

# **Christian Apologetics**

## **Final Examination**

### *Fall 2020*

*You may use your class notes and an unmarked Bible to answer the following questions.*

*There is no time limit; however, once you open the final examination, you must complete the final examination in its entirety without stopping.*

*Upload the completed examination in Canvas as a PDF.*

*Include an affirmation that no resources were used other than your notes from this class and a Bible.*

#### **APOLOGETICS DEFINITION ESSAY**

*5 points, at least one paragraph*

- (1) Provide the definition of “apologetics” that was provided in class.
- (2) Articulate what you would add to or remove from this definition.

#### **APOLOGETICS METHODS ESSAY**

*5 points, at least five paragraphs*

Which of the following three options is *most* compatible with Scripture? Which of the following three options is *least* compatible with Scripture?

- (1) Classical apologetics,
- (2) Evidential apologetics
- (3) Presuppositional apologetics

Summarize each approach; then, make your argument for the *most* and the *least* compatible with Scripture from the Bible and from your course notes.

## SHORT ESSAY PROMPTS

*5 points each, at least three paragraphs each*

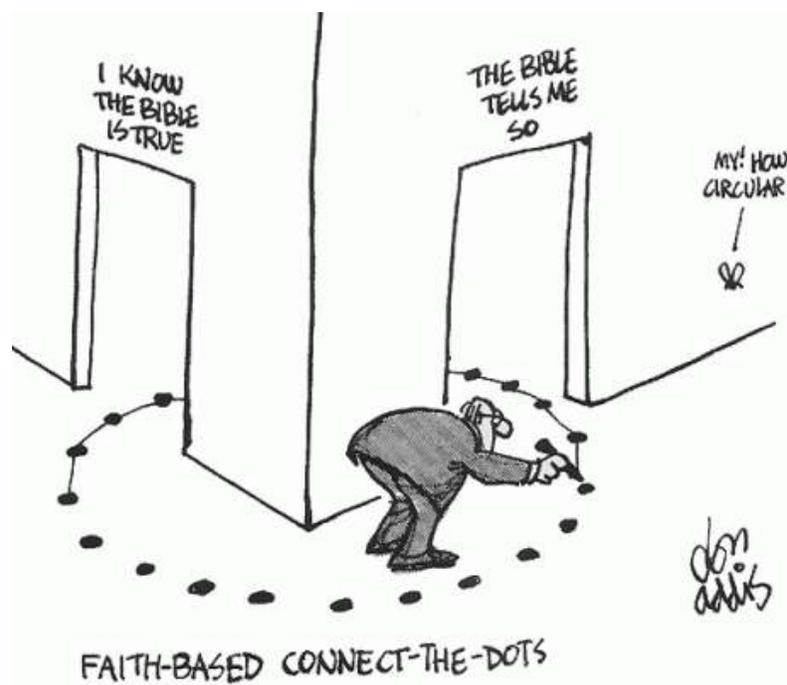
**CHOOSE AND RESPOND TO THREE  
OF THE FOLLOWING FIVE PROMPTS.**

### **PROMPT 1: REASONING IN CIRCLES?**

Suppose that someone says to you, “You only believe that the Bible is true because the Bible claims that it’s true. That’s circular reasoning!”

Develop a gracious and reasonable response to this accusation.

Depending on which apologetics method you find to be most compatible with Scripture, your response might focus on external evidences, on the resurrection of Jesus, on the witness of the Holy Spirit, on the self-authentication of Scripture, or on some combination of these factors. Notes from the course lectures and notes from *Why Should I Trust the Bible?* will be helpful as you develop your response.



## **PROMPT 2: A TALE OF TWO VANS (AND ONE SAM)**

In the 2004 Van Halen song “Learning to See,” Sammy Hagar wrote and sang the following lyrics:

*“Trying to follow every footstep,  
I feel so lost along the way,  
reading the Scriptures—  
straight from the Gospel—  
but never understanding what they say.”*

Why, according to Van Tilian presuppositionalism, was Sammy Hagar “never understanding what” the words of Scripture had to say?

How would an evidentialist or a classical apologist see Hagar’s lack of understanding differently?

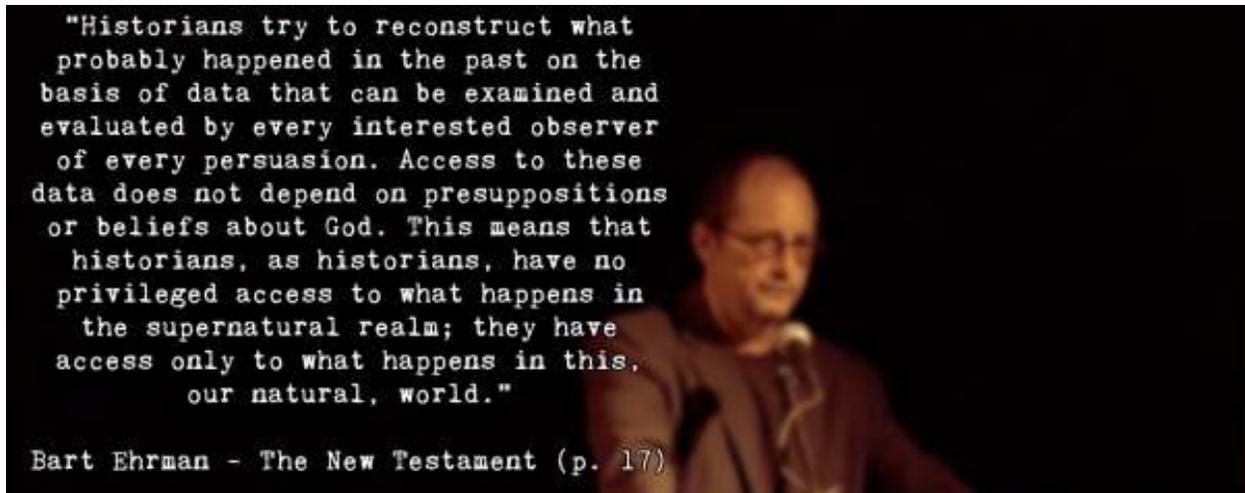
Which perspective on an unbeliever’s failure to understand the Scriptures best describes your own perspective?

Your class notes on Van Tilian presuppositionalism and on apologetics and the Word of God will be helpful in responding to this prompt.



### PROMPT 3: HISTORY AND PROBABILITY

Engage with the implications of this quote meme from Bart D. Ehrman:



Drawing from your notes from course lectures and your notes from *Why Should I Trust the Bible?*, point out and respond to the logical problems in this quotation.

#### **PROMPT 4: PROVING SUPERMAN**

Develop a reverent, reasonable, and humble response to the meme below. Your response should begin with evidences connected to the New Testament Gospels. Your notes from course lectures, from C.S. Lewis's essay "Fern-Seed and Elephants," and from the book *Why Should I Trust the Bible?* will be helpful.



# PROOF

Trying to prove God with the bible is like trying to prove Superman with a comic book.

## PROMPT 5: THE THEODICY OF LINUS AND LUCY

In this *Peanuts* comic strip, how does Lucy Van Pelt explain the existence of suffering in light of the assumed goodness and omnipotence of God? What causes suffering, according to her way of thinking? Suppose that a member of your church has a similar perspective as Lucy on the reasons for pain and suffering. Drawing from course lecture notes and from your notes on *Apologetics at the Cross* chapter 12 and *Urban Apologetics* chapter 7, develop a response that would help such a person have a more biblical understanding of suffering and evil.

