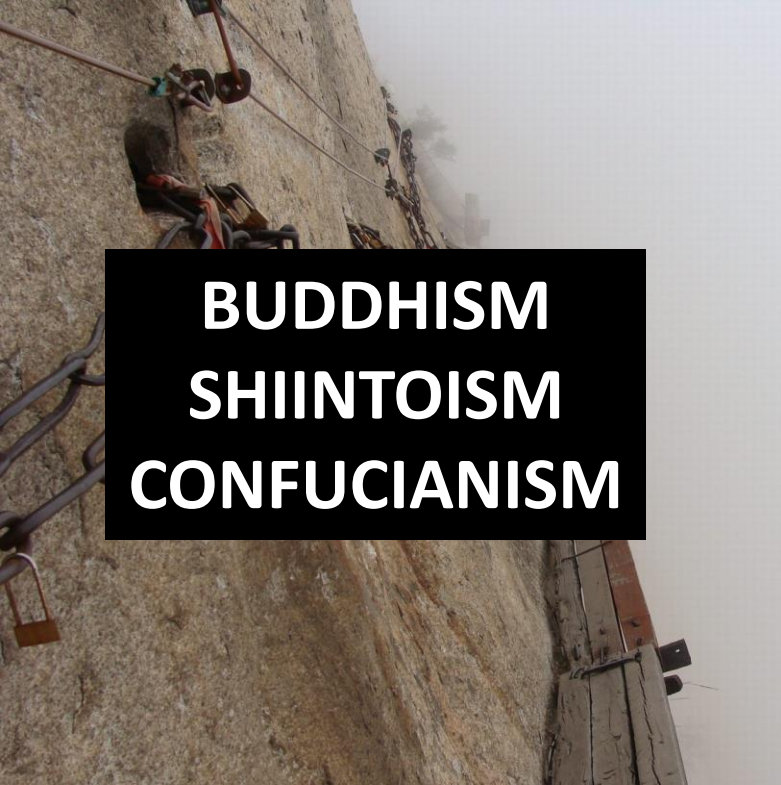


# Great Commission

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

- Jesus has all authority
  - Therefore...GO...to all nations
  - MAKE Disciples...BAPTIZING them & TEACHING to obey
- Jesus will be with you always



A photograph of a person rock climbing a steep, light-colored rock face. The climber is using ropes and gear, and the background is a clear sky.

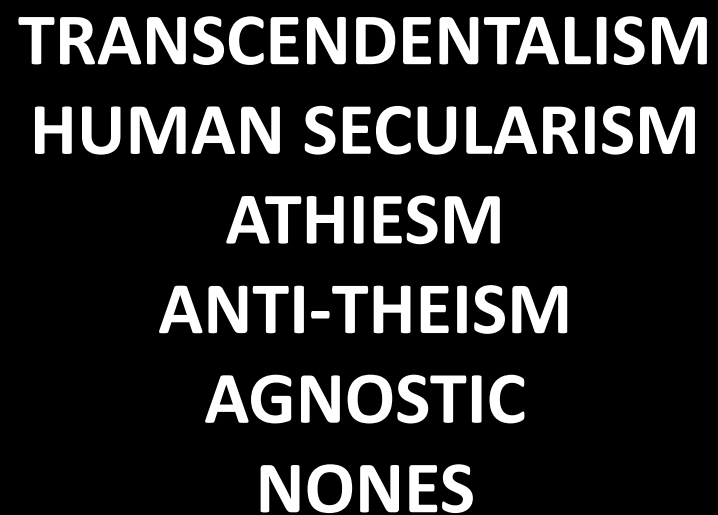
**BUDDHISM  
SHIINTOISM  
CONFUCIANISM**

A photograph of a vast, flat desert landscape under a clear sky. The ground is a mix of light and dark sand, with some distant hills visible on the horizon.

**ISLAM-SUNNI  
ISLAM-SHIA  
ISLAM-KHARIJITES  
JUDAISM  
BAHAI  
Hebrew Israelites**

A photograph of a dense, lush green jungle. Sunlight filters through the thick canopy of various tropical plants and trees.

**ANIMISM  
VOODOO  
WITCHCRAFT  
CANABALISM**

An aerial photograph of a city with a grid-like street pattern, featuring a mix of residential and commercial buildings.

**TRANSCENDENTALISM  
HUMAN SECULARISM  
ATHIESM  
ANTI-THEISM  
AGNOSTIC  
NONES**

A photograph of the interior of a large, ornate cathedral. The image shows tall, arched stone columns and a high, vaulted ceiling with intricate details.

**CATHOLICISM  
MORMONISM  
GREEK ORTHODOX  
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX  
UNITARIANISM  
COEXIST EMERGENT**

A photograph of a tropical beach scene. In the foreground, there are turquoise waves with white foam. In the background, a sandy beach is lined with people, and a dense green forest rises behind them.

**UNKNOWN**

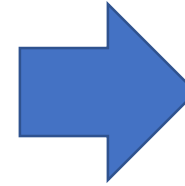




**NO MATTER WHERE THEY ARE...  
THEY WILL HAVE A PROBLEM & A HISTORY**

**PROBLEM = SIN**

**ANSWER = GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST**



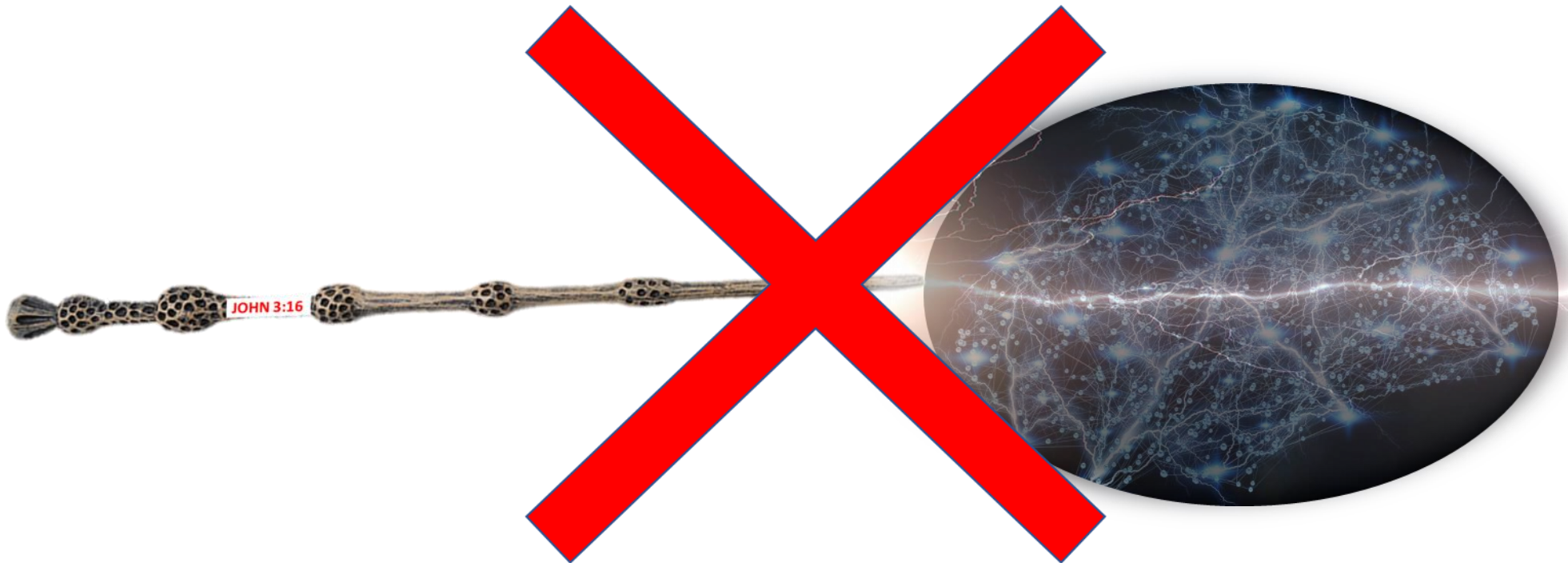
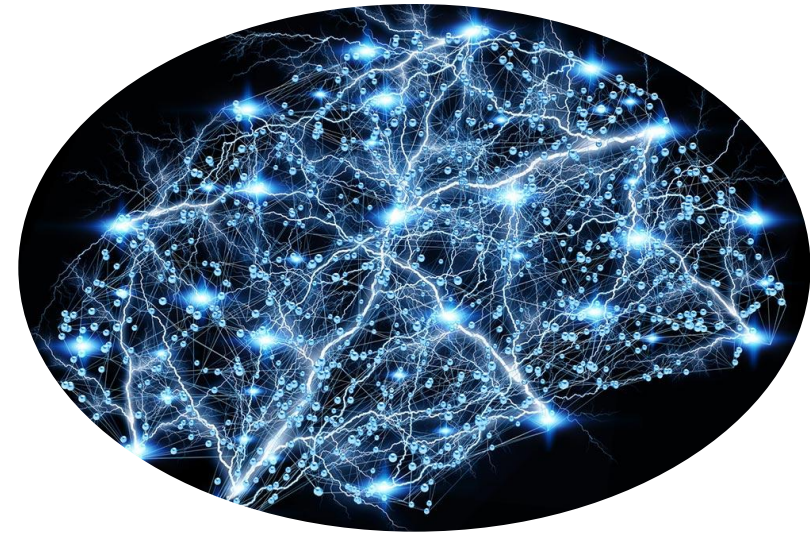
**CALL OF GOD** = Making Alive...Regenerate dead bones

**PROCESS** = Hearing the Word of God through Preaching & Teaching the Gospel...Romans 10:11-37, Ephesians 2, etc.

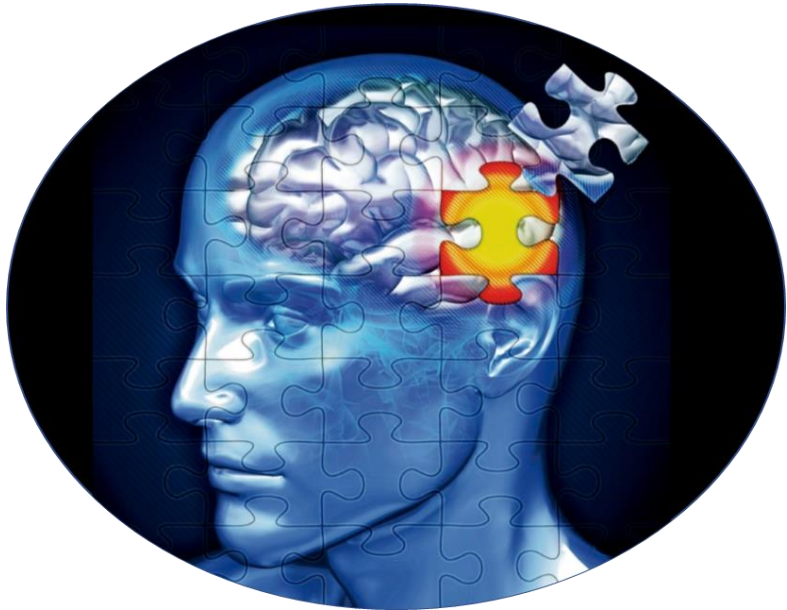
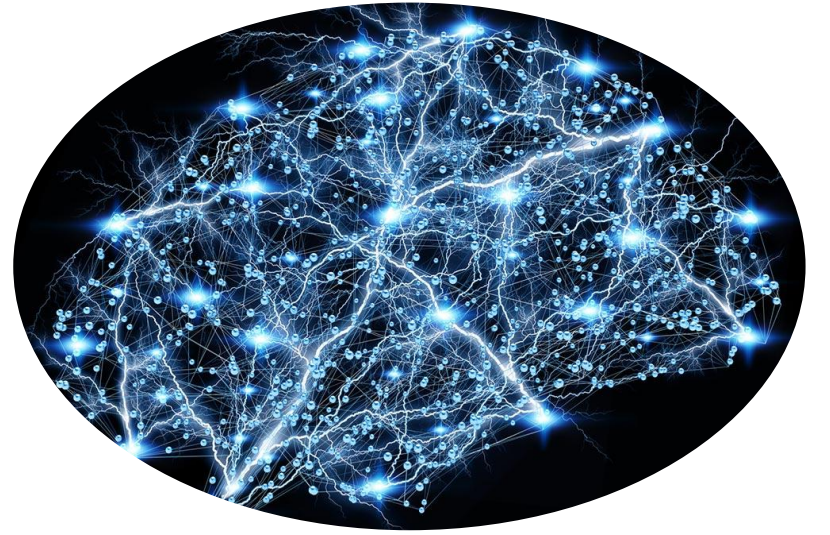
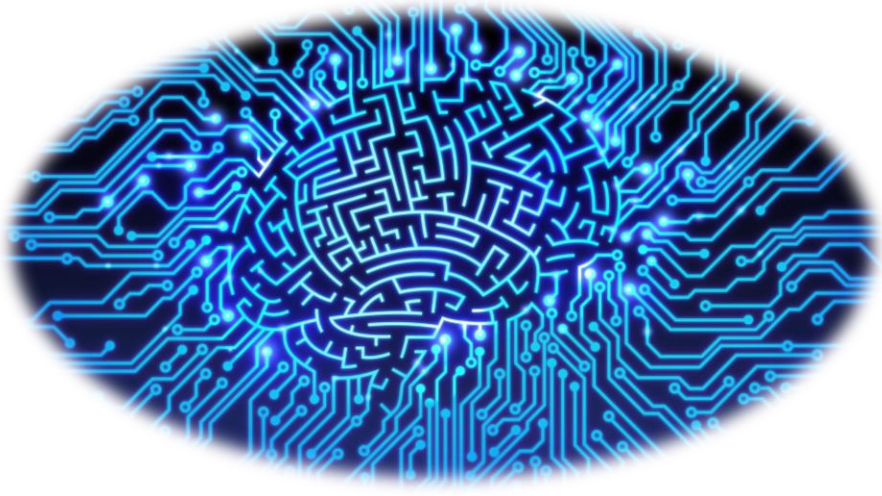
**QUESTION:** What does it mean for a person to "Hear"?

**ANSWER:** Enlightened knowledge or understanding ...which includes a practical and real "winning over" of the "MIND".

**QUESTION:** How does the mind respond to this calling or winning over?







# Intro to Apologetics

- What is it?
- Why bother?
- Evangelism / Discipleship Truism's
- Cautions – Before you swing your Apologetic sword
- Where we are going to go?



# What is it?

## Providing a reason for your faith

*1 Peter 3:15 NASB*

...but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, **always being ready to make a defense** to everyone who asks you **to give an account** for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;





# What is it?

## Defending the Gospel

*2 Corinthians 10:5 NASB*

...We are **destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God**, and we are **taking every thought captive** to the obedience of Christ,

*Jude 3 NASB*

... Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you **contend earnestly for the faith** which was once for all handed down to the saints.



# What is it?

## Being transformed by the renewing of your mind

*Romans 12:2 NASB*

...And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is**, that which is good and acceptable and perfect





# What is it?

## Worshipping & Glorifying God with your Mind

*Luke 10:27 NASB*

...And he answered, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, **AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND**; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."



# What is it?

## Blazing a trail to the cross of Christ for others to follow

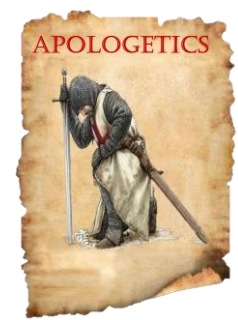
### *2 Timothy 2:23-26 NASB*

...23 But **refuse foolish and ignorant speculations**, knowing that they produce quarrels. 24 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, **able to teach**, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness **correcting those who are in opposition**, if perhaps God may grant them repentance **leading to the knowledge of the truth**, 26 and they may **come to their senses** and **escape from the snare of the devil**, having been held captive by him to do his will.

### *2 Timothy 4:2 NASB*

...**preach the word**; be ready in season and out of season; **reprove, rebuke, exhort**, with great patience and instruction.





# What is it?

## **THEOLOGICAL DEFINITION**

= A systematic argumentative discourse in defense of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## **BASIC DEFINITION**

= Giving an adequate reason for your faith in Jesus Christ.



# Why Bother?

- Clearly, Scripture commands it.
- Jesus gave us the example.
- Integral part of Sharing the Gospel.
- Completely *Reasonable* and *Rational* to Do So.
- It increases your faith and fuels your growth & worship.
  - How can your heart rejoice in something your mind has rejected?
- So that you may be able to face your fears and doubts
  - ...releasing the joy Christ intends you to have!



# Evangelism / Discipleship Truism's

- **God is Sovereign...Man is Responsible.**
  - He has to allow you to participate...ask and you shall receive.
  - He does the calling.
  - He governs the results...and guarantees it.
  - He has overcome... the Devil, the sinful world and the powers of this dark age.
  - YET, You are commanded to follow...to go...to share...to teach...to pray...to prepare...to stand...to give reasons...to love...etc.
- **God's word is sufficient not all encompassing**
  - Pages cannot contain all of the teachings or even actions Jesus did while on the earth...let alone aspects of all possible truths.
- **God's word is superior to all forms of thought...psychology, philosophy, scientific, relational, etc.**
  - Yet, God calls us to think!
- **You cannot take people to a place you have never been before.**
- **There is only one way to be saved but many roads leading to the foot of the Cross.**
- **Cutting trails, building bridges and freeing the mind is a good way to view evangelistic apologetics.**
- **There is nothing new under the sun.**



# CAUTION – Before You Swing Your Apologetic Sword

- We are not winning people to a philosophy but a relationship.
- You are trying to win souls not arguments.
- Let Love with an eternal perspective be your guide.
- Methods of sharing should respect the image of God...be respectful and winsome!
- You are setting hearts free from their slavery to lies/idols/false gods.
- Satan is powerful, scheming and defeated...wear your armor!
  - Without the proper defences /armor/weapons, your mind will be affected by the people you try to reach...this is called syncretism.
- Sword of truth is both a weapon and a scalpel...discern motives before engaging.
- Avoid falling into the trap of the game of wit. There will always be people more knowledgeable and better equipped than you.
- Listen to behavior more than words...avoid focusing on distractions...cut to the chase!
- Take on the attitude of those seeking baby adoptions.
  - Be ready to receive a new family member when they come to the Lord through your obedient efforts.
  - Be willing to go the extra mile in answering questions!
- Jesus sent his disciples out 2 by 2. Don't go alone...leverage the Father and your church family!

# Where are we going to go?

- Major Secular Questions Asked of Christians
  - How do we know God exists?
  - Doesn't science prove Christianity is false? Can any rational person believe in the Christian Faith?
  - Can you trust the Bible as accurate?
  - How can a good God exist if He allows suffering and evil?
  - Is it fair for God to condemn someone to hell? What about those who have never heard the Gospel?
  - Isn't Christianity arrogant to say it is the only way to heaven? Aren't all religions just different ways to the same God?
  - Aren't all people basically good?
  - Isn't Christianity just a "white man's" religion used to oppress women and people of color?
  - Isn't Christianity just a bunch of Do's and Don'ts?
  - Isn't the institutional Christian Church just about getting your money? Do you really have to go to church to be a Christian?
  - **Optional - Crowd generated questions...open Q&A**
- Major World Religion's Arguments against true Christian Faith
  - Islamic Arguments
  - Roman Catholic Arguments
  - Hinduism Arguments
  - Mormonism Arguments
  - Buddhism Arguments