

# **The Angles, The Anchor, The Answers**

## *Defending and Sharing Your Faith*

### **Session 2 – The Sovereign: GOD**

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#### Hebrews 6:17-20

In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a *hope* both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. -NASB

***“We believers of Christ have a hope that serves as our anchor. It keeps us stable throughout the storms of life.”***

#### **In Times Like These**

In times like these you need a Savior,  
In times like these you need an anchor;  
Be very sure, be very sure,  
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

*Chorus:* This Rock is Jesus, Yes, He's the One,  
This Rock is Jesus, the only One;  
Be very sure, be very sure,  
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

- ❖ As Christians we are people of hope. Hope has power. When a man or woman can return hope no matter how hopeless their immediate circumstance appears they can survive it while others are succumbing to it.
- ❖ We live in some perilous times and you need an anchor. So when people of hope have an anchor other people, will ask what are you so hopeful about, and we have that rich opportunity to share our hope.
- ❖ When challenges come to our hope persons are really challenging our faith. Because our hope is **anchored in** what we believe [our faith].

## I. FAITH

*One of the challenges that we receive from persons who claim to be faithless is that they don't believe in God, they don't believe in anything. The atheist will claim they do not have a belief.*

### a. The Origin of Our Faith

Romans 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. NASB

- i. Every human being has faith; even the atheist who wants to claim they do not believe. Their belief is faith. They believe that there is no God. They are not faithless. They have a different faith or make use of their faith differently than Christians.

### b. The Object of Our Faith

- i. Everyone has faith. What is going to determine from a Christian perspective, whether we spend eternity in heaven or hell has everything to do with what they do with their faith. Where do we place our faith?

1. Some place their faith in Science, Materials, Wealth, and some in themselves. Everyone has to give an account for where they place their faith.
2. The Bible says whoever place their hope in Jesus, they shall receive eternal life. That is an **anchor** of our hope. Jesus is the object of our faith. So, when people ask us what we believe or challenge us about our belief we can tell them our **hope is anchored in the finished work of Jesus Christ**. That's what we believe. That is where we choose to place our faith in Jesus Christ because we believe Him.
  - ❖ John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. -NASB
  - ❖ Hebrews 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. -NASB
  - ❖ Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. -KJV

3. Faith is at the core, at the foundation, at the heart of any of the angles that people use to challenge. What they are really challenging is: Do you really believe that? They are challenging our faith. It's all about challenging our faith. God gave us a measure of faith so that we would believe.
  - a. No one will have an excuse for not acknowledging God, because He has provided everything that everyone will need in order to make a decision without Him.
    - ❖ Romans 1:17-20 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY FAITH." For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 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.

## II. APOLOGETICS

*Apologetics is a branch of Christian theology that seeks to address the intellectual obstacles that keep people from taking the gospel of Christ seriously. It is providing a defense.*

- a. Apologetics is not apologizing for being a Christian. It is not offering an apology for the fact that we are saved or a follower of Christ. Apologetics has nothing to do with an apology.
- b. It is a branch of Christian Theology that seeks to address the intellectual obstacles that keep people from taking the gospel of Jesus Christ seriously. Some people would say the gospel is anti-intellectual.
  - i. The Bible itself is opposed to anti-intellectualism. Many people choose to believe that our faith is a blind faith. It is a faith that is built on nothing and therefore they think people who follow it are foolish inferring it has no factual basis.

- ii. Apologetics is designed to refute our faith is anything but blind or foolish. It is designed to show that our faith is based on nothing but facts. The facts that support everything that we believe. It is designed to speak to the mind.
  - 1. The battleground for our faith is in the mind
    - a. Genesis 3 – The Serpent sought to get into Eve’s head and in her mind, she reasoned what he said made sense.
    - b. This faith that we have is not a mindless thing. You have to be a thinking person in order to really understand it. The Bible is against anti-intellectualism. Being able to defend our faith is not natural we have to have our minds renewed.
      - ❖ Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- c. The study of Apologetics is about being able to lay our facts about why I believe what I believe. It is about dealing with intellectual obstacles that get in the way of people taking the gospel of Jesus Christ seriously.
- d. The subject of Apologetics
  - i. <sup>1</sup> Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; - NKJV
    - 1. Purification
      - a. We have to sanctify or purify ourselves. We must purify [sanctify = set apart God as Lord [ruler] in our hearts. Then we will walk in the hope people will ask about.
    - 2. Preparation
      - a. Always being ready. We must get our facts in order before the questions are asked. Preparation is to be ready in advance.
    - 3. Presentation
      - a. To give an answer to everyone asks you the reason for your hope. What a poor witness, we would be if someone ask us for the reason of the hope we have and we have no answer.

***“When the world sees a sanctified believer deliver a compelling and prepared message with humility and reverence for the Lord, then unbelievers will have the best opportunity to respond to the undiluted message of Good News.”***

### III. THE SOVEREIGN. Many will challenge us about God.

#### a. His Existence

##### i. It all begins with God.

1. God does not choose to explain himself or justify his existence. He just is. There is a beginning of the world, but there is no beginning of God. He wasn't created, so He needs no introduction. His existence has been known from the beginning and everything that exist is a result of his existence.

- ❖ Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. – NKJV
- ❖ Exodus 3:4 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"
- ❖ John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. -NKJV

##### ii. The revelation of God.

##### 1. The creation

- a. Cause and Effect. Everything has a cause and every cause has an effect. So if the rock is exist, the rock is not the cause it is the effect. Something had to bring the rock into existence. Even if there was a big bang the bang was an effect. What cause the items that collided to collide. For every effect there has to be a cause. God is the great cause of the universe.

- ❖ Psalm 8:3-5 O LORD, our Lord,  
How excellent is Your name in all the earth,  
Who have set Your glory above the heavens! <sup>2</sup> Out  
of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You  
have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies,  
That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.  
<sup>3</sup> When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your  
fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have  
ordained, <sup>4</sup> What is man that You are mindful of  
him, And the son of man that You visit him?  
<sup>5</sup> For You have made him a little lower than the  
angels, And You have crowned him with glory and  
honor. <sup>6</sup> You have made him to have dominion over  
the works of Your hands; You have put  
all *things* under his feet, <sup>7</sup> All sheep and oxen—  
Even the beasts of the field, <sup>8</sup> The birds of the air,  
And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths  
of the seas. <sup>9</sup> O LORD, our Lord, How  
excellent is Your name in all the earth!

- b. Matter. Matter does not just exist something has to create matter.
  - c. Energy. What explanation is there for the sun? That the sun hangs in the sky at just the right distance that we do not burn or freeze.
  - d. Life. God created.
  - e. The design of the world. Facts there are millions of galaxies. Who designed it all?
  - f. Morality of man. People know right from wrong. We have a built in moral compass.
- iii. The declaration of God
1. "I am El-Shaddai—'God Almighty.'" Genesis 17:1
  2. "I am the Lord who heals you." Exodus 15:26
  3. "Be still, and know that I am God!" Psalm 46:10
  4. "From eternity to eternity, I am God. No one can snatch anyone out of my hand. No one can undo what I have done." Isaiah 43:13
  5. "I am a God who is near," says the Lord. "I am also a God who is far away. No one can hide where I cannot see him," says the Lord. "I fill all of heaven and earth," says the Lord. Jeremiah 23:23-24
  6. "For I am the Lord! If I say it, it will happen." Ezekiel 12:25
  7. "I am the Lord, and I do not change." Malachi 3:6

Suggested Reading: *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, Josh McDowell

**Invite others to attend this study. See you next week.**