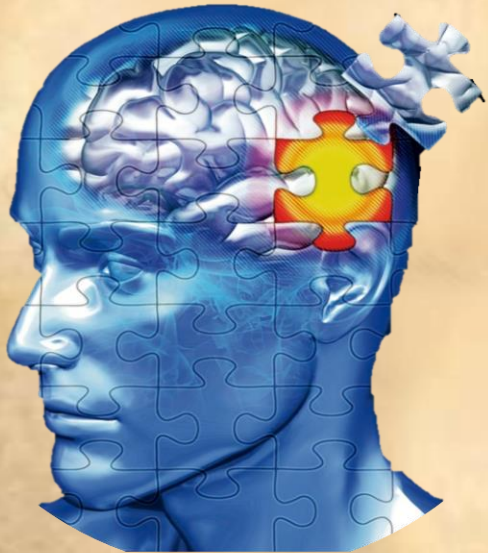


APOLOGETICS



The
Mind's
Journey
to
Heaven



Where have we been?



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?
- Aren't all people basically good?
- Isn't Christianity arrogant to say it is the only way to heaven?
- Aren't all religions just different ways to the same God?
- Isn't Christianity just a bunch of Do's and Don'ts?

Isn't the Institutional Christian Church just about getting your money?

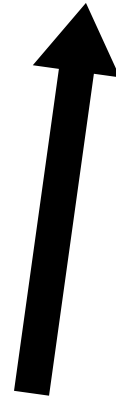




Isn't the *Institutional* Christian Church *Just* about *Getting Your Money*?



The Official Organized Church



**The Primary Thing
Or
Foundational Thing**



**Money Driven
Or
Ulterior Motive of Greed**

What does their question tell us?

- What do you think is this person's issue by the nature of their question?
 - Distrust or Disdain for the organized church?
 - Have they been abused or hurt through an organized church?
 - Are they rebellious in spirit and not interested in submitting to leadership of any kind?
 - Is Money their God?
 - Do they have the greed blindness causing them to focus on this issue?
 - Have they gotten their perceptions through false doctrine churches?
 - Prosperity Gospel
 - Mormonism
 - Catholicism... indulgences for example
 - Is their only exposure to church the TV Evangelist?
- **Remember...you seek reconciliation between this person and God.**
 - How we treat money as believers and as a church is a big deal to God.



Yes... some churches are just about the money

- And fame.
- And power.
- And all kinds of sinful behavior.

- There are many false Christian churches.
- They stand condemned by the word of God.



I Timothy 6:3-5

- If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, 4 they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions 5 and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

If the heart is not changed...and there is no new birth!



- **It will mess up...**

- Governments
- Businesses
- Families
- Hospitals
- Universities
- Planets
- and yes churches

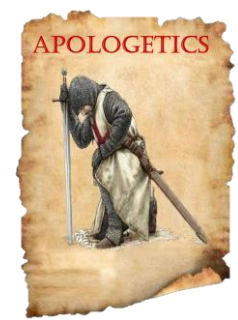


- **In Matt 23:27 Jesus called the leaders of the church of His day**

- ...white washed tombs.
- or in modern English ...Zombies wearing Tuxedos!

- **This is a great opp to disclose the sin nature part of the Gospel**



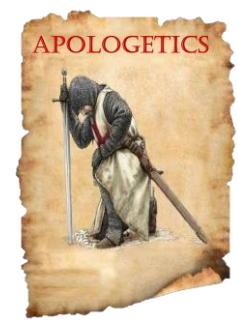


What does the Bible say the church should focus on...



- To preach and protect sound doctrine. *Mark 16:15; 2 Timothy 4:2-5*
- To send the Gospel unto the ends of the Earth. *Matthew 28:19-20*
- To encourage, exhort, and train the body of believers in Jesus Christ. *Titus 1:7-9*
- To care for orphans and widows in their distress. *James 1:27*

- The 4 things of *Acts 2:42* that the early church focused on....
 1. Studying the teachings of the Apostles
 2. Prayer
 3. Communion...remembering what Christ did on the Cross
 4. Christian fellowship



Should the Institutional Church Ignore Money?

- 40% of Jesus parables dealt in some way with money
- Jesus talked about money more than heaven and hell
- Jesus talked about money more than anything else except the Kingdom of God
- 15% of everything Jesus said dealt with money
- ~2350 verses deal with money in the Bible (per Crown Ministries)
 - That is more verses – more material – than all 13 letters in the New Testament that Paul wrote
- **CLEARLY GOD HAS SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT MONEY.**



The Bible has many warnings about money...



Matthew 6:19-24

- **19** “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **20** But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **22** “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. **23** But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! **24** “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Mark 4:19

- but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

I Timothy 6:8-10

- If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Does the Bible encourage giving to the church?

- 23 1/3% annually ... for a Theocracy not a Church
 - 10% for church activities
 - 10% for Israel's Government and Welfare function
 - 10% every 3rd year for national feasts/celebrations
- First Fruits Concept ... Leviticus 23:9-14; Deuteronomy 26:1-10

TORAH / OLD TESTAMENT





Does the Bible encourage giving to the church?

➤ Tithing

No specific amount specified.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 Gifts should be “in keeping with income”

➤ Offerings

Given cheerfully and generously

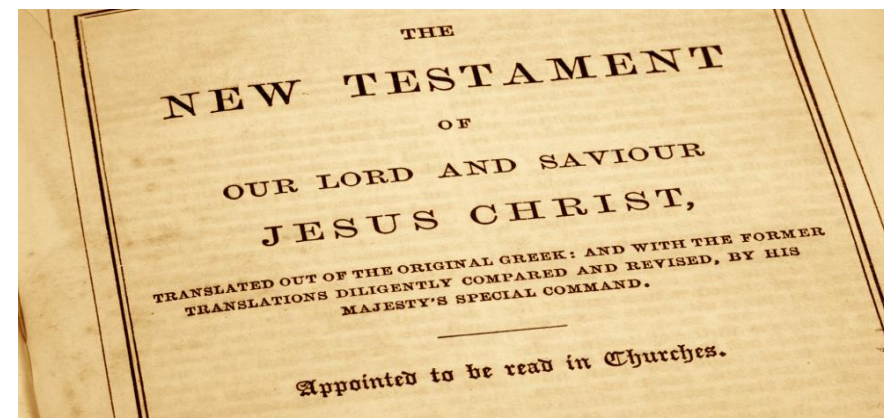
2 Corinthians 9:6-7 “The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”

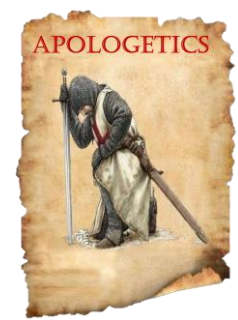
➤ Provided in confidence

Matthew 6:3-4 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

➤ Sacrificially...For the Furthering of the Gospel and in service to other believers in need

2 Corinthians 8:2-4 2 that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. 3 For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, 4 begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints





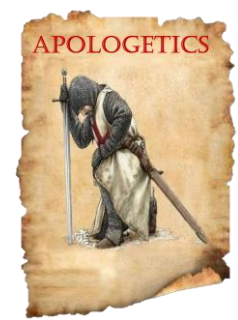
Should ministers be paid?

- I Corinthians 9
 - so also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel
- I Timothy 5:17-18
 - ¹⁷ The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, “YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING,” and “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”
- 2 Corinthians 11:7-8
 - ⁷ Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you without charge? ⁸ I robbed other churches by taking wages *from them* to serve you;

Signs of a healthy church with respect to money

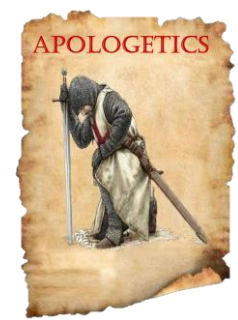
- **Open books with privacy for individual giving**
 - nothing to hide but also allowing left hand to not know what right hand is doing.
- **3rd party audits**
 - for accountability, prevention of temptation and accuracy
- **Missions budgets**
 - Giving for spreading of the Gospel outside of the church.
- **Benevolence funds**
 - Special giving for the various “out of the normal” needs of the church members and community
- **Cheerful uncoerced giving**
 - Enabling members to give as an act of their individual worship as opposed to oppressive pressure driven gifts
- **Avoidance of debt**
 - Patiently waiting for God’s provisions as needed





Why is giving necessary for a believer

- **Because Greed is blinding to the soul...and it helps to protect them from its blindness**
 - **Matthew 6:19-24**
- **We are stewards of what God already owns.**
 - Psalms 24:1-2 1 The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it. 2 For He has founded it upon the seas And established it upon the rivers.
- **The Gospel is more than just theoretical**
 - James 2:16 "If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?"
- **We want to be obedient to the words of our Lord**
 - Matthew 25:35-45 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'
 - Luke 10:25-37 The Good Samaritan Parable
- **We are grateful for what we have received**
 - Luke 7:36-50 She loved much, Jesus said, because she had been forgiven much.
- **For our Joy**
 - 1 Timothy 6:17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.



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?
 - Science is the only discipline which is objective and can therefore be trusted.
 - Evolution has proven that we were not created.
- 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?
- Aren't all people basically good?
- Isn't Christianity arrogant to say it is the only way to heaven? Aren't all religions just different ways to the same God?
- 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