

Apologetics Seminar

*Are There Good Reasons
for Faith?*

*Reflections Ministries
Session 1*



- “Just take it by faith.”
- “Faith is believing something you know ain’t so.”

Mark Twain

- “I believe because it is absurd.”

Tertullian

~~More evidence = less faith~~

~~More faith = less evidence~~



*Is religious faith just a matter of
personal preference?*

Or

*Are there **good reasons** to believe
that God is real and that He has
made Himself known to us in the
Bible?*

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Is belief in God in the same class as belief in:

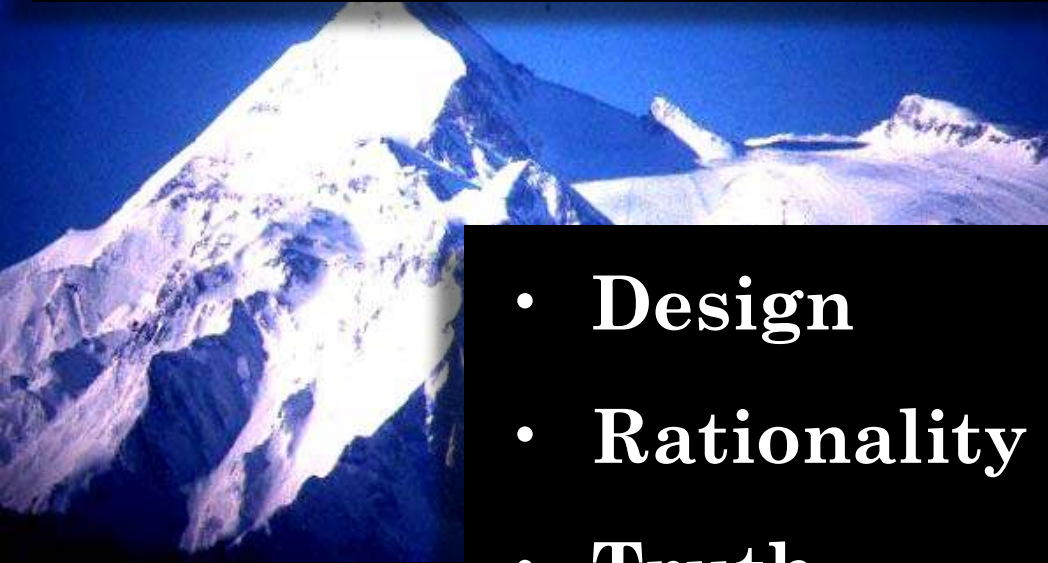
- Peter Pan
- Santa Claus
- The Tooth Fairy
- The Loch Ness Monster

I. The Divine Disclosure

“...because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

Romans 1:19-20

A. God Is the Creator



- Design
- Rationality
- Truth
- Image of God



“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth....”

Genesis 1:1



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B. God Is the Redeemer

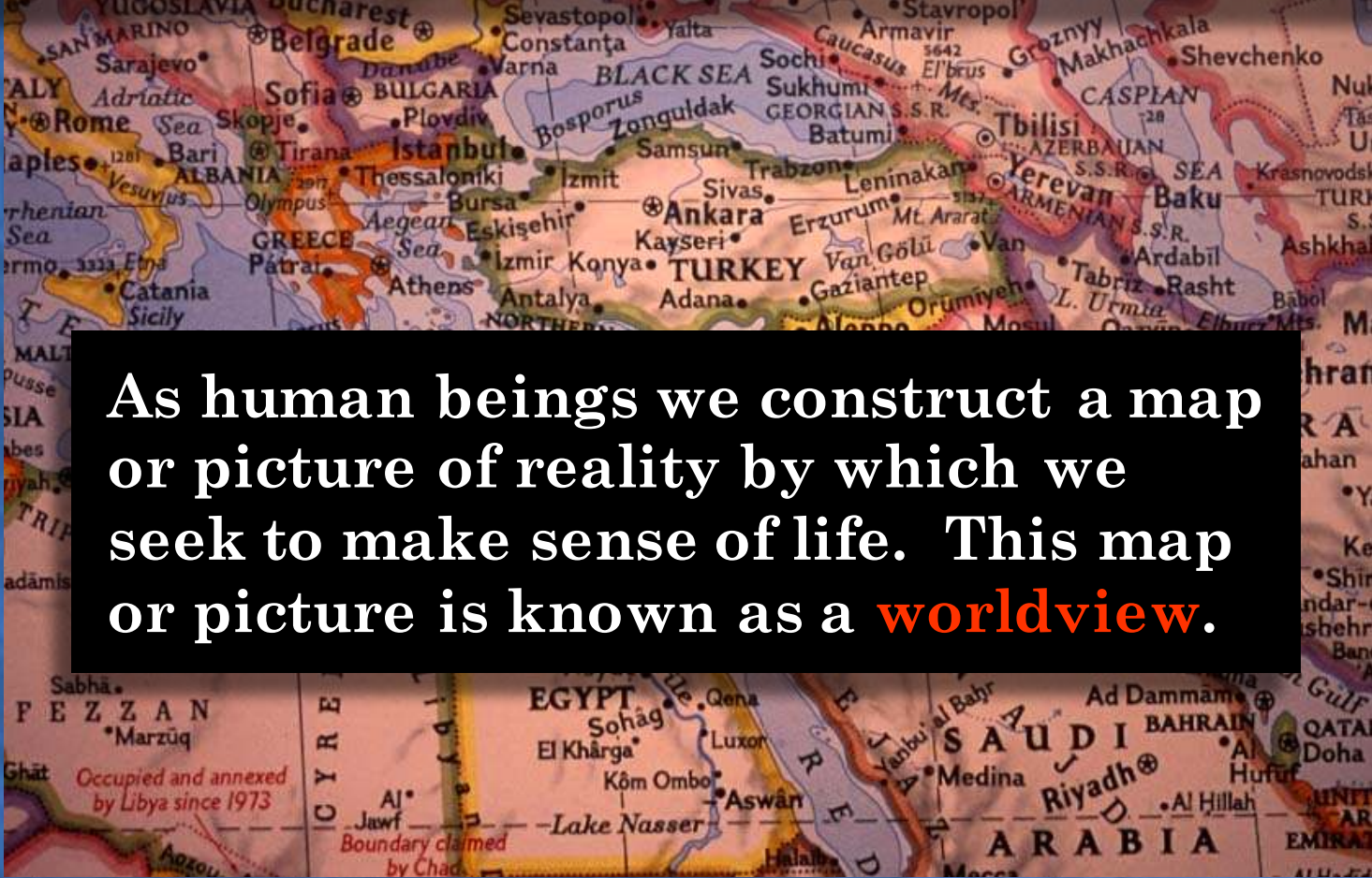


“Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer...”

Isaiah 48:17

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II. The Human Response



As human beings we construct a map or picture of reality by which we seek to make sense of life. This map or picture is known as a **worldview**.

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A. Putting It All Together

Our worldview is:

- A way of *seeing* the world and a way of *living* in it.
- A *description* of the way the world is and the *application* of this description to all of life.

A worldview answers the ultimate questions of life, such as:

Who Am I?

Where Am I Going?

*Where Did the
World Come
From?*

- **What is ultimate reality?**
- **How did the world come into being?**
- **What is wrong with the world?**
- **How will it be fixed?**
- **What is the meaning of life?**
- **What can we hope for?**
- **Who am I?**

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WHY BELIEVE?

REASON AND MYSTERY
AS POINTERS TO GOD



C. STEPHEN EVANS

“Comprehensive and compelling. . . . Seekers will find here a knowledgeable but gentle voice responding to their deepest religious questions.” — MEROLD WESTPHAL
Fordham University

“What one might call the Christian view of things makes sense of a very *wide range* of facts, which its rivals either cannot explain or else cannot explain very well. On the other side, the facts that those rivals put forward can be accounted for by Christianity.”

C. Stephen Evans

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B. The Necessity of Faith

Faith is a multidimensional concept. In one sense, faith is necessary for any kind of knowledge.

“It is idle to talk always of the alternatives of reason and faith. Reason is itself a matter of faith. It is an act of faith to assert that our thoughts have any relation to reality at all.”

G.K. Chesterton

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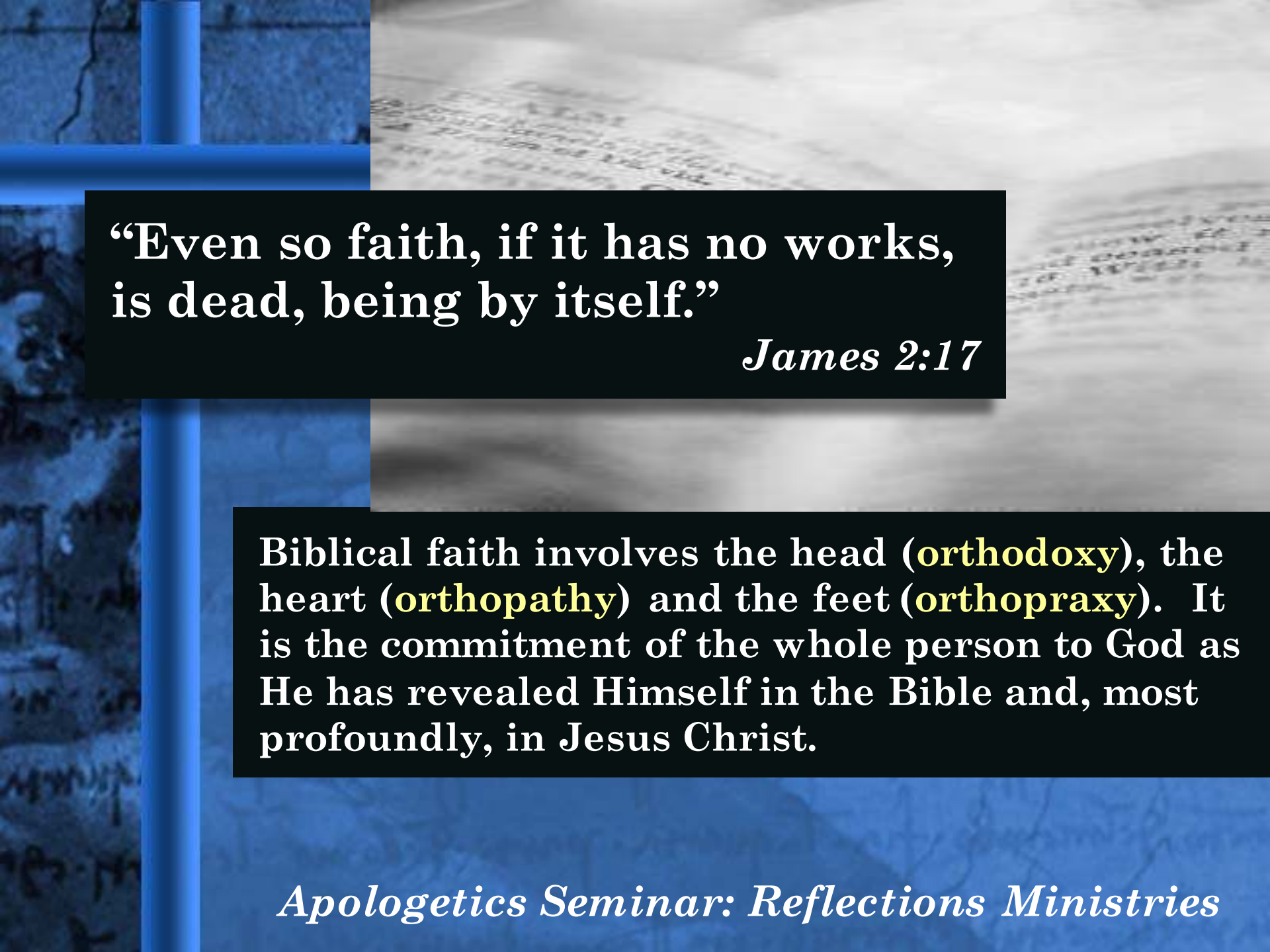


C. The Holistic Nature of Biblical Faith

Faith is
believing that
(knowledge)

Faith is
believing in
(trust)

- Based on revelation
- Leads to personal knowledge
- Makes use of evidence and reason
- Involves the whole person
(mind, will, emotions, actions)



**“Even so faith, if it has no works,
is dead, being by itself.”**

James 2:17

Biblical faith involves the head (orthodoxy**), the heart (**orthopathy**) and the feet (**orthopraxy**). It is the commitment of the whole person to God as He has revealed Himself in the Bible and, most profoundly, in Jesus Christ.**

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WARNING!

*Apologetics does not generate faith;
rather, it helps to create an
environment where the claims of
Christianity can be examined.*

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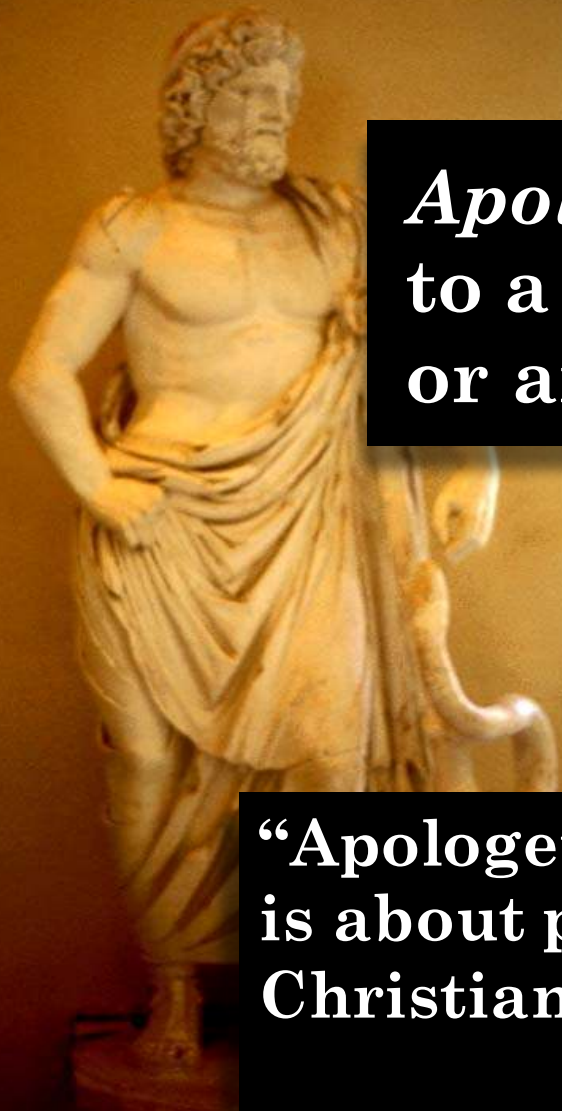
III. The Place of Apologetics

“...I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.”

Philippians 1:16

“...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.”

1 Peter 3:15



Apologia – originally referred to a speech given in defense or an answer given in reply

“Apologetics is giving reasons for faith. It is about persuading people that Christianity makes sense.”

Alister McGrath

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APOLOGETICS



Non-Christians

Offensive

Witness

Evangelism

Christians

Defensive

Edification

Discipleship

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*The Glory
of God*

**Evangelization
of
Non-believers**

*Why
Apologetics?*

**Edification
of
Believers**

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